

Report to the State Library Board

September 29, 2025

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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 29, 2025 meeting of the Board, covers the period of July 19, 2025 through September 17, 2025.

Office of the State Librarian

The future of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Federal funding it provides to Connecticut and all other states remains uncertain. Meanwhile, the Division of Library Development (DLD) continues its vital work. On August 7, Deborah Schander, Dawn LaValle, and Christine Gauvreau met virtually with IMLS for a mandatory site visit and review of the Grants to States/Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program. The IMLS follow-up report found that “the LSTA program is well-organized and well-run. The administrative and financial processes are in order, and certain elements, like engaging CT libraries in strategic planning and foresight, could serve as a model for other states.” Subsequently, IMLS also awarded the agency its “Brave New World” award, an LSTA management excellence award recognizing Connecticut for “adeptly pivoting to a virtual site visit format”. On August 12, the State Library hosted the first information session for its Ambassadors team, comprised of constituents and key partners from across the agency’s myriad areas of responsibility; the session focused on the Federal funding situation, empowering the Ambassadors to speak knowledgeably of the circumstances as they engage with colleagues, organizations, and policy and decision makers. On August 22, Deborah, Dawn, and the DLD team provided a tour of the Middletown Library Service Center to two staffers in Rep. Courtney’s office. The visit highlighted the importance of Federal funding for libraries and how Connecticut implements these funds via its many staff members, services, and resources.

On September 9, Deborah, Jay Yasensky, Allen Ramsey, and Damon Munz met with Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Real Estate & Construction Services staff and the lead consultant for the kickoff of its pre-design study for a potential new State Archives building. The purpose of the study is to determine if a vacant facility at the State Library’s Rocky Hill Campus can be upgraded and expanded to meet the needs of a modern archives facility or if a new facility should be developed on the same site. The State Archives requires archival records storage capabilities following national archival facilities standards, best practices, and guidance; proper environmental controls; compact mobile storage systems, climate-controlled records center rooms, fire detection system, security cameras and systems, reception area, public reading room, staff offices, archival processing space, records receiving room, quarantine room, classrooms, event and exhibit spaces and parking. Study findings will allow the State Library to provide detailed information and estimated costs to state decision makers as the agency seeks full project funding.

Unit Activities

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Over the summer months, Kymberlee Powe, Matt Geeza, and Ashley Sklar brainstormed and co-designed to launch [Under the Charter Oak - A podcast of the CT State Library Division of Library Development](#). The Under the Charter Oak Podcast will be a monthly podcast produced and run by DLD staff members highlighting different library projects and initiatives of the CT State Library and partners. DLD announced the podcast in late August, and the first episode premiered on September 8 featuring Library Card Sign-up Month.

The CT State Library was glad to be able to attend [Read to Grow's Family Day](#) event on July 28th. The event was organized to not only share free books (many donated by the Middletown Library Service Center) with young children and families, but to introduce them to statewide resource organizations such as Sparkler and Huskey Dental.

Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar were invited to the **Hartford Juvenile Residential Center** for a Ribbon Cutting at their new library. The “event mark[ed] the beginning of an exciting new partnership, [our] generous donation of over 100 books transformed [the] library space into a more vibrant, youth-centered environment.”

Kym Powe was invited for the fourth time to be a guest on the WNPR radio show [Where We Live](#) to “explore our favorite books for children and young adults” and discuss the potential impact on early readers and the fact that fewer adults read for pleasure.

Following the brief federal termination of the Connecticut State Library extension grant project #RE-250063-OLS-21 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program to support ***Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School: An Organizational Perspective*** (all Institute of Museums and Library Services discretionary grants were terminated), the grant project was reinstated after legal action and nine of the 10 cohorts were completed successfully. Grant partner TFSX provided an abbreviated virtual Foundations in Natural Foresight course in place of the last cohort which could not be completed by the end of the grant period. DLD will continue to build on the ground altering work that has occurred over the last five-plus years to train over 700 librarians and library staff from all types of libraries, museums, and archives across 48 states, American Samoa, and the West Indies in the discipline of Strategic Foresight using TFSX's Natural Foresight Framework by activating our Future of Libraries Network to position itself and our Cohort Champions as a national resource for futures thinking in libraries.

Matt Geeza attended the **Northern-Western Regional Conference of Talking Book Libraries** at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. The conference was held August 5-7, and was open to libraries that are part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled's (NLS) nation-wide network of libraries. Matt participated in a panel discussion about newsletters produced by Talking Book libraries.

The current issue of the **CT LAB newsletter** is the September and October 2025 edition. The newsletter is available in the following formats: email, PDF (link on CT LAB website), HTML (CT LAB website), audio, hard copy large print, and hard copy braille.

Suzanne Kiss represented the CT State Library at the 25th annual **National Book Festival** in Washington, DC, on September 6. Suzanne was joined by Susan Muro of CT Humanities' Center of the Book at the event, which brings tens of thousands of book lovers to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center each year to celebrate books, authors, and literacy. Suzanne and Susan, along with CT children's author Deb Freedman, greeted visitors and shared information about literary resources and fun facts about CT with people of all ages throughout the day. Suzanne also had the opportunity to meet the Acting Director of the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS), Keith Sonderling, at the event and shared with him how important IMLS funding is for the programs and services the CT State Library provides to libraries throughout our state.

The Division of Library Development continues to recruit sites to participate in the **Palace Project**. There are a total of 185 sites sharing content from the Connecticut State Library through the Palace app in addition to the 202 K12 school sites participating in the eGO CT Community Sharing Program. All school sites in Connecticut are now eligible to join this program.

eGO CT continues to support the **All CT Reads** program. Each of this year's titles have been added to the Palace app and an All CT Reads 2025 lane has been made available to all in the Palace Manager interfaces for each site. Through the end of August, there have been 923 checkouts of All CT Reads 2025 titles.

Chris Gauvreau with the Hamden Public Library to restart the previously terminated **Regional Navigator Sharing Project** grant. Digital navigation was successfully resumed at the seven participating libraries and numerous community locations. Work to prepare to showcase the accomplishments of the regional navigator sharing at an October Digital Inclusion Week event has begun.

As part of DLD's Professional Development programming, Gail Hurley kicked off September with partner **The GIANT Room** for another year of working with libraries and their communities on creative community engagement programs and activities. The theme of this year's work with The GIANT Room will be **America 250** with specific programming and activities for children and families around civic-related publications co-created by program participants, designers at The GIANT Room, and Generative AI tools.

Over the last two months, **visitation to the Museum of CT History** included 69 school children and 58 adults as part of school and adult groups. The museum served 50 visitors through one outreach event: the Hartford Experiential Learning Fair held at Hartford Public High School on August 21.

Patrick Smith led a total of 60 guests on three **Hiking Through History** programs since the last report: Cotton Hollow Preserve (Glastonbury) on July 18, East Hartford/Hartford Riverfront on August 8, and Windsor Locks Canal (Suffield) on September 15. Sign-ups for the rest of the series are at capacity, with 20-25 attendees per hike. Upcoming dates / locations are: September 19 - Old Connecticut Path (Willington) and October 17 - Penwood State Park (Blomfield/Simsbury). Several other hikes are being planned for private groups this fall.

Museum staff gave **tours of the Museum of CT History** to the following groups: a group from South Windsor's Semiquincentennial Commission visited the museum to discuss the 250th anniversary, the museum's forthcoming exhibit, and possible collaboration; a group Middletown "Meet Up" group who has participated in several Hiking Through History programs visited the

museum and library for a joint tour; and the Office of Legislative Management's Legislative Library arranged a tour of the museum and library for Learning and Development employees.

Deborah Schander, Allen Ramsey, and Jennifer Matos attended a **luncheon at the Wadsworth Atheneum** on July 22 at the invitation of Museum Director Matthew Hargraves and Chief Curator Vanessa Sigalas. Future collaboration was discussed, particularly pertaining to the 250th anniversary, and a tour was offered of the American galleries.

On July 2, 2025 the State Library awarded a total of \$646,000 in FY2026 Cycle 1 **Historic Documents Preservation Program** grants to 108 municipalities in the amounts of \$5,000, \$7,000, and \$10,000. Nicole Besseghir processed all grant contracts throughout July-September for the State Librarian's signature as they were signed and returned by the municipalities; once executed they were returned to towns and then processed for the disbursement of grant funds. The application period for Cycle 2 of the FY2025 grant period is ongoing and will close on September 30, 2025.

Nicole Besseghir has been working with towns on **vault construction and renovation projects**, including projects for the Town of East Hartford, the Town of Farmington, the Town of Windsor Locks, the Town of Plainfield, the Town of East Windsor, the Town of Darien, the Town of Scotland, the Town of Meriden, the Town of Stonington, the City of Norwich, the Town of Portland, the Town of Hamden, the Town of Vernon, and the Ellington/Vernon Probate Court.

On September 12, Public Records and State Archives staff visited the Town of West Hartford to review large format land use records that have been digitized and are in consideration for paper destruction. This visit is part of the departments' ongoing efforts to help public agencies **pursue digitization goals responsibly and defensibly**.

In August, the second of two blog posts on **The Nutmeg Navigator** highlighted the tragic 70th anniversary of the great floods of August 1955 which devastated many communities in Connecticut and New England. Fueled by Hurricanes Connie and Diane which struck southern New England, the resulting floods caused massive damage to the sum of \$200 million in 1955 dollars, approximately 2.3 billion today. The many lives lost led to state and local initiatives to safeguard construction of buildings and transportation routes throughout Connecticut in flood prone areas so as to minimize such destruction in the future.

Jenny Groome was appointed to represent the State Library on the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities **Primo/Discovery Team**, which oversees activities involving display, functionality, and processes in our shared library catalog. Jenny was also reappointed to the ALA Government Documents **Roundtable on Notable Documents**.

Kris Abery met with University of Connecticut staff Kristina Edwards (Electronic Resources Librarian) and Janis Desmarais (Collections Strategist) about Federal Depository Library Program issues, weeding rules, and the library's strategy going forward.

Mel Smith provided a **tour of the three reference units** and a walk through in the Museum of Connecticut History for a Connecticut family whose daughter recently graduated from library school and wanted to see the State Library in person.

The State Library is collaborating with a consortium of cultural heritage organizations from across the state to develop a proposal for the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition** grant program. The proposed three-year project

would request up to \$750,000 to support the preservation, processing, and public access of materials related to Jonathan Trumbull Sr., Connecticut's Revolutionary War-era governor. The State Library's proposal includes conservation treatment and high-resolution digitization of five foundational documents: the Fundamental Orders of 1639, Andros Patent (circa 1688), First 12 Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Constitution (1789), Constitution of 1818, and Constitution of 1965. The proposed project would also support processing of the Jonathan Trumbull Editorial Project Papers, a collection of approximately 80 cubic feet of original documents, photostatic copies, and typed transcripts. These materials were gathered and organized between 1967 and 1985 under the direction of former State Historian Dr. Albert E. Van Dusen and his wife Wilda Van Dusen. A portion of the collection would be selectively digitized, with specific materials identified during the project. If awarded, the grant would also fund collaborative work across organizations to digitally bring together selected dispersed materials in the Native Northeast Portal and the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA), enhancing discoverability and public engagement. The consortium is currently drafting the narrative, finalizing collection summaries, and preparing budgets, letters of commitment, and letters of support in advance of the January 15, 2026 submission deadline.

Programs and Training

In July, August, and September, Christine Gauvreau assisted public libraries who needed to respond to USAC Review Inquires and Program Integrity Assurance reviews of their **E-Rate** applications for discount and held 20 screen share assistance exchanges with libraries who needed help filing their FY25 start service forms. A workshop was held for new library directors who wanted to explore what the E-Rate program could do for their libraries.

Over the summer months, all DLD staff connected to create a new training series called [DLD Minis](#). DLD Minis are 30 minute (or less!) virtual sessions with staff on a variety of DLD programs, services, or initiatives. Each Mini will focus on one specific topic allowing for an informational deep dive and giving staff space to answer specific questions. All Minis will be recorded for reference and education of new library workers. In August, Ashley Sklar kicked off the series with [DLD Minis | DLD LibGuides Home Page](#). In November, DLD revealed an all-new [DLD LibGuides Home Page](#) with eyes towards accessibility so the new DLD home page is designed to be user friendly and allow visitors to find what they are looking for quickly and easily. Shortly after the introductory DLD Mini, Matt Geeza presented a Mini entitled, "CT Library for Accessible Books - The Application Process" on August 28, 2025. Both events were held online via Zoom and were open to all Connecticut library workers.

Dawn LaValle and the DLD consultants developed a LibGuide, information sessions, and policy review metrics for the new **Public Act 25-168 Sec. 322**, which implements new statutory collection development requirements for CT Public Libraries. DLD is in the process of reviewing and approving required policies for all principal public libraries.

In August, DLD hosted a technology workshop on **AI and the Future of Libraries**, as well as hosting two of the **New Statutorily Required Library Policies Information Sessions** and two **FY25 Annual Report Information Sessions**. September had a busy lineup offering How to Wear Many Hats Without Losing Your Head, Intro to Canva and Canva Templates, and the two-part series, The GIANT Room: Community Engagement Through Hands-On Creative STEM Building, Writing, and Collaborative Publication.

Barbara Ghilardi provided three webinar training courses for the Annual Report with a total of 77 participants on how to fill out the report, with one this year done in partnership with Bibliomation for their member libraries. The report is due October 1st.

Webjunction solicited a presentation from Kym Powe called [Teen Services that Matter: Designing Supportive Library Experiences](#): Teenagers are a unique group of library users whose experiences today will shape their lifelong relationship with libraries and learning. Yet, engaging teens in meaningful and developmentally appropriate ways can be challenging. This webinar will help library staff understand adolescent behavior and leverage these insights to build more impactful programming and more authentic connections with teen patrons. Over 400 people registered for the workshop.

The “**Why Libraries and Museums Matter**” program was held in Memorial Hall of the Museum of CT History on July 17, 2025. The occasion of the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding presented an opportunity to consider the importance of history and the institutions that preserve its many stories. The conversation between Deborah Schander and State Historian Andy Horowitz served as a kick-off for the museum’s “Connecticut 250 Series” and ranged in topics from Connecticut State Library’s unique role in government throughout time and the significance of its non-partisan mission, the current uncertain state of humanities funding, and why libraries and museums still matter in the digital age. The conversation was recorded by the Connecticut Network and is available [here](#). Following the formal program, Jenn Matos, Mel Smith, and Beth Burgess showed off some Connecticut State Library Revolutionary War treasures to those that attended the event.

Elise Marzik and Nicole Marino presented a **municipal records management training** webinar hosted by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities on August 12. The approximately 100 municipal employees in attendance represented over 70 Connecticut municipalities.

Lindsay Cawley and Deborah Schander were invited by the **Law Library of Congress** to be guest speakers as part of the State Law Libraries Outreach Project; the presentation focused on the history and services provided by the Law & Legislative Reference Unit here at the State Library and was attended by 68 people.

Kevin Johnson was interviewed by John Mills as part of an **up-coming documentary on the Connecticut 29th Volunteer Infantry Regiment** that served in the Civil War. Kevin has conducted over 600 historical performances of a soldier that served in that regiment and has extensive knowledge of the research needed in creating such a riveting portrayal.

Resource Updates

Collection Services successfully ended the FY2025 fiscal year having expended \$574,524.38, or 99.99%, of the **legal/legislative library materials allocation** of \$574,540.00.

During FY2025, Collection Services added 9,151 tangible items to the **State Library’s collections**. This includes law books, genealogy books, Connecticut newspapers, Federal Documents and Connecticut state and town documents, and much more. Staff also deaccessioned 1,327 volumes from the law library collection. These were identified by the CSL Law Reference librarians for weeding to maximize shelf space and keep collections up-to-date and relevant.

Collection Services also maintained links to 142 **online databases**, of which 100 are available remotely for CT State Library cardholders.

During FY2025, Reference Services staff issued 2,844 new **CT State Library cards** to Connecticut residents, state employees and students.

Collection Services staff continue to provide **Interlibrary Loan services** to Connecticut libraries, Connecticut state agencies, and other libraries nationwide. During FY2025, staff filled 199 requests for books and articles.

John Bednar continued cataloging the unprocessed items from the State Library' collection of materials related to the political, ecclesiastical, and scholastic history of **Connecticut municipalities**. Included in this are a program commemorating the 250th anniversary of the settlement of New London and 62 issues of the annual catalog of the Hotchkiss School, New Haven, issued between 1894 and 1969.

The Discovery & Delivery Services Unit regularly reviews unassigned **digital inventory** of copies of State Library physical resources and of born-digital titles. Verna Thomas-Green has undertaken to update and correct a set of bibliographic records for which electronic inventory had not migrated accurately to the current software platform. For the current reporting period Verna completed updates for 394 titles, including *Report on the status of lead poisoning in Connecticut*, published by the Connecticut Office of Health Care Access the Connecticut Department of Public Health in 1998.

Between them, Laura Diller and William Anderson contributed 61 records to the **Name Authority Cooperative** (NACO) database. Included in this contribution are records for the Merrit Parkway Conservancy and for the Connecticut Health Improvement Planning Coalition.

Significant **USGPO titles** cataloged include the online version of the U.S. Forest Service Technology and Development Program's report on identifying and preserving historic bridges and that program's report on the health and nutrition of wildlife firefighters.

Significant materials cataloged for the **History and Genealogy map collections** include a 1940 United States Works Progress Administration map of the Farmington Canal and a 1919 map of early home lots in Norwich, Connecticut, made by Mrs. Elisha E. Rogers.

CT LAB participated in the first group of NLS network libraries migrating to **BARD 2.0**. BARD 2.0 is an upgraded version of the Braille and Audio Reading Download Service from NLS and the Library of Congress. The NLS migrated CT LAB patrons to BARD 2.0 on July 29, 2025.

CT LAB received approximately 230 of the NLS' **new Digital Talking Book Machines**, known as the Digital Advanced 2 (DA2) model, in mid-July 2025. The DA2 machine plays Talking Book cartridges, is equipped with 28 gigabytes of internal storage, can connect to WiFi networks, and can be paired with Bluetooth speakers and headphones. CT LAB is in the process of inspecting the DA2 machines and updating their software before distributing them to interested CT LAB patrons. The NLS has asked its network libraries to prioritize distribution of the DA2 machines to patrons who will utilize all of the DA2's features. The current models of Digital Talking Book Machines, the Digital Standard 1 (DS1) and Digital Advanced 1 (DA1), remain available to patrons.

The **FY25 Annual Report** opened on July 8 and, as of September 3, 22 libraries have submitted their reports. DLD is in the second year of using the NOVUS AltaLink platform for submissions and the process is going smoothly. The **Public Charts page** on DLD's platform that displays data from the Annual Report is now available. Librarians will be able to download and export charts and raw data for fiscal years dating back to 2015.

deliverIT FY2025 monthly volume counts are in, with over 1.7 million items being delivered across 215 libraries. By the end of the 4th quarter, 66% of libraries were reporting their volume counts.

University of Massachusetts-Amherst History major **Molly Frank** completed her summer internship in August. Her work continued the museum's efforts to reinterpret the Connecticut Governor Portrait Collection: she added 73 object records into the new collections database (CT Collections), wrote short biographies of four governors and political history content for exhibit panels, and posted a series on Black Governors on the museum's social media platforms.

In an ongoing effort to **inventory the Museum of CT History's collection**, staff completed inventorying and cataloging the Connecticut Freedom Trail Quilt Project collection of regional quilts and related documentation, ca. 1996-2000.

Objects from the **Museum of CT History's collection were photographed** for researchers and scholars, including: a portrait of Jabez Huntington by the artist John Trumbull for a scholar writing an article on the Revolutionary War and five Colt firearms for an upcoming publication on Colt Dragoon models.

The Museum of CT History **acquired new collection items**: a group of photographs and ephemera from Andrew T. "Duff" Connell, who worked as a chauffeur and handyman for Governors Shannon, Lodge, and Ribicoff, circa 1945-1965.

The Museum of CT History's **2nd Light Dragoons Regimental flag**, on loan to the Museum of the American Revolution (MOAR) in Philadelphia, was returned on September 2, 2025. The flag had been a part of MOAR's exhibit *Witness to Revolution: the Unlikely Travels of Washington's Tent* from February 2024 to January 2025, and then *Banner of Liberty: Flags from the American Revolution* from April to August 2025. The flag will now go into dark storage for a well-deserved rest until it is called back up for service in the *Connecticut's Revolution* exhibit.

Maintenance was conducted on the Museum of CT History's **Mitchelson and Lincoln vaults** by Calvert Lock & Safe on August 5 and August 26. Significant service was performed on the vault thresholds and doors to increase their functionality. This important work will make it easier for staff to access collections stored within.

Museum staff continue their efforts to **reorganize collections storage areas**. In July and August, several work days were held to clean and process items in the spaces behind Memorial Hall. Two mornings were spent carefully dismantling the exhibit cases in Memorial Hall holding a selection of the Mitchelson Coin Collection. The coins that were removed were inventoried and are awaiting photography. A selection of the Mitchelson collection will be reinstalled in a new exhibit case at a future date.

The museum worked with **fine art handlers Level Fine Art Services** from August 4 through August 7 to pack and move a quantity of large artifacts from 231 Capitol Ave. to the Van Block facility. In the *Small But Mighty* exhibit, the art handlers scribed the voting booth platform so that

it now fits closer to the wall and reinstalled the Gilded Eagle and Panoply of Arms cresting. In *The Colt Legacy* exhibit, the team installed the recently conserved wood Rampant Colt Trademark pediment. In Memorial Hall, the *U.S.S. Constitution* ship model was repositioned, the two old coin exhibit cases were removed, and the new coin exhibit case was prepared and placed.

The Museum of CT History applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a **“Celebrate America!” grant** in the amount of \$25,000 to support the forthcoming *Connecticut’s Revolution* exhibit. The semiquincentennial exhibit is scheduled to open on July 4, 2026, but is still in need of funds to complete the planning and implementation of the exhibit. The museum continues to seek alternate sources of income for the exhibit in the form of grants, sponsorships, and individual donations.

The Museum of CT History applied to the Bank of America for a **“Art Conservation Project” grant** in the amount of \$37,971.00. The funding would support the conservation of *Portrait of George Washington* by Gilbert Stuart. A conditions assessment conducted on the painting by ArtCare Conservation in the summer of 2023 found both the painting and the frame in need of conservation and repair. The requested funding would provide for the art handling and conservation of the painting and its frame in situ at CT’s Old State House, which would be open for public observation. This week-long open conservation effort would take place in September 2026, providing an opportunity for the public to learn about this significant piece of art and its place in American history as the nation commemorates its 250th anniversary.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator issued one new **agency specific records retention schedules** for the Department of Labor (DOL-07, effective 9/3/2025), two new **records series** for the Department of Correction (DOC-01, effective 8/19/2025), and one revised **municipal records retention schedule** for the Connecticut Municipal Electrical Energy Cooperative (CMEEC, effective 7/31/2025).

LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 544 municipal and 248 state agency authorization forms for records disposals.

The **State Records Center** provides off-site inactive records storage for state agencies free of charge. Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz accessioned 686 cubic feet of agency records; processed 258 reference requests; and processed 58 re-files and inter-files.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator began setup and implementation for a **new retention schedule management software and public portal**. The new product, Zasio Enterprises’ Versatile 2025 with Retention Schedule Management, will replace the current system, IBM Atlas Global Retention Policy and Schedule Management, which is no longer supported. The new software will allow the department to better preserve schedules, support revisions and updates for both state agency and municipal records schedules, and improve access for public agencies that use the schedules daily to fulfill their statutory records retention requirements.

The effort to reorganize collections in a meaningful way has leapt forward with the completion of a major, months-long **shift in the stacks**. Following Susan Bigelow’s evaluation of space, Kevin Johnson shifted materials on floor 2A to accommodate the Town Documents collection, which comprised about 750 linear feet, or 273 shelves. Kevin, Susan, and Liz Swann also then moved the Town Documents collection into the newly cleared shelves.

Further reorganization has also begun with Kris Abery identifying **federal materials** within the law collection in order to relocate them back into the federal documents collection.

The implementation of an **upgrade to our shared library catalog** required a project to identify and update each link to catalog resources in the research guides and bibliographies maintained by Reference Services.

As an internal committee began its review of the **collection development policy** for first time in decades, Reference Services staff have discussed and offered significant input regarding descriptions of the Library's subject-specific collections in this important document.

Steve Mirsky finished **subject indexing** the following material produced during the 2025 legislative session: 4064 bills, 985 file copies, and 204 public, special, and resolution acts.

Following digitization by Asaf Aliev and processing by Nick Beams, Steve Mirsky create **bill file collections** in the Connecticut Digital Archive for 1943 (2371 files) and 1945 (2502 files). A collection was also created for 2024 (1471 files), which were received from the General Assembly.

Bryan Kohnen completed the compiling of all **legislative histories for the 1969 legislative session**. All 829 public histories and 297 special act histories have now also been uploaded into the Connecticut Digital Archive for public access.

Kris Abery cataloged and barcoded over **600 federal documents** including 12 maps that had been previously stored in History & Genealogy and added 15 federal documents claimed from selective depository libraries to the State Library collection.

Uncovering New Haven Project: Project Archivist Sarah Morin and various volunteers completed processing the New Haven County and Superior Court records, with the cumulative total coming out to approximately 337.3 cubic feet (704.5 boxes and oversize volumes). This total includes the New Haven County Court files 1820-1855 (83 boxes), which will remain unprocessed due to time constraints. Identification of additional cases involving African-descended, African American, Black, and Indigenous persons and groups is ongoing as findings are still being tallied. To date, staff have scanned 1,440 cases (5,439 pages) for ingest to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA). State Library staff will continue digitization after this project ends on October 31, 2025. Sarah Morin published two final blog entries, [Retrospective No. 6: Loyalists and Revolution](#) and [Retrospective No. 7: Interesting and Unusual Cases](#). Volunteer Max Spicer also published a final guest blog entry, [The intriguing case of Amos Hunt and the Wakemanites](#). The online [subject guide](#) for the Uncovering New Haven project will be finalized and finding aids will be published on the State Library's website once they are complete.

Recent Archives Accessions include:

- **Town of Hartford** petitions, 1828, 1853, 0.25 cubic feet (RG 062:064)
The petitions consist of a petition to the General Assembly to have the district of West Hartford separate from the town of Hartford, April 22, 1853, and a petition to set the boundary between the district of West Hartford and the town of Farmington, December 29, 1828.

CTDA Digital Records Uploaded:

Items were migrated from the following collections on ContentDM into CTDA:

- WPA Architectural Survey (RG 033)
- Weld Thayer Chase Collection (RG 069:036)
- Connecticut Development Commission's Survey of Connecticut (PG 170)
- Fairfield County Superior Court Criminal Files (RG 003)
- Fairfield County Superior Court, State Highway Commission 1929-1939 (RG 003)
- Department of Transportation, Chief Engineer, 1953-1984 (RG 089:027)
- Governor Wilbur L. Cross Records, Merritt Parkway (RG 005:026)

Digital Records Processing Project Updates:

- Processing continues on **Governor Dannel P. Malloy's** born-digital records (RG 005:041).

Family Search:

Scanning continued of selected probate court files for inclusion in Family Search online collections. Family Search contracted with Intelligent Image Management, Inc. (IIMI) to manage this long-term scanning project. Allen, Damon, and Mel met with Family Search staff in-person on July 21-22 and virtually on August 7 to discuss the project, next steps after their visit to our Van Block facility, and locating and publishing on the Family Search website materials of ours that they had digitized.

Staff News

On August 27, **Allen Ramsey** began a one-year term (2025–2026) as President of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA). He is also serving a three-year term (2024–2027) on the CoSA Board of Directors. In this national leadership role, he is focusing on strengthening the archival workforce, continuing to advocate for sustainable digital preservation infrastructure, and supporting state and territorial archives leaders and staff. On August 7, he provided remarks at CoSA's Annual Business Meeting emphasizing the importance of continuity, collaboration, and practical results in addressing the challenges facing state and territorial archives.

Damon Munz was appointed Assistant State Archivist on July 25. Damon joined the State Library in 2007 and has served as Government Records Archivist since 2013. Throughout his time with the agency, he has been a vital member of the Archives team—overseeing records transfers and preservation efforts, playing a key role in the day-to-day operations of the off-site facility, leading disaster response planning, and providing dedicated service to state and local stakeholders.