



VLA News

November 2014

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President's Letter

by Toni Josey

Vermonters love their libraries. If you need a reminder of that, march with me and VLA in next year's Pride Parade in Burlington. On September 14, Christine Webb (Fletcher Free Library, Burlington) generously donated her time and '73 Dodge Charger, which we decorated with VLA signs and a pride flag, and the two of us traveled the parade route amid an energetic crowd full of enthusiastic (and vocal!) library supporters. My thanks to Christine, and to the other VLA members who were marching with organizations close to their hearts and encouraged us to join. I'd love to increase the turnout for next year's VLA group. Do you have ideas for signs, costumes, or a float? Join us in Burlington and show that libraries are safe spaces for the LGBTQA community.

A few days after the parade, I attended a book launch by Vermont publisher Wind Ridge Books. There I met editor and author Angela Palm, who loves libraries so much that she chose to donate 10% of the net profits of her new book, *Please Do Not Remove*, to the Vermont Library Association. She is one of the twenty Vermont writers who were inspired by old library checkout cards and contributed a captivating collection of poetry and prose "celebrating Vermont literature and libraries." I could not put this book down, and I highly recommend it. That it benefits VLA is a bonus. I am glad to have it in my collection and look forward to reading it again and again.

And if there were an award for Most Enthusiastic VLA Member, I would nominate Cindy Weber. In October she was chosen by the Board to represent our chapter at the ALA's 2015 Career Development Facilitator (CDF) training program. Run by the National Career Development Organization, the program will be tailored to guide librarians in providing career and job-seeking help to their communities as well as assisting librarians with their own career development needs. Cindy will work with colleagues here in Vermont to share her skills and reach libraries across the state. She says, "I feel very fortunate to serve as the director of the Stowe Free Library and am deeply grateful for this opportunity to be the CDF representative for VLA and its members. I look forward to the training and to assisting my colleagues in reaching their professional goals. Likewise, it will be an honor to work with a consort to establish a plan to serve Vermonters in their career development plans." If you would like to facilitate career development training in your community, contact Cindy at cweber@stowelibrary.org.

I'm pleased to welcome and introduce Howard Burrows, new Trustees Section President and Trustee at Brooks Memorial Library (Brattleboro). We were at the Vermont Library Trustees and Friends Annual Conference in Killington on November 1, where Virgil and I hosted a lunchtime table to talk with folks about VLA.

more details.

Back Issues

Did you miss previous issues of the *VLA News*? Don't despair! You can read them on the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

Employers: 46
Substitutes: 40

Employer Institutions:

Public: 31
Academic: 7
Special: 3
School: 3
Community: 2

Availability in Pool by County:

Addison: 14
Bennington: 2
Caladonia: 8
Chittenden: 24
Essex: 3
Franklin: 13
Grand Isle: 7
Lamoille: 8
Orange: 10
Orleans: 2
Rutland: 8
Washington: 19
Windham: 5
Windsor: 10

Check out the [VLA Job Postings](#)

Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the Executive Board, Section & Committee leaders and Representatives volunteer their time for VLA because they feel that it is important to be involved in an

Thanks to everyone who joined our Board members at our October meetups around the state. I'd love to coordinate the next gatherings with local trivia nights. Would you like to host? Drop me a line.

Connect With Us:

Website: www.vermontlibraries.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation

Twitter: twitter.com/@VLAlib

Instagram: instagram.com/vlplib

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association-5172256

Toni Josey

VLA President

vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com

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Vice President's Letter

by Virgil Fuller

NELA Conference: I was fortunate enough to take part in the 2014 New England Library Association conference for two days in Boxborough, MA and it was a blast. If you have never attended before, I highly recommend that you do so next year as it's small enough that you don't feel bombarded, (any of you who have attended ALA know what I'm talking about) but big enough that they are able to afford some wonderful speakers who do marvelous sessions. The sessions I attended were as follows: Sunday: the keynote by Garry Golden entitled "A 21st Century Roadmap for the Future of Libraries;" "State of the States," a panel discussion at which state librarians from each New England state gave brief synopses of what is happening and what they see for the future of their states; "Chapter Leaders Forum" at which association leaders from each state (I represented VLA at this) spoke about what their associations had been up to recently along with the challenges they face. Monday: "Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom" presented by Rebecca MacKinnon, a very timely topic to say the least! If you are interested in learning more about her and her book, check out <http://consentofthenetworked.com>; "The Digital Public Library of America: an Update," presented by Dan Cohen who is the Founding Executive Director of the DPLA. If you are not aware of the work they do, you should check out their website: <http://dp.la>. Next up, I attended "Library Corps of Adventure! Looking at Libraries Across the Lewis and Clark Trail" presented by Mary Wilkins Jordan of Simmons College. If you are looking for an entertaining speaker, look no further! The last session I attended was "Jack Kerouac: From Lowell and Beyond," presented by Roger Brunelle of the Lowell Celebrates Kerouac Committee. This is a topic that I have been interested in for as long as I can remember so I feel quite lucky that I was able to be there for this talk. If you have any questions about any of the sessions or about the conference in general, please feel free to contact me!

NELA Rep: VLA is in need of a NELA representative. [Click here for more information about this position](#). Please contact me if you are interested in filling this vacancy or know of anybody who may be able to do so.

Unpaid Hours Survey: Responding to an email that came through on the VALS listserv concerning librarians working beyond the hours they were paid, the VLA board felt that it was time for us to take action. We put together a survey that was sent out to the VTLIBRARIES listserv and the VALS listserv, urging those who work in a public library to fill it out. As of this writing we have had 97 responses to the survey, with 62% of the respondents indicating that they put in unpaid time at their library.

organization that benefits their fellow Vermont librarians and their profession as a whole. Below is a list of your VLA Leaders (for more contact information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#)). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

Executive Board

President:

[Toni Josey](#)

Vice

President/President

Elect:

[Virgil Fuller](#)

Past President:

[Amber Billey](#)

Secretary:

[Sarah Costa](#)

Treasurer:

[James Allen](#)

Section

Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section

President:

[Prudence Doherty](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries

Section President:

[Amy Wisehart](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services

Section President:

[Tom McMurdo](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Montpelier Meet Up: A big thank you to all of those who came out to the Three Penny Taproom on October 10. I would especially like to thank Jessamyn West, our awesome webmaster, and Tom McMurdo, the wearer of both the Tech Services president's hat and our Department of Libraries representative who helped coordinate the event. All in all there were about 15 librarians in attendance. Next time, let's make it 30!

Virgil Fuller

VLA Vice President

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Co-Editor's Letter

by Janet Clapp

As mentioned in the vice president's letter above, a survey of public libraries regarding unpaid work hours was recently conducted. Today as I write this on my own computer on my own time I started thinking about the time we dedicate to our profession off the clock. Not only are library staff members doing library work, we are volunteering in organizations like VLA or just reading to keep up with what's happening in our field. We do it because we're dedicated to libraries, not because we have the time to spare. So, in the spirit of thanksgiving, I offer my deep appreciation and gratitude to the VLA board members who put in many hours on behalf of all Vermont libraries and to all librarians who share their time to the benefit of all.

Janet Clapp

VLA News Co-editor

vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com

Public Libraries Section

by Amy Wisehart

The Public Libraries section needs your input! We are starting to plan for a spring workshop, and we'd like to understand better what your interests and priorities are. Please fill out our short and painless online survey before December 1: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JKNL7BR>.

In other news, the Public Libraries section will be working with Cindy Weber, the VLA's chosen Career Development Facilitator, to implement this program throughout the state. Stay tuned for details!

I always welcome any feedback about ways the section can help support public librarians in Vermont.

Amy Wisehart

VLA Public Libraries Section President

Director, [Hartland Pubic Library](#)

802-436-2473

director@hartlandlibraryvt.org

College & Special Libraries Section

by Laura Crain

Trustees

President:

[Howard Burrows](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians

President:

[Amy McMullen](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Awards Chair:

[Amy Grasmick](#)

VT Dept. of

Libraries

Representative to the Board:

[Tom McMurdo](#)

Government

Relations Chair:

[Selene Colburn](#)

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Intellectual

Freedom Chair:

[Ray Brior](#)

Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy.

Membership &

Outreach Chair:

[Helen Linda](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel Chair:

[Shara McCaffery](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Highlights from "Let's Talk About the Web"



On October 23, the College and Special Libraries section hosted a half-day conference: "Let's Talk About the Web." Fifty people from across Vermont (and from New Hampshire and Massachusetts!) attended the event organized by Prudence Doherty and Laura Crain and graciously hosted by Paul Carnahan and staff from the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. Amber Billey from the University of Vermont started the day with her talk on content strategies for academic library websites. Using the metaphor of a Chicago deep dish pizza, she posed the question of whether libraries should pile everything into their websites or finely curate content to create more of an artisanal Neapolitan pizza.

John Payne from Saint Michael's demonstrated using web analytics to improve the user experience. Using data from Google analytics (freely available to website administrators) libraries can find out what links students are clicking on and what links they are not. Libraries can use this data to make decisions on what content should be promoted and what might be demoted, particularly in discovering what is hidden in the library's website that students are trying to find.

Michael Braun Hamilton from the Community College of Vermont gave specifics on how to integrate third-party tools to provide a consistent user experience. He introduced the audience to I-frames and the phrase "remove cruft" (cruft being anything in third-party tools that might be redundant or confusing when embedded in a library's website).

Dan DeSanto from the University of Vermont talked about UVM's implementation of Guide on the Side – a side-panel overlay for webpages that can lead students through the online learning experience. Instruction librarians in the room could have talked about GOTS most of the day.

**Vermont Library
Conference Chair:**
[Jessica Summer](#)

VLA News Editors:
[Debbie Landauer](#)
[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:
[Helen Linda](#)
[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:
[Charlotte Gerstein](#)
Represents Vermont
in the national
organization.

Carrie Macfarlane and Stacy Reardon from Middlebury discussed Middlebury's transition to LibGuides. They provided insight on creating uniform templates and style guides and the process of leading staff through the transition by holding regular "work sessions" to collaborate on launching the new guides. Heidi Steiner Burkhardt and Melissa Cornwell from Norwich then transitioned the LibGuides discussion to an overview of how Norwich migrated to LibGuides version 2. Version 2 offers additional benefits including responsive design, which eliminates the need for a separate mobile design, and centralized asset management, which is a huge time saver and one of the major justifications for using LibGuides.

Evaluations from the day were very positive and it was a great reminder of how many talented librarians we have in our region.

Laura Crain
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Technical Services Section

by Kelly McElligott

ATTN: Gmail Users

If you are viewing this using Google Mail, please note your VLA News has been clipped by the mail service.

To finish reading the issue, scroll to the bottom of the message and click the link:

[Message Clipped]
[View Entire Message](#)

Other mail clients should receive VLA News in its entirety, but if not, please [let us know](#).

A floating library?! I got your attention, right? Did you hear of this happening in Minnesota? Here is the link to how one library created a floating library allowing canoeists, paddle boarders, and small boat operators to get books while in the water.

<http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2014/10/paddling-to-the-library/>

Now, back to the Technical Services section!

Currently, we have two great tools available to Vermont libraries. First, the Edge Initiative, which allows libraries to assess their current technology. From these assessments each library will receive a report outlining areas for improvement and goal setting. Creating articulated goals allows the library to see the big picture in terms of community and staff needs.

Another great tool is the Impact Survey. This tool is a direct survey for community members to indicate how they use library computer work stations and Wi-Fi. The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete and can be done on the computer or in paper form. When the survey ends the library can use the results to set future technology strategies for community needs.

Technology is changing quite rapidly – I can't even keep up with the new apps! These tools can help us stay on top of the game. As librarians we need insight and guidance from library users to help us stay current and relevant.

Kelly McElligott
VLA Technical Section Vice President
IT/Technical Services Librarian, [Stowe Free Library](#)
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Awards Committee

by Amy Grasmick

Vermont is award winners' natural habitat!

Congratulations to cartoonist Alison Bechdel, recognized this year by the MacArthur Foundation as a bona fide genius. www.vermontlibraries.org/vla-honors-alison-bechdel-for-banned-books-week-2014/

While perhaps not quite as prestigious as the MacArthur Fellowships, VLA's annual awards still carry plenty of prestige. If you would like to participate in the Awards Committee, please let me know. Our primary task is to solicit and evaluate nominations for four awards: Trustee of the Year, Library Advocate of the Year, Sarah C. Hagar Award, and the Green Mountain Award. One face-to-face meeting a year and a few email conversations are usually enough to get the job done. The committee could especially use members with public relations chops: award winners deserve the loudest possible shout-out. Can you help us turn up the volume?

You don't have to be on the committee to make an award happen. In fact, we rely on VLA's membership to let us know about all of the good work you and your colleagues are doing. No need to wait; although the committee puts out calls for nominations in the months leading up to the Vermont Library conference, we're happy to receive nomination packets at any time.

Guidelines for nominations are available at the VLA website:
<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards/>

Amy C. Grasmick
VLA Awards Committee Chair
Director, [Kimball Public Library](#), Randolph Amy@KimballLibrary.org

Trustees Section

by Howard Burrows

OMG! I just volunteered to work with VLA on behalf of trustees (and friends).

How did this happen? A few months ago, Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro put out a request for people to apply to become a trustee. There were three positions available and four applicants; I was the one rejected. But then someone else left the board and my name was added to the list to serve a two-year unfilled term. In March my nomination was approved at the Representative Town Meeting and much to my surprise I became an ATO. What is that? Apparently I am authorized to obey public meeting laws.

So now I'm trying to learn what trustees do. According to my packet and the VT Dept. of Libraries website, I discovered that ALTAFF doesn't really exist, and that VLTA doesn't really exist either. So I went to the ALA pages and found out about United for Libraries: "**The mission of United for Libraries is to support citizens who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for all types of libraries.**"

I want to do that!

The Brooks board assigned me to the Technology Standing Committee, so I attended Sheila Kearns workshop on Technology Planning at the Midstate Library facility. There I met several librarians, who warned me as a new trustee not to interfere with what was already good. Okay... Then I went to the Connected Vermont meeting in Montpelier and had the opportunity to carpool with Amy Howlett. Poor

Amy...I had a few questions. Then, when I saw that there was an opening to serve as VP for the Trustee section under Laurel Stanley, I asked her if I could apply. As it turned out, she was ready to leave the presidency and asked if I would take it on.

So I agreed.

Thank you, Laurel—for your past service, and for giving me this opportunity. So now I want to learn what everybody needs. What do you librarians want? And what do you friends and trustees want? How many of you are there? I'll try not to get in your way. Promise—promise to try at least. I did have some things I wanted to do, though.

I hope I get to talk with all of you, sometime.

Howard Burrows
VLA Trustees Section President
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Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy

By Linda Kramer

Why would a Vermont librarian travel to the South in early October when the North is resplendent in fall foliage? For me, it was to attend a tailor-made conference in Savannah--a perfect fit for recognizing National Information Literacy Awareness Month, a project of the National Forum on Information Literacy. Each year since October 2009 when President Obama issued his proclamation creating National Literacy Month, the NFIL has campaigned to secure governors' proclamations for every state and U. S. territory. This year, with Governor Shumlin's signature, Vermont became the 24th state (and 5th New England state) to join forces with the NFIL.

Now that the Vermont campaign committee has achieved its goal for official recognition of Information Literacy Month, our next objective is to sustain momentum for information literacy awareness. The 11th annual Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy could serve as a model event for teachers and librarians in this state. It was an instruction librarian's dream, where experts gathered to share best practices for teaching and learning 21st century digital and information literacy skills. Designed for instructors at all levels of the educational spectrum, from kindergarten to high school, college, and non-traditional learners, this cross section of participants and presenters made for a stimulating glimpse into how collaboration among stakeholders can contribute to the process of lifelong learning for all individuals.

The theme of this conference was self-evident: more than half of the presentation titles included the keyword phrase "information literacy," supporting my position that too much of a good thing can be a very good thing! During two full days, we were treated to sessions on perennial hot-button topics in libraries: faculty/librarian cooperation; online tutorial construction; the Common Core curriculum; revising the information literacy standards for higher education; instructional design; and authentic assessment. To get a complete picture of the range of offerings, visit the conference website at <http://academics.gerogiasouthern.edu/ce/conferences/infolit/>.

But, from my perspective, you simply "had to be there."

Recharged with a positive takeaway of ideas from a conference where information

literacy was featured front and center--and in another part of the country--I am looking forward to maintaining old and establishing new connections with librarians and teachers in Vermont's public, school and college libraries. Through collaboration, communication, and a holistic view of the educational process, we can prepare to celebrate information literacy awareness beyond the month of October each year.

Yes, Georgia is still on my mind.

Linda Kramer
Instructional Services Librarian
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Sponsoring Vermont Comic Con and Having a Blast!

by Helen Linda

"Moms and libraries are very popular," was the word on the floor at the first annual [Vermont Comic Con](#). It didn't take long for the [Vermont Library Association](#) (VLA) and [Vermont Department of Libraries](#) (VTLib) booth to become one of the highlights of the con. And why not? We had such cool stuff!



First, we had [David Newell](#), Mr. McFeeley from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood... "Speedy Delivery!" He did two readings a day at our booth with a generously discounted signing afterward. Most importantly, he brought the puppets! Adults and children alike were delighted by appearances from King Friday, Prince Tuesday, Lady Elaine, and the Donkey! Not to mention he donated a signed copy of his new book and DVD for our raffle.



VLA also had an amazing interactive photo booth! I designed, and Sam Maskell of [Rockingham Free Public Library](#) crafted, a life-size Vermont Comic Reader's License based on the Vermont driver's license. I was on a mission to get all the cosplayers (folks dressed up as their favorite comic book, video game, movie, or animated hero) in the booth! Participants wrote their name, or their character's name, on the license and sat in the cutout. We uploaded the shots live to the [VLA Instagram](#) and compiled edited versions in an [album](#) on the [VLA Facebook page](#) (you do not have to be a member of facebook to view the album). Well over a hundred eager participants sat for a photo, with often hilarious results, especially from the kids!



Our educational component was a display of some of the most commonly challenged and banned comics, taken from the [Comic Book Legal Defense Fund's](#) website. The display generated a lot of great discussion about why things are challenged, where libraries stand on challenges, and what the difference between a challenge and a ban is. We had folks stopping by to read the books, and the most commonly heard phrase was, "Bone!? Seriously?"



Finally, we had free stuff! Reading lists, stickers, mini-comics provided by [Harrison's Comics & Collectibles](#), and a raffle of six graphic novels from VTLib. We made it into the [Burlington Free Press coverage](#) of the event and were interviewed by a pair of students from Champlain College for a student film. Jessamyn West wowed the crowd with her Library Card/Reference Desk Reversible Costume. Event organizers let us know that next year's convention theme will be literacy and that they would love to work with us.



The following authors/artists asked us to let the library community know they would be delighted to work with you. If you contact them, tell them VLA sent you!

1) Ben Cohen, cartoonist and comics professor out of Jericho, was our neighbor at the event. He said he would be happy to teach both technical drawing and history of comics classes at libraries. He can be reached via his website at <http://www.bencohen.co>, on Twitter at [@bencomics](https://twitter.com/bencomics), or by phone at [\(802\) 310-7404](tel:8023107404).

2) Matt Herring, author and co-host of the Secret Identity podcast out of Massachusetts, is currently promoting his new book, *The "Unofficial" Dr. Who Companion*. He is excited to do Dr. Who 101 at libraries, from first Doctor to the present, and/or talk about the process of writing books. He can be reached via his website at <http://www.mattcantspell.com> and by email at matmancomics@yahoo.com. He is willing to travel, so don't hesitate to inquire.

3) Jenny Boquet, Ms. Royal America 2014/15 out of Hinesburg, would love to do readings with kids in her official capacity. She can be reached at msroyalamerica@outlook.com, on Facebook at [MsRoyalAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/MsRoyalAmerica), and on twitter at [@royalamerica14](https://twitter.com/royalamerica14).

Hannah Tracy of the [Fairlee Public Library](#), Jessamyn, Sam, and myself were your ambassadors for this event. We had a blast and were swamped most of the time. So, if you are interested in planning for next year, especially working the booth, please let me know. We could use more hands on deck!

Helen Linda
VLA Membership and Outreach Chair
[Eliot D. Pratt Library](#), Goddard College
vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com

Join the Vermont Library Substitute Pool

by Helen Linda

This summer we celebrated four years of the [Vermont Library Substitute Pool](#)! The VLSP is a way for people who are looking for substitutes or temp workers to connect with folks in their community who are looking for library work.

The VLSP needs your help! Currently we have only 40 subs registered; in some counties that's only two people for the whole county. So, we're relying on you to get the word out. Do you know a library that is struggling with a staffing concern? Do you know a librarian, or someone who wants work in libraries, who is looking for extra work? Tell them about us, they may not know that VLA offers this service. You do not have to be a member to participate.

Finally, if you have had a good experience with the VLSP, either as an employee or an employer, please let us know! We'd love to add your testimonial to the website.

Helen Linda
VLA Membership and Outreach Chair
[Eliot D. Pratt Library](#), Goddard College
vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com

Tip of the Month

by Debbie Landauer

Don't forget to use ALA's great resources in your library!

ALA's website has a page called [Tools A to Z](#)

Sure you can find lists of Caldecott winners and Banned Book Week ideas at ALA.org, but did you know you can also find information and resources on:

Affordable Care Act, libraries' role in
Building and space planning
Cultural programming
Distaster preparedness
Ethics, professional code of
Flu planning
GBTL topics
History of international library symbol
ISBN and ISSN information
Jail libraries
Largest libraries in the U.S., list
Maker spaces
New Immigrants
Outreach services
Poor and homeless services
Rural and small libraries
Safety and security in libraries
Teens and young adults
Virtual reference
Weeding

Zowwie!

Debbie Landauer
VLA News Co-editor
Public Library Director, [Fairfax Community Library](#)
vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com

Notes From the NELA Conference...

by Janet Clapp

Thanks to my library I was able to attend the NELA conference in Boxborough and came back inspired by ideas and information. To me the most eye-opening session was the table talk "**Volunteers in Libraries**" by Lori Fisher of the Baker Free Library in Bow, NH. She said it is important to have a formalized volunteer program and not just accept anybody that walks through the door. Many volunteer practices have to follow employment law. When libraries hire they go through a process so why not do that with volunteers? Volunteers are an investment of staff time and library resources.

One of the most important parts of the volunteer process is for all staff to discuss potential volunteer tasks. Volunteers should not do any task that is a major part of a paid employee's job. The library should have written volunteer agreements with every volunteer and those should be renewed on a yearly basis.

There was also discussion about the conflict of interest when a library trustee, who

essentially supervises library staff, also acts as a library volunteer supervised by that same staff.

Resources:

- New Hampshire Library Association has a volunteer best practices guide, currently being revised because of changes in law. http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/documents/best_practice_volunteers.pdf
- U.S. Department of Labor - Wage & Hour Division: dol.gov VT uses NH office [603-666-7716](tel:603-666-7716)
- VT Dept of Labor: labor.vermont.gov
- Vermont League of Cities & Towns: www.vlct.org. [802-229-9111](tel:802-229-9111)

Another useful session with lots of practical advice was "**How to Create an Emergency Disaster Plan for Your Library**" by Christine Pesch Richardson of Yale Divinity Library. She explained why libraries need to have a disaster plan and then outlined how to make one.

Resources:

- Check out her slides, including lists of supplies and risks at the NETSL website: <http://netsl.wordpress.com/>
- The Vermont Department of Libraries offered a workshop in 2012 and handouts, such as a sample preparedness manual, are available at <http://libraries.vermont.gov/handouts/vtstrong>
- The Northeast Document Conservation Center has many free resources regarding disaster assistance, including an online disaster-planning template at <https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/overview>

"**Making social media work for your library without reinventing the wheel**" was offered by a marketing manager for Transparent Language. She suggested having a social media strategy, keeping a blog, cross-pollinating among different outlets, and observing what works best for your community in order to most effectively use social media. Oh, and tweet hourly so the library doesn't get lost in the fast-flowing Twitter stream.

"**Ignite Sessions: Library Success Stories**" allowed presenters five minutes each to share their successes. Anne Ferguson of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library discussed her creation of the Vermont StoryWalk program. To see a synopsis of all the topics, check out the NELA handout at <http://nelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/mon.200.ignite.pdf>

At the "**Intellectual Freedom Clinic**" it was pointed out that intellectual freedom isn't just about library collections but is also about meeting space. Policies matter. Take a look at the self-censorship checklist created by the New York Library Association at <http://www.nyla.org/images/nyla/files/Self-Censorship.pdf>

The NELA conference program page does have handouts posted for some sessions <http://nelib.org/nela2014/program/> Blog posts about some sessions are available on the NELA website <http://nelib.org/category/nela2014/>

Although a lot of the knowledge I gained was due to the presenters and other attendees, the vendors provided the opportunity to check out software and hardware that might save my library staff time and resources.

If you would like to hear more about the sessions I attended, or about the conference itself, please feel free to contact me and I will gladly share the details.

Mark your calendar for next year's NELA conference on October 25-27, 2015 in Manchester, NH.

Janet Clapp
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vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com

New Anthology Benefits VLA

We are honored to have been selected by author and editor Angela Palm as the beneficiary of 10% of the net profits of *Please Do Not Remove*, a new anthology of poetry and prose inspired by library checkout cards. *Please Do Not Remove* is published by Wind Ridge Books of Vermont, a non-profit organization which donates 10% of net profits to the authors' non-profit organization of choice. Contributors to *Please Do Not Remove* include Vermont writers Gary Margolis, Jessica Hendry Nelson, Jericho Parms, Karin Gottshall, Tim Brookes, Daniel Lusk, Lene Gary, Erika Nichols, Penelope Cray, Angela Palm, Rob Friesel, Hillary Read, Shelagh Connor Shapiro, Kate Sykes, Niels Rinehart, Malisa Garlieb, David Dillon, Tamra Higgins, Mary Jane Dickerson, and Emily Arnason Casey. Visit our website to download a flyer for your library. www.vermontlibraries.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/PleaseDoNotRemove.pdf

Angela Palm will give a reading from her book, *Please Do Not Remove*, and answer questions from the audience. Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7:00pm - 8:30pm, [The Galaxy Bookshop](#), Hardwick, VT.

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