



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: November 16, 2020
SUBJECT: Monthly Report - November 2020

Action Items

Bylaw Revision (Thompson)

As a result of our discussions regarding the absence of diversity by race and ethnicity on the MCLS Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee is seeking to address this issue by examining several options, one of which is to redefine the length of the trustee term of service that is permitted under the bylaws.

The Nominating Committee recommends adding item 3. to Article VI of the MCLS Bylaws as follows:

3. The term of office of trustees is five (5) years. Trustees may not serve more than two consecutive full terms.
 - a. Trustees who have served the partial unexpired term of a former Trustee and have completed or will complete their own full five (5) year term shall be eligible to serve an additional full five (5) year term.
 - b. Current Trustees who have completed two (2) consecutive five-year terms and are currently serving in an additional third term, shall not be eligible for any additional consecutive term.
 - c. Any trustee who has served two consecutive full five (5) years terms may apply for an additional partial or full-term appointment, but only after an absence of a minimum of two (2) full years from the MCLS Board.

If approved by a vote of the Trustees, the changes will take effect immediately.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed changes to the MCLS bylaws as presented.

Use of Automation Trust Fund to support CARL Migration to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (Traub)

The integrated library system CARL has been hosted by TLC since 2017, as a part of a five-year contract. TLC partnered with Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) to provide better hosting performance, better uptime, and 24/7 disaster recovery. TLC now recommends MCLS switch to OCI hosting to provide a more robust hosting solution; TLC will hold our hosting fees flat this year, only charging us a one-time fee of \$5,000 for this migration. We are recommending use of the MCLS Automation Trust Fund to cover this one-time cost. The current balance of the Trust Fund is \$90,610.16.

Board Action Requested: Approve use of the MCLS Automation Trust Fund for one-time migration fee of \$5,000.

RPL/MCLS Service Agreement (Uttaro)

The MCLS has an agreement with the Rochester Public Library (RPL) that outlines the services to be provided by RPL to MCLS and its members. The agreement specifies the primary system and support services to be provided. It provides the same flexibility from previous agreements between MCLS and RPL and maintains the ability to increase operational support for system services. The current agreement expires on December 31, 2020.

Previously, this agreement has been a three-year term; however, we are proposing a one-year term considering the previously approved 1-year Document of Understanding between MCLS and its member libraries for 2021. A team of member library directors shall review current system services and charges, with recommendations to be incorporated in a revised 3-year Document of Understanding effective in 2021. While it is unlikely changes would impact the key terms and broad services outlined in the MCLS-RPL agreement, revisions or edits proposed in the Document of Understanding may benefit from corresponding language in the agreement. Therefore, the proposed agreement term will be from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The agreement is included with your packet.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an MCLS-RPL Services Agreement for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Adoption of New Records Retention & Disposition Schedule (Uttaro)

The NYS Commissioner of Education has issued a new uniform records retention and disposition schedule that must be adopted by all public library systems and public libraries in New York State by January 1, 2021. The new scheduled (LGS-1) replaces the current schedule (MI-1.)

A copy of the new schedule can be found here: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/records/local-government-record-schedule/lgs-1-title-page>

Major revisions are described here: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/common/archives/files/summary-of-major-revisions-to-lgs-1.pdf>

This schedule establishes the legal minimum retention periods for local government records and guidance on disposal of records that have met the minimum retention periods. Only those records that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods may be disposed.

Board Action Requested: Adoption of the LGS-1 Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for the Monroe County Library System.

Report Items

Update on Plan of Service Revision - I have spoken to Todd Butler, Executive Director of Causewave Communications, regarding the revision of the MCLS Plan of Service. Todd and his staff have reviewed the conversations we've had, looked at the current plan of service, and reviewed past MCLS work with Causewave. He believes that the brand platform for MCLS, which was established in 2008, is still relevant. This platform was developed through many sessions with Causewave and a team consisting of MCLS trustees, staff, and member library directors. The "brand architecture" developed at that time was:

**Monroe County Library System
Brand Architecture**

Brand Essence
(Your "Heart & Soul" – why you exist)
Collaborating to grow great libraries

Brand Personality
(Your characteristics and values)

Innovative
Cost-effective
Credible
Ethical
Responsive
Open

Brand Promise
(Relevant, essential, compelling, and *unique* benefit to the customer)

Only MCLS ensures its members can thrive and make the best use of tax dollars by providing centralized technologies, shared resources, and promotion of best practices.

Butler recommends examining the MCLS vision and mission as part of the plan of service revision. The current mission & vision are:

Our Mission (taken directly from the brand architecture):

The MCLS ensures its members can thrive and make the best use of tax dollars by providing centralized technologies, shared resources, and promotion of best practices.

Our Vision:

The MCLS is a substantial contributor to the enriched quality of life of the community of Monroe. It enables countywide delivery of customer-focused services and is known for innovative thinking, leadership information technology, and cooperation among its members.

Butler has also suggested that there are four potential “pillars” or priorities that should be part of the planning process:

1. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
2. Library System Structure
3. Digital Transformation
4. Role of MCLS and Member Libraries in the Community

Causewave's role in the planning process would be gathering data from member libraries and the community via surveys and focus groups, and in facilitating team discussions. At this time, Causewave is preparing a cost proposal and my plan is to use the bulk of the funding remaining in my discretionary account. As a reminder, that funding is supplied by the Reynolds Board and FFRPL annually.

I expect to assemble the planning team in January. From this Board, Suzanne Stockman has expressed interest in serving on the team.

RRLC Member Value Report – The Rochester Regional Library Council provides an annual member value report which lists exactly how each member benefits from belonging to RRLC. The MCLS member report is included in your packet and demonstrates the significant value RRLC brings to this system in continuing education and support for small, experimental projects.

MCLS Member Library Updates

Associate Director, Adam Traub reporting

- Libraries across the county have signed up to serve as polling and early polling locations for this year's election, including Arnett, Charlotte, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Lincoln, Lyell, Pittsford, & Webster.
- On Thursday, October 28, the Fairport Public Library, Gates Public Library, Henrietta Public Library, Penfield Public Library, Pittsford Community Library, Phillis Wheatley Branch Library, AND Mama Goose on the Loose hosted a joint Halloween Dance Party on Facebook.
- Both Parma Public Library and Gates Public Library are offering fine-amnesty programs with donations to local food cupboards; Gates is running a "Food for Fines" program, while Parma is letting patrons "Wash Away" their fines with donations of personal hygiene products.

Brighton Memorial Library

"All Brighton Reads" program for adults was launched, featuring *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut. Participants were encouraged to watch historian Grant Holcomb's presentation on Vonnegut, Pilgrim, Crone, and *Slaughterhouse-Five*, take a quiz on the book, and join the discussion

East Rochester Public Library

- East Rochester remains closed but offering curbside pickup. Working with town administration, the library has been developing a phased re-opening approach, similar to libraries who have already opened.
- A new, 6-painting mural will be installed behind the circulation desk at the end of November, depicting different locations of the library over the last 100 years, in preparation for the library's 100th anniversary coming up in 2022.

Gates Public Library

Gates hosted a Pet Costume Contest where patrons submitted images of their pets in Halloween costumes. Throughout October, the community was then allowed to vote for their favorite pet. The winner was a cockatiel named Bailey dressed as a frog.

Greece Public Library

The annual teen bookmark contest wrapped up at Greece's library; bookmarks from the contest (in several designs) are now available.

Henrietta Public Library

The library received new book-themed benches for the library patio. The benches were created by a Rush Henrietta ninth-grader, who made the benches for her Silver Award Girl Scout Project.

Pittsford Community Library

- On October 15, the Pittsford Community Library celebrated its 15th anniversary at its current library location.
- They also hosted a two-night Edgar Allan Poe workshop on October 13 & 27, reading short stories followed by discussions about each reading.

MCLS Office Updates

Associate Director, Adam Traub reporting

On October 28, Alicia Gunther and members of the Adult Literacy Team met with Viatta Carter and Paula Roth from RochesterWorks to start developing a series of online workshops for patrons focusing on workforce development. The group discussed what kind of workshops are available and different topics related to workforce development that the series can include. The group also discussed the possibility of putting together two different series, one for patrons and one for library staff. The next steps for this project include putting

together a draft schedule for the series and determining who will be presenting each topic of interest. Some of the topics discussed include writing resumes and cover letters, job searching, interviewing, returning to work, working after retirement, etc.

Library Automation Services, Brenda LaCrosse reporting

LAS continues to relocate new PCs from KGA so it can be opened back up for use. The laptop lending kiosk was installed in the Technology Center, but additional setup is required as the Chromebooks are not compatible with the software we use to handle reservations and time limits. As calls to work from home continue, LAS is launching a new service for staff that ensures better security (using two-factor authentication) for VPN.

Outreach Department, Melanie Lewis reporting

On Monday October 26, Amy Discenza returned to the Outreach Department after an eight-month sojourn running digital events and communications at the Henrietta Public Library. During her time away, she freshened up her skillset and re-evaluated her workplace values. She says she's come back ready to grow with the department – and with a few new tricks up her sleeve. She looks forward to finding new ways to merchandise the Outreach collection, explore new patron services, and re-envision our role in a pandemic and post-pandemic world. We are thrilled to have her back!

Statistics

Overdrive

- Total Checkouts – 78,121
- Ebooks & Audiobooks – 76,061
- Magazines – 1,953
- Lucky Day – 2,107
- Simultaneous Use – 1,483

Cataloging & No-Hits

- No Hits – 2799
- New Titles – 2997

Shipping

- Totes Hauled – 4,583
- Holds Totes Processed – 763 (12% increase in hold delivery over 2019)

Interlibrary Loan

- Lending Requests
 - Received – 363
 - Filled – 183
- Borrowing Requests
 - Received – 44
 - Filled – 40

Library Automation Services

- Help Desk Tickets Closed – 188

Social Media

October 2020	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Groups	Facebook Calendar	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/Page Visits	172	105	833	-	-	751	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	9	-	25	69	-	17	14
Engagements	82	4	1762	213	96	390	49
Check In/ Mentions	31	13	9	-	-	2	-
Post Reach	11,000	2126	11,234	-	2400	6127	17,219
Video/Story Views	-	-	762	-	-	191	1170
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	5	-	-	70	-

Central Library Updates

Arts & Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

- Media Librarian Robert Scheffel and Art Librarian Nanci Nugent hosted the first Art/Photography book discussion group. This was the first of quarterly, non-fiction book discussions series. The first book discussed was *Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs* by photographer Sally Mann. In this New York Times bestseller, Mann gives her readers a revealing and beautifully written portrait of her family and how she was led to photography. She uses narrative and her photographs to demonstrate how race, mortality, deceit, scandal and famous artists affected her family and her photography.
- Day of the Dead, or Día de Muertos, is a Mexican holiday celebrated in Mexico and elsewhere associated with the Catholic celebration of All Saints' Day. The day is portrayed as a day of celebration rather than mourning and filled with colorful flowers and festive foods. One of the foods are sugar skulls, or calavera. These are edible skulls made from sugar and decorated with flowers and other colorful adornments. In "Sewing Sugar Skulls," artist Shannon Halligan showed students how to make felt skulls decorated with sequins, beads, and gems.
- Reading & Writing About Racism in America included a very diverse group of people and was such a meaningful and important class that we will continue offering it as a monthly group. Here are comments from two students who participated in this group:
 - “Participants took the topic seriously and shared meaningful thoughts and memories. For me, the program opened my eyes to some of the smaller, but still painful, aspects of racism. When people talk of racism or race relations, the conversation is often in the abstract. The shared writing pieces were real and from the heart...sometimes a broken heart!”
 - “I appreciated the readings, especially that they represented diverse perspectives. I also loved all the brave stories that people shared. Really wonderful.”
- The Art Division now has a new database called Creativebug. The cost was split between Science and Art as there are programs on this database that Science has such as sewing and pattern making, bookbinding, and cake decorating. Other classes included are fiber arts, beading, printmaking, paper crafts, jewelry making, and holiday ideas. Creativebug is for City of Rochester residents and is accessed with a library card. The URL is <https://www.creativebug.com/lib/roc>.

Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 7 in person, 8 by email, 5 by phone.
- Webpage views: 74
- 3D Printer: 4 prints, two users
- Hours of in-depth market research: 31 hours
- Jennifer Byrnes' presidency of the New York Library Association's Public Libraries Section begins in November and she had multiple meetings learning how NYLA's Leadership Council functions as she will serve on that as part of her position.

Programs

- "First Wednesdays for Business - Business Planning: Getting from Here to There." Speaker Richard Petite discussed how to evaluate your business idea before you spend significant time and money.
- "Enforcing Your Intellectual Property;" Tracy Jong from Tracy Jong Law Office presented on topics ranging from securing patents and copyrights, to common law rights and licensing agreements.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Byrnes and Meddaugh met with Rachel Roberts and James Doser of the Eastman School of Music's Institute for Music Leadership to discuss how we can assist the students in their "Entrepreneurial Thinking" class. They also discussed supporting the efforts of Arts in the Loop, an initiative to energize Rochester's Center City by leveraging the arts, entertainment and media sectors with an initial focus on the Main Street corridor. Byrnes and Meddaugh will be guest lecturers for the "Entrepreneurial Thinking" class in the spring.
- Byrnes started a year-long certification program for Conscious Capitalism Consulting. Conscious Capitalism supports a global community of business leaders dedicated to elevating humanity through business.
- She also attended "Building Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Local Communities," sponsored by the Urban Libraries Council and "Making Your Community a Stakeholder in Business," sponsored by Conscious Capitalism.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- This month Katie Powell met virtually with pediatric residents from Pediatric Links to the Community. She outlined the services offered to children and families within the library system, including library cards, learning kits and virtual programming. We received positive feedback from one of the internal medicine chiefs who wrote, "This is amazing! The MCLS is one of my favorite things about this area. Thank you so much for sharing."
- Powell also recorded and shared storytime videos and community resources on our Facebook group. Our Tween book group in collaboration with Nazareth college students continues to meet on Thursdays, which will culminate in a virtual author visit by Ben Guterson on November 18, 2020.

MCLS Director's Report – November 2020 (Continued)

- The Story Walk program in Highland Park on October 24, 2020 was relatively successful with 130 people attending. The program, called "Hosea Plays On," featured a storywalk and author visit by author Kathleen Blasi, Eastman music students playing saxophone, Foodlink treats, books by bike, and activity bags.



Raising A Reader

- The Raising A Reader blue bags are now available at all RPL locations, Fairport, and Ogden. They are available to be placed on hold and can be returned at any library in MCLS. There are no fees with these items. Bags are curated for three age groups (0 – 2, 3- 4, 5 – 8 yrs) and have one bilingual title. There is a tag on the outside of the bag with the ages, language, barcode and owning library. There will be a Raising A Reader website soon! The site will have parent engagement videos that share ways adults can share books with kids and storytimes from RPL staff and Special Guest Community Visitors. The community members who are scheduled to read are Rochester City School District Superintendent Dr. Myers-Small; Eva Thomas, Rochester City School District Director of Early Childhood Education; Luis Perez, Director of Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association; Alice Gissendanner, former school librarian; Erick Stephens, Parent Engagement Specialist at Common Ground Health; and Millz Vega, Teen Program Assistant Director at Cameron Community Ministries and Children's Leadership Training Institute coordinator at Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute.
- Sarah Ngo and Alycia Roets have started distributing storytime kits to Volunteers of America families thanks to a donation from the Mueller Foundation. This pilot project may be considered for a grant from Mueller later this year.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- We were able to provide access to the annual Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC – a division of the American Library Association) conference, for 31 MCLS staff this year. Burton facilitated registration for member libraries through special funding via the Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library. The conference had live virtual sessions and offered recordings for anyone wanting to view at their own pace. This year's conference was focused on collection development, programming, and how to be inclusive in all areas of librarianship.
- Burton attended meetings for the Monroe County Youth Board, ABC Head Start Policy Council, and Early Grade Reading monthly meetings.
- Burton also hosted the October MCLS Children's Services meeting. Alicia Gunther attended to explain the proper way to report virtual statistics for the New York State report. The remainder of the meeting was used to share what member libraries are doing that is working well for their community.

MCLS Director's Report – November 2020 (Continued)

- Burton is working with Andrew Aligne, MD, MPH, Director of the Hoekelman Center for Health Beyond Medicine, University of Rochester School of Medicine to address the equity gap in early literacy. The goal is to improve kindergarten readiness, which is a predictor of educational success, and therefore of lifelong health. Dr. Aligne is applying for funding that will include Raising A Reader as one way to address the equity gap.
- Burton and Katie Powell continue to support Nazareth students with a virtual book discussion group on Wednesday.

Circulation & Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

- New Borrowers – 52
- Access Cards – 0
- Notarial Acts – 72
- Circulation was a Treat Station on Halloween. We had six kids come to the desk to get treats. We had one Baby Yoda, who was so cute but was not able to use the Force to get all the treats.

Anecdotes/Other

- Patrons continue to come in for notarial services. Many patrons have expressed their appreciation that we have the service available and don't charge. Chad Cunningham and Kathy Sochia both notarized absentee ballots from other states.
- Sochia and Stephanie Penns have been contacting patrons who have been billed for items that have not been returned. They let the patrons know that we are open and how to return items. Many patrons are hearing that we are open for the first time and are most appreciative for the calls.
- A patron came to use our curbside pickup three times during the last week of October. She is immunocompromised and the curbside service allows her access to materials without impacting her health.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- Our Woman Suffrage History Series continued with Laura Free presenting "Woman Suffrage History Amended: A Podcast Listening and Discussion Session," featuring the Humanities NY *Amended* podcast that she hosts. Other sessions in the series this month included Carol Crossed presenting "Vintage Tweets: Suffrage-Era Postcards," on her recent book of the same name, and Barbara LeSavoy talking on "Fannie Barrier Williams (1893-1918): 100 Years After Suffrage and the Legacies of Race, Gender and Civic Voice."
- We also presented "Women In Politics: Continuing the Work," a program designed to explore contemporary experiences of women in American politics. It included a viewing of the documentary *Election Day 2016*, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Judge Karen Morris and featuring Linda Moroney (Director, *Election Day 2016*), Deborah Hughes (President & CEO, National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House), LaShay Harris (Rochester City Council, South District), Yversha Roman (Monroe County Legislature, 26th District) and Jackie Smith, (Monroe County Legislature, 2nd District).
- This month also marked the start of "Race, Power and Perspective in the Women's Rights Movement," a community reading and discussion group sponsored by Humanities New York and facilitated by Jennifer Lloyd and Cheryl Sampson; two sessions were held in October with the final two sessions scheduled for November.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Ridarsky participated in two phone calls and one in-person meeting with City officials and representatives of the Veterans Memorial Council to discuss plans to install a historic marker, flag pole, and lighting at Rapids Cemetery.

MCLS Director's Report – November 2020 (Continued)

- Ridarsky met with State Historian Devin Lander and representatives from the NYS Archives Partnership Trust to discuss new educational resources available online and ways the library and City, as well as the statewide organization Ridarsky represents (the Association of Public Historians of NYS) can partner.
- Ridarsky participated in a Zoom meeting in preparation for a workshop she is co-teaching for the New York State Archives and Museum Association of New York in November.
- Ridarsky met with Bill Boudreaux and Cheryl Lovall at the City's Municipal Archive to tour the facility and discuss a grant-funded project we are undertaking with faculty from the History Department of the University at Albany to inventory records related to urban renewal.
- Ridarsky met twice with the Clarissa Street Reunion Archive Committee to continue planning for a crowd-sourced archive collection and exhibition project. The project will be the focus of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library's ROC the Day fundraising efforts on December 1. For information and to contribute, visit <https://www.roctheday.org/Causes-to-Support/Friends-Foundation-of-the-Rochester-Public-Libra>.
- Antoine McDonald represented the library at the City of Rochester's Family Fun Night, sponsored by the Reach Inside and Strive for Excellence (RISE) program in collaboration with the Metro Council for Teen Potential (MTCP) and InControl, and collected more than 20 new library card applications.
- McDonald represented the library at the Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Council Touchbase meeting sponsored by ROC the Foundation and M&T Bank (via Zoom). McDonald is one of several committee members working towards a program that M&T Bank is currently developing that will soon be implemented nationally following the pilot in Rochester. The program consists of a career interest to job placement pipeline with multicultural high school juniors and seniors. Community organizations and individuals have been identified to participate and will complete statements of engagements outlining expectations from all participating parties.
- McDonald met with James R Wright, a Black librarian who worked as Branch Manager for the Phillis Wheatley library from 1969 through 1987. During his tenure, Wright commissioned and oversaw a project to record the oral histories of African American Rochesterians in the 1970s and early 1980s. This project was a fundamental component in the creation of one of our highlighted collections, Rochester Voices. Wright has agreed to speak on record with the intent to preserve his own oral history with the idea of linking this interview to the *Rochester Voices* collection.

Special Collections

- Christansen continued entering data into the Harold W. Lara Photo Collection inventory, adding information on 697 entries to the database this month.
- Three donations were received in October: Blueprints for a home C. Storrs Barrows designed at 347 Cobbs Hill Drive ; an additional box of materials from the papers of Sharon Rosenbloom, part of our LGBTQ+ archives; and a collection of 19th- and early 20th-century photographs of Rochester's Bentley family.
- Fess finished processing and the writing of finding aids for thirteen collections:
 1. the American Association of University Women Publicity Scrapbooks include publicity materials and newspaper clippings about the organization from 1930 to 1936;
 2. the Charles Meinert Collection on Cycling in 19th Century Rochester, a collection of research notes and newspaper articles assembled by its eponymous creator to support his writings on 19th century Rochester cycling;
 3. the Rochester Athletic Club Collection consists of materials on the founding and early operations of the original Rochester Athletic Club between 1873 and 1894;
 4. the Harvard Club of Rochester Collection, containing materials related to the operation of and events held by the Club between 1941 and 1954;
 5. the Dellon Marcus Dewey Albums of prints compiled and sold by Mr. Dewey, a prominent Rochester bookseller of the mid-19th century, in the 1870s;
 6. the Dr. Charles Forbes Papers, scrapbooks and personal papers from this engineer and inventor, dating between 1915 and 1917;

MCLS Director's Report – November 2020 (Continued)

7. the John T. Talman Day Books, 1839-1850, a set of daily record books maintained by this early Rochester banker and real estate developer;
8. the Frederick Whittlesey Papers, personal records of this prominent early Rochester lawyer and Congressman between 1826 and 1831, including his personal scrapbook on the Morgan disappearance (the event that led Whittlesey into being one of the leaders of the anti-Masonic movement);
9. the Florus Baxter Collection of Vacuum Oil Company Pay Roll Books, a set of payroll records from Rochester's Vacuum Oil Company dating between 1872 and 1887;
10. the Mae (Stein) Soble Papers, 1906-1940, which document the theatrical production and direction undertaken by this Rochester teacher of speech and drama, including an experimental theater company;
11. the Hungerford and Irwin's Ledgers from the Rural Hill, New York file factory of Hungerford and Irwin, dated 1851-1873;
12. the Rochester Licensed Drug Clerks Association Collection comprises papers and a minute book from this professional association of Rochester pharmacists, 1873-1905; and
13. the Rochester Art Club Minute Books, which document the first five decades of meetings of this still-extant Rochester club, 1877-1930.

Upcoming Programs/Events

For the time being, all upcoming library programs will be conducted online. Visit the Local History & Genealogy Division calendar of events to learn more and to register: <http://calendar.libraryweb.org/calendar/RPL/?cid=4901&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=4901,6825&ct=32035>. Check back regularly; additional programs may be added.

November:

- Saturday, November 14, 10:30 am, Mourning in the Morning, "Carved in Stone: Exploring Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography," by Deb Coffey (via Zoom).
- Thursday, November 19, 6:30 pm, "Race, Power, and Perspective in the Women's Rights Movement," a Humanities New York Community Developed Reading & Discussion series, facilitated by Cheryl Sampson and Jenny Lloyd, session 4 of 4 (via Zoom).
- Saturday, November 21, 1:00 pm, Rochester's Rich History, "James H. Johnson, Architect," by Katie Eggers Comeau (via Zoom).
- Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 pm, "Remember Rochester ROCs! Trivia," with Dan Cody (via Zoom and Crowdpuurr). November:
- Thursdays, 11 am–12 pm, Weekly Genealogy Meet-Up with Barb Koehler (via Zoom).
- Thursdays, 4-5, Young Men's Book Club (via Zoom).
- Saturday, November 14, 10:30 am, Mourning in the Morning, "Carved in Stone: Exploring Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography," by Deb Coffey (via Zoom).
- Thursday, November 19, 6:30 pm, "Race, Power, and Perspective in the Women's Rights Movement," a Humanities New York Community Developed Reading & Discussion series, facilitated by Cheryl Sampson and Jenny Lloyd, session 4 of 4 (via Zoom).
- Saturday, November 21, 1:00 pm, Rochester's Rich History, "James H. Johnson, Architect," by Katie Eggers Comeau (via Zoom).
- Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 pm, "Remember Rochester ROCs! Trivia," with Dan Cody (via Zoom and Crowdpuurr).

December:

- Thursdays, 11 am–12 pm, Weekly Genealogy Meet-Up with Barb Koehler (via Zoom).
- Tuesday, December 22, at 7:00pm, "Remember Rochester ROCs! Trivia," with Dan Cody (via Zoom and Crowdpuurr).

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Hoopla

- Circulation – 1,655
- Movies/TV – 391
- Audiobooks – 764
- Music – 68
- Ebooks – 271
- Comics – 161
- New Users – 66

During the month of October, RMC handled 800 reference questions and 393 non-reference transactions and for a total of 1193. RMC rented 12 pieces of equipment and 217 Mi-Fis; total circulation for the month was 8,891 items.

Programs

Robert Scheffel, with help from Diane Premo, held a “History Happy Hour” zoom program with Maya Rook about Sun-Ra, on 10/7/20. There were 27 attendees.

Anecdotes/Other

- RMC has agreed to be a distribution point for the Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance. They are producing DVDs of local music, dance, theater, and visual arts performances. These DVDs are being made available to patrons to keep, free-of-charge; RMC will also be adding them to our collection.
- A patron was picking up a Mi-Fi and wanted us to know how much she appreciates this service. Her son is going to a charter school in Rochester that does not have hotspots for the students. She checks out a Mi-Fi and a couple days before the due date, she places a hold for another unit, so she has one to pick-up when she returns the current one. She went on to explain this is the only way her son can continue his schoolwork.

Sciences and History, Darlene Richards reporting

Gabriel Pellegrino joined the staff this month; his first task was to hire a new Clerk III (PT). He has received specialized subject training from each staff member and is comfortable on the reference desk. His background in cataloging has helped him to find materials quickly for patrons. He has arranged to bring LROC staff back to Central two days a week; they started this month and served four clients on the first day.

Anecdotes/Other

Pellegrino received a call from a library school student working on an assignment. She was asked to interview a reference librarian. Pellegrino volunteered to meet with the Syracuse University student, Claire Pitcairn on October 22. Pitcairn had a list of questions regarding librarianship in general, along with some situational and personal questions. Pellegrino spoke of his many years of his experience in both public and technical services librarianship and how it shaped his career, along with many anecdotes. Pitcairn asked about a philosophy of public services librarianship. Pellegrino answered that each patron deserves the same respect; we should listen carefully to each request and do our best to serve. When we are unable to give the right answer or service, always be ready to refer the patron on to someone else who might be able to help. Pitcairn is looking forward to becoming a librarian and was very engaged in the conversation.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Two months into the Technology Center's operation, we continue to see a steady increase in the usage of our space. In September, our first full month, there were 1062 total uses of our computers, for a total of 702 hours, with an average session length of just under 40 minutes. 605 questions were asked of Technology Center staff. In October, there were 1477 total uses, an increase of nearly 40%. The computers were in use for 944 hours, an increase of 34%. The average session length remained relatively constant at 38.5 minutes. 608 questions were recorded by Technology Center staff in September.

Staff are very careful to follow hygiene and social distancing guidelines but are admittedly struggling with the potential for exposure. This is the space where patrons stay for an extended period of time, which we know is a contributor to possible exposure to the virus. Staff are vigilant in cleaning the equipment, enforcing social distancing and mask-wearing, and following all guidelines. However, this has caused some stress on staff and we are working on ways to minimize contact. We have reduced the number of computers available and are considering reducing the length of time patrons can stay in the Tech Center.

Despite the stress and awkwardness of trying to help people from 6 feet away, staff are still providing excellent service to people who need it. This month, the Tech Center staff helped hundreds of patrons with work as diverse as job applications and resumes, applying for a birth certificate from Puerto Rico, and navigating the DMV website.

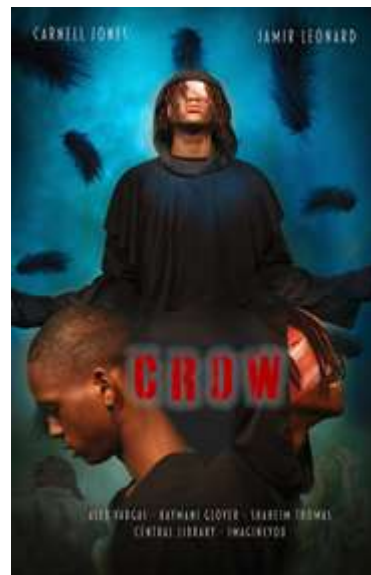
Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs and Services

- We continue to attract teenagers who don't have reliable internet at home, and those who do not have a private space at their home for doing schoolwork. Many of our visitors also want to learn music production.
- This is one of our regulars, DJ. He has cerebral palsy, autism, and is perhaps one of the most brilliant kids we've ever had the pleasure of knowing. <https://www.amazon.com/Year-Without-Having-Explicit-Deluxe/dp/B07JZHCP8N> (warning: explicit content). Some of that work was done through the imagineYOU lab. It motivated DJ so much that he started taking classes at Finger Lakes Community College to study music. On October 27, DJ showed us his Spotify account. He received his first royalties from his music - almost \$200. He wants nothing but to make music/art that helps others with disabilities see that there are others like them out there, and you can overcome any obstacle. DJ was told by the doctors that he'd likely never walk, never get through school, and would be forever incapable of pedestrian tasks that other people routinely do with little thought. This is his third full album. To date, he has released over 20 singles and you can find him on Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple Music, You Tube, Reddit, and just about every social media platform in existence. He's brilliant at marketing and promotion and has by far one of the most unique and compelling voices in describing his vision of what, how, where, when, and why he's doing what he's doing. DJ comes to the library regularly. When asked why he's here, he's not shy in telling someone: "This is my second home. I love it here and feel safe and welcome." Yeah, the library.

imagineYOU Media La, Jeffery Bostic reporting

- The first business cards of the re-opening were completed this month. Jordan decided to make new business cards for promotion.
- The lab will be looking to draw greater interest in photoshop and online engagement with a face swapping opportunity to visitors. An example and promotion will be put up outside of the lab soon.
- Carnell is continuing to work on the movie script and set up filming times for "Crow". He has also found a sponsor for his YouTube channel and will be working on content in the lab.
- This month also saw the lab's first private class. An aspiring photography came in to learn about the DSLR Camera. She was taken through all of the camera settings, shown tips and tricks, and given the class materials from last year.
- Google classroom lessons are still in the works. These classes will provide helpful assistance to new lab visitors in both the media lab and the downstairs tech center.



Selected Meetings & Outputs

MCLS Director, Patricia Uttaro reporting

October 19 – November 14

Standing Meetings

City Senior Management Team (weekly)

RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)

A. Traub, T. Reeves, B. Harrison, A. Suro, T. Burton, C. Ridarsky – one-on-one meetings (monthly)

MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)

New York State Library – Division of Library Development conference call (monthly)

Public Library System Directors' Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)

Deputy Mayor James Smith (monthly)

County Chief of Staff Amy Grower (monthly)

RPL All-Staff Zoom Call (monthly)

Other Meetings

Urban League's Interrupting Racism conference (2 days)

MCLS Adult Services Librarians

Roc the Future Early Grade Literacy Team

Causewave Communications Executive Director Todd Butler

Monroe County Attorney Don Crumb

University at Buffalo Library Services to Children Class, guest lecturer

NYS Central Library Directors, State Librarian Lauren Moore, and Division of Library Development staff

FFRPL virtual Publisher's Circle Event filming

Chronicle Books Spring Review Webinar

RPL Branch Supervisor Maria Heeks-Heinlein

RPL Branch Supervisor Kathy Wolf

Dr. Daniele Lyman-Torres, Commissioner of City Department of Recreation & Human Services

Jumpstarting Rochester Committee (City)

Transformational Library Design Webinar

Email Activity

October 2020

Name	Send Actions	Receive Actions	Read Actions
Uttaro, Patricia	713	5258	5043
Traub, Adam	250	910	1771
Reeves, Tolley	429	1923	1517
Harrison, Brie	330	2636	2361
Ana Suro	782	3146	1811