

## Report to the State Library Board

September 23, 2024

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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 September 23, 2024 meeting of the Board, covers the period of July 23, 2024 through September 13, 2024.

### Office of the State Librarian

Agencies have received their instructions for **FY26-28 budget requests** from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Working within this framework, the Connecticut State Library (CSL) is preparing a series of requests to address anticipated capital, collections, staffing, museum and preservation, and other expenses. Agencies are also required to submit proposals for 3% budget cuts for the next biennium; the State Library will use this opportunity to again explain the inadequacy of the agency's current appropriations and the devastating impact cuts would have on any area of our responsibility.

The Preservation Office and Photo Duplication department are merging into the newly established **Digitization & Digital Collection Services Unit**. Under the direction of Unit Head Anna Newman, this new unit will lead efforts to develop a strategic digitization program for CSL collections, establish policies and procedures, pursue funding opportunities, perform in-house digitization of CSL collections, coordinate historic Connecticut newspaper digitization projects, support collaborative statewide digital initiatives, and more.

The adoption of a hybrid work model by all three branches of government during the Covid-19 pandemic, consolidation of facilities and buildings due to the need for less physical workspace, and Governor Lamont's digital government initiative for executive department agencies has exponentially increased the need for archival storage. Prior to 2019, the **State Archives** received an average of 500 cubic feet of records each year. Last fiscal year, it received 3,049 cubic feet. As a result, the State Archives' off-site leased facility (Van Block) has reached its current capacity of 50,220 cubic feet for storing permanently valuable paper and analog archival records from all three branches of government, as well as municipalities, and historically significant organizations and individuals. The process to maximize the last storage space at Van Block is underway. Even so, the facility will reach its new and final maximum storage capacity within the next 3 to 5 years. If not addressed in a timely manner, the State Library will have to suspend accepting records designated as historical and required to be retained permanently from executive department agencies, as well as the legislative and judicial branches, except in emergency situations. Executive department agencies will have to absorb the storage and retrieval costs charged by third-party vendors for such records until the State Archives once again has sufficient storage space. The State Library has been actively engaged in conversations about this issue with OPM for some time. Most recently, the State Librarian, Director of Operations, and Archives staff met with OPM Secretary Jeff Beckham, Policy Director of Asset Management Paul Hinsch, and Budget Analyst Michael Proscino to discuss long-term solutions. We will next prepare a study request and detailed proposal for a new facility at our Rocky Hill Campus to go before the Bond Commission and General Assembly.

## Unit Activities

### Partnerships and Community Engagement

The Division of Library Development (DLD) continued to anchor CT Libraries & Partners for Digital Equity work focusing on supporting the state's Digital Equity Plan. Most recently, CTLPDE programming featured a presentation to help libraries understand Digital Equity Competitive Grants and Digital Equity Capacity Grants. In addition, DLD continued to guide the seven libraries implementing an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Leadership grant, **Designing and Implementing a Replicable Regional Digital Navigator Sharing Plan**, that is supporting the development of a regional digital navigator sharing process. As part of our ongoing assessment, we have identified that the most requested digital navigator appointments are in the Arabic language.

DLD continues to recruit academic sites to participate in the **Palace Project**. The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities System (CSCU) already has access to eGO CT and the Palace Project. There are a total of 175 sites sharing content from the Connecticut State Library through the Palace app in addition to the 162 school sites participating in the eGO CT Community Sharing Program.

The next phase of the **eGO CT Community Sharing Program** has been launched and includes adding non-Destiny K12 sites to the Boundless platform for access to the Connecticut State Library eBook collection. Webinars for K12s are being planned for October with Baker & Taylor.

Brad Bullis represented DLD at the Annual **Back to School Extravaganza** hosted by the CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity and Jendayi Scott-Miller, CEO and Founder of Angel of Edgewood. The event was held at Dunkin Park, the Yard Goats' stadium in Hartford, and provided families with essential resources and services to support students' academic and social-emotional success in the upcoming school year. Students were provided with free backpacks and school supplies, Brad shared information about CSL services, and children also received free eye exams and free glasses.

As part of the State Library's Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant **Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School**, a Cohort was conducted for the Arizona State Library and Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Recruitment for an Open Cohort was conducted with an overwhelming response of over 60 applicants for 30 spots. DLD and our evaluator, Dr. Joshua Elliott of TechInPedagogy, are drafting a case study on the value and impact of the organizational perspective when state leadership is fully engaged. The Pennsylvania Office of Commonwealth Libraries is the primary subject of the study with the highest number of librarians completing the program in the nation.

Dawn La Valle attended **Transformations in Natural Foresight training** offered by DLD's grant partner TFSX. The training provided a deeper more holistic perspective around foresight, the core foundation for CSL's Strategic Framework and the individual Unit strategic plans that are being developed with each CSL Unit.

Suzanne Kiss and Kym Powe joined Susan Muro and Scott Wands of the CT Center for the Book and CT Humanities in Washington, DC on Saturday, August 24 for the 24th annual **National Book Festival**. Thousands of booklovers visited Connecticut's booth to learn about our beautiful state and receive a stamp for their U.S. maps as a part of their journey through the

"Roadmap to Reading." Connecticut-based children's author Cindy Rodriguez signed postcards and shared information about her book, *Three Pockets Full*. Ned Blackhawk, Connecticut-based author of *The Rediscovery of America*, stopped by our booth to say hello before his presentation at the festival.

For year two with **Libraries Without Borders US (LWB)**, Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar are facilitating a series of 10 workshops and working sessions open to all library staff in our state that will provide strategies, tools, and frameworks to expand their reach and impact within their communities. [Recordings and support material will be made available through Niche Academy](#) and the sessions are as follows:

- Reimagining Library Outreach to Increase Community Access
- Assessing External Community Assets, Needs, and Barriers
- Assessing Internal Library Assets and Staff Capacity
- Assessing Library Utilization and Awareness
- Using Data to Inform Program Design and Library Services
- Social Media as Effective Awareness and Promotion Strategies (Part 1)
- Social Media as Effective Awareness and Promotion Strategies (Part 2)
- Community Canvassing as Effective Awareness and Promotion Strategies
- Optimizing Community/Library Partnerships
- Models for Expanding Access through Community Partnerships
- Developing Internal Process and Systems for Ongoing Outreach

Staff of the **Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CT LAB)** conducted two outreach sessions during the period of late July to early September 2024. These outreach visits reached 50 individuals. The September and October 2024 CT LAB newsletter was sent to patrons and friends of CT LAB in early September.

Barbara Ghilardi and Suzanne Kiss delighted curious kids of all ages by bringing the **CSL Outreach Van** to the West Haven Public Library's Ora Mason branch for their annual ice cream social event on Friday, August 2. Barbara and Suzanne shared information about the State Library, handed out stickers, pencils, and pamphlets, and gave van tours to families attending the event.

**Hiking Through History** programs were offered by Patrick Smith in July and August. On July 12, Patrick led 21 guests on a walk through the Enfield Historic District, one of Connecticut's earliest settlements featuring a historic cemetery full of stories from the past. On August 2, Patrick led a tour of Downtown Hartford for 12 attendees to explore sites that cover over 300 years of Capital City history. The last two Hiking Through History programs of the season are planned for September (Barn Island Preserve in Stonington) and October (Lovers Leap State Park in New Milford).

On August 21, Jennifer Matos gave a tour of the Museum of CT History to members of the **America 250 | CT Commission**, including fellow member State Librarian Deborah Schander. In addition to showcasing the recent renovations in the museum, State Library collections relating to the nation's founding were highlighted. Members of the museum team are currently leading a planning process for a CSL exhibit that will commemorate the nation's Semiquincentennial. After viewing the museum, the group toured the library with Lindsay Cawley and members of her Reference Services team. Attendees viewed our copy of the patent for the New England colony that was granted to Edmund Andros by King James in 1688. Susan Bigelow and Elizabeth Swan described about a dozen other items representative of the materials for

potential future use by the Commission in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

A photographer and producer from NBC CT visited the Museum of CT History on August 29 to take footage in *The Colt Legacy* exhibit in addition to taking an impromptu interview with Jennifer Matos. Portions of the interview and footage will be included in NBC CT's 30-minute show, "**Hidden in Plain Sight**," which will feature the Colt Factory dome. The episode is scheduled to air on September 19.

Nicole Besseghir has 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, the Town of Windsor Locks, the Town of Plainfield, Town of East Windsor, Town of Darien, Town of Scotland, Town of Meriden, and the Town of Stonington.

Public Records staff, including LeAnn Power and Nicole Besseghir, inspected five Iron Mountain facilities throughout Connecticut for certification to provide **off-site records storage** for State of Connecticut records; Joseph Duval, Fire & Life Safety Specialist from the Office of State Fire Marshal, assisted staff at the inspections as technical advisor. Nicole Besseghir managed communication with the vendor and set up the site inspections. All off-site storage facilities must meet the requirements of Public Records Policy 03 and receive a certificate of approval to store state agency records.

While the State Library generally experiences fewer on-site visitors during the summer months, on July 30th the History & Genealogy Unit hosted twenty-one guests from the **New England Historical & Genealogical Society** who spent the day conducting family research. Many discoveries were made by the researchers who were greatly aided by the staff of the History & Genealogy Unit, offering praise for their expert assistance and guidance.

In the last week of August, about a dozen State Library staff members from Reference Services, Collection Services, and Discovery & Delivery Services **visited the Legislative Library for a tour**. This was an excellent refresher on how their collection and duties compare to ours and an opportunity to look for ways to collaborate on similar projects in the future.

Kris Abery consulted with Michael Cerbo at the University of Rhode Island (URI) and David Wall at Government Printing Office regarding an outbreak of mold in a section of the **federal documents** collection at URI. She also consulted with Library Director Janice Wilson (Eastern Connecticut State University) and Depository Coordinator Jeff Coutts (Bridgeport Public Library) regarding ongoing issues with the depository program eXchange and federal documents discard disposal guidelines.

## **Programs and Training**

On August 28, 2024, DLD partnered with Perkins Access to deliver a **workshop on multimedia accessibility**. This workshop was a continuation of the pilot program, *Transforming Libraries and Museums*. Seventeen staff members from the cohort of libraries and museums participating in this pilot program attended the multimedia workshop.

DLD's popular series **Leading From the Future: Pathways to Leadership** returned with Andrew Sanderbeck's *The Quiet Approach to Leading and Managing Others*. Then Jean Baur

presented Stand Out Every Time You Talk, a two-and-a-half-hour interactive workshop in which librarians learn the fundamentals of effective presentation skills.

As a part of the [CT Ready to Read Initiative](#) Kym Powe is partnering with [Sparkler](#) to offer workshops on the six early literacy skills: Print Motivation, Phonological Awareness, Vocabulary, Narrative Skills, Print Awareness, and Letter Knowledge. The workshop series will introduce library workers to Sparkler resources and provide tips and assistance on building storytimes and programs around these six vital skills.

[Growing Equitable Library Services \(GELS\)](#) is currently in partnership with Wee the People to provide a five-part training series, Decolonize This Space: Making Antiracism Real in Public Libraries, which will offer an intensive, dynamic learning community for librarians to 1) unlearn the mythology of US public libraries through in historical truth-telling, 2) engage in critical self-reflection as racialized beings, 3) connect the racialized self to individual librarian practice, 4) examine existing systems and processes within their libraries, 5) develop concrete strategies for anticolonial/ antiracist intervention and action. Recently the GELS Grant was announced and is a six-month initiative to support a library on their journey to providing equitable services in their community. Principal public libraries can apply for up to \$3,500 for a program or service that aligns with the GELS mission.

Barbara Ghilardi offered two webinars on the **Annual Report for CT Public Libraries** focusing mostly on the new platform developed by NOVUS Insight. 100 library staff attended across the two sessions and generated good questions and feedback.

The Museum of CT History staff kicked off work on its **Strategic Framework Unit Plan** on September 4 with a special Empathy Mapping Session conducted by Dawn LaValle and Gail Hurley. The team engaged in activities identifying key museum audiences and brainstorming ways to better meet their needs. With the tools provided by DLD, the museum team will continue to meet to identify and fine-tune priorities that will be included in its Unit Plan. The completion of the museum's Strategic Framework Unit Plan is scheduled for the beginning of October.

The transport of the **1662 Charter** up to the conservation center was completed on July 16. Firelock, the maker of the fire resistive case, and its staff packed the document into the case and transported it to the facility with no incidents. State Police from both Connecticut and the home state of the conservation center escorted the Charter. The parchment conservator currently estimates that the conservation and imaging work will take approximately 6 months to complete. A 1:1 high resolution reproduction of the Charter in its pre-treatment state is now on display in the museum in the historic oak frame carved by Hartford sculptor Albert Entress.

State Archivist Lizette Pelletier met with a recent college graduate on August 28 to discuss **what archivists do** and gave a tour of the archival storage areas in the main building.

State Archives staff hosted a **Responsible AI (Artificial Intelligence) Workshop** on August 30 presented by representatives from consulting firm Slalom and Amazon Web Services (AWS). Archives staff worked with Slalom on the document redaction project funded by the Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project. In addition to the Archives staff, CSL staff included LeAnn Power, Nicole Marino, Damon Munz, Lindsay Cawley, Andrew Bourque, and Stephen Slovasky. During the workshop, staff identified workflow pain points and potential solutions in the areas of Records Retention, Analytic Reports, and State Library Business Processes. The presenters identified ways that current AI technologies could help increase CSL's value to its stakeholders including quicker public information delivery, decreased

staff time necessary to meet patron requests, more frequent updates to retention schedules, improved reporting, and proactive risk identification and management. Staff was provided access to a demo AI Chatbot based on information scraped from CSL's WordPress webpages, Sitecore webpages, LibGuide online resources, and Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) webpages to search for information, experience its potential usefulness, learn its limitations, and test the guardrails that can be utilized to prevent harm and misuse.

## Resource Updates

In July and August 2024, the **Preservation Office** digitized over 7,900 pages of State Library collection materials, including 12 volumes of historical Connecticut General Assembly proceedings transcripts from 1965 and 1967; 83 Connecticut state documents; and 36 issues of the *Monthly Record* newspaper published at the Connecticut State Prison.

The Preservation Office also completed the third phase of its ongoing project to digitize **unique Connecticut state documents** from CSL collections, for many of which CSL holds the only known copy. In total, 291 documents dating from 1961 to 1969 were digitized. Preservation Office staff have now started the fourth phase of this project, state documents published from 1970 to 1979.

Collection Services successfully closed FY2024 having expended \$ 574,523.00, or 99.99%, of the **legal/legislative library materials** allocation of \$ 574,540.00.

Staff continues to **deaccession materials** that CSL Reference staff have identified for weeding. During July-August 2024, Collection Services deaccessioned 45 volumes of looseleaf legal treatises. The materials weighed approximately 226 pounds and freed 13 linear feet of shelf space in the library Stacks location.

As part of her work on the CSL Newspaper Committee, Kandace Yuen helps process **gifts of original newspapers**. During July-August, Kandace processed 41 bound volumes of Fairfield County Weekly 1999-2010 (AN104.F2 A38), along with a single volume of Hartford Times 1929 (AN104.H3 T36), and Hartford Sunday Courant 1939 (AN104.H3 C69). Kandace placed various Connecticut newspapers into acid-free boxes or mylar sheets, created inventory lists, checked the State Library's existing holdings, coordinated with other departments on retention and cataloging decisions.

**Discovery Services** has been reviewing all **unassigned digital inventory** of copies of State Library physical resources and, when available in Internet Archive or as a permanent link created by the USGPO (United States Government Publications Office) assigning the resource to the Internet Archive electronic collection or the USGPO electronic collection. During this reporting period we completed 2000 updates. Examples: *Memorial record of the nation's tribute to Abraham Lincoln* / compiled by B.F. Morris. 1866. Cooper, James Fenimore, 1789-1851. *Notions of the Americans : picked up by a travelling bachelor*. 1838.

Discovery & Delivery Services staff contributed 70 records to the **NACO (Name Authority Cooperative)** database. Noteworthy contributions included records for 22 local and academic campus police departments in Connecticut. William Anderson submitted these records in support of the human trafficking reports, as mandated by Public Act 16-71, 2016.

Significant **USGPO titles** cataloged: *Records pertaining to John G. Roberts, Jr. <1981-1988>* U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, |c <1981-1988>. *State of the U.S. economy*

: *policy issues in the 118th Congress* / Marc Labonte, Lida R. Weinstock. Library of Congress Congressional Research Service, 2024.

Significant **Connecticut State Documents** cataloged include the human trafficking reports cited above under NACO submissions. Examples include Human trafficking report / Town of Groton Police Department, 2016- and Human trafficking report / Yale University Police Department.

In August, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) announced an important update to their BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Express software application. **BARD Express** now includes the BARD Express Player, which now allows patrons to download books and play audio books through the BARD Express application on their computer. Playback of books was not previously possible within BARD Express. BARD Express is one of the BARD resources available to patrons of the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CT LAB).

In July and August DLD purchased 600 new items for the **eGO CT program** and the Palace app. So far this year, 8,782 items have been purchased for the collection for a total of 40,372 items that are now provided for free to public libraries, academics, and schools. This includes over 25,000 simultaneous use titles provided from the Palace Bookshelf.

**deliverIT** FY2024 monthly volume counts are in with over 1.7 million items being delivered across 215 libraries. Incoming monthly estimates are up by 10% from FY2023 and up 18% from pre-pandemic numbers.

The **DLD Libguides** Team – Ashley Sklar, Barbara Ghilardi, Brad Bullis, Matt Geeza, and Suzanne Kiss – have been collaborating since the beginning of this year to update the Division's Libguides to make them more accessible and discoverable for visitors. A new DLD home page is in the works, which includes icons and descriptions of programs and services. The LibGuides Team created an internal Accessibility Milestones Libguide for DLD staff members to use as a reference guide when updating their Libguide pages for accessibility. Suzanne Kiss has been leading discussions about each accessibility milestone at DLD's monthly EDI meetings.

The Museum of CT History team continues work on the **Connecticut's Role in the Founding of the United States** exhibit project funded by CT Humanities. The museum team and the internal CSL 250 Committee have been meeting regularly with Exhibit Planning Consultant Elisabeth Nevins to develop the plan. A kick-off meeting with the project's Advisory Team (historians and museum professionals representing different backgrounds and disciplines), took place in the museum on July 25. Since the exhibit is designed to bring together a selection of historic collections, documents, objects, artifacts, and stories from museums around the state, the museum has launched an American Revolution Collections & Stories Survey. The aim of the survey is to learn what historic materials CT museums, historical societies, and libraries may have related to the American Revolution era (1760-1800), whether military, political, or personal items of everyday life. The results of this survey will help the planning team decide what objects to include in the exhibit.

The Museum of CT History completed work with the **Trinity Public Humanities Collaborative Program** in August. Trinity College students Abdoul Diallo and Aida Haile spent the summer researching and creating biographies for Connecticut Governors that better showcase the governors' connections to slavery, freedom, and equal rights. Biographies and digital guides were completed for: Fitz John Winthrop, Jonathan Trumbull, and William W. Ellsworth.



Summer intern Amanda Tollis, Anthropology major at the University of Vermont, completed work with the Museum of CT History in August. Amanda inventoried **South Asian artifacts** (Filipino, Korean, Japanese) collected by Connecticut servicemen during the Spanish-American War. This collections inventory subset assists with the larger project to inventory the entire museum collection over the next few years. Amanda also assisted with exhibit renovations and curatorial care.

Over the past two months, Museum of CT History acquired several **new collection items** including a group of early 20th-century insulated pitchers manufactured by Connecticut companies. Five portraits of Lieutenant Governors painted by WPA artists c. 1935-1950 were transferred to the museum by the Office of Legislative Management.

The Museum of CT History was closed from July 11 through August 2 for a major **renovation**. In the two exhibit spaces, formerly known as “Connecticut Collections” and “Colt Firearms,” all artifacts were removed from the exhibits cases and gallery walls to allow both to be painted in fresh new colors. The museum hired an art handling company to assist in deinstalling large and heavy objects. Memorial Hall was used as a staging area for the displaced collections during the project. Vulnerable framed textiles were removed and prepared for storage. Minor wall demo and construction created more space within the exhibits, and platforms with security stanchions were constructed throughout to allow for the display of three-dimensional objects. Large-scale wall graphics using images from the State Library’s collections were installed throughout the exhibits. “Connecticut Collections” is now called “Small but Mighty: Connecticut Makes History,” and is divided into three sections highlighting the State’s political, military, and industrial history. Many “new” objects are on display, including a 1920’s era Universal stove and refrigerator made in New Britain, CT. The reimagining of the Colt exhibit required it to remain closed for an extra week, through August 9. The new exhibit, titled “The Colt Legacy,” considers the innovations in manufacturing that took place in the Colt factory and its impact on the industry. Major work in the exhibits is complete, but the museum team continues to fine-tune object selection and placement and will be adding interpretive labels and panels to provide context.

During the renovation period, the museum also made improvements to **Memorial Hall**. The locking mechanisms on the 1910-era oak exhibit cases were repaired and the brass handles refinished. New electrical work was completed to allow for LED lighting, and lift-lock casters were added to make it easier to move the cases when needed. The large installation of Freedom Trail Quilts in the center of the hall was removed. Four custom, free-standing walls, each to feature a quilt, are in the process of being constructed. The walls will be placed in the corners of Memorial Hall. A new custom exhibit case to display items from the Mitchelson Coin Collection has been ordered.

In addition, the museum’s closure allowed for some general **cleaning of storage spaces**. A moving team was hired for two days to bring old, broken exhibit cases and discarded items to a rented dumpster. When the dumpster was full, the movers loaded their 28-ft. truck and took items to the dump. While additional days with the movers will be needed to finish the job, significant progress has been made in clearing out the back storage area behind Memorial Hall.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator issued four **new records series** for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority agency specific schedule (CHFA-01, effective 7/30/2024). Elise Marzik is currently working with six agencies on updates to agency-specific retention schedules.



LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 587 municipal and 262 state agency authorization forms for **records disposals**.

Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz of the **State Records Center** accessioned 446 cubic feet of agency records; deaccessioned 165 cubic feet; processed 230 reference requests; and processed 105 re-files and inter-files.

A vital access point to the State Library's collections is our **staff-created indexes** on a wide variety of subjects. From FY20 to FY23, these indexes were accessed an average of 31,000 times per month or 1,000 times per day. Due to security and support issues in FY24, much of the data became inaccessible, prompting Reference Services staff to migrate 43 of these indexes to the state-supported CT Open Data portal. The migration also offered an opportunity to evaluate the data as part of ongoing conversations regarding treatment of potentially offensive terminology in historical records. Meeting with the portal's data administrator, Susan Bigelow, Lizette Pelletier, and Lindsay Cawley discussed how to explain the context and importance of these records to users, especially when the language used may be outdated and harmful.

As part of the ongoing maintenance of the Connecticut State Documents Collection, Wafaa Razeq **processed over 1,300 duplicate print items** with the assistance of Eric Paiva, helping to clear essential shelf space for the federal documents map collection.

Wafaa Razeq reorganized the library's collection of meeting minutes from the **Board of Pardons and Poles**; as the record of how many people gained absolute pardons in Connecticut and who they are, these are often requested but poorly structured documents. The project required making contact with the board to reinstate the practice of sending print copies of the minutes as well as collaboration with the Discovery & Delivery Services department to reflect the changes in the item records.

With the assistance of Eric Paiva and Elizabeth Esquilin, the **Federal Documents program** processed 1,758 discards submitted by selective depository libraries in Connecticut and Rhode Island during July and August. During this same time period, Kris Aberly added 69 items claimed from the selective depository libraries and cataloged 529 items within the collection.

To celebrate **National Park and Recreation Month** in July, a small display was set up on the balcony highlighting U.S. and Connecticut publications about the U.S. park system and parks in Connecticut.

Steve Mirsky completed the indexing of **all bills, resolutions, and acts** for the 2024 legislative session.

Sarah Morin, student interns, and volunteers processed 4.25 cubic feet (8.5 boxes) of the **New Haven County Court records**. They completed County Court files 1818 (Nov), 1819 (Mar, Jun); County Court papers by subject category Executions (1828-1829); and Superior Court papers by subject category Travel – No Appearance Files (Ansonia-Woodbridge). They identified approximately one case involving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Scanning for ingest to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) is on hold until a new Digital Records Archivist is on board. Sarah Morin published one blog entry, [“Many Years ago we well knew”: The Family History of Rhoda, a Freeborn but Enslaved Woman of African and European Descent](#), as well as two Instagram posts, a [Revolutionary War pension](#) case and a lawsuit

regarding an [eclectic traveling exhibit](#). She also wrote an article on divorce in eighteenth-century Connecticut, to be published in the spring 2025 issue of the *Connecticut History Review*.

**Recent Archives Accessions** include:

- Judicial Department records, 1929-1939, 3 cubic feet (RG 003)
  - *The records consist of coroner transcripts numbers 114-229, January 1933-December 1937; and Supreme Court files, 1929-1939.*
- Stamford Probate Court files, 1966-1969, 50 cubic feet (RG 004:135)
- Connecticut State Police 90th Anniversary Commemorative History; Connecticut State Police 100 Year History; and State Police graduation photograph, November 1958 (RG 161:001)
- Housatonic Valley Regional High School educational records, circa 1939-1969 (RG 062). The records are not open to the public per CGS 1-210 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
  - *The records consist of educational records of withdrawn students from the Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) which includes the towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salem, and Sharon.*
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**New Finding Aids** Online:

RG 069:193, Pierre Sythoff Starr Papers, 1834-2022.

<https://cslarchives.ctstatelibrary.org/repositories/2/resources/751>

The **Family Search** scanning team completed their 2-year commitment on August 31. They scanned the following records between August 2 and August 30:

- Hartford Probate Court files, 1916-1920, 4,387 images
- Hartford 2<sup>nd</sup> Church of Christ, Scientist, 1912-2002, 2,960 images
- New London 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church, 1847-2019, 7,918 images
- Norwich Central Baptist Church, 1840-2020, 5,102 images

We are awaiting the appointment of a new scanning team.

**Staff News**

Congratulations to the following staff members who were recently promoted:

Anna Newman, Unit Head, Digital Collections & Digitization Services

William Anderson, Librarian Specialist, Discovery & Delivery Services

Laura Diller, Librarian II, Discovery & Delivery Services

Abbey Lynch, Librarian II, Division of Library Development

Cheryl Miles, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Public Records Administrator

Elise Marzik, Librarian Specialist, Office of the Public Records Administrator

Jeannie Sherman, Librarian II, Reference Services

Jenny Groome, Librarian II, Reference Services

Todd Gabriel, Library Technician, State Archives

Lisa Lew, Library Technical Assistant, State Archives