

## Report to the State Library Board

November 27, 2023

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State Librarian

This report is prepared bi-monthly in conjunction with the regular meetings of the Connecticut State Library Board. The report, which will be included in the minutes of the November 27, 2023 meeting of the Board, covers the period of September 19, 2023 through November 16, 2023.

### Office of the State Librarian

The legislative session does not officially start until February 7, 2024, but many preliminary conversations are already happening. The Lieutenant Governor has partnered with several legislators to convene a listening session to hear directly from school and public librarians and library trustees on a variety of topics including: book bans, censorship, and other intellectual freedom challenges, ebook licensing, the role of certified school media specialists, and other issues that concern libraries. We anticipate some of those other topics will include State Library programs, such as construction grants and the delivery service. Similarly, the Connecticut Library Association will be hosting a series of legislative meet and greet sessions across the state during November and December to share its proposals and concerns with legislators in their own districts. We anticipate a similar agenda and set of topics at those sessions. I will be in attendance to represent the State Library and to speak to our role both within the Connecticut library community and our broader role as a state agency.

As I meet with elected officials, policy and decision makers, and colleagues across the state, I continue to use these opportunities to inform them of our position, responsibilities, and limitations within state government. While we are easily associated with and viewed as a library, there remains much work to be done to expand that general understanding to reflect the State Library's identity more accurately: we are a multi-faceted state agency with a primary responsibility on behalf of Connecticut to preserve and make accessible the state's legal, political, and operational history. I welcome the opportunity to continue these discussions with the Board as we work together on these and other matters throughout the strategy planning process.

### Unit Activities

#### Partnerships and Community Engagement

LeAnn Power and Nicole Besseghir have been working with towns on **vault construction and renovation projects**, including projects for the City of Bristol, the Town of Avon, Town of East Hartford, the Town of Farmington, Town of Ledyard, the Town of Lebanon, the Town of Pomfret, the Town of South Windsor, the Town of Stafford, and the Town of Stonington. Vaults provide a high level of fire protection and security for towns' permanent and essential records.

Kevin Johnson presented **William Webb performances** at both the Old Lyme Historical Society, Old Lyme and the Freedom Walk at Riverside Cemetery, Windsor.

For the **Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project**, the Archives Connection System Workgroup continues to work with vendor Slalom to automate the redaction process for Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and other confidential information contained in electronic State Agency records transferred to the State Archives. Issues with Microsoft365 licensing, firewalls, and virtual machine setup slowed progress, but the roadblocks have been removed. Slalom consultants, State Archives, and Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS) staff met daily during this period.

The State Archives continues its partnership with the Congregational Library and Archives (CLA) in Boston on its **New England's Hidden Histories: Colonial-Era Church Records Project** which is funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The project seeks to identify and digitize early Congregational Church records especially those involving Black and Indigenous people. The grant allocated funding to hire a part-time temporary digital technician to do the scanning and metadata preparation for the 6,000 images of sermons, faith commitments, excommunications, and other documentation found in our collections. State Archives and Digital Preservation staff worked with CLA grant staff to develop a job description. Dan MacNeil, who is completing his public history degree at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and has worked on a couple of digitization projects there, has accepted the position.

Planning has resumed for the conservation treatment of the **1662 Charter** at the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). Deborah Schander, Lizette Pelletier, and Damon Munz met with State Insurance Broker Brian Tamm and Risk Manager Melissa Frank on September 20 to review the current insurance requirements to ensure that the Charter is adequately protected during its time at NEDCC. Based on that meeting, Archives staff met with NEDCC staff including Executive Director Bill Veillette and Parchment Conservator Katie Boodle on October 3 concerning final insurance questions, potential adjustments to the original treatment plan, and transportation specifications when reaching out to fine arts movers. Museum staff, Archives staff, and the State Librarian met on October 12 for a status update and to discuss any questions and concerns. NEDCC Parchment Conservator Katie Boodle made a site visit to examine the Charter in its frame and vault on October 30.

Lizette Pelletier, Deborah Schander, Allen Ramsey, and the former editor of the **Public Records of the State of Connecticut** series, Douglas Arnold, met to discuss transitioning the editorship responsibilities to the next editor now that the new State Historian, Andy Horowitz, has taken his position. By statute, the State Historian oversees the editing and the State Library is responsible for printing the volumes.

Suzanne Kiss' DLD monthly newsletter is gaining attention and subscriptions from libraries around the country as a well-designed model communication.

In collaboration with **Libraries Without Borders** (LWB) and Kym Powe, the Division of Library Development (DLD) implemented a pilot project with six CT libraries, modeled on other LWB initiatives and customized for CT. Each library can shape their initiative with LWB around their target communities' need and how that intersects with the library's goals and capacity. Projects began with the community data collecting phase, which informed project development and the implementation that is currently underway.

The CT Library for Accessible Books (CTLAB) and CSL continue to work with [Perkins Access](#) on the pilot program **Transforming Libraries and Museums: Collaboration for Accessible Exhibitions, Collections, and Programs**. This program centers around making library and

museum exhibits accessible to visitors who are blind or visually impaired. On September 27, Geoff Freed of Perkins Access presented a culminating full-day hybrid training with a pilot cohort of 18 participants from four public libraries, four art museums/galleries, three historical museums, a children's museum, and an aquarium along with our statewide partners covering web accessibility, image descriptions, and live descriptions, as well as independent access to descriptions and multimedia. The objective was to teach participants how to write effective descriptions of images and objects for museum/library tours and digital assets.

**eGO CT** and Lyris launched the pilot program to deliver eBook content to academic sites in September. The original goal to connect 18 members of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) has been accomplished. To date, Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, Western Connecticut State University, Charter Oak and all the Community Colleges have been configured and are live in the Palace app. The Division of Library Development (DLD) and Lyris are working to expand access to another eleven sites over the next few months.

Following the April information session open to all CT public libraries, ten public libraries were selected from 25 library applications for the [Creative Aging in CT Libraries](#) pilot program in partnership with Lifetime Arts and the CT Office of the Arts (COA), with support from a private foundation. Over the summer, library project leads received hands-on training and support from Lifetime Arts to assess community needs for older adults around this topic, with aligned assistance from COA in identifying local teaching artists within a library's region and who met the community's interests. This fall, all ten libraries' eight-week programs are underway, and each will conclude with a public-facing culminating event.

The **eGO CT Community Share** program for schools continues to grow. There are now **120** school sites participating in the program. There are approximately 170 school sites that are eligible to join. We continue to reach out to schools and add relevant content for the new school year.

DLD's Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) grant-funded extension project, **Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School**, opened recruitment in August and all ten Cohorts were claimed by the end of September. The cohorts were claimed by state libraries, state library systems, and a library association: Open Cohort; Library of Virginia; State Library of Pennsylvania; Mid-Hudson Library System, NY; Arizona State Library; Wyoming State Library; Maryland Library Association; TRAILS Montana; New Hampshire State Library; New Jersey State Library.

School and adult groups have started returning to the **Museum of Connecticut History**. Thus far in the 2023-2024 school year, 390 students and 65 adults as part of groups have visited. A Walking Tour of Hartford is scheduled for a Home School Co-Op in November. Outreach education programs booked to date include upcoming visits to schools in Waterford and Madison and a children's program scheduled at the Windsor Locks Public Library. Other programs are in the works with dates to be confirmed.

Patrick Smith wrapped up the **Hiking Through History** public program on October 6 with 22 participants on a hike along the Windsor Locks Canal (southern end). From April through October 2023, Patrick led seven hikes for a total of 87 guests. Planning is underway for the 2024 program, which will include some new locations throughout the state.

Christine Pittsley returned to **Bolton Heritage Farm**, Bolton, CT, on October 7-8, 2023, for their Living History Weekend. There was an encampment of French soldiers at the farm and the Museum of CT History had a table. Pittsley was joined by six of this summer's Digging Into History students and they talked to more than 50 visitors about their experience at the archaeological dig, which was located on the Bolton Heritage Farm.

Christine Pittsley took part in a Youth Engagement panel and workshop for the **Partnership for the National Trail System Annual Conference**, discussing this summer's Digging Into History program and the Rochambeau Route.

## **Programs & Trainings**

LeAnn Power, Elise Marzik, Nicole Besseghir, and Nicole Marino attended the **Fall Conference** of the **Town Clerks' Association** in Westbrook on September 21. They presented an update on electronic records, the Historic Documents Preservation grant program, and other public records topics for approximately 200 town clerks and vendors. They also staffed an information table, addressing questions from town clerks and records vendors related to agency policies and the Historic Documents Preservation grant program.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator launched a new **State Records Management Webinar Training Series**, with sessions on October 11 and November 8. Elise Marzik and Nicole Marino presented Session 1: Records Management Essentials, a high-level overview of state records management requirements, including scheduling, retention, storage, disposition, and best practices for managing email and electronic records, to approximately 260 state employees representing a majority of the executive branch state agencies. Elise Marzik presented Session 2: Records Disposition: Retention Schedules & Forms, an in-depth review of procedures and requirements for disposition of state records, including use of retention schedules, and the process for obtaining disposition authorization to approximately 240 state employees. Elise Marzik and Nicole Marino are developing the ongoing training series, with each session covering a different state records management topic.

Kris Abery attended the Government Publishing Office training on **Transformation to a Digital Depository** in preparation for the coming changes to the Federal Depository Library Program.

Kris Abery and Jenny Groome attended the **Federal Depository Library Conference**; Jenny was also a panelist for one of the sessions on collaborating with K-12 schools. She shared CSL's experiences and recommendations related to the History Day program and discussed the Government Information for Teachers & Children committee of the Government Documents Round Table.

For **Growing Equitable Library Services (GELS)**, DLD held two of three fall sessions with Hartford HealthCare for Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid certification programs.

DLD offered an in-person workshop on presentation skills in October called Stand Out Every Time You Talk with Jean Baur. Two additional in-person workshops were held in October: Essential Competencies for Middle Managers and Management and Leadership Skills for New and Seasoned Supervisors, as part of our **Pathways to Leadership** series with Andrew Sanderbeck.

DLD offered a variety of virtual workshops including Hands-On Legal Reference for Public Librarians from the Judicial Law Libraries and UConn Law staff, design-related workshops on

Principles of Great Flyer Design and Intro to Canva with Caitlin Augusta, and Strategies for Budgets with Libby Post.

DLD hosted a special three-part professional development opportunity for librarians with Azadeh Jamalian, founder and CEO of **The GIANT Room** during September and October, which resulted in a very successful in-person event at the Killingly Public Library facilitated by The GIANT Room on October 28.

## Resource Updates

In September 2023, the State Library's original catalogers participated in a three-week online training program comprised of multiple training recordings, offline exercises, and live webinars, with the goal of relearning **Name Authority Cooperative** (NACO) practices. NACO is the name authority record creation and maintenance arm of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging within the Library of Congress (LC). Through this program, the Connecticut State Library's (CSL) Cataloging Unit contributes records representing names of persons, government agencies, and places to the LC/NACO Authority File. The State Library's independent participation in NACO was suspended after a staff retirement, but this training will allow CSL to progress back to full NACO independence after review.

**Significant new titles cataloged** by Laura Diller and Bill Anderson:

- *Artificial intelligence: key practices to help ensure accountability in federal use.* GAO, 2023. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU\\_NETWORK\\_ALMA7121063760003451](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU_NETWORK_ALMA7121063760003451)
- *Older workers: retirement account disparities have increased by income and persisted by race over time : report to congressional requesters.* GAO, 2023. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU\\_NETWORK\\_ALMA71210645230003451](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU_NETWORK_ALMA71210645230003451)
- *Climate change: state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles : report to congressional committees.* GAO, 2023. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU\\_NETWORK\\_ALMA71210714710003451](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU_NETWORK_ALMA71210714710003451)
- *Seidman's legislative history of federal income tax laws, 1938-1861.* J.S. Seidman, 1938. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU\\_NETWORK\\_ALMA71211173770003451](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU_NETWORK_ALMA71211173770003451)
- *Official program tercentenary celebration of the Saybrook colony 1635-1935 ... Old Saybrook, Connecticut, July 18th, 19th, 20th, nineteen hundred thirty-five.* [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU\\_NETWORK\\_ALMA71210774930003451](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU_NETWORK_ALMA71210774930003451)
- *Medicare, medicaid and other factors impacting hospital costs in Connecticut.* By Albert F. May, Jr., Director of Corporate Communications, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Connecticut. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU\\_NETWORK\\_ALMA71209064710003451](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU_NETWORK_ALMA71209064710003451)
- *The history of Seymour.* James and Joyce Russell. 1974. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU\\_NETWORK\\_ALMA7173407450003451](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1aj269h/01CSCU_NETWORK_ALMA7173407450003451)

Verna Thomas-Green has completed her project to standardize **formats of state documents hyperlinks** which lead to electronic versions of tangible state documents, as delivered in Primo from CTDA (Connecticut Digital Archive) and from the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) CONTENTdm digital content management service. In addition, Verna has added new original bibliographic records to OCLC which describe the CTDA and CONTENTdm versions of these resources. These new records are available to OCLC member libraries who wish to acquire and catalog the electronic versions. Over 5,000 new records were added to OCLC from this project.

The Preservation Office completed the second phase of its ongoing project to digitize unique Connecticut state documents from our collections, for many of which CSL holds the only known copy. In total, 200 documents dating from 1950 to 1960 were digitized. In addition, 29 Connecticut state documents from 1961 to 1969 were digitized, for a total of 69 completed (25%) for the third phase of our Connecticut **state document digitization project**.

The Preservation Office also continued its **ongoing digitization projects**:

- Eleven volumes of historical legislative transcripts from 1967 were digitized. A total of 23 volumes have been digitized, with over a third of the project completed.
- Seven volumes of the Trumbull Papers were digitized, bringing the total number of volumes digitized to 36, with 75% of the project completed.

Through DLD, Collection Services received approval to use LSTA grant funds to renew online subscriptions that support **legal literacy** for our end users. These services provide access to over 38,000 full-text ebooks, ejournals and documents. Four collections are new to CSL as of October 2023, and the complete list is: Air & Space Law Collection (HeinOnline); American Bar Association eBooks (LexisNexis Digital Library); American Law Institute Library (HeinOnline); History of Capital Punishment (HeinOnline); Immigration Law and Policy (HeinOnline); Intellectual Property Law Collection (HeinOnline); Labor and Employment (HeinOnline); NCLC Digital Library (National Consumer Law Center); Spinelli's Law Library Reference Shelf (HeinOnline); Water Rights and Resources (HeinOnline); West Academic Reference Collection including Nutshells and Hornbooks (West Academic).

The Collection Services Unit Head negotiated with vendors for the best possible pricing and terms, including remote access 24/7 for CT State Library registered cardholders as well as digital ownership of the **HeinOnline content**. Thanks to Kandace Yuen, Electronic Resources Librarian, who activated the four newest HeinOnline collections. This added 20,000+ new portfolios, or links, to our Primo catalog.

During September-October 2023, Collection Services staff **deaccessioned** 105 books that Law Reference staff had identified for weeding. The materials weighed roughly 523.9 pounds and freed 24.75 linear feet of shelf space in the Stacks location.

The Reference staff, chiefly Jerry Seagrave, issued 444 new **CT State Library cards** during September-October 2023. These cards provide patrons with 24/7 remote access to many CSL and researchIT CT online databases.

LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 515 municipal and 179 state agency authorization forms for **records disposals**.

Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz accessioned 772 cubic feet of **agency records**. Destruction paperwork for records eligible for destruction in 2024 will be sent to agencies in December. Staff

processed 202 reference requests and processed 144 re-files and inter-files.

Susan Bigelow has finished editing a **printed version of the index for divorces** found in the Connecticut Superior Court record volumes, 1713-1798 for which she had created an online database. Three copies of this index will be created for use for staff and patrons and will greatly assist genealogists and local historians in their research.

Jeannie Sherman continues to assist patrons and staff with identifying and using our collections by adding useful content to our website, most recently regarding **Connecticut State Library materials digitized by FamilySearch**. During September and October she has captured and created links for 512 volumes of Connecticut coroner records for Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, and Windham Counties. She has also added 18 volumes of manuscript Connecticut vital records to our Newly Digitized Collections page.

Jeannie Sherman and Barbara Austen met with visitors from New York State to discuss the **donation of a collection of letters from the Smith sisters** of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

Maria Paxi continues to analyze various 19th century pamphlet materials, primarily **duplicate materials from the Charles Welles collection**, for addition or deaccession from our holdings. It is anticipated that this long-term project will be finished by the end of the calendar year.

Mel Smith, Susan Bigelow, and Kevin Johnson are in the beginning stages of **surveying various map collections** located in the Probate Annex Vault. New signage and future arrangement of some of these map series will greatly aid staff and patrons in their discovery and use.

Steve Mirsky successfully **initiated and implemented procedures to receive digital copies** of both the Freedom of Information Commission administrative decisions and Superior Court Housing Session decisions. This is another step toward the goal of bridging the gaps of these missing copies within our own digital collections and then developing comprehensive digital collections of all available material that are easy to keyword search across multiple years. Bill Room staff Steve Mirsky, Andrew Bourque, and Asaf Aliev continued indexing **2023 legislative session transcripts** totaling 16,018 pages. Our **compiled legislative history** collection continues to grow as Steve Mirsky has compiled 82 more legislative histories files using the digitized 1969 transcript volumes, while Asaf Aliev has compiled a total of 130 histories completed and reviewed from the 2023 session so far.

The State Library received six boxes of **federal depository** claims from the University of New Haven; 76 items have been cataloged and barcoded and added to the federal documents collection. We also received sixteen replacement copies of federal depository material from the University of Georgia (MAGIL) Library, as our collection copies were in poor condition. Kris Abery and Elizabeth Esquilin continue to barcode and update the location codes for items in the federal documents oversize collection as well as catalog and rehouse overflow federal depository maps in the collection.

Another batch of 200 federal depository maps received from CCSU have been cataloged and barcoded and Kris has begun examining federal topographic maps that are currently held in History & Genealogy for transfer to the **federal documents maps collection**.



With the assistance of Eric Paiva and Elizabeth Esquilin, the **Federal Documents program processed 5,438 discards** submitted by selective depository libraries in Connecticut and Rhode Island during the September-October 2023 time period.

Reference Services staff are examining the collection for **outdated file formats that must be transferred to new mediums** to remain accessible. In support of this effort, Carol Trinchitella is assembling a list of these items from the catalog, and Mel Smith contacted the Probate Court to obtain index files in an updated format.

With the help of Carol Trinchitella and Rafael Condo, Reference Services was able to acquire about ten boxes of **material from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection** upon the closing of their small onsite library; the Government Information Services unit has begun sorting through the items which include some state publications as well as reference books and twelve federal depository items that have been added to our collection.

Susan Bigelow, Andrew Bourque, Lindsay Cawley, and Jenny Groome worked throughout September to **test and refine the chatbot functionality** for our new website on the state portal, participating in daily feedback sessions with the vendor and representatives from other library departments.

Sarah Morin, Lisa Lew, student intern Gina Wiese, volunteers Abby Davidson, Kerry Buck, and Geraldine Buck, and members of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council (CPGC) have processed 155 cubic feet (310 boxes) of the **New Haven County Court records**. We have completed the County Court files from 1700-1817 and all categories of the County Court papers by subject except Executions (meaning the record of when and how a writ was completed, not to be confused with capital punishment), which we are currently processing. We are also processing the Superior Court papers by subject and have completed Appeals from County Court, Assignments, Conservators and Guardians, Divorce (1700-1799), Indians, Inquests, Loyalists, Maritime (Revolutionary War), Militia, Partition Land, and Revolutionary Pensions. To date, we have discovered 296 cases involving African-descended, African American, Black, Indigenous, Spanish, and multiracial persons or groups in the court records.

Sarah Morin participated in **Connecticut Explored's Grating the Nutmeg podcast** with Dr. Kathy Hermes (publisher, Connecticut Explored), and Beth Caruso (author, Windsor), which aired November 1. They discussed the history of witchcraft and the exoneration project, civil court cases relating to witchcraft accusations, and the persistence of belief in witches into the eighteenth century: <https://gratingthenutmeg.libsyn.com/176-witchcraft-uncovered-new-discoveries-and-exonerations>

In response to newly adopted language on **library collection policies** in Public Act 23-101, the Division of Library Development (DLD) assigned a team to develop a process for collection development/management and reconsideration policy assessment using best practices from the American Library Association, United for Libraries, and state libraries across the country that implement library standards pertaining to public library policies. The team began the process of assessing the policies of all 165 principal public libraries in July of this year, completing the process on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Moving forward, collection of data on these policies will be included in the Annual Statistical Report.

Annual reports for CT Public Libraries were due November 1<sup>st</sup>. Barbara Ghilardi received 176 out of 191 **CT libraries annual reports**. All public libraries are expected to complete the Annual report per Section 11-24b. The Annual reports contribute to a nationwide effort, spearheaded by



the IMLS (Institute of Museums and Library Services), to demonstrate how public libraries meet community needs. The reports are helpful to inform the state of the great work that libraries are doing for their communities. On a local level, libraries can use data for budget advocacy, comparison with peer institutions, and for outreach efforts by libraries and library supporters. Beginning in July, Barbara offered office hours and several webinars, and has been readily available to provide support to public libraries with questions on how to complete the Annual State Report. In anticipation of the **2024 Annual Library Statistics Report**, DLD will be rolling out a new platform next year to streamline the process for libraries and to maximize the data analysis for the federal and state reporting requirements of the State Library.

Key **CT Library for Accessible Books (CTLAB) statistics** for Federal Fiscal Year 2023:

- 6,539 active readers
  - 498 new patrons registered
- Total circulation of 193,755 items
- 140,261 Talking Books (audio format) were mailed to patrons
  - An average of 11,688 Talking Books were sent to patrons each month.
- Talking Books accounted for 89% of total CTLAB circulation
  - Talking Book cartridges represented 72% of total circulation.
  - Talking Books downloaded from BARD represented 17% of total circulation
- Braille books accounted for approximately 2% of total CTLAB circulation
  - Hard copy braille was 0.43% of total circulation
  - Braille downloaded from BARD represented 1.5% of total circulation

**FindIT CT**, the statewide library catalog, had 25,395,009 bibliographic records and 19,571,099 items, from 332 libraries, as of November 1, 2023.

**eGO CT** continues to grow. There are now 153 participating public and academic libraries using the Palace Project app and sharing Connecticut State Library ebook content with their patrons. The circulation of the Connecticut State Library collection this fiscal year exceeds 4,700 and we are tracking a total of over 14,000 checkouts in FY24.

Kym Powe created [Early Literacy, Children, and Teen Services libguides](#) pages. Each page contains DLD webinars, selected webinars from Niche Academy, as well as additional pertinent resources for youth librarians. The libguides have been updated to follow accessibility guidelines.

Suzanne Kiss is **updating DLD's main libguides pages** (including Home, About Us, ACLPD, and core services) based on accessibility guidelines established by DLD's LibGuide Team (Barbara Ghilardi, Brad Bullis, Matt Geeza, Suzanne Kiss, and Ashley Sklar). The modified guides include side navigation, which is easier for screen readers to understand, and updated links to all our resources.

The Museum was approached by the Cody Firearms Museum (CFM) at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming to photograph items from the **Colt Firearms Collection**. The CFM is remastering and reprinting the original six issues of *Armax: The Journal of Contemporary Arms*, an international publication promoting the scholarship of contemporary arms. As part of the project, they are seeking high-resolution, full-color images to replace the black-and-white ones from the original publications, including about 60 items from the Colt Firearms Collection that were featured in Volume 1: Numbers 1 & 2. The museum is still working out the details with CFM, but they will likely send a photographer to CSL for two days in

December to take images of the artifacts. In exchange for granting CFM permission to use the images for [Armax](#), the CSL will have full access to the high-resolution images.

The Museum **Collections Assessment Program** (CAP) originally scheduled for September 2023 was postponed due to a family emergency of one of the assessors. It is now rescheduled for Monday, December 11 and Tuesday, December 12. Administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, the CAP provides an opportunity for museum staff to work with professional consultants to conduct a general conservation assessment aimed at helping small and mid-sized institutions improve collections care and establish a prioritized set of recommendations. The CAP will result in a final report that will help the museum more effectively plan for the future of its collection management.

The Museum was visited by Cindy Gardner, the Museum Division Director at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History, on September 26 and 27 as part of an Organizational Assessment through the American Alliance of Museum's (AAM) **Museum Assessment Program**. The goal of the Organizational Assessment is to create a solid foundation for the museum's long-term health and impact emphasizing thinking, acting, and planning strategically; organizational alignment and capacity; leadership and organizational structure; and risk management and organizational culture. The museum expects to receive a Final Report from the AAM by the end of the calendar year.

The Museum is working with the staff at the Connecticut League of Museums to move its collection database from PastPerfect 5.0 to **Connecticut Collections** (CTCo). CTCo is a cloud-based collections management system built on the open-source software Collective Access. CTCo will allow the museum to have a database for cataloging and managing collections internally, while also providing the opportunity to share any portion of the collection with the public through a searchable online portal, [ctcollections.org](http://ctcollections.org). Through CTCo, the Museum's records will also be digitally preserved long-term through the [Connecticut Digital Archive \(CTDA\)](#). The Museum team is just at the beginning of this monumental project that is likely to take multiple years to come to full fruition.

Two items from the museum's collection have recently returned from being on loan: 1) A fragment of a **King George III statue** that was torn down on Bowling Green in New York City on July 9, 1776, returned from the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA, where it had been part of a special exhibition at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and 2) A **sewing machine** from the Weed Sewing Machine Company returned from the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, Hartford, CT, where it had been on display in the *The Bicycle Game* exhibit.

A "**Votes for Women**" pennant flag c. 1920 from the Museum's Connecticut Women's Suffrage Association collection was recently loaned to the Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT, for their special exhibit *Born in 1867: Theodate's Generation*. It will be on loan until April 8, 2024.

Fran Zeman of Appraisal Resources Associates has completed an updated appraisal of **Portrait of George Washington** by Gilbert Stuart. The insurance replacement value is now set at \$12 million, up from the \$6.5 million at which it was appraised in 2005. This information has been shared with the Director of Insurance & Risk Management, Department of Administrative Services, and the team at the Office of Legislative Management (OLM). Work on the loan agreement between the museum and OLM for the Stuart painting continues.