

## Report to the State Library Board

September 18, 2023

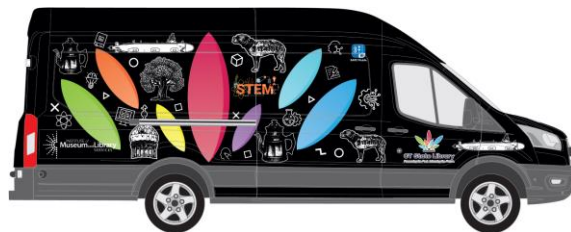
Deborah Schander  
State Librarian

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 September 18, 2023 meeting of the Board, covers the period of July 25, 2023 through September 8, 2023.

### Office of the State Librarian

It has been a busy few months for State Library outreach and community engagement. Early in August, I attended a press event at Colt Park, at which Rep. John Larson and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin announced \$1 million in new federal funding to begin restoring two buildings and integrating them into Coltsville National Historical Park; the State Library is a statutory partner on the historical park project, and we continue to engage with various stakeholders and groups in the process. Also in August, I was pleased to attend Durham Public Library's open house, marking the successful completion of their renovation, funded in part by a Public Library Construction Grant. The first week of September, the State Library participated in two press events with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz to mark National Read a Book Day and International Literacy Day, one event at the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester and the second on the front steps of the State Library and Supreme Court Building. On a personal front, I was profiled in the September/October issue of *AALL Spectrum* and taught a 2-hour continuing legal education seminar on technology for a society of southern lawyers; both opportunities allowed me to promote state libraries as a resource to law librarians and the legal community.

And last but certainly not least, the State Library is hitting the road! The American Rescue Plan Act funded CSL Outreach Van is in our possession and will be officially unveiled on September 22. This bespoke sprinter van will allow staff from the Museum of Connecticut History, State Archives, Division of Library Development (DLD), and others to take outreach; programs; special events; professional development; library programming support; and pop-up exhibits across the state (and beyond?). The van will also be used in support of the two priority goals of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 5-Year Plan: 1. Support the impact of libraries as community anchors with increased institutional capacity, community partnerships, and programming focused on the seven literacies; and 2. Improve access to information and library resources for all residents of the state.



## Unit Activities

### Partnerships and Community Engagement

The Museum of Connecticut History and the CT State Library have been invited to collaborate in a program being offered to teachers by Connecticut's Old State House. "**Civics in the Capital City: Authentic Civic Learning in the Classroom and Beyond**" is a one-day professional development opportunity for teachers in grades 3-5 to explore practical civics education and place-based learning experiences. The day will include civics education discussion with state leaders from the Connecticut Democracy Center, the State Department of Education, Connecticut Humanities, the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, and the Office of Legislative Management, and tours of the State Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the Museum of CT History/CT State Library to help familiarize teachers with the State's civic learning spaces and resources. The program will take place on September 20, 2023.

Allen Ramsey and Damon Munz participated in the **Archives on the Hill** advocacy activity sponsored by the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) on July 25<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC prior to the start of the CoSA/Society of American Archivists (SAA) joint conference. They visited the offices of Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Representatives Courtney and Larson to thank them in person for their support of the Congressional Community Project Funding grant that the State Archives received funding the *Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project*.

The Archives Connection System Workgroup, part of the **Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project**, began working 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 TEAMS licensing and virtual machine setup have slowed progress, but the project team met regularly during this period. These meetings included daily "standups" to report progress and weekly status reviews for product development and backlog status to discuss current redaction workflows and pain points; visualize future workflows; and review available and potential resources.

Prior to the pandemic, the State Archives agreed to partner with the Congregational Library and Archives (CLA) in Boston for its next National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant supporting its **New England's Hidden Histories: Colonial-Era Church Records Project**. The project seeks to identify and digitize early Congregational Church records especially those involving Black and Indigenous people. Lizette Pelletier, Mel Smith, Anna Newman, Barbara Austen, Damon Munz, and Allen Ramsey met virtually on August 11 with Dr. Tricia Peone, Project Director. CLA Archivist Zach Bodnar also attended. State Library staff will scan and provide basic metadata for 6,000 images from Congregational Church records including sermons, faith commitments, excommunications, and other documentation. Dr. Peone visited the History & Genealogy unit on August 29, to further discuss details and item selection with Lizette, Barbara, Mel, and Anna.

The **Historic Documents Preservation Program** supports records preservation and management in the municipalities and at the State Library. The application period for Cycle 2 of the FY2024 grant period is ongoing and will close on September 30, 2023. The program reached a historic milestone last year as it has now awarded over \$20 million in municipal grants since its establishment in FY 2001.

By statute, **Town Clerk and Probate Vaults** must be constructed and maintained in accordance with state regulations and approved by the Office of the Public Records Administrator. LeAnn Power and Nicole Besseghir have been working with towns on vault construction and renovation projects, including projects for 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, and the Town of Stonington. Vaults provide a high level of fire protection and security for towns' permanent and essential records.

The History & Genealogy (H&G) department hosted a group of 19 researchers in collaboration with the **New England Historic Genealogical Society**. H&G's reference desk hours were extended on the day they visited, and additional assistance from Barbara Austen, Damon Munz, and Glenn Sherman allowed for the extended State Archives hours as well. H&G received a thank you letter from Frisbee Family Association board members who visited the library. The letter is full of praise for the help that the staff provided and mentions Jeannie Sherman, Kevin Johnson, and Glenn Sherman in particular.

Kris Abery consulted with **Bridgeport Public Library** staff members Jeff Coutts and Vivian Bordeaux regarding discard procedures for federal depository material in their collection.

Jenny Groome has been gathering topics and resources in preparation for the library's participation in **History Day** and sharing these with Rebecca Taber, the Director of Connecticut History Day.

The Division of Library Development (DLD) has been awarded an **Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grant LG-254838-OLS-23** in the amount of \$249,948 to design and implement a replicable, regional navigator sharing plan. The Connecticut State Library, in collaboration with eight public libraries, will design and implement a replicable model for regional sharing of digital navigation services to underserved residents. The plan seeks to enrich the IMLS-funded Salt Lake City navigator model to facilitate the participation of smaller libraries via a regional collaboration, simultaneously demonstrating efficiencies of scale. The project will engage with 2,000 residents in need, distribute 400 computers, and create a toolkit for replication of such regional library collaboration. The implementation of this model is expected to inform those responsible for Digital Equity Act projects across the United States of ways to introduce centralization and efficiencies into the smaller navigation project models with which they are familiar. This grant project builds on the Connecticut State Library's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funded Digital Navigator Pilot.

IMLS has also awarded DLD a two-year \$285,000 extension of our nationally recognized **Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School** project. During the original grant period, the Transformation for Libraries project has focused on individuals and will ultimately result in the successful training of over 400 members of the library workforce; however, there continues to be a large demand from the field for additional training opportunities and to contextualize Strategic Foresight inside a more organizational perspective. Based on feedback, observations, and assessments of activities in the first year of Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School, the CT State Library and its partner Kedge: The Future School (now TFSX), is actively engaged in identifying potential states and library systems with which to grow this partnership, with a specific interest in targeting statewide and underserved library systems as upcoming cohorts.

Suzanne Kiss represented the Connecticut State Library at this year's **National Book Festival** in Washington, DC on Saturday, August 12. Suzanne reported high attendance and much excitement about the event from people of all ages, and many creative costumes were on display. Suzanne worked alongside Susan Muro and Lisa Comstock of the Connecticut Center for the Book, a program of CT Humanities. Connecticut resident Winsome Bingham, author of the children's book *Soul Food Sunday*, was on hand for most of the day for autographs and photo ops and to answer questions about her book.

Gail Hurley reached out to **Blue Star Families**, the nation's largest chapter-based military and veteran family support organization, to see how libraries can partner with them to welcome new military families to their communities. Approximately 600,000 military families move to new communities each year. There is a special opportunity for libraries to get involved during Blue Star Families Welcome Week occurring late September. DLD presented a *Blue Star Families* program to CT librarians.

**CT Library for Accessible Books (CTLAB)** staff conducted three outreach sessions during July and August 2023. Outreach sessions included a virtual presentation to teens and young adults who are blind or have low vision, a presentation at a public library, and a visit to the town of Glastonbury's Low Vision Support Group, Eye Openers.

CTLAB and the Connecticut State Library 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. Representatives from 13 Connecticut libraries and museums are participating in the program. In late June 2023, Perkins Access developed and shared a survey with the pilot program participants. The survey results will be used by Perkins Access to develop the curriculum for the one-day workshop. A preliminary meeting with the program participants was held August 11, 2023. Perkins Access staff used the meeting to outline the objective and goal of the pilot program and learn more about each institution participating in the program. The workshop is scheduled for September 27, 2023, and will be held at the Middletown Library Service Center.

In partnership with the **CT Democracy Center's Kid Governor Program**, DLD launched three [Civics Kits](#) on Civic Engagement, Government, and Leadership.

DLD partnered with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on their **Great Parks Pursuit No Child Left Inside** program and attended four outdoor events sharing books and information to jump start summer reading.

eGO CT is working with Lyrasis on a pilot program to deliver **eBook content to academic sites**. The goal is to connect 18 members of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU).

The **eGO CT Community Share program** for schools continues to grow. There are now 117 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. To date 1,454 new items have been added specifically for this program in addition to the Children & YA content we already have available from Baker & Taylor.

## Programs & Trainings

The Museum hosted three **special group tours** in August: staff and interns from the Springfield Armory were given an in-depth tour of the museum's Colt Collection; staff and interns from the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, MA) were given a behind-the-scenes tour of both the library and museum; and employees from Colt Manufacturing Co. were given a special tour of the museum with emphasis on the Colt Collection.

Patrick Smith led a tour of the Norwich Waterfront on July 21 as part of the **Hiking Through History** program. There were 17 attendees, including a reporter from the *Norwich Bulletin*, who wrote an article about her experience.

**Digging Into History: On the Road with Rochambeau** successfully ran from July 11-24, 2023 with 29 French and American students taking part in this one-of-a-kind experiential education program. Students worked together to excavate an archeological site occupied by the French army during the Revolutionary War, which was organized by Program Director Christine Pittsley, State Archaeologist Dr. Sarah Sportman, and the Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist (FOSA). While the weather proved to be uncooperative for some of the program, adjustments and pivots were made to provide an unparalleled experience for the students. An Open House was held on July 14, 2023 for the public to learn more about the program and visit the archaeological site. Despite severe weather that morning, more than 60 guests, including family members from both the 2019 and 2023 Digging into History program, attended the event. Dignitaries included State Librarian Deborah Schander, as well as State Representatives Tim Ackert (R-8) and Steve Weir (R-55), Pam Sawyer, First Selectman of Bolton, and co-chairs of Connecticut's "America 250" Commission Jason Mancini and Denise Merrill. Funding for the program came from grants from the Connecticut Heritage Center, the Center for Community Engagement and Research at Central Connecticut State University, and the National Park Service Washington-Rochambeau Historic Trail through the auspices of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, and financial gifts from small donors. The program was featured in multiple news sources including:

- Newport Buzz - [Alliance Française de Newport celebrated the arrival of French troops in style](#)
- CT Insider - [French, American students digging up Bolton farm in search of Revolutionary history](#)
- Fox61 - [French and Connecticut students dig into history](#)
- Community Voice - [Digging Into History: On the Road with Rochambeau](#)
- Hartford Courant - [Digging CT History: Students learn archaeology "you can't really get from a textbook"](#)

Lizette Pelletier and Allen Ramsey were part of a panel discussion at the Archives\*Records 2023 joint CoSA/SAA conference on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The session, "**Removing the Stigma: Opening Mental Health Records for Public Access,**" explored the different state laws governing privacy and confidentiality which often limits access; how each program provides public access to mental health records; what problems they face; and what more needs to be done. The session led to a query from the publisher Rowman & Littlefield about a collaborative publication on issues surrounding mental health records. Council of State Archivists (COSA) staff reported that this session was one of the highest rated by conference participants.

LeAnn Burbank, Elise Marzik, and Nicole Besseghir conducted a municipal **records management training webinar** to approximately 80 municipal employees representing over 50

municipalities. The webinar was hosted by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities on July 27.

Dawn LaValle conducted a **Strategic Visioning session** for the Board of Trustees of the Mark Twain Library in Redding as they embark on a strategy planning process. Dawn will be using the Division of Library Development (DLD) Toolkit, from the EXCITE, Futures, and Aspen projects to continue guiding the Mark Twain Library through this unique process.

DLD's **Continuing Education (CE) project** has continued to plan programming that can help libraries boost their connectivity and prepare digital inclusion work. In July, a CE workshop called "How to Organize a Community Conversation Aimed at Developing Digital Inclusion Collaborations" was enthusiastically received.

It is **Annual Report** season and Barbara Ghilardi offered two webinars on how to complete the FY2023 annual report in August and September. Recordings will be available on the DLD YouTube channel. Drop-in office hours will also be offered in September and October for any specific questions.

Gail Hurley arranged **in-person workshops** on *Basic and Advanced Book Repair* in late July and early August at Eastern Connecticut State University and hosted an in-person workshop on *Principles of Great Flyer Design* in August along with virtual workshop on *Making Instructional Videos*.

The quarterly **CTLAB Book Club** met on July 19, 2023 and discussed *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Five patrons and two CTLAB staff members attended the meeting. The next book club meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023.

requestIT training was provided to **Chaplin Public Library** and the **Wheeler Clinic** in July and August. Both are new to the requestIT program in FY24.

CSL/DLD was a partner for the third year of the IMLS-funded **Transforming Teen Services** project. The updated Transforming Teen Services trainings has been developed into a [Niche Academy self-paced training module](#) accessible to CT librarians through DLD's Niche Academy subscription.

New England Youth Consultants developed and offered a third year of the [New England Summer Summit](#) to 444 total registrants.

Year one of **Building Equity-Based Summers Through Libraries & Communities (BEBS)** has been completed and we've moved on to identifying five CT libraries to participate in year two of the program. [Read the BEBS year one post survey report for CT.](#) [Read the BEBS year one post survey report for the IMLS cohort.](#)

## Resource Updates

Alex Filippides, a history student at the University of Connecticut, finished his internship with the Museum at the end of August. His work resulted in a mock-up **guide to the Governor Portraits** that the museum hopes to implement in Memorial Hall.

As part of its work with state Risk Management staff to acquire an updated appraisal of **Portrait of George Washington** by Gilbert Stuart, the museum hired ArtCare Conservation NYC to conduct a conditions assessment of the painting on August 11. A rigorous examination report and treatment recommendation was provided to the museum by ArtCare at the end of August. Overall, the painting is in good shape but some conservation work is recommended, for which the Museum will seek to raise funds. With the examination report now available, the Museum has hired Fran Zeman of Appraisal Resources Associates to conduct an appraisal of the painting. The Museum continues to work with the Office of Legislative Management to update the loan agreement for the Stuart painting, which is on long-term loan at the Old State House.

The Museum of Connecticut History has been accepted into the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC)'s **"Collections Assessment Program"** (CAP). FAIC administers CAP under a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). CAP provides an opportunity for museum staff to work with professional consultants by issuing partial funding toward a general conservation assessment aimed at helping small and mid-sized institutions improve collections care and establish a prioritized set of recommendations. The Museum of Connecticut History has been allocated \$3,800 to hire a collections assessor plus \$3,800 to hire a building assessor to complete a general conservation assessment. The museum has selected its assessors and the Site Visit will take place September 18 -19, 2023. The deadline for the assessors to send their final CAP reports to the Museum and the FAIC is December 31, 2023.

The museum continues work on the "Organizational Assessment" it is pursuing through the American Alliance of Museum (AAM)'s **Museum Assessment Program**. Peer Reviewer Cindy Gardner, the Museum Division Director at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History, will be conducting a Site Visit September 26-27, 2023. 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 can expect to receive a Final Report from the AAM approximately 8-10 weeks after Ms. Gardner's visit.

The museum's forthcoming **'A Connecticut "Colt" Case' micro exhibit**, highlighting the 1847 Colt Whitneyville-Walker, was featured on the back cover of the Fall 2023 issue of *Connecticut Explored*. Work continues on the project with the goal of debuting the exhibit case in October. The case will be installed in a central section of Memorial Hall where it will remain for a couple of months. After that time, the case will be moved to the Colt Collection gallery.

Work on the museum's **collection storage area** at the Van Block facility continues. A dumpster is being rented for September 12 to dispose of irrelevant, non-collection items that are taking up valuable space. As space opens, larger items from the 231 Capitol Ave. storage areas will be moved over to Van Block. This is an ongoing project headed by Dave Corrigan.

#### **Recent Archives Accessions:**

- **Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services** (RG 161:002)
  - Research files, Miscellaneous Imprint Unit case files, Administration files, DNA miscellaneous files, Toxicology Unit and Controlled Substances Unit case files (sexual assault or homicide related), 101 cubic feet

- Toxicology Unit and Controlled Substances Unit case files (sexual assault or homicide related) and Latent Print case files, 1937-2022, 290 cubic feet
- Reconstruction files, 66 cubic feet
- Toxicology Unit and Controlled Substances Unit case files (sexual assault or homicide related) and Firearms case files, 1945-2018, 117 cubic feet
- **Governor Ned Lamont Records**, photographs by James Naleski, 2022-2023 (RG005:042)
- **Abby H. Smith** family correspondence, 1854-1879. 17 letters (RG 069:043). Abby was one of the infamous Smith sisters of Glastonbury who decided they could fight town hall. These are letters from Abby to her cousin Emma Austin, and between other family members. One particularly interesting letter from 1866 is critical of President Johnson and his treatment of the formerly enslaved.

#### The Family Search Digitization Team:

Records scanned between July 1 and August 25, 2023:

- Connecticut Archives, **Estates of Minors, 1715-1820**, 5,067 images
- Connecticut **Bible and Family Records, 1726-1925**, 207 images
- Connecticut **Vital Records, Arnold Copy, Ashford-Stafford, 1639-1868**, 40,711 images

Sub-total of records since July 1, 2023: 45,985

**Total images** of records since March 14, 2022: **642,166**

The Office of the Public Records Administrator issued one **revised records series** and one **new records series** for the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection agency specific schedule (DESPP-01, effective 8/3/2023) Elise Marzik is currently working with four agencies on updates to agency-specific retention schedules, and with a municipal working group to update one municipal retention schedule.

Significant titles issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office and catalogued by Laura Diller:

- The nation's fiscal health. Federal action critical to pivot toward fiscal sustainability : annual report to Congress. GAO, 2022. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381479826&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381479826&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&offset=0)
- The nation's fiscal health. Road map needed to address projected unsustainable debt levels :annual report to Congress. GAO, 2023. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381479798&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381479798&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&offset=0)
- DOD financial management: greater attention and accountability needed over government-furnished property : report to congressional committees. GAO, 2023. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1362527711&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1362527711&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&offset=0)
- Battle management : DOD and Air Force continue to define joint command and control efforts : report to congressional addressees. GAO, 2023. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1362534782&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1362534782&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&offset=0)



- Pediatric cancer studies : early results of the Research to Accelerate Cures and Equity for Children Act. GAO, 2023. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381479014&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381479014&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&offset=0)

Significant titles William Anderson cataloged for the State Library collections:

- Fiscal year tax collections; Revised fiscal year tax collections. Connecticut Tax Department. 1976/1977 rev, 1977/1978, 1977/1978 rev. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1389395894&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&lang=en\\_US&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1389395894&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&lang=en_US&offset=0)
- Audio-visual education news. Connecticut State Department of Education, 1951. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1380914310&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&lang=en\\_US&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1380914310&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&lang=en_US&offset=0)  
Business incentives and tax credits : a boon for business or corporate welfare? : a study of corporate executives' attitudes of effectiveness of state and local business and tax incentives. prepared by KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, Business Incentives Group. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381018299&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&lang=en\\_US&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1381018299&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&lang=en_US&offset=0)  
By-laws of the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, Conn. : adopted April 3, 1916. Ridgefield Press Print, [1916] [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1382348753&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&lang=en\\_US&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,1382348753&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&lang=en_US&offset=0)  
Higher education-economic development linkages. National Council for Urban Economic Development ; [compiled by Eric Dobson and others]. 1988. [https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,19880472&tab=default\\_tab&search\\_scope=CSL\\_ALMA&vid=CSL\\_V1&lang=en\\_US&offset=0](https://cscu-csl-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,19880472&tab=default_tab&search_scope=CSL_ALMA&vid=CSL_V1&lang=en_US&offset=0)

The Preservation Office continues work on its ongoing project to digitize **unique Connecticut state documents** from our collections, for many of which CSL holds the only known copy. The second phase of the project covers the years 1950 to 1960, and so far, 192 of the 200 selected documents, or 96%, have been digitized. Forty documents from 1961 to 1969 have also been digitized. The Preservation Office is also digitizing **historical legislative transcripts** from 1967. All eleven volumes from the 1967 House Proceedings, Parts 1-11, have been digitized.

CSL received a supplemental award of \$259,644 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue to digitize historically significant Connecticut newspapers through the **National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)** over the next two years. This is the sixth grant award received for newspaper digitization, which will allow Connecticut to add another 100,000 pages, digitized from microfilm of newspapers published in the state between 1690 and 1963, to the Library of Congress' Chronicling America database.

CSL recently added over 700 links to our Primo library catalog to the content in **Lexis Advance** that is available to Reference staff on the premises. We also streamlined CSL patron remote access to the **LexisNexis Digital Library** by implementing OCLC EZProxy for library card barcode authentication. Thanks to Kandace Yuen for adding links to Primo and for helping us maintain our OCLC EZProxy files in compliance with vendors' license agreements.

Bill Room staff Asaf Aliev, Andrew Bourque, and Steve Mirsky continued indexing **2023 legislative transcripts** totaling 12,791 pages. Asaf has prepared and packed the indexed 2022 transcripts totaling 91 volumes for binding, and Andrew completed processing of 240 engrossed bills from 2023 in preparation for binding.

Our **compiled legislative history collection** continues to grow with additions from old and new sessions as Steve Mirsky has compiled 80 legislative histories files using the 1969 transcript volumes newly digitized by the Digital Projects & Preservation staff, while Asaf Aliev has compiled 40 histories from the 2023 session so far.

Thanks to the efforts of both Dawn LaValle and Carol Trinchitella, our patrons will benefit from Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds again this year, which will be used for materials to promote **legal literacy**.

Eric Paiva is performing updates to the statute volumes for all 50 states in the law collection which have been long delayed due to lack of support staff. Eric has also continued removing outdated looseleaf volumes in the **law collection**, providing much needed space for growth of other titles.

History & Genealogy and Government Information staff members sorted through about 850 items that were originally from the **Prudence Crandall Museum** and have been donated to us by the State Historic Preservation Office. Museum staff were also consulted about volumes that may fit best in their book collections.

Susan Bigelow **indexed divorces** as found in 31 Connecticut Superior Court record volumes for the 1713-1798 time-period and discovered over 1,000 cases. This new index which is available via the State Library database page, will bring to light hundreds of court cases that will assist family genealogists and local historians for decades to come, please see: [www.ctatatelibrarydata.org/divorce-records-superior-court-record-books-1716-1798/](http://www.ctatatelibrarydata.org/divorce-records-superior-court-record-books-1716-1798/)

Kris Aberly and Elizabeth Esquilin continue working on a project to barcode and update the locations for the **federal documents** oversize collection as well as undertaking a project to catalog and rehouse our overflow federal depository maps. The maps collection is also increasing in size as part of a long term discard process; 200 federal depository maps received from Central Connecticut State University have been cataloged and barcoded with more expected in the coming months.

**findIT CT**, the statewide library catalog had **25,368,819** bibliographic records and **19,567,078** items, from 332 libraries, as of August 1, 2023.

Final estimate of **deliverIT** volume counts from libraries for FY23 were **1,593,861** incoming items and **1,587,533** outgoing items based on 112-132 libraries of a total of 215 responding quarterly.

The Division of Library Development (DLD) purchased plenty of new content for the eGO CT program and **the Palace app**. So far this year **3,559** items have been purchased for the collection for a total of **28,033** items that are now provided for free to public libraries and schools. This includes over 17,000 simultaneous use titles provided from the Palace Bookshelf.

DLD compiled a [Youth Services Handbook](#) using the CT New Director Handbook as a model to share DLD resources with youth services library workers. The handbook contains information about professional development, grants, summer reading, and more.