

VLA News

February 2019

Vermont Library Conference 2019

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VLC 2019 Call for Proposals

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference2019>

"Cultivate Resilience"

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

at the University of Vermont in Burlington

Share your expertise or recommend a presenter by submitting a proposal by Friday, February 22.

#vlc2019

For more about the conference, see below "[2019 VLA Conference: Cultivating Resilience](#)"

President's Letter

by Cindy Weber

Visit Up North

Hello all! I want to take this time to thank all of you for your well wishes and offers of support, emotional and financial, during this trying time at the Stowe Free Library. The staff and I are pulling together to provide services to our local community, our lovely building is in good hands and is now being reconstructed to its former beauty and function, and the insurance company has settled on an amount for collection restoration. Many throughout the community have donated funds to supplement the difference between the depreciated value and real costs for replacements. We are very thankful! We expect to return to our home library by the end of March.

While I have been engrossed in my daily problems as a public library director, I did not fail to hear about the recent events in Derby Line. Many of you have read the November Reuters article on the Haskell Free Library, "Separated by Travel Ban, Iranian Families Reunite at Border Library" (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-ban-insight-idUSKCN1NX1P2>) and indeed, our library listserv was abuzz with thoughts, comments, and proposals for a call to action. Rest assured, your concerns did not go unheeded. The executive board of the Vermont Library Association discussed the situation, and I have reached out to Joel Kerr, the director of the Haskell Free Library.

I took a drive out to Derby Line on the beautiful, sunny morning of Tuesday, January 22nd. Joel graciously provided a tour of his beautiful library and the opera house, and we sat together to discuss his concerns regarding the complicated issues he is facing. The Haskell Free is a privately funded library that provides services to both Canadians and Americans, as it is located in both countries. The library is pulled in many directions, figuratively and literally.

Many have used the facility as a means to reunite with family members of differing citizenships. At times, this has caused some disruption of library services due to the seemingly juxtaposed roles of librarians and border protective services. I contend that the roles may be different, but all parties share the ideal of providing excellent services.

Joel has hosted successful meetings with both border agencies and is in the process of developing

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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

Check out what's happening with the [Vermont Library Substitute Pool!](#)

Employers: 43
Substitutes: 82

Libraries with access to pool:

- Addison 2
- Bennington 1
- Caledonia 1
- Chittenden 11
- Essex 0
- Franklin 3
- Grand Isle 1
- Lamoille 2
- Orange 2
- Orleans 1
- Rutland 1
- Washington 7
- Windham 2
- Windsor 9

Volunteers may be able to work in more than one county. Availability in pool by county:

- Addison 27
- Bennington 8
- Caledonia 16
- Chittenden 57
- Essex 10
- Franklin 22
- Grand Isle 14
- Lamoille 26
- Orange 18
- Orleans 7
- Rutland 11
- Washington 30
- Windham 14
- Windsor 14

Check out the [VLA Job Postings](#)

an overarching policy to define roles and expectations. I believe he is on the right track in upholding library services and abiding by the law. Let us provide emotional support to him and his staff for these trying times and thank them for the services that they provide. Keep them in your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Cindy Weber
VLA President
Director, [Stowe Free Library](#)
vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com
802-253-6145

Vermont Library Association
PO Box 803
Burlington, VT 05402

Connect With Us:

Website: www.vermontlibraries.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation
Twitter: twitter.com/@VLAlib
Instagram: instagram.com/vlalib
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

Vice President's Letter

by Amy Olsen

At the January 2019 VLA board meeting, after several months of discussion, research, planning, and editing, the VLA board approved a proposal for a reorganization of VLA. The proposal will be voted on by VLA members at the annual meeting.

The proposed reorganization is intended to provide a structure that will promote mentorship among board members, section leaders, committee chairs, representatives, roundtables, and the archivist. The hope is that the more active, supported, and familiar VLA members become, the more involved they will want to be and more comfortable they will feel taking on leadership roles.

Within the structure of the proposed reorganization, each section leader reports to a specific executive board officer. Representatives, roundtable leaders and the archivist will advise the executive board. Providing a clear distribution of roles and responsibilities will help ensure accountability while also providing support.

The proposal legitimizes voting authority. Currently, there are 17 VLA board members with the right to vote and no clear guidelines on why some members can vote and others cannot. All parties will be encouraged to attend VLA meetings, however the proposed structure gives nine VLA board members (the executive officers and the section leaders) the right to vote, with a quorum of seven.

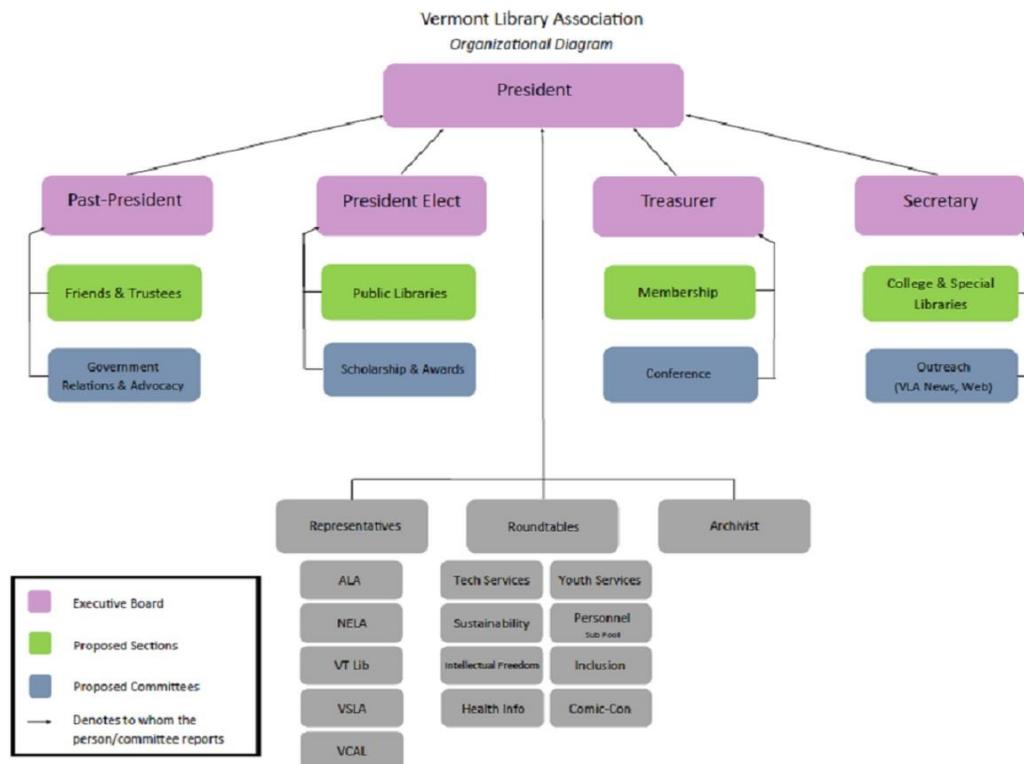
We hope that if the restructuring proposal is approved, it will help the membership by allowing for the board to elevate member priorities. With defined roundtables, there will be space for discussion of relevant topics. Through the representatives to the American Librariay Association (ALA), New England Library Association (NELA), Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB), Vermont School Library Association (VSLA), and Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries (VCAL), there will be more collaboration with others in the library community.

There will be a breakout session at the VLA conference for discussion and more explanation before the vote. Please take a look at the organizational chart and remember to renew your VLA membership (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/join>) so that you can vote on this proposal at the annual meeting.

Amy Olsen
VLA Vice President
Director, [Lanpher Memorial Library](#)
vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com

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 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:
[Cindy Weber](#)

Vice President/President Elect:
[Amy Olsen](#)

Past President:
[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Secretary:
[Kelly McCagg](#)

Treasurer:
[Susan Smolinsky](#)

Section Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section President:
[Emily Crist](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries Section

Past President's Letter

by Margaret Woodruff

I'll be stepping off the board soon but am looking forward to continued involvement in the Vermont Library Association and I hope you'll join me. We're always looking for members to join the various sections and committees; please check the VLA website for details about whom to contact for a specific section or committee: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/about/directory>.

In addition, we have a few immediate and upcoming openings. If you're interested, please contact either Cindy Weber at vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com or me at margaret.charlottelibraryvt@gmail.com.

Openings @ VLA:

1. Conference chair: Immediate need. The conference planning has begun, but we'd welcome someone to oversee the various tasks associated with organizing and implementing a successful conference. Complete job description here: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/board-position-descriptions/#con>
2. NELA representative: Opening in June 2019. Act as the go-between for Vermont Library Association and the New England Library Association, making sure the news from both organizations is shared and working on cooperative projects, such as the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS). Complete job description here: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/board-position-descriptions/#nela>
3. VLA secretary: Opening in June 2019. Responsible for all minutes, agendas, and other materials for VLA board meetings. Complete job description here: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/board-position-descriptions/#sec>

President:

[Almy Landauer](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services Section**President:**

[Dennise Post](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees & Friends**President:**

[Nancy Mark](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians**President:**

[Caitlin Corless](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees**Archivist:**

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Awards Chair:

[Lisa Milchman](#)

VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:

[Tom McMurdo](#)

Government Relations Chair:

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Inclusion Chair:

[Jessica Mattera](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual Freedom Chair:

Vacant.
Assists librarians

Two of the projects I hope to work on with VLA in the future are sustainability and government relations. There is room for others in both of these ventures. If you're interested in one or both, please contact me as above at margaret.charlottelibraryvt@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for conference details!

On a more local level, the Charlotte Library and Carpenter-Carse Library are collaborating on a series of health-related programs, thanks to a grant from the National Libraries of Medicine, New England Region. Our first program, "Mental Health Conversations: Risk & Resilience," takes place on Tuesday, February 5 at 7 pm in Charlotte and on Wednesday, February 20 in Hinesburg. Join us for a panel discussion with experts in anxiety treatment, suicide prevention, and resilience building. Learn about what to look for (signs and symptoms) and how to start a conversation with a loved one. There will be time for questions, and the libraries will provide online resources and a curated collection of print and video materials for browsing and borrowing.

Panel discussion featuring

- Charlotte McCorkel, LICSW, Project Director of Integration, Howard Center
- Eliza Pillard, LICSW, Family Wellness Coach at the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families at the UVM Medical Center
- Joanne Wolfe, MA, M.Ed, Licensed Psychologist

This project is funded in part by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under cooperative agreement number UG4LM012347 with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester.

Margaret Woodruff
VLA Past President
Library Director, [Charlotte Library](#)
margaret.charlottelibraryvt@gmail.com
802.425.3864

Public Libraries Section

by Almy Landauer

Local Access Cable TV Threatened; Needs Your Support!

At the January 10, 2019 VLA board meeting, we heard from the executive director of Lake Champlain Access Television and president of the umbrella group Vermont Access Network, Kevin Christopher, about the looming Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations that threaten the viability of local access stations.

Currently, local access TV is funded by a surcharge on cable television bills. Before the federal shutdown, the FCC was poised to change a regulation allowing cable providers to set and then deduct the cost of a wide range of public benefits from their fee obligations, essentially cutting most of the funding to local access stations. The big cable companies are feeling the competition from streaming services and are pressuring the FCC to implement this regulation change for their benefit. What is at risk? Think video coverage of town, school board, and government committee meetings, library programs and other local events, locally produced content, local interviews, news, stories, sports, classes, and more. To learn about your community's local access TV, find an interactive map here: <http://vermontaccess.net/amo>.

Mr. Christopher asked for the VLA board's support for local access TV, which he reminded us, provides services which "enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy." The VLA board has sent a strong letter to the FCC explaining the collaboration between local access TV and libraries, stating opposition to the proposed regulation change and supporting the comments submitted to the FCC by the Cable Act Preservation Alliance.

The VLA board believes that local access TV and libraries share many common principles including

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

Membership & Outreach Chair:

[Christine Porter](#)

Maintains membership roster.

VLA Sub Pool Coordinator

[Nancy Tusinski](#)

Personnel Chair:

[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship Chair:

[Jami Yazdani](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:

Vacant

VLA News Editor:

[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:

[Sarah Costa](#)

[Randall Szott](#)

[Eric Toole](#)

[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:

[Marti Fiske](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

NELA

Representative:

[Steve Picazio](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

ATTN: Gmail Users

If you are viewing

open and equal access to information and First Amendment rights. Therefore, the VLA board would like to encourage our members to contact the FCC, as well as our federal and state representatives, in support of local access stations and continued funding. The public comment period is over, but the FCC will still accept late letters. Mr. Christopher noted that with the current makeup of the FCC, the regulation is likely to pass, and if that occurs, there will be a lawsuit.

A groundswell of voices will help. It is important for the FCC and our federal representatives to hear from as many people as possible in support of local access television. Contacting your state representatives is a good idea too, as many may not even be aware that this is happening – especially all those new reps in our House! Ask them how Vermont can deal with this if or when our local access channels lose their current funding stream.

Here is a link to a short article on this matter from the Rutland Herald (https://www.rutlandherald.com/news/local/shutdown-may-delay-feared-fcc-rule-change/article_fd5a4b6f-9e72-530c-b108-ae2b815b4b36.html). You can also find more information at Vermont Access Network's webpage (<http://vermontaccess.net>).

You can contact the FCC chairperson and commissioners by writing

The Honorable Chair Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission

[455 12th Street, Southwest](#)

Washington DC, 20544

or by emailing the chair at Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov or calling the commission office at 1-888-CALL FCC (225-5322).

Find contact information for your state representatives at

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/search/2020>.

In other news...

The VLA Public Library Section is seeking candidates for the position of section vice president. The term will begin at the VLA conference in May 2019 and run for one year. The VP becomes president of the section in year two. If you would like to gain a sense of satisfaction by serving the wider profession, network with colleagues from around the state, be in-the-know, pump up your resume, participate in advocacy for libraries, and help provide support and professional development opportunities for your fellow librarians, consider becoming active in VLA. Contact Loona Brogan, the current VP (who will become the president in May) at loona.brogan@cutlerlibrary.org. Thanks, and you won't regret it! It's a great bunch of people!

Almy Landauer
VLA Public Libraries Section President
Director, [Waterbury Public Library](#)
almy@waterburypubliclibrary.com
802-244-7036

College & Special Libraries Section

by Emily Crist

Professional Development Opportunities

This spring has several great professional development opportunities for academic librarians. Check them out!

[ACRL 2019](#)

"Recasting the Narrative"

April 10-13, 2019

Cleveland, Ohio

[ACRL New England Annual Conference](#)

"Opening Doors for Each Other"

May 6, 2019

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[Message Clipped]
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Portland, Maine
Proposals due February 10.
Scholarships for this conference are due on February 8.

[ABQLA \(Quebec Library Association\) Annual Conference](#)
"Everyday Superheroes"
May 24, 2019
Montreal, Quebec

Emily Crist
VLA College & Special Libraries Section President
Assistant Library Director, [Champlain College Library](#)
ecrist@champlain.edu
802-651-5827

2019 VLA Conference: Cultivating Resilience

by Loona Brogan

This year's Vermont Library Association conference will be on **Wednesday, May 22nd**, at the Davis Center on the University of Vermont campus. This date was chosen to run back-to-back with the Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB) annual library trustees and Friends conference, currently scheduled for **Tuesday, May 21st**, also at the Davis Center.

Both VLA and VTLIB are excited to have the opportunity to produce "sister" conferences this year. Both groups saw the value of working in tandem to produce our conferences, making it more practical for trustees and Friends to also attend the VLA conference and for librarians to attend the trustees and Friends conference over a two-day period this year. The two committees considered venues around the state, but due to the size of each group, available dates, and associated costs, the UVM location had many clear advantages over all other possible locations.

Our theme for VLA's 125th annual conference is "Cultivating Resilience." The conference committee is now accepting proposals for presentations. Share your expertise or recommend a presenter by submitting a proposal by Friday, February 22.

Submit your proposal at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2yzFU_nghTKh6PsUMQhncuRhzdr4dIp3JPeF6cBqPvn6Q3Q/viewform

Contact Toni Josey at toni.josey@gmail.com with questions about proposal submissions.

Stay tuned for further details!

Loona Brogan
VLA Public Libraries Section Vice President
Director, [Cutler Memorial Library](#)
Loona.Brogan@cutlerlibrary.org
(802) 454-8504

Friends & Trustees Section

by Nancy Mark

I have just finished reading Susan Orlean's recent work of nonfiction, *The Library Book*, a chronicle recounting the seven-hour fire that damaged or destroyed more than one million books at the Los Angeles Public Library in 1986. Her description of the disaster is riveting and the scene almost unimaginable, but alongside this tragedy Orlean reminds us of the heroic contributions of the librarians, not just in the face of disaster, but every day, in Los Angeles and in our own hometown

libraries.

The book describes how libraries are the place in our communities where people come for information, where citizens find shelter, and where librarians work as the stewards of their buildings as centers that sustain democracy and community. We read how libraries are embracing new roles, from providing computer labs, ebooks, social and employment services, to reaching out to immigrants and the homeless.

Susan Orlean's book serves as a stunning testimony to the critical importance of libraries and to their capacity to provide new services in a changing landscape.

I urge each of us to encourage our fellow Friends and trustees to help sustain Vermont's libraries. VLA membership is one important way!

As the new year begins, so does our membership cycle. The "Join Now" button appears on the VLA membership page (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/join>), bright green and user-friendly. You can sign up online or send in the registration form by mail. Please help spread the word in support of the Vermont Library Association. I plan to bring blank registration forms to my next trustees meeting and will also share with our Friends group. I hope you will too!

Nancy Mark
VLA Friends and Trustees Section President
Trustee, [Castleton Free Library](#)
nmark@brsu.org
802-468-5479

Membership & Outreach

by Christine Porter

It's time to renew your VLA membership for 2019! We have convenient online membership processing, including the ability to pay via PayPal, which you can do here: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/join> (don't forget to click the big green button to fill out the membership form before you pay).

Members receive a significant discount on registration for the VLA conference, and that's just one reason to join! You receive a subscription to *VLA News*, as well as discounts on section programs, plus scholarship opportunities.

If you haven't yet done so, please go to the following link for easy online renewal of your membership: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/join>

As always, if you have any questions about VLA membership, please don't hesitate to ask.

We had 291 members in 2018, compared to 322 members in 2017. Spread the word to your colleagues, trustees, and Friends members about the benefits of VLA membership and encourage them to join!

Don't forget to join 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! 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.

If you 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.

As always, we're working hard to bring you the most for your membership dollar. Please let us know if you have ideas for additional membership benefits you'd like to see.

Finally, due to continuing health and other personal issues, I am forced to step down from volunteering for VLA. I have enjoyed my time with VLA immensely and had hoped to do so much more in terms of outreach, which I love. I had many ideas that I just didn't get to see through. I hope that my time and clerical contributions in processing memberships made some small difference. I will miss being a part of this great organization.

Christine Porter
VLA Membership and Outreach Chair (Outgoing)
Director, [Windsor Public Library](#)
vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com

Awards Committee

by Lisa Milchman

Call for nominations!

Every year VLA has the honor of presenting awards to recognize the special achievements of Vermont librarians, library trustees, and library advocates - but we can only do this with your help! Now is your chance to make sure that someone who consistently goes "above and beyond" gets the recognition that she or he deserves at the Vermont Library Association conference.

Who inspires you? We hope you will consider acknowledging that person with a nomination. While a brief overview of the yearly awards is below, more detail about award particulars and nominating procedures is available by visiting <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards>.

The **Sarah C. Hagar Award** acknowledges exceptional service in or significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Vermont. Nominees for the Sarah C. Hagar award must be working in a Vermont library (public, academic, or special) and be a member of VLA.

The **Trustee of the Year Award** recognizes outstanding achievement by a trustee on behalf of his or her library, either during the previous year or during his or her years of service. Nominations may be submitted by any library trustee, library board, librarian, member of a Friends group, or VLA member.

The **Library Advocate of the Year Award** is given when deemed warranted by the VLA Government Relations Committee to an outstanding public advocate for libraries in local, state, or national government. Suggestions are welcomed.

The **Green Mountain Award** is given as the opportunity arises to individuals or organizations for distinguished service, support, or unusual contributions to a Vermont library or libraries.

We are also inspired by, and grateful to, those librarians who have given significant years of service to Vermont libraries. As per custom, recognition and a token of esteem will be granted to those VLA member librarians who have retired in the past year or who will soon retire, after working in a public or academic Vermont library for ten years or more. Please submit the names of colleagues that you know should be acknowledged in this way.

All nomination letters and supporting materials should be electronically submitted by **March 15**.

Lisa Milchman
VLA Awards Committee Chair
Assistant Director, [Norwich Public Library](#)
lisa.milchman@norwichlibrary.org
802-649-1184

New England Library Association

by Steve Picazio

Does your library use Koha, or are you interested in switching to Koha?

Join the New England Library Association, ByWater Solutions, and other Koha community members for a conversation about Koha, what libraries are doing with Koha, and what's on the horizon. Topics will include customer and staff functionality, technical attributes and services, as well as the Koha community and how collaborative developments work in libraries.

The summit will take place on March 8, from 9:00am-3:00pm, at the Kilton Library in West Lebanon, NH. This will be a FREE event offered by NELA and ByWater Solutions.



For more information and to register, go to the ByWater Solutions summit page: <https://bywatersolutions.com/news/2019-new-england-koha-summit>

Steve Picazio
VLA Representative to NELA
Head Circulation Librarian, [Kellogg-Hubbard Library](#)
vt@nelib.org
802-223-3338

Digital Borrowing Statistics for GMLC/OverDrive (aka "Listen Up! Vermont")

by Loona Brogan

This analysis is taken from the data visually represented on the OverDrive Marketplace website on the "Dashboard" page (under the tab "Insights"). Although this service is not exclusively used by public libraries, public library patrons benefit extraordinarily from the Green Mountain Library Consortium (GMLC) facilitation of collective access to OverDrive, a platform for libraries to provide access to borrowable digital content for library card holders. I find it intriguing to consider these statistics when considering how our library users (patrons of the Cutler Memorial Library in Plainfield) use OverDrive materials, compared to the state's overall digital borrowing trends.

Here is what I found, based on "real time/today" data for January 28, 2019 and for dates over the last 12 months or the last 24 months for comparison.

"Real-time" stats for 1/28/19

Current number of active checkouts: 7,182

- Ebooks 50.5% (3,942)
- Audiobooks 49.5% (3,870)

Current number of active holds: 11,663

- Ebooks 57.1% (6,554)
- Audiobooks 42.9% (5,009)

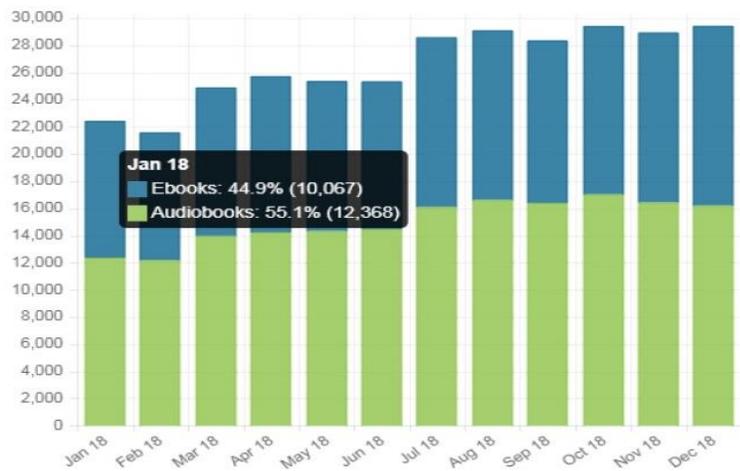
Checkouts by title audience (categorized by material's target audience, not by borrower demographics): 7,182 titles on loan

- Juvenile 12.2% (950)
- Young adult 10.4% (816)
- Adult 77.4% (6,046)

Comparisons over time

Checkouts by format, 2018

Total: 319,291



In 2018, audiobooks were downloaded between 7% to 13% more times than ebooks were. Statistics from 2017 were similar, with audiobooks being more popular than ebooks at slightly lower percentages.

Monthly Unique users over a 2-year period

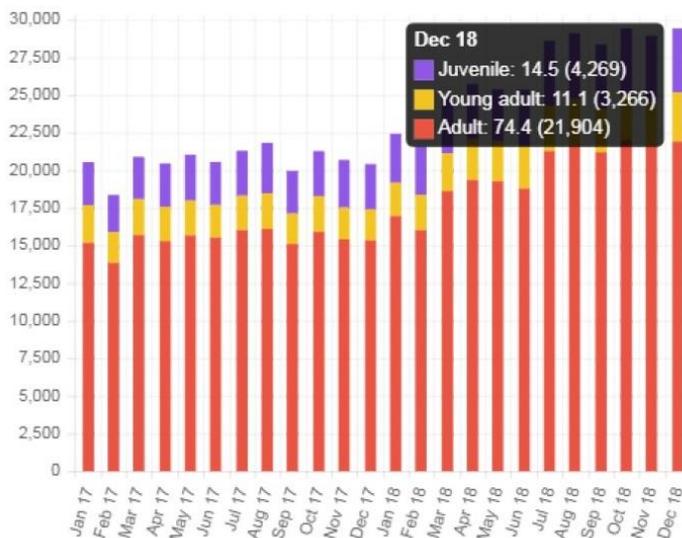


Please note that the data in the graphic shows December-only comparative growth, 41.4% more

unique users than December of the previous year. This metric does not show cumulative unique-user data, but it is possible to calculate unique users over any specific time period in the user statistics section of the reports page, under the "Insights" tab on the OverDrive Marketplace website. 16,547 different Vermonters used GMLC/OverDrive (Listen Up! Vermont) in 2018. There were 13,735 in 2017.

Checkouts by title audience over a 2-year period

2 year Total: 566,615 2018 total: 319,291



It is apparent from this bar graph that the percentage of adults to young adults to juvenile borrowers has been relatively similar over the last two years.

So, when we look at the circulation of physical materials in Vermont public libraries over the comparable reporting period for 2017, although not exactly the same time frame, we see that the total circulation of materials (NOT including digitally downloaded content) was 3,716,661 items. Almost 300,000 Vermonters had library cards in 2017. At an individual scale, Fletcher Free Library in Burlington circulated a total of 403,830 items, while the second-most borrowed-from library in the state (Kellogg-Hubbard in Montpelier) lent out 270,456 items. So the GMLC/OverDrive collection circulated a total between the busiest and the second busiest circulating collections in the state.

According to the Vermont Department of Libraries 2017 statistical report, the total items circulated, including digital downloads, during the reporting period was 4,044,602. So digital titles represented 9% of reported borrowing across the state. By comparison, how many interlibrary loan titles did we receive from other libraries to lend to our patrons in the same reporting period? 53,991, which is less than 1/4 of the number of digital titles borrowed.

If 13,735 different library card holders used digital downloads in 2017, that represents roughly 4.5% of library card holders. They borrowed roughly 7.5% of the total number of items borrowed at public libraries in 2017.

Do we dedicate at least 7.5% of our total collection budgets to digital collection development? In Plainfield, our digital downloading patrons borrowed almost 20% of what circulated in 2017. We certainly have not put aside one fifth of our budget to pay for digital content, because we don't *have to*, thanks to the Green Moutnain Library Consortium's efforts to provide member libraries access to digital downloads via the OverDrive platform. Physical print and media borrowers would be disadvantaged if we had to shift our collection funds to match the percentage of use, leaving book and movie borrowers fewer new titles to choose from. We *are* paying more for Plainfield library cardholders' access to digital content this year, but it's just a little more than 10% of our overall collection budget.

Just some numbers to think about.

Loona Brogan

VLA Public Libraries Section Vice President
Director, [Cutler Memorial Library](#)
Loona.Brogan@cutlerlibrary.org
(802) 454-8504

Sharing Shelf

What question would you like to ask VLA membership? Email vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com, and your question may be featured in a future newsletter.

Janet Clapp, MLS
VLA News editor
Adult Services Librarian, [Rutland Free Library](#)
vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com

The People of Vermont Libraries

If there are staffing changes in your library (hires, retires, etc.) send this information to vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com and we'll put it in the next issue of the VLA News.

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