

Report to the State Library Board

January 22, 2024

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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 January 22, 2024 meeting of the Board, covers the period of November 28, 2023 through January 11, 2024.

Office of the State Librarian

One of my favorite things about my job is how varied it is. Since the last Board meeting, my time has been divided among numerous activities, including:

Representing the State Library at: a Commission of Educational Technology meeting; the Library Listening Session with Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz and legislators; the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board; a symposium on Connecticut's digital transformation; at a press event announcing funding for Hartford Public Library's new Barbour Branch (a Public Library Construction Grant recipient); the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Library Consortium Winter Retreat; and the Fairfield County Library Administrators Group's annual State of CT Libraries meeting.

Contributing to the profession by: acting as the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) liaison to the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF); becoming a member of COSLA's Public Policy Committee as it prepares for visits to Washington during March's Voices for Libraries event; and continuing to mentor law librarians.

Ensuring the agency's day-to-day operations continue to progress through regular meetings with Leadership Team members; unit staff involved with various projects; coordinating with Department of Administrative Services Human Resources on personnel matters and hiring; liaising with other agencies and outside organizations; and having a blast at the agency's annual Holiday Party.

Unit Activities

Partnerships and Community Engagement

In November, Kevin Johnson gave a **William Webb presentation** for the Milford Historical Society and met with a member of the Torrington Historical Society to discuss his experience creating and presenting a historical figure portrayal. Kevin continues to conduct research and create a narrative for his next **historical persona, James Williams** or "Professor Jim" (1790 - 1878), janitor at Trinity College for over 50 years and founding member of the African Zion Methodist Church in Hartford. He is scheduled to provide a presentation of this new character in February.

The **Historic Documents Preservation Program** supports records preservation and management in the municipalities and at the State Library. On December 15, 2023, the agency

awarded a total of \$250,000 in FY2024 Cycle 2 grants to 38 municipalities, in the amounts of \$6,000, \$8,000, and \$11,000. The grant guidelines for the FY2025 grant period will be made available by February 1, 2024.

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.

The State Archives continues its partnership with the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston funded through its grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the ***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. Dan MacNeil, who is completing his public history degree at Central Connecticut State University, began working as the part-time temporary digital technician to do the scanning and metadata preparation for the images of sermons, faith commitments, excommunications, and other documentation found in our collections. To date, Dan has digitized 12 volumes from Bethlehem, Bolton, Canterbury, East Haddam, Groton, and Hartford for a total of 2,519 pages. He has completed one of the four Hartford volumes and is working on the second volume. Two volumes from Burlington, which have tight bindings, are next on the list.

State Archives received the revised conservation treatment proposal for the **1662 Charter** from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). In addition to the conserved original, the Archives will receive high resolution digital images of the document pre- and post-treatment. Based on these recommendations, State Archives and Museum staff are discussing options for storage and display after the Charter returns. These decisions will determine the appropriate treatment and reproduction options. Insurance coverage costs quoted by the fine arts transport company are extremely high. We were able to negotiate a better option with NEDCC and are hoping to do the same with the transport company.

School and adult groups continue to visit the **Museum of Connecticut History** in increasing numbers as groups return post-COVID. Since the last report, 375 students explored the museum on field trips, and adult groups accounted for an additional 55 visitors. Patrick Smith delivered a special tour of the Museum and a walking tour of downtown Hartford to a home school group (15 students and 3 adults) as part of their Connecticut related studies.

Patrick Smith took the Museum of Connecticut History on the road this fall and early winter, delivering multiple **outreach education programs**. Highlights included a visit to the Franklin Academy in East Haddam for a program about Connecticut Inventors with a very enthusiastic group of 15 high school students, and visits to two elementary schools in Madison (serving a total of 147 third-grade students) to discuss early Connecticut history and the Legend of the Charter Oak.

Dave Corrigan represented the Museum of Connecticut History in November 2023 in an interview about the history of the Charter Oak for the podcast, "Amazing Tales with Mike Allen." Episode 117, entitled "The Best Story Ever Told in Connecticut," is available online using [this link](#).

Programs & Trainings

Susan Bigelow, Mel Smith, and Allen Ramsey provided an annual review of Connecticut State Library updates, new databases, and scanning projects to the **Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council** (CPGC). About twelve individuals participated in person and several more participated remotely.

On December 1, Jenny Groome gave a **presentation on Weird and Wonderful Government Publications** to the Government Documents Round Table.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator continued the new **State Records Management Webinar Training Series**, with a session on December 13. Elise Marzik presented Session 3: State Records Center: Storage & Retrieval, an overview of services offered by the State Records Center, as well as records storage policies and procedures to approximately 160 state employees representing a majority of Executive Branch state agencies. Elise Marzik and Nicole Marino are developing the ongoing training series, with each session covering a different state records management topic.

Jennifer Matos, Beth Burgess, and Dave Corrigan met with numismatic expert Matt Trookman November 2023 to discuss possible care and exhibition of the **Mitchelson Coin Collection**.

The Museum of Connecticut History team hosted a joint staff meeting with the Department of Economic & Community Development's **State Historic Preservation Office** team on January 9 to discuss current museum trends and opportunities.

Dawn La Valle and Gail Hurley are working with the **Scoville Memorial Library, Salisbury** to create a strategic plan. Dawn and Gail conducted an Empathy Mapping session with the Scoville Memorial Library staff as part of a broader community needs assessment. Dawn worked with the Board Chair to design key stakeholder interview questions as part of the assessment.

As an Advisory Board member of the University of Maryland's IMLS National Leadership grant **Ready Now: Supporting Youth and Families During Crisis** initiative, Dawn recruited the Ferguson Library, Stamford as Connecticut's representative in this project. The Connecticut State Library (CSL) is one of only 5 state libraries invited to participate. Ready Now expands on work that took place in 2020 during the height of the pandemic and led to the publication of [*Library Staff as Public Servants: A Field Guide for Preparing to Serve Communities in Times of Crisis*](#) (fondly known as *The Field Guide*). The *Field Guide* outlines four Essential Tasks that libraries and their staff need to embrace to serve historically marginalized youth and families successfully. Participating library staff will benefit from the opportunity to: build strategies for working with community partners in support of historically marginalized youth and families; gain knowledge of how to prepare, with community partners, for crisis situations; attend a series of participatory design training sessions to gain skills in community engagement, co-creation, iteration, and re-imagining systems and structures; and design materials for use by others across the US working to serve their communities during emergencies.

The **All CT Reads 2024 Virtual Author Launch** happened on January 19 and featured Kelly Yang, Nick Brooks, and Daniel Black, the authors of the 2024 All CT Reads primary selections. Each author discussed their work and answered questions from attendees. The 2024 All CT Reads titles are: *Finally Seen* by Kelly Yang (Kids); *Promise Boys* by Nick Brooks (Teen); and *Don't Cry For Me* by Daniel Black (Adult).

CSL is partnering with the US Forest Service on the **Smokey Bear Reading Challenge** in celebration of Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday. This program is designed to be a fun and easy way to engage children in reading about wildfire prevention, forests, and natural resource careers, while exploring their local environment. Libraries can run the challenge any time from January 1 through November 28, 2024.

The Division of Library Development's (DLD) Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) funded **Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School extension grant** focused on organizational Futures completed its first Cohort, an open Cohort with participants from Connecticut, Delaware, the Philadelphia Free Library, the Queens Public Library, New York and Pima County Library, Arizona. The next Cohort is the Library of Virginia, which will take place virtually in February.

DLD has launched **Create an Immersive 3D Museum**, which will teach libraries and museums how to create an immersive 3D museum. This innovative project stamps augmented reality assets into the physical world. Participants will learn to add artifacts using a mobile device or tablet to transform their library into a virtual museum.

Paula McLean conducted the **CTLAB Book Club** (Connecticut Library for Accessible Books) meeting on January 18th. The title selected for the January book club meeting was *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

Resource Updates

The State Library was included in the [acknowledgements](#) for the **NEH Common Unities** project, which resulted in The Native Northeast Portal electronic database that is now available online.

Maria Paxi finished **analyzing hundreds of various 19th century pamphlet materials**. This wide-ranging assortment of published items has been sent to Collection Management for addition or deaccession from our holdings.

Maria Paxi has resumed processing **archival inmate files from the Janet S. York Correctional Institution** which was put on pause during the COVID pandemic. Once processed and properly housed, this collection of inmate records will be easier to access as statutory restrictions allow.

Jeannie Sherman added links to the growing listing of Connecticut State Library **materials digitized by FamilySearch** by including thirteen volumes of the Lucius B. Barbour Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions which are stored in the State Archives as part of archival record group (RG) 070, Vital Records. In addition, Jeannie has created new webpages for easier access to the following collections: Connecticut [Court](#) Records for Historical & Genealogical Research; Connecticut [Cemetery](#) Collections & Resources; Connecticut [Vital](#) Records Guide, updated to include the James R. Arnold transcriptions of early Connecticut town vital records, as well as the other manuscript town vital records digitized by FamilySearch and held in the Connecticut State Archives in the classified manuscript collections.

Reference Services is increasing efforts to improve the organization of and access to our many **map collections** in collaboration with other departments. Susan Bigelow and Mel Smith recently completed an inventory of the fourteen map cases housed in the Probate Vault Annex

to allow for future shifting in this area. They then met with Kris Abery, Lindsay Cawley, Kevin Johnson, Damon Munz, Wafaa Razeq, and Allen Ramsey to discuss the placement of two large collections of redistricting maps into these map cases for storage and future access.

Susan Bigelow continues to find and identify **uncatalogued individual maps** in the Probate Vault Annex for future cataloging and placement and has sent several dozen large atlases from the oversized collections to be reclassified to the Library of Congress system and placed in the proper locations. Another batch of about 200 previously uncatalogued maps received from Central Connecticut State University were cataloged, barcoded, and added to the federal depository collection by Kris Abery.

As the Federal Depository Library Program reduces the titles it will distribute in print, the Government Publishing Office has asked depository libraries to submit their requests for these items moving forward; Kris Abery submitted the **Print Distribution Titles List (PDT) Questionnaire** in December on behalf of the State Library.

Kris also continued ongoing maintenance of the **federal documents collections** by cataloging and barcoding over 400 items with assistance from Elizabeth Esquilin on the oversize collection, and performed classification updates to catalog records. And with the assistance of Eric Paiva and Elizabeth Esquilin, the program processed 3,708 discards submitted by selective depository libraries in Connecticut and Rhode Island during November-December 2023. Sixty-seven federal government documents were also claimed from these selective depository libraries. Steve Mirsky, Andrew Bourque, and Asaf Aliev continued indexing **2023 legislative session transcripts** totaling 11,392 pages.

Steve Mirsky created a new Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) collection containing **Housing Court decisions** received from the Commission on Official Legal Publications (COLP). Digital access to years earlier than 2022 has yet to be determined but for Housing sessions moving forward, the decisions we receive from COLP via email will replace what had previously been collected only in print.

Asaf Aliev updated the **legislative history spreadsheet and compiled history files** with new pages that were recently indexed, while Steve Mirsky instructed Bryan Kohlen on how to compile 1969 transcript pages into separate legislative history files. In both cases, the resulting files are being stored in a temporary location while staff waits for the (CTDA) to be fully functional. Uploading digitized material to the CTDA continues to be a challenge throughout the library, preventing a backlog of state publications prepared by Susan Bigelow and Wafaa Razeq from being preserved in our CTDA collection in addition to the growing amount of waiting legislative materials.

With the help of Carol Trinchitella and Rafael Conde, History & Genealogy has now received the 260 items that were originally from the **Prudence Crandall Museum** that staff had previously selected for addition to our collection.

Erin Shapland has joined the **CT Digital Newspaper Project (CDNP)** as Project Coordinator for our sixth National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) grant. As Project Coordinator, Erin will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the project, conducting outreach, and coordinating with vendors and project partners. Erin previously served as Project Assistant for CDNP's fifth NDNP grant from 2022 to 2023.

The **Preservation Office** continued its ongoing digitization projects. Griselle Colon digitized three volumes of 1967 historical legislative transcripts. A total of 26 volumes have been digitized, with 41% of the project completed. Maritza Pagan digitized ten volumes of the Trumbull Papers, bringing the total number of volumes digitized to 46, with 96% of the project completed. In addition, the Preservation Office digitized the *Monthly Record*, 1939-1940; five Connecticut documents relating to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (1888-1971); *Parrish Genealogy* (1900); and *Pep: A Monthly Stimulant* (1916-1923).

Collection Services continues to add **Lexis Advance portfolios**, or links, to our library catalog to make these full text legal resources discoverable. During November-December 2023, Kandace Yuen activated over 400 new portfolios. To date, over 1,972 Lexis Advance portfolios have been added to our catalog.

During November-December 2023, Collection Services staff **deaccessioned 249 books** that Law Reference staff had identified for weeding. The materials weighed roughly 1,022 pounds and freed 49.6 linear feet of shelf space in the library Stacks location.

The Reference staff issued 467 new or renewed **CT State Library cards** during November-December 2023. These cards provide patrons with 24/7 remote access to many CSL and researchIT CT online databases. Thanks to Jerry Seagrave, Reference Librarian, who processed 414 applications (or 89%) and mailed library cards with welcome letters to patrons.

Discovery Services was granted restored **Name Authority Cooperative (NACO)** independence on November 30 after just two months of reviewing and retraining. William Anderson now acts as CSL's NACO coordinator, and Laura Diller serves as backup coordinator.

- Examples of submissions approved during the review period include:
 - Huntington Old Cemetery (Huntington, Shelton, Conn.) (Corporate entity)
 - Connecticut. Commission on Cooperation with Federal Authorities in Matters Pertaining to Higher Education. (Governmental entity)
 - Connecticut. Highway Fiscal Resources Committee. (Governmental entity)
 - Wilson, John Q. (John Quintard), 1781-1863 (Person)
 - Connecticut. Board of Examiners for Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmeticians. (Governmental entity)
 - Symposium on Potentialities of Systems Analysis for Urban Management (1971 : Storrs, Conn.) (Conference)

Laura Diller cataloged several important **federal agency titles**, including:

- [*Confronting the wildfire crisis: expanding efforts to deliver on the wildfire crisis strategy*](#) / Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2023.
- [*Digital equity as a civil right in Maine: report of the Maine Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights*](#). 2022.
- [*Report to Congressional committees, comprehensive strategy for the Space Force*](#). Department of the Air Force, 2023.
- [*Regenerative medicine: therapeutic applications, challenges, and policy options : report to congressional committees*](#) / United States Government Accountability Office. 2023.
- [*Fact sheet: Biden-Harris administration secures voluntary commitments from leading artificial intelligence companies to manage the risks posed by AI*](#) / The White House. 2023.

William Anderson cataloged several important **State Library Special Collections** titles, including:

- *Cram's ancient and modern atlas of the United States and world* / by George F. Cram. New York, 1913. G1019 .C732 1913 \
- *Atlas of the city of Bridgeport, Connecticut : from official record, private plans, and surveys* / under the direction and personal supervision of Rodger H. Pidgen, C.E., assisted by Lucius E. Tenny, E. Robinson, F. Chester Hale, W. Guy Classon and Thos. Flynn. Philadelphia, 1896. G1244.B7 P534 1896
- *Neuer hand atlas über alle theile der erde*, entworfen und bearbeitet von dr. Heinrich Kiepert ... Berlin, 1860. G1019 .K53 1860.
- *Grant's bankers' and brokers' railroad atlas* / compiled by A.A. Grant. New York, 1891. G1201.P3 G73 1891.
- *A plan of New Haven and harbour* / by President Stiles of Yale College, Sept. 27th, 1775. New Haven : Office of the City Surveyor, 1874. G3784.N4 P55 S79 1874

Discovery Services is reviewing its practices for including titles in the **Connecticut State Documents collection** based on CSL's Collection Development policy, and intends to review and perhaps modify current practices for including uncatalogued documents, and other uncatalogued material, in the library catalog

The Office of the Public Records Administrator issued one **revised records series** for the Judicial Selection Commission agency specific schedule (OGA-03, effective 1/8/2023). Elise Marzik is currently working with five agencies on updates to agency-specific retention schedules.

LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 292 municipal and 183 state agency **authorization forms for records disposals**.

At the **State Records Center**, Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz accessioned 525 cubic feet of agency records. Destruction paperwork for records eligible for destruction in 2024 was sent to state agencies in December. Staff will begin preparing records eligible for destruction in January. Ten boxes of Connecticut Valley Hospital records were transferred from the State Records Center to the State Archives. Staff processed 239 reference requests and processed 128 re-files and inter-files.

Sarah Morin, Lisa Lew, and volunteers have processed 168.5 cubic feet (337 boxes) of the **New Haven County Court records**. They 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). They are also currently processing the Superior Court files and papers by subject. In files, they have completed cases from 1711-1739, 1740, and 1750. In papers by subject, they have completed Admission to the Bar, Appeals from County Court, Appointment of Officers, Assignments, Conservators and Guardians, Divorce (1700-1839), Indians, Inquests, Loyalists, Maritime (Revolutionary War), Meeting House, Militia, Miscellaneous, Partition Land, and Revolutionary Pensions. To date, the team has discovered 316 cases involving African-descended, African American, Black, Indigenous, Spanish, and multiracial persons or groups in the court records. Todd Gabriel has scanned 1,258 court cases (approximately 4,684 pages) for the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA)—the project reached its 1,000th case on November 13. The team continues to regularly update [the project blog](#).

Sarah Morin participated in an [online forum](#), **Research Resources: Uncovering New Haven History**, with Connecticut History Day and Connecticut Democracy Center director Rebecca Taber. They discussed the Uncovering New Haven project, potential topics related to History Day: Turning Points in History, and research resources at the Connecticut State Library.

Sarah's article, [Uncovering the Hidden Lives of New Haven](#), for Connecticut Explored magazine's fall 2023 issue is now available online. The article discusses discoveries about women, free and enslaved African American and Black persons, and Indigenous persons in the court records from 1700-1810.

Recent Archives Accessions:

- Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, State Police (RG 161:001). The records are not open to the public per CGS 1-210 and federal Criminal Justice Information (CJI) policy.
 - Investigation files, 2000-2001, 90 cubic feet
- Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services (RG 161:002). The records are not open to the public per CGS 1-210 and federal Criminal Justice Information (CJI) policy.
 - DNA files and Mitochondrial DNA/Missing person files, 2011-2018, 454 cubic feet
The files consist of laboratory reports, analysis, and data.
 - DNA files, 2019; DNA batch files, 2008-2021; Controlled Substances Unit case files, 2019-2021; Toxicology Unit case files, 2019-2021; Latent Print case files, 2019; Firearms case files, 2019; Administration files; and Evidence receiving case files, 2004-2015, 449 cubic feet.
The files consist of laboratory reports, analysis, and data.
- Town of Lebanon land records, 1941-1981, 17 volumes (RG 062:071)
- Town of Manchester burial permits, 1914-1928, 0.5 cubic feet (RG 062:077)
The records consist of burial permits, 1914-1928, and transit [body removal] permits, 1925-1928.
- Wallingford Probate Court record books, 1776-1897, 32 volumes (RG 004:148)

Records scanned by the **Family Search Digitization Project** between November 10, 2023 and January 5, 2024:

- Connecticut Vital Records, 1845-1905
 - Ashford, 5,367 images
 - Avon, 1,056 images
 - Bozrah, 5,832 images
- New Haven County Temporary Home, Admissions and Discharges, 1884-1913, 1,082 images
- Veterans Death Index cards, circa 1636-1978, 23,344 images
- Hartford Probate Court files, 1916-1920, 12,555 images

Sub-total of records since November 10, 2023: 49,236

Total images of records since March 14, 2022: 733,203

Elise Marzik and Allen Ramsey met with **Probate Court Administration (PCA)** staff on December 5 to discuss the transition from outputting electronic court records onto microfilm as an additional backup to no longer outputting to microfilm. This transition will require the Probate Court Administration to revise its regulations and go through the regulation approval process. Public Records and Archives staff provided comments on the proposed draft regulations.

Archives and Reference staff have also had initial discussions with PCA staff about providing access to the online Probate Court system in our reading rooms to allow patrons to search the electronic court records using the public computers.

Archives and Public Records staff met with the agency's Customer Success Manager at the Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS) on January 5 to begin developing a project charter concerning adoption of the Cornerstone system for **state agency email management**. Developed by the National Archives and Records Administration, the system determines the value of emails based on an employee's responsibilities and position for preservation and retention. This will be a joint project between CSL, BITS, and Human Resources within the Department of Administration.

The Museum of Connecticut History hosted two assessors, Kathy Craughwell-Varda and Daryn Reyman-Lock, on December 11 and 12, 2023 for the **Collections Assessment for Preservation program** site visit administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation. The purpose of the visit was to explore museum exhibits and collections storage areas to assess conditions and make recommendations for conservation and collections care. The assessors' report and recommendations will be provided to the museum by March 13, 2024.

The Museum of Connecticut History is in the process of reviewing and updating **long-term loans** including outgoing items such as Nathan Hale's traveling trunk and door to Connecticut Landmarks (Nathan Hale Homestead), and incoming loans such as the *USS Connecticut* ship model from the U.S. Department of the Navy.

A new outgoing loan of a **Second Regiment Light Dragoons flag** dating from 1776 to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia is scheduled from February 2024 to January 2025 for their upcoming exhibit "Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels of Washington's Tent."

The Museum of Connecticut History recently received a large silk **Connecticut militia flag**, c. 1837-1845, from a family in Colorado. The flag is hand painted with the emblem for the 8th Company, 3rd Regiment Light Artillery and the motto "E. Pluribus Unum."

Work on the Museum's migration from collections management system PastPerfect 5.0 to the new cloud-based **Connecticut Collections** continues. Christine Pittsley and Beth Burgess are working on data mapping, record clean-up, and the creation of a Standard Operating Procedures for data entry – all of which must occur before any migration can happen. When the transfer takes place, the museum plans to systematically review all collections records alongside an object inventory. An inventory of the museum's extensive collections will be a painstaking, multi-year process, but one that is necessary to meet the recommendations that the auditors published in their last findings.

The Museum team continues to make progress on the clean-up and organization of the **collections storage areas**, making significant headway in the Museum's section of the Van Block facility. Creating more space in the Van Block storage area is a critical piece needed to allow redistribution of collections from overflowing and/or unstable storage areas. Additional advice about the various collections storage areas was discussed during the Collections Assessment for Preservation site-visit. The final report will likely include recommendations that will be useful to the Museum team as it continues its organization efforts.

Museum and Archives staff is coordinating with BITS Customer Success Manager Beth Lehn to purchase and integrate an **environmental conditions monitoring system** for both collections storage and exhibit areas. The group has plans to purchase Bluetooth-enabled temperature and relative humidity-monitoring devices that will allow the State Library to collect and analyze data. The museum's goal is to collect 12 months' worth of data and make appropriate adjustments to create the best possible preservation plan for our large collection of historic objects.

Long-time Museum Curator **David Corrigan** finished his Temporary Worker Retiree (TWR) assignment on December 31, 2023. Dave had returned to museum service in November 2021 as a TWR, helping tidy up affairs, helping new Administrator Jennifer Matos, and passing on important collections information to new Museum Curator Beth Burgess. Dave served as the Museum of Connecticut History's Museum Curator II from 1982-2020.

Barbara Ghilardi is currently working on the **public library annual statistical profile**. 178 libraries submitted reports this year. A preliminary FY23 report was released in early January. Barbara also released a survey asking libraries about what professional development topics they'd like to see regarding data. She is preparing to work with Novus on a new platform for FY24 annual report data collection and will be working with Ashley Sklar to develop a social media campaign for sharing trends from the statistical profile.

The Division of Library Development (DLD) is continuing to work with Baker & Taylor to bring the **eGO CT Community Share Program** to Connecticut schools. This program allows DLD to deliver eBook and eAudio content, including Nutmeg, Charter Oak, Summer Reading, and All CT Reads titles from eGO CT directly to schools in Connecticut. To date, 118 sites are active in the program.

So far in FY24, there have been a total of 4,065 checkouts on the **Palace Project** app. There have been 2,473 checkouts of titles from the Connecticut State Library eGO ebook collection during this period.

Abbey Lynch and Julie Owens completed an extensive project involving the Middletown Library Service Center's heavily used **puppet collection**. To make the puppet collection "discoverable" and more easily checked out, Abbey and Julie sewed individual barcodes in each puppet and created a record in the catalog.