

Executive Director's Report November 2021

Updates to Library-Related Laws

On Wednesday November 3, 2021, Governor Hochul signed into law *Chapter 563 of the Laws of 2021*. This new law enacts the provisions of A7021/S6511 which was passed by the Legislature on June 3 and transmitted to the Governor on October 22. The text of this new law is available on the State Library's website at <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/2021leg.htm>.

Below are some planned next steps in relation to implementing these changes in Education Law 273-a and Education Law 273:

State Aid for Library Construction

For the member libraries, the new law amends Education Law 273-a to permanently extend the time period for *State Aid for Library Construction* project completion from three years to four years.

- This new provision applies to those construction projects funded as part of the State FY 2020/2021 budget and all future funding cycles.
- Projects funded as part of the State FY 2017/18; 2018/19 and 2019/20 budgets already have four years to complete all project activities per the provisions of Chapter 120 of the Laws of 2020, which was enacted during the pandemic.

Streamlining and Modernizing Library Aid

For the public library systems, the amendments include:

- Consolidation of central library development aid and central book aid to create a central library services aid program.
- Streamlining of public library system basic aid formulas by combining per capita funding streams. Complex book reimbursement formula eliminated.
- Elimination of the separate adult literacy and family literacy "grant" programs and consolidation of those funds into the public library system coordinated outreach services program formulas.
- The addition of a new target group for coordinated outreach—at-risk youth, from birth to age 21.

Additional information about these and other updates to library-related laws in 2021 can be found on the [Division of Library Development's \(DLD\) Library Legislation in New York State: 2021 Chapters webpage](#) and on the [New York Library Association's \(NYLA\) Advocacy 2021 Legislative Session webpage](#).

Cataloging Services

On November 12th, the Library of Congress announced its decision to replace the subject headings "Aliens" and "Illegal aliens" with "Noncitizens." This change was scheduled to take place in 2016, but the United States Congress voted to prevent this subject headings update. The current United States Congress recently voted that the Library of Congress should move forward with the process of replacing the subject headings "Aliens" and "Illegal aliens" with "Noncitizens." In response, American Library Association President Patty Wong stated, "We are pleased that the Library of Congress is replacing these subject headings, which are both outdated and dehumanizing. This update better reflects common terminology and respects library users and library workers from all backgrounds. It also reflects the core value of social justice for ALA members, who have been at the vanguard of this change for years." As noted in an earlier director's report, WLS Cataloging Services replaced the subject headings "Aliens" and "Illegal aliens" with "Noncitizens" in the WLS catalog during the summer of 2021, ahead of the Library of Congress, after securing the approval of the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA).

Manager of Cataloging Services Douglas Wray and Cataloger Melissa Glazer worked on a large collection of Spanish primary readers owned by Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library. These are educational picture books which help to teach young children about language, mathematics and other subjects. A significant portion of the collection requires original cataloging, and the project is ongoing.

Cataloger Qingshe Ren cataloged DVDs and Blu-rays for Greenburgh Public Library, Hendrick Hudson Free Library, Irvington Public Library, Pound Ridge Library, Mount Kisco Public Library, Mount Vernon Public Library and Yonkers Public Library. He also cataloged audiobooks for Chappaqua Library, Dobbs Ferry Public Library, Eastchester Public Library and Mount Kisco Public Library; Chinese books for Chappaqua Library; and Japanese books for Yonkers Public Library.

The WLS catalogers perform original cataloging when a request from a member library cannot be filled by a MARC record from a vendor or by a bibliographic record found in the OCLC database.

Here are three examples of original cataloging done recently by Mr. Wray:

Notes from the Captain Lawrence Tasting Room: Tasty Tales, and Ales, from New York's Coolest Craft Brewery / by Michael J. Malone ; foreword by Scott Vaccaro, Captain Lawrence Brewing founder

This is a collection of essays which paint a picture of the popular Elmsford brewery's business history, as well as of the "lively cast of characters" who patronize it. (Cataloged for Mount Pleasant Public Library)

The History of Truesdale Lake: the First 100 Years / compiled by Priscilla Luckow

Truesdale Lake is a protected natural area in South Salem. This book provides interesting information about land use and planning in Westchester County. (Cataloged for Lewisboro Library)

Adventures of Little David / by Tara Ernest ; with illustrations by Zeph Ernest

This children's book relates the story of the Biblical King David, who, as a child, joins his older brother Nathaniel to help several wild animals. (Cataloged for Greenburgh Public Library)

Development

Over the past month efforts have focused on both wrapping up the year and preparing for 2022. End of year activities include submitting final reports to Foundation funders, communicating with individual donors and preparing for annual appeals such as Giving Tuesday (November 30). New public/private funding requests to support major digital equity and outreach projects have also been submitted. The outcome of these requests (approximately \$300,000) is expected by the end of December. This includes expected funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for digital inclusion.

This month, *The Giving Guide a supplement to 914 Inc.*, was sent to subscribers and is available on newsstands. [Giving Guide](#) includes a WLS profile page featuring Outreach Services - programs and impact, as well as how to support WLS (page 37). The publication's outside back cover artfully highlights WLS Outreach Services. Ms. Brigham worked with PLDA to secure the inside back cover for member libraries; it is designed as a map featuring participating member libraries. A special thank you to Jill Davis, Director of the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, for her coordination of the PLDA page in the [Giving Guide](#).

This month WLS earned the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency, and we continue to work towards earning the Platinum Seal. Now everyone can view our financial details and learn about the people at our organization. Check out our updated #NonprofitProfile on Candid: <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/13-1882114>. Why is this GuideStar Seal important? The information shared amplifies our voice and demonstrates our impact as a community resource. The information is shared across other giving platforms such as AmazonSmile, Facebook, and two of the largest Donor Advised Funds – Fidelity Giving Market and Vanguard Charitable.

In preparation for end of year giving, a newsletter and donor survey was sent to the small Circle of Donors who have been supporting WLS over the last three years. The survey will help us learn more about our donors and how to strengthen our relationship with them. With an average lifetime gift of \$400, the Circle of Donors has grown collectively to over \$20,000. Many have already given a contribution for 2021, including matching gifts from their company. Individual support helps to build our fundraising sustainability and is an important leverage for government, foundation and corporate support.

A reminder that #GivingTuesday is November 30th. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity. Its timing during the holiday season is a reminder to support the nonprofit organizations that have meaning for you, including WLS.

Information Technology (IT)

The IT Department has continued to follow up on recommendations that were generated through the three IT audits. An update on these activities will be presented to the full board in early 2022. One key recommendation from the Operations Audit was the hiring of an IT Operations Manager to focus on the monitoring of the helpdesk system, to improve customer service performance with the member libraries and to expand and enhance the support documentation that will be created to help IT staff and member library staff in performing their daily activities. In early November, WLS

welcomed Marcus Byers as our IT Operations Manager. Mr. Byers has over 12 years of experience in IT leadership roles and in fostering and sustaining change within an organization.

Hardware supply shortage and delays: The WLS IT department is currently dealing with extended delays in acquiring new hardware. Orders placed over the past few months are already delayed between one to four months. This has caused several delays on completion of some major projects; however, most of the innovations on slate continue to progress. The wireless conversion project is waiting on wireless networking equipment to come in by the end of this year, and the main network redesign will take place in 2022 to allow the networking staff on our team to dedicate all their attention to that project. More information about the current and future projects will be shared with the full board in early 2022.

Upcoming Events

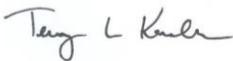
Tuesday, November 30, from 6:00-6:30pm: WLS ANNUAL MEETING

This year's meeting will take place prior to the regular WLS Board Meeting and will include a brief recap of the 2021 WLS activities, approval of the prior year's meeting minutes, and election of WLS Trustees. [Register Here.](#)

Tuesday, December 14, from 5:00-6:30pm: HANDBOOK BOOKCLUB

This will be the final session of the year for the [Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State](#) Bookclub with co-authors Jerry Nichols and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich. Program details, archived recordings of earlier sessions and registration for the next session can be found at <https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/>.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director