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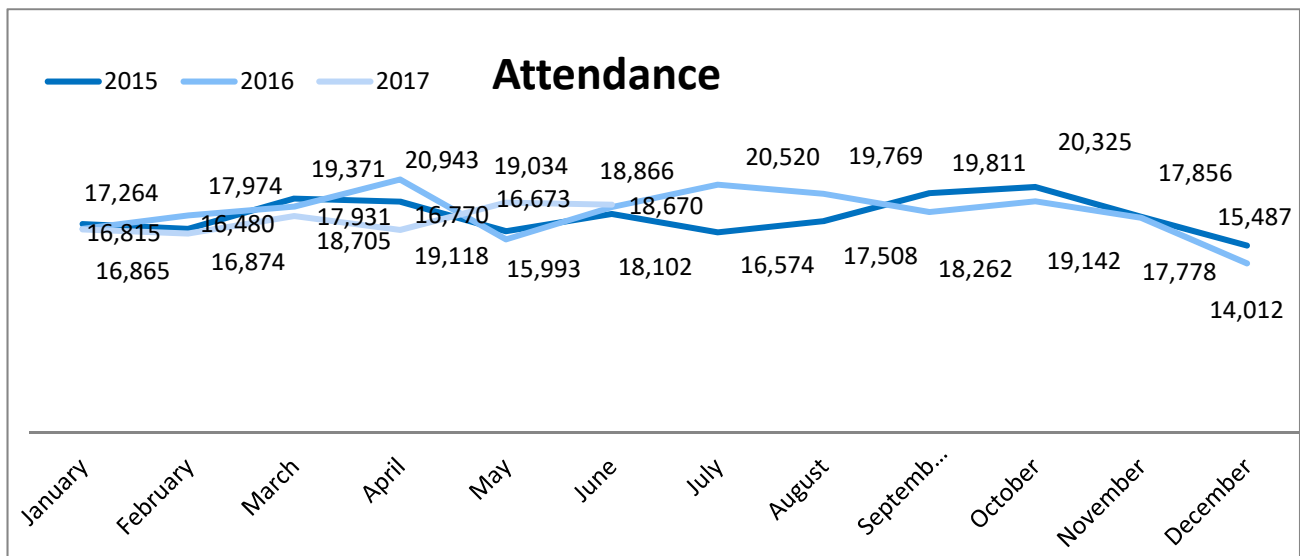
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Director's Report June 2017

Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees, 7/18/2017

Visitors to our Library:

We had another busy month. Attendance in June 2017 (18,866) was 1% higher than 2016 (18,670). The library was open 10 fewer hours this year. An average of 66 people per hour open visited the library in June 2017, compared to 63 visitors per hour the previous year. Daily traffic averaged 600-700 people per day until the Summer Reading Program Kick-off on June 26. That day, the door count was 1424! Since then, daily traffic has averaged in the 900's.



Collections and Cardholders:

Overall, circulation in June 2017 (36,722) was 4.33% higher than June 2016 (35,198). Book circulation increased 3% (22,038/21,470), AV circulation increased 5% (11,776/11,219), and digital circulation increased 20% (2,328/1,938).

Overall Fiction Circulation June 2017 vs. 2016 (not taking into consideration hours open):

- Adult Fiction: decreased 1%
- YA Fiction: decreased 13%
- Juvenile Fiction: increased 4%

Overall Non-Fiction Circulation June 2017 vs. 2016 (not taking into consideration hours open):

- Adult Non-Fiction: increased 9%
- YA Non-Fiction: increased 52%
- Juvenile Non-Fiction: increased 2%

Overall Audio/Visual Circulation June 2017 vs. 2016 (not taking into consideration hours open):

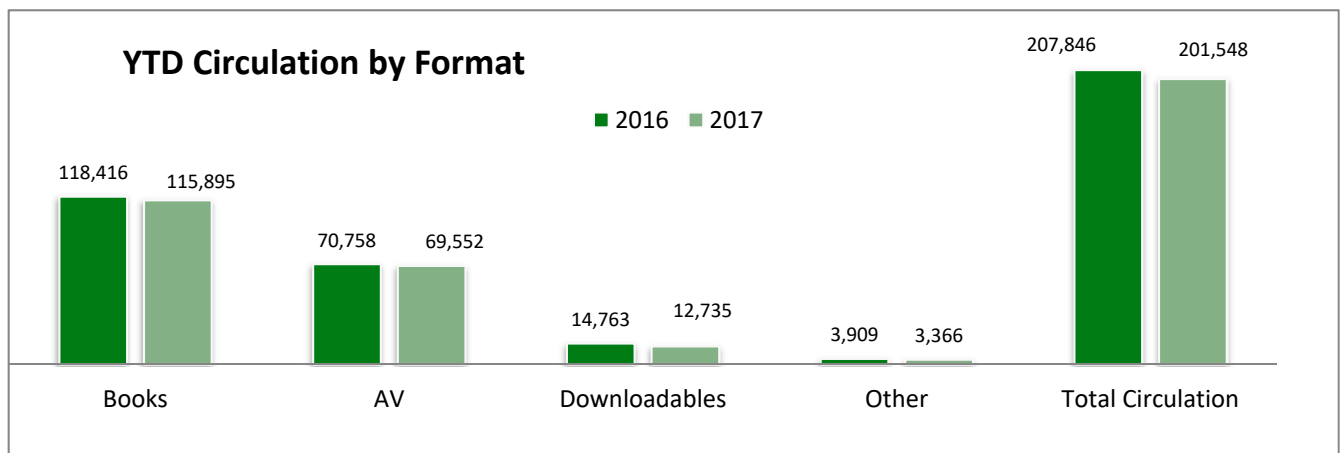
- Adult Audio: increased 9%
- YA Audio: increased 5%
- Juvenile Audio: increased 27%

Overall DVD Circulation May 2017 vs. 2016 (not taking into consideration hours open):

- Adult DVD's: increased 2%
- Juvenile DVD's: increased 1%

Downloadable Materials Circulation May 2017 vs. 2016

- EBooks: increased 11%
- eAudiobooks: increased 54%
- Streaming video/periodicals: decreased 13%



Book Circulation YTD increased 2% in 2017 vs. 2016.

- Adult Fiction decreased 7%
- Adult Non-Fiction increased 9%
- YA Fiction decreased 22%
- YA Non Fiction increased 10%
- Juvenile Fiction increased 7%
- Juvenile Non Fiction increased 6%

AV Circulation YTD increased 2% in 2017 vs. 2016

- Adult Audio increased 6%
- YA Audio increased 17%
- Juv Audio increased 38%
- Adult DVDs increased 4%
- Juvenile DVDs decreased 15%

Electronic Materials Circulation YTD increased 16% in 2017 vs. 2016

- E-books increased 8%
- E-audio books increased 37%
- Streaming Video/Periodicals increased 9%

Other Materials Circulation decreased 14%

TOTAL CIRCULATION YTD 2017 vs. 2016 increased by 3%

Sidewalk Project

The sidewalk project has begun early due to a scheduling shift. Michael and I have met several times with the construction team and they hope to be able to save several trees that were previously stated to be removed. Traffic flow will be impacted 7am-4pm along Luther for the duration of the project and Community Way for approximately 2 weeks.

LED Lighting Project

Phase 1 of the LED Lighting project is complete. LED lights have been installed in the offices, main library, meeting rooms, and outside. Phase 2 of the project will be in the next grant proposal round. We received our grant funds from the state for the energy efficiency project. We will be submitting our paperwork to the National Grid for incentive grant reimbursement funds.

Upper Hudson Library System (Director's Association Minutes)

- **BOOPSIE Mobile App:** now available. Deanna DiCarlo is the liaison with the company and should be notified about any problems, and also about any good comments/compliments. There is a problem at several libraries in that their scanners are not set up to scan library cards on phones for Boopsie. The scanners need to be updated. S. Jarzombek will email the Directors list with the type of scanner that is used at APL for Boopsie.
- **LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** the first training session was very successful. T. Burke will send out a poll to determine the optimum day and time for the next session. It is a full day commitment of time for both the library director and board president.
- **CONSTRUCTION GRANT:** the portal is now open. September 1st is the deadline for online submission to UHLS. October 4th is the deadline for DLD submission.
- **56th ANNUAL CELEBRATION:** was successful, he was pleased that Hugh Farley was able to attend. The Award winners were all very impressive. In 2018, the Celebration will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy.
- **BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:** UHLS is still looking for trustees from a small library in Rensselaer County and a medium library in Rensselaer County. Due to the UHLS By-Laws change, these do not necessarily have to be people currently serving on a library board, just people who live within the service areas and are interested in libraries.
- **PULISDO and MINIMUM STANDARDS REVIEW:** T. Burke handed out the Minutes from the recent PULISDO meeting where changes to the Minimum Standards were discussed and recommendations considered. These recommendations have been forwarded to DLD and they did not see any major problems. The next step after DLD approval would be to the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents. This is a long term project since the Regents only meet twice a year.
- **UHLAN FEE STRUCTURE:** The current UHLAN Agreement ends December 2017. T. Burke is working on new wording for the Agreement that will stress overall System services rather than just automation. He said that he would like the fee to stay basically the same. Much discussion. S. Jarzombek noted that in the current fee structure, libraries are being penalized for increased circulation. He is concerned that a sizeable increase in circulation could result in a sizable increase in UHLAN fees. T. Burke noted that there is an adjustment figure in the formula that will prevent an exorbitant increase for an individual library. J. Dugas Hughes asked if there was a way to determine how many out-of-area patrons a library serves and if there could be consideration of this in the Agreement. L. Teachout noted that the Nassau Library appreciates the services that it receives from UHLS and realizes that some payment is necessary. T. Burke noted that there is a net lender adjustment in the current formula and borrowing within the

System is an area for consideration. He wants the Agreement to feel fair and to reward net lenders. It was suggested that perhaps the per capita purchase of materials might be considered as a measure and this could be an incentive for increasing local support. The process for approval of the UHLAN Agreement is as follows: consensus by the DA; approval by the UHLS Board; approval by the member library Boards when they sign the Agreement.

2017 Legislative Season Recap (Report by Jeremy Johannesen, Director NYLA)

The 2017 Legislative Session gaveled out – for the second time – on June 29th; the last sputtering gasps of activity proved a fitting conclusion for a year that began with the confusing and convoluted rollout of Governor Cuomo’s seventh Executive Budget proposal.

Despite our recent successes – five consecutive years of increased State Library Aid, an historic increase in State Library Construction Aid, tens of millions of dollars in additional operating and construction grants, and the passage of long-stalled legislation – the library community had well-founded fears heading into this session. Recent history indicated the Governor was likely to implement across-the-board funding reductions following an election year, and reports from the Office of the State Comptroller indicated that projected state revenues were falling far below expectations.

Unfortunately, these fears were realized when the Governor unveiled his FY2017-18 spending plan: library funding was cut, and the hard-won battles of 2016, which saw increases in both State Library Aid and State Library Construction Aid would have to be refought. And this year, we would have to fight those battles without our best ally, retired State Senator Hugh Farley.

Together with library advocates from across New York State, NYLA met these challenges head-on, and once again emerged from the legislative session with several important victories; we turned back the Governor’s funding cuts to two core programs, secured increased funding for Library Construction Aid, passed two long-dormant pieces of legislation, and facilitated millions of dollars in direct grants to a record number of libraries. With great pride in our strong and successful efforts, we submit this report on the 2017 NYS Legislative Session.

FY 2017-18 NYS Budget

This year’s enacted state budget and companion legislative resolutions for targeted aid will provide approximately \$14.6M in new funding for libraries. This represents the second largest single-year increase in state appropriations for libraries, and places total state allocations for libraries and library programs at nearly \$124M in FY2017-18.

- **State Library Aid.** Funding for the State Library Aid program will be \$95.6M in FY2016-17. Governor’s Cuomo’s Executive Budget proposal cut this funding line by \$4M – the amount NYLA worked to secure during the 2016 budget negotiations. Governor Cuomo employed this across-the-board strategy of targeted cuts, what amounts to a negotiating tactic with the legislature, after the last round of state legislative elections. With an unprecedented level of organization and advocacy actions by the library community, we reversed the Governor’s proposed cuts.
- **State Library Construction Aid.** Funding for the State Library Construction Aid program will be \$24M in FY2016-17. Governor Cuomo’s proposed budget rolled back the \$5M increase New York’s library activists secured in last year’s budget – the program’s first increase in a decade. The \$24M allocation represents a \$10M increase over the Governor’s proposed budget, and a \$5M year-to-year program increase. After a decade of stagnant funding, the Library Construction Aid Program has nearly doubled in one calendar year.
- **Senate & Assembly “Bullet Aid” for Libraries and Library Systems.** These targeted grants-in-aid programs for “certain school districts, public libraries, and not-for-profit institutions” saw a 40% reduction in available appropriations in this year’s enacted budget. However, in Senate Resolution 3067 & Assembly Resolution 708, more than \$4.1M was awarded to nearly 600 libraries. A record number of libraries received appropriations, and though overall funding for these programs was reduced by 40%, libraries received a greater share of these funds than in any previous year.

- **Senate funding for NYS Economic Development Assistance Program.** The NYS Senate provided approximately \$5.2M in Senate Resolution 3068 to continue and institute funding for projects at nearly 40 libraries and library systems. This represents an increase of approximately \$400,000 over last year, directed towards nearly twice the number of libraries.
- **Assembly funding for “Legislative Initiatives.”** The NYS Assembly provided nearly \$250,000 to continue and institute funding for projects at several libraries. These awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$75,000.

NYLA Legislative Priorities

NYLA’s legislative priorities are devised by the Legislative Committee and NYLA Council, and set multi-year advocacy goals to benefit each library type. Recent successes have allowed us to focus on more complex, politically difficult issues.

- **Ensure Access to School Libraries and School Librarians** - A.6023 Solages

This legislation would require every elementary and secondary school in NYS to provide students with a school library staffed by a certified School Library Media Specialist. Currently, there is no such requirement for elementary schools, and secondary schools are required only SED regulations. During this legislative session, we worked with Assemblywoman Solages to sponsor this bill in the Assembly. NYLA also worked with SLSA to undertake a census of librarians by school building to gauge the potential impacts of the legislation. We will continue to educate the legislature and develop the best strategy to advance this important bill.

- **Equitable Access to DASNY Financing for Public Libraries** – S.5303 Ritchie

This legislation would remove an antiquated and cumbersome roadblock for libraries in need of timely renovations, and ensure local taxpayers have access to DASNY’s expertise and low-cost services. Currently, any library seeking desperately-needed financing for capital improvements must be individually approved in law. This legislation once again passed the Senate but faced staunch opposition in the Assembly.

- **Taxpayer Access to Publicly-Funded Research**

This legislation would require any New York State-funded research that is published in peer reviewed journals to be made publicly available online after one year. This bill would bring NYS in line with the federal standards employed by the National Institute of Health, and the State of California. This bill has faced concerted opposition for several years, which has intensified.

NYLA-Monitored Legislation

During each legislative session, NYLA works on additional legislation that is not part of our official legislative agenda, but will impact the library community. While not on this year’s legislative agenda, NYLA worked in the waning hours of this session to revive two politically difficult pieces of legislation and pass them through both houses. These will be sent to the Governor to be signed into law, but they face an extremely difficult road to enactment.

- **Economic Impact of Public Libraries & Library Systems** – S.3010 Ritchie / A.5810-A Quart

This bill would require the New York State Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with the New York State Education Department, to conduct a comprehensive study of the economic impact of libraries and library services on the state and local economies. This legislation was last on NYLA’s Legislative Priority list in 2013, and fell off after several years of failed attempts at passage. This bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

- **Tax Contributions to the “Love Your Library Fund”** – S.3023-A Ritchie / A.1094-A Galef

This bill provides an opportunity for taxpayer to make direct contributions to the state’s “Love Your Library Fund” in support of local Summer Reading programs. This legislation was previously passed in 2010, and vetoed by then-Governor Paterson. This legislation will now be sent to Governor Cuomo for consideration.

One Last Thing...

As previously mentioned, this legislative session was the first without the great Senator Hugh Farley wielding his experience, knowledge, and seniority on our behalf. Additionally, we officially welcomed two new advocates into the fold: Senator Patty Ritchie, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Libraries, and Assemblyman Dan Quart, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology. Though both have long been library supporters, each used their new assignments to distinguish themselves as forceful advocates for libraries and library services. NYLA is excited to continue learning together, and optimistic that as our partnership deepens we will discover two uniquely capable legislators to help advance our agenda.

Keeping the Fires Burning

As you know, libraries are under attack from all directions – federal, state, and local. Here in New York State, our community libraries are protected only through your continued dedication, and NYLA’s organizational strength. Your NYLA membership allows us to fight for you and on behalf of those vulnerable and voiceless New Yorkers who rely on the services libraries provide, and we thank you for your continued support.

Did you know NYLA also has an Advocacy Fund? Your support allows NYLA to amplify our message and be heard in Albany. Donations to NYLA are tax-deductible.

Audit

Stark and Basila have completed their audit and will be sharing it with us shortly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Dugas Hughes
Director