LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY GOES VIRTUAL IN 2021

Kelly Thompson

This is usually the spot where you would see photos of displays extolling the virtues of South Dakota libraries and candid shots of the Capitol Rotunda featuring librarians and politicians mingling and lunching.

This year, librarians contributed to a FlipGrid site with photos, videos, and stories relating to how their libraries served their communities in this time of trial.

The libraries that contributed a story included North West Regional Library of Harding County, the Marcus P BeeBe Memorial Library in Ipswich, the Mitchell Public Library, the Rapid City Public Library, Custer County Library, Hill City Library, Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, and Rawlins Municipal Library in Pierre. Librarians got creative using music, video, and community stories to express the struggles and successes of South Dakota libraries during 2020.

There is a Latin phrase, "semper peratus" which means "always ready." This has been a guiding principal for the day to day actions of all of South Dakota Libraries.

-- Robin Schrupp
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Julie Erikson

South Dakota Library Association’s annual legislative day was held virtually this year. Thank you to all who shared “Tell Your Library Story” about how your library has supported your community during the Covid-19 pandemic. There were eight excellent submissions which garnered 300 views! Check them out if you haven’t had a chance: https://flipgrid.com/25cdbc8.

Thank you to all who reached out to their legislators! Advocating for our libraries and sharing our library stories helps build those relationships and understanding for when we need support from our elected officials.

Now, we are focused on the upcoming South Dakota Library Association 2021 conference. The board has made the decision to hold the conference virtually this year to allow for planning. We have some excellent speakers lined up, including Dr. Daniel M. Russell from Google to talk about search!

Please consider submitting a session or a poster session to share what’s happening in your library. The quality of the conference relies on submissions from our members sharing their work or suggesting session ideas. If you want to see something at the conference, please let me know!

Julie

LETTER FROM THE MPLA REP

Nita Gill

MPLA hosts a monthly Chew & Chat on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1pm Central time.

These virtual gatherings are for MPLA members and friends. Jake Rundle leads these chats with a wide range of topics. Dates for these chats are February 24, March 24, and April 28, 2021.

If you are a MPLA member, you should receive an email with the registration details. But you can always contact me for those details too. You are very welcome to join! Don’t forget to renew your MPLA membership! Or if you’ve never been an MPLA member, first year personal memberships are half price. You can join or renew here: https://mpla.us/services/membership/
EDITH B. SIEGRIST
VERMILLION PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Rachelle Langdon Public Relations & Programming Specialist, Edith B. Siegrist Library, Vermillion

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is pleased to announce the addition of a new resource now available for checkout: Reminiscence Kits. Reminiscence Kits are a new way for individuals living with dementia to connect with others and remember the past.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, the U.S. has almost 6 million people living with Alzheimer’s disease or some other form of dementia. Reminiscence therapy is a form of treatment used to help people with dementia remember past events, people, and places.

Reminiscence Kits are designed to provide meaningful activities for people living with these diseases, as well as their caregivers, family, and friends. Each kit comes with a video DVD, activity cards, and photos. So far, the Vermillion Public Library has eleven kits, each with a different theme, including Farms, The Great Outdoors, and even Cat and Dog Reminiscence!

You can view the full list of available Reminiscence Kits by searching for “Reminiscence” in the library’s online catalog. These kits are great for patrons of all ages; they can also be used for writing prompts or as conversation starters.

Take ‘n Make Crafts

With in-person library programming cancelled, the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library turned to virtual programming, and in the fall of 2020 began a take-home craft program for adults, teens, and children. Each month we release a craft kit that can be taken home, along with a corresponding how-to video when needed. So far adults have gotten to make tissue paper pom-poms, recycled book pumpkins and turkeys, a glitter Santa ornament, and a wood photo transfer project. Teens have made skull string art, CD scratch art, 3D snowflakes, and shrinky dinks. Children have made coffee filter spider webs, weaved baskets, created holiday cards, and made Bendy Buddies!

Digital Archives

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library’s microfilm collection is going digital! The library is pleased to announce the addition of a new searchable digital archive featuring digitized microfilm from local newspapers. Thanks to the generous support of the Vermillion Public Library Foundation, people can now access older issues of the Vermillion Plain Talk through the Vermillion Public Library’s website at: www.vermillionpubliclibrary.org/digital-archives.

View issues from 1893 to 1924 from anywhere with an internet connection! More recent issues are only accessible when you are using a library computer, or when your device is connected to the library’s Wi-Fi. The library has plans to add more newspapers and resources to the collection over time.
This article is intended to thank the South Dakota State Library and South Dakota Humanities Council for the opportunity to apply for CARES grants. The Lake Andes Carnegie Public Library was very excited to receive a grant from each of these entities.

I would like to explain the improvements to the library which were achieved with these grant funds. The SD State Library Cares grant was used to partially purchase an on-line cataloging system for the library. The antiquated system in place prior to the grant was an excel sheet listing all the holdings of the library, but was not accessible to patrons and not easy to search even by library personnel who had access. The on-line catalog is progressing, but I must admit it is quite a process, as I am sure many of you know. I am so excited to start using it with our patrons.

The SD Humanities Council CARES grant was used for various items needed by the library to continue serving our clientele especially during the time of the Pandemic and as we carry on after the library can return to normal operations. This grant paid for the remainder of the on-line cataloging of our library materials. The library was also able to purchase 4 computers that had extra use during the pandemic. These computers were scheduled to be replaced in 2021 and the grant sped up this process. A printer for patron use was also purchased. Protective materials for our library staff and patrons who visited the library was a priority and purchased with grant funds. This includes disposable and re-useable cloth masks, cleaning supplies for the re-useable masks, the library building itself, library materials, and a protective panel for the check-out desk.

We are especially grateful that the grant is going to allow the library to hire 2 performers for the summer of 2021 to promote the library’s summer reading programming. The library was unable to hold any of our summer fundraisers during 2020 and was not going to be able to hire any performers until this grant allowed the hiring. The library was also able to purchase outdoor benches for our patrons to use (in good weather of course) when accessing our 24/7 WIFI.

As you can see the Lake Andes Carnegie Library was impacted very profoundly by the grants received and we are very grateful for the funding.

Michaela Goade, an Alaskan illustrator and member of the Tlingit and Haida tribes, has become the first Native American to win the Caldecott Medal for best children’s picture book for her work in We Are Water Protectors.
ADAPTING LIBRARY RESERVES AT SDSU

Mary Kraljic
Access Services Librarian
Briggs Library, SDSU

Librarians at the Briggs Library (SDSU) debated about how to handle print reserves last fall. We realized that under Covid-19 guidelines, our three-day quarantine for all book returns would defeat the purpose of short-term reserve loans.

So, we developed some new procedures and learned a few things along the way.

- After viewing a webinar on Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) our Access Services staff worked with faculty and Systems Librarian, Shari Theroux, to digitize some reserve items.

--Interlibrary loan staff did the scanning.
--Shari set up Alma (our ILS) to limit access to one user at a time for a designated loan period.
--We embargoed the hard copies until the digital access expired at the end of the semester. In short, we had copyright-compliant digital access for selected materials.

- Mary Caspers-Graper purchased some of our titles as ebooks with unlimited user licenses.
- As a third option, we encouraged patrons to use ILLiad to submit requests for scanned chapters.
- For immediate access to individual chapters, staff offered to turn pages while the student/patron snapped photos with their cell phone. This turned out to be a popular option.

We publicized the reasons for this change, mostly through word-of-mouth to students and email to faculty who had materials on reserve, To remind our staff and student employees about the options for the print reserves, we created book bands for frequently used items.

We will continue the new procedures for as long as our quarantine guidelines stay in place—just one more semester, we hope.

Current Issue

The current issue of the Library of Congress Magazine is all about the Art of the Book. If you loved the closing keynote at last year's conference by Chelsea Herman, we recommend this issue of LCM!

https://www.loc.gov/lcm/
The I.D Weeks and Wegner Libraries both updated their classrooms.

I.D. Weeks Library active learning classroom. New “Chevron Verb” tables were added. New TV mounts and an Apple TV are coming. Right now, everything is socially distanced; note the chairs stacked at the front of the room.

Wegner Library’s new Mary D. Nettleman classroom.

USD Sanford School of Medicine faculty and students will use the new Wegner Library classroom for lectures and collaborative learning.

Wegner Library Renovation

In 2018, the Wegner Library Board of Directors approved a substantial renovation of the Wegner Library. Features of the renovation include:

- A new classroom: The Mary D. Nettleman M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P. classroom will provide USD Sanford School of Medicine faculty and students with a large classroom for both lectures and collaborative learning. The classroom will serve as a study or event space when not in use for classes.
- Traditional and contemporary study areas throughout the building, which include new furniture.
- A welcoming and user-friendly information and research help desk.
- Lockers available for checkout
- A treadmill desk

The open, light, and inviting character of the building was retained while replacing the book stacks with a classroom and introducing a vestibule that will soften the sound of students entering and exiting the library for classes.

The renovation includes high-density mobile stacks that are located in the basement of the Health Sciences Center. High-use items and collections will remain in the library. The library’s permanent collection of books and journals in storage are available to students and faculty upon request.


### Press Release

More than 90% of library funding is determined at the local level, either by the will of elected officials or by voters themselves. In the ten years since the Great Recession, more than 1,400 ballot measures questions about public library funding or building projects have been placed before the voters on local Election Days.

There is a tremendous amount of speculation about the internal and external factors that potentially influence the outcome for a library on Election Day - even before the campaign starts. EveryLibrary Institute, a non-partisan non-profit with a mission to support libraries and librarians in the United States has created the “Factors of Success for Libraries on the Ballot” report. This groundbreaking report analyzes over 700 library elections between 2014 and 2018 across 50 variables taken from the IMLS Public Library Survey for each library and the American Community Survey to determine what, if any, factors are determinants of success.

The findings in this report are important in understanding what data is beneficial in helping a library succeed during the election season, whether it’s demographics, economics, or attitudinal. With these insights, libraries can improve the quality of their campaigning and communications in order to influence voters on Election Day.

Top-Level Findings: The most surprising outcome was that most of the 40 IMLS PLS variables and 10 ACS variables did not significantly influence the odds of a ballot initiative passing. Of the 50 variables included, only seven had any significant correlation that increased or decreased the odds of a campaign passing or failing.

At the library-level, these were:
- Visits to the library
- Programming for children
- The availability of technology
- The extent of electronic collections
- The library’s total revenue

At the community level, these factors were:
- The median income of the community
- The education level, particularly high school graduation rates

However, key factors like the demographics of a community and its current tax burden, the number of library staff, the size and scope of a collection, and overall engagements with the community had little to no influence on election outcomes.

### Visits Appear to Matter

The IMLS PLS data included many variables related to in-person services, including programming attendance for all programs; the number of public service hours per year; the total annual reference transactions; the number of internet-enabled computers for public use; and the total number of visits per year. Of all the library-level factors that appeared to matter on Election Day, the leading odds-increasing factor was the total number of visits per year.

### Kids May Not Win at the Ballot Box

Library staff and supporters have stated for years that children and children’s services matter when it comes to winning at the polls. When reflecting on why her 2008 ballot initiative passed, one library director said, "she believes people are more persuaded to support the library for children’s sake than for abstract ideals like the common good". The data, however, bears out the opposite. An abundance of children’s programs actually correlates to lower chances of success on the ballot.

### Education Levels Do Factor

The impact of education levels is something that comes up frequently when discussing both voters and library supporters. This report considered three variables from the ACS in understanding the local (county-level) community: the percent of the population with less than a high school degree; the percentage of the people with a bachelor’s degree or higher; and the percentage with only a high school diploma.

Continued on next page
Of those three variables, the only one that had a significant influence on the odds of a campaign passing or failing was the percentage of the population with only a high school diploma.

**Investments in Technology May Up the Odds**

Two of the internal-to-the-library variables that appeared to influence the odds of passing a ballot measure are centered around electronics and computing. While we cannot definitively point to a cause or effect, our data did show that the higher the number of internet-connected terminals that a library possessed, the greater the odds that their campaign would pass. In addition, a higher number of electronic resources provided through the state library also increased the odds of a campaign passing.


In coalition with organizations including Authors Alliance, Boston Public Library, Creative Commons, EveryLibrary, Fight for the Future, Internet Archive, Public Knowledge, Readers First, SPARC, and the Special Library Association, this public interest alliance seeks to enable collective action while building power through an innovative advocacy organization. “We need Library Futures now more than ever to organize the voices of librarians to fight for the role of libraries as a public resource for information in the digital age,” says Chris Lewis, President and CEO of Public Knowledge.

“I am very excited to be a part of Library Futures. This organization is poised to make real change at issues I care about deeply - issues that are challenging libraries today - access and equity,” says Kyle K. Courtney, Copyright Advisor and Program Manager at the Harvard Library Office for Scholarly Communication and Chair of the Library Futures Board. “Digital library books—when loaned correctly—can be a pivotal tool libraries use to preserve great works, provide patrons with access to books, and defend patron privacy. I hope the community will join us in standing up for the future of libraries.”

“I am honored to be leading this organization, which will take on major issues in libraries and help usher in a more inclusive digital future for teachers, learners, and researchers from every walk of life,” says Jennie Rose Halperin, Executive Director.

The campaign can be reshared from the Library Futures social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and inquiries regarding press, coalition partners, donations, or volunteer opportunities can be directed to jennie@libraryfutures.net. Please visit the Library Futures website at https://libraryfutures.net, sign up for the mailing list, and stay tuned for future developments and opportunities.

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**LAUNCH OF NEW 501(C)3 LIBRARY FUTURES**

**Press Release**

Library Futures Institute, a new 501(c)(3) that will empower libraries to take control of their digital futures and fight for the right to equitable access to knowledge, launched this week with a social media campaign celebrating a technology-positive vision for libraries.

Focused on six core principles that champion the rights of libraries to lend materials in a digital environment, Library Futures will enable libraries to fulfill their mission, providing non-discriminatory open access to culture for the public good. Through advocacy, grant making, education, and community, the organization will respond to 21st century needs, operate at the speed of change, and level the playing field between publishers and the public.
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Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Report as of 9/1/19 conference annual report
Wells Fargo Savings..............$13,021.58
Wells Fargo Checking............$2,394.32
Ameriprise Savings Cert...$14,687.73*
Ameriprise Savings Cert...$18,702.19*
Raney Endowment...............$104,342.19**
Total......................................$153,148.01

*These balances as of 12/31/2020
**Raney balance is as of last statement, 12/31/2020

Quick News

- Vermillion Public Library featured on KELO for fine waiving program.
- The State Library has started up a new Vlog-- Loud Librarians Lead with host Laura Kelly
- EveryLibrary calls on State and Local Health Officials to prioritize library workers in vaccine distribution.
- Melanie Benjamin's 'The Children's Blizzard' Announced as 2021 One Book South Dakota

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