

Report to the State Library Board

November 25, 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 November 25, 2024 meeting of the Board, covers the period of September 24, 2024 through November 14, 2024.

Office of the State Librarian

The agency continues to prepare for the biennial budget process and the 2025 legislative session. Per instructions from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), the State Library formally submitted numerous requests related to capital, collections, staffing, conservation and preservation, and other needs. In addition to requests for new and increased funds, the agency is also in conversation with OPM about the budget cut proposals required of all agencies and is reiterating the devastating impact any cut would have on any area of our mandated work. In anticipation of budget shortfalls in the current fiscal year, all agencies have also now received instructions to curtail any unnecessary expenses for the remaining eight months of this fiscal cycle. Specifics of how these instructions will impact the State Library remain to be determined, as the agency already continually exists in an environment of straitened spending.

On a more positive note, progress continues on the agency's efforts to address State Archives facility needs. The State Library received capital funds to install the final sections of compact shelving at the Van Block facility, which will provide the State Archives with roughly 3 to 5 years of additional storage for archival materials. As a temporary measure, roughly 10,000 cubic feet of archival materials will need to be moved from the Van Block facility to the former Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) facility in Rocky Hill. During this time, archival materials temporarily stored at this location during the project will not be available to the public. State Archives staff anticipates the compact shelving project once started will take roughly three to six months to complete. Additionally, the State Bond Commission has approved the State Library's request for \$80,000 for a planning study toward design of a permanent State Archives facility at the Rocky Hill Campus. The study is anticipated to take one year to complete.

Unit Activities

Partnerships and Community Engagement

On October 7th, at the New Haven Free Public Library, the State Library launched the Institute of Museums and Library Services' (IMLS) National Leadership Grant project, "**Designing and Implementing a Replicable Regional Navigator Sharing Plan**" that is making digital navigators, i.e. mentors, available to residents by appointments at seven public libraries who are collaborating to share and coordinate services in English, Spanish, and Arabic. A multilingual navigator team is being shared among libraries. Digital navigators are now offering appointments at the Hamden Public Library, the Derby Neck Public Library, the West Haven Public Library, the Howard Whittmore Memorial Library in Naugatuck, the Woodbridge Town

Library, the Bridgeport Public Library, the New Haven Free Public Library, and in public spaces convenient for residents who need assistance. Each library is with working their own community partners to connect with residents seeking one-on-one engagement with a mentor. These include adult literacy groups, community health centers, veterans' organizations, re-entry programs, refugee and immigrant services, senior centers, and workforce development entities. In this model, libraries with previously existing digital inclusion programs are coming together with libraries who previously have not had the capacity to set up such programs.

Dawn La Valle presented at Fairfield University's **Education Technology Forum** highlighting the Connecticut State Library's (CSL) various digital learning resources including the CT Digital Library, the Palace Project, and EBSCO's Learning Express Workforce Solutions.

As a member of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) Ad Hoc Committee on Construction Grant Making, Dawn La Valle participated as a panelist for **COSLA's "Equity in Construction Grant Making to Local Libraries"** webinar on November 12th. Dawn shared CSL's model approach to equity in construction grant making as defined by the CT's statutory program and engaged in a robust discussion about the challenges and opportunities for state library agencies construction grant programs.

Staff of the **Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CT LAB)** conducted four outreach sessions during the period of late September and October 2024. These outreach visits reached 194 individuals. Highlights include a presentation for the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) Adult Services Department and staffing an exhibit table at the Connecticut Association for School Librarians (CASL) annual conference in Southbury, CT.

Spearheaded by Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar, the **Libraries Without Borders US (LWB)** Reimagining Library Outreach to Increase Community Access series continued with Session 3: Assessing Internal Library Assets and Staff Capacity, Session 4: Assessing Library Utilization and Awareness, and Session 5: Using Data to Inform Program Design and Library Services.

As part of the University of Maryland's IMLS National Leadership grant **Ready NOW: Supporting Youth and Families During Crisis**, Ashley Sklar continued in her mentor role participating in four co-design sessions with the national cohort, bi-weekly planning sessions with the project lead team, and bi-weekly mentor sessions in the Washington State team.

The Division of Library Development (DLD) collaborated with the CT Humanities Council and the CT Digital Archive at the University of Connecticut Library to draft a collaborative grant application for a **Digital Equity Competitive Grant** of approximately \$5 million.

Barbara Ghilardi attended and presented at the annual **CTData Collaborative Conference** in Southbury, CT. The presentation introduced the new platform CT Public Libraries use to submit their annual reports. She is meeting with CTData's Jackie Vancour in November to develop a workshop on Data Storytelling for early 2025.

The **CT LAB Advisory Committee** held its quarterly meeting on October 11, 2024. Committee members provided CT LAB staff with valuable feedback about the development of a braille discovery kit. Matt Geeza is working with Kym Powe on the development of this kit. Kym and Matt intend to add this kit to the Middletown Library Service Center's circulating collection.

CT LAB and the nine public libraries that serve as CT LAB hub libraries were recognized by the **Connecticut AgeWell Collaborative** as part of their AgeWell Across Connecticut

campaign. This campaign listed 50 local picks of places and experience in Connecticut that "demonstrate age, dementia, and disability inclusivity — all across our state."

DLD is continuing its partnership with **The GIANT Room** beginning November 2024 on a learning series, *Community Engagement through hands-on creative STEM building, writing, and collaborative publication*, and a GIANT Remix program for local libraries, through which families will be given "creative missions" to contribute writings, illustrations, and ideas to "community books" and "trading cards" throughout the year.

Over the last two months, **visitation to the Museum of CT History** included 620 school children and 35 adults as part of scheduled school and adult groups. On September 20, Jennifer Matos gave a tour of the museum to 30 members of the Hartford-based Saturday Morning Club. Museum Curator Patrick Smith presented outreach programs to 50 third grade students at Quaker Hill School in Waterford, CT.

Patrick Smith led the final two public **Hiking Through History** programs at Barn Island in Stonington, CT on September 6 (22 participants) and at Lover's Leap State Park in New Milford, CT on October 18 (20 participants). Two private Hiking Through History programs – one at Windsor Locks Canal and another at the Enfield Historic District - were also offered to a large home school co-op.

Deborah Schander and Jennifer Matos attended the premiere of "**Innovation in Connecticut**," a feature documentary film by director Zeljko Mirkovic and the University of Connecticut that delves into the rich tapestry of Connecticut's history of innovation. Artifacts from the Museum of CT History and CT State Library collections were included in the film. The 55-minute film is available for viewing [here](#).

The Connecticut League of Museums has awarded the Museum of Connecticut History, the Office of the State Archaeologist, the Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist, the Bolton Historical Society, and the Bolton Heritage Farm Commission a **2024 Award of Merit** for the 2023 program "Digging Into History: On the Road With Rochambeau." Reviewers described the program as "hands-on history at its best, a project that created a special and memorable experience that allowed participants to have a tangible sense of the past as well as multiple ways of exploring that history, from archaeology to museum interpretation."

Deborah Schander and Jennifer Matos gave a tour of the Museum of CT History to **Connecticut Tourism** staff Rachel Lenda (Director of Tourism) and Jill Larsen (Community Engagement & Outreach Specialist).

The FY2025 Cycle 2 application period for the **Historic Documents Preservation Program**, which supports records preservation and management in the municipalities and at the State Library, closed on September 30, 2024. The State Library received applications from 45 municipalities. Nicole Besseghir is currently reviewing and processing the applications for approval by LeAnn Power; award letters and grant contracts will be sent to municipalities in December.

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 Lebanon, the Town of Pomfret, the Town of Windsor Locks, the Town of Plainfield, Town of East Windsor, Town of Ledyard, Town of Darien, Town of Scotland, Town of Meriden, the Town of Bridgewater, and the Town of Stonington.

The History & Genealogy Unit, as usual, is beginning to see an increase in patron use of our historical collections and use of the State Archives as the new school season is upon us. Several groups from both **Trinity College and the UCONN campus in Hartford** have visited the State Library to conduct a wide range of historical research. These students have benefited greatly from the various Connecticut State Library-created databases, as well as the primary source materials found in the State Archives in conducting their research.

As Regional Federal Documents Coordinator, Kris Aberly consulted with Gwyneth Crowley, Depository Coordinator of Yale University and Andrew Lopez, Depository Coordinator of Connecticut College, regarding **federal document cataloging alternatives** due to the demise of the Cataloging Record Distribution Program and Marcive, Inc. in 2025. Kris Aberly also consulted with Alicia Kubas and Abby McDermott of the Government Publishing Office and Todd Falkowski of Trinity College regarding **Trinity's continued participation in the depository program**.

On October 17, Kevin Johnson performed his **Professor Jim historical portrayal** at the Cheshire Congregational Church which was highly praised by many who attended the event. On October 25, Kevin Johnson performed his Revolutionary War **historical portrayal of Jordan Freeman** at the Mansfield Historical Society.

Work is progressing on the federally funded **Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project**. Allen Ramsey requested from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) a no-cost extension to extend the grant until September 30, 2025. Allen and Lizette Pelletier are also working with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to submit overdue fiscal reports to the NHPRC. Mark Conrad's, Information Management Consultant, personal services agreement expired on September 30. The Project Director is working with DAS to issue a new PSA to allow Mark to continue his work on analyzing responses received from the request for information for a secure digital preservation repository. Until the new agreement is in place he cannot work on the project.

Lizette Pelletier met with a student in the **Simmons University Archives Management concentration** through the School of Library and Information Sciences on November 4 to answer questions about managing a state archival program.

Programs and Training

Stephen Slovasky facilitated an **OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) product presentation** on October 1 in the State Library Conference Room. Marian Carney, Strategic Account Director, introduced us to Lily Troia, Digital Service Consultant. The presentation concentrated on CONTENTdm, OCLC's digital content management service. Carney and Troia talked about how the service is being rebuilt as a cloud-based service with more user-friendly customer interfaces.

On October 21, at the Fall 2024 Depository Library Conference, Stephen Slovasky talked about the State Library's **solutions for cataloging electronic federal documents**. The panel discussion was entitled "GPO (Government Publishing Office): Cataloging Roundtable: Making Online Government Publications Discoverable to Patrons", and it was online via Webex.

The Digital Collections Committee released the "**Connecticut State Library Metadata Guidelines for Digital Collections in the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA)**," a set of

practical instructions for State Library staff who create descriptive metadata records for digitized and born digital content that is preserved and made accessible in the CTDA. The main goals for the guidelines are to ensure consistency in metadata across library units and projects and to align State Library digital collections with national standards. The guidelines were developed by the CTDA Metadata Subcommittee: Susan Bigelow, Lindsay Cawley, Laura Diller, Anna Newman, Christine Pittsley, Allen Ramsey, Wafaa Razeq, and Glenn Sherman. In October, the subcommittee held a training on the guidelines for CSL staff.

Matt Geeza is collaborating with Suzanne Kiss and Ashley Sklar on the launch of a new professional development series called **Towards Inclusive Accessibility in Libraries (TIAL): Expanding Possibilities for All Ages and Abilities**. The mission statement for TIAL is: “We recognize that providing greater accessibility expands inclusion. Towards Inclusive Accessibility in Libraries (TIAL) seeks to address the knowledge gaps and biases that exist about people with disabilities and people who are aging, and to aid libraries in extending access to library resources and services, enriching the lives of all community members.” This series is open to all library workers in Connecticut and launched on November 6, 2024.

Kym Powe offered a workshop called [Brain Architecture and Public Libraries](#) utilizing a tool called [The Brain Architecture Game](#). It is a tabletop game initiative that builds understanding of the powerful role of experiences on early brain development – what promotes it, what derails it, and with what consequences for society.

Upon receiving multiple requests for class visits, presentations, and panel session at the [School Library Journal/ Library Journal Youth Services Leadership Summit](#) on teen services, Kym Powe built a presentation called [Teen Services: Behavior, Programming, and Connection](#). Currently a recording of the session has been played at a staff meeting at the Westport Library; the presentation was also requested for the Mid-Hudson Library System in New York, and the video recording has multiple views online.

DLD is offering a new six-part technology training series for libraries that kicked off in October with **Emerging Tech Trends in Libraries, Part 1**. The presenter, David Lee King, is an internationally known presenter as well as a Library Journal “Mover and Shaker. Gail Hurley coordinated new training subscriptions for libraries beginning October 1, which included a new self-paced online Customer Service Excellence in Libraries Online Program from Andrew Sanderbeck, a continuation of the Northstar Digital Literacy program, and training from Literacy Minnesota, a continuation of the live and on-demand webinars from PCI Webinars, and the All-Access Pass to Service, Safety and Security live and recorded webinars from Library 2.0. DLD is offering a new Readers Advisory training from EBSCO called Learn with NoveList, which offers 45 hours of learning on readers advisory and inclusive promotions topics.

Chris Gauvreau served on a committee to organize a workshop on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)-funded **Cybersecurity Pilot Program for Schools and Libraries** that was held at the 2024 Cyber Nutmeg Conference hosted by the CT Education Network (CEN).

Brad Bullis presented an overview of the CT Digital Library at the **CT Association of School Librarians (CASL)** conference on October 7th.

Chris Gauvreau presented lessons from the **Designing and Implementing a Regional Digital Navigator Sharing Plan** project at the IMLS Grants to States Conference in Milwaukee, to the

annual COSLINE conference in Concord, New Hampshire, and to the New England Library Association annual conference in Portland, Maine.

DLD presented **researchIT CT** Webinars from EBSCO in November including Promoting Your EBSCO Resources – researchIT and The New EBSCO Experience Manager (EEM) & EBSCO administrative Overview – researchIT.

LeAnn Power, Elise Marzik, Nicole Besseghir, and Nicole Marino attended the **Fall Conference of the Town Clerks' Association** in Westbrook on September 19. They presented an update on electronic records, the Historic Documents Preservation grant program, and other public records topics for approximately 200 town clerks and vendors. They also staffed an information table, addressing questions from town clerks and records vendors related to agency policies and the Historic Documents Preservation grant program.

Elise Marzik and Nicole Marino presented a **records management training** for the **Department of Economic and Community Development** to approximately 50 state employees on September 25.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator launched the second annual **State Records Management Webinar Training Series**, with sessions on October 23. Elise Marzik and Nicole Marino presented **Session 1: Records Management Essentials**, a high-level overview of state records management requirements, to approximately 200 state employees representing a majority of executive branch state agencies. Each session of the ongoing monthly training series covers a different state records management topic.

At the Appellate Court's request, Lindsay Cawley and Bryan Kohlen offered a **legislative history training presentation** to the incoming law clerks, which the Court would now like to schedule annually in addition to their usual tour of the State Library.

Lizette Pelletier and Allen Ramsey presented *Automating Redaction to Improve Access to Records* at a session of the **Council of State Archivists (CoSA) annual meeting** in St. Louis, Missouri on September 19.

Lizette Pelletier presented at the Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board's (CT SHRAB) Archives Month event, *America 250: Using Archives to Uncover Untold Stories from the American Revolution*. The event was hosted by the Greenwich Historical Society on October 30th. There were over 30 participants from across Connecticut and included participants from Dutchess County, New York.

Resource Updates

Through the Division of Library Development's (DLD) LSTA funding, Collection Services purchased online subscriptions and eBooks that support **legal literacy**. Carol Trinchitella negotiated with vendors and facilitated the purchasing workflow. Kandace Yuen added portfolios, or links, to our Primo library catalog and our LibGuides A-Z Databases. As of October 2024, the following new resources are available remotely for our CT State Library cardholders:

- American Bar Association (ABA) Law Library Collection Periodicals (HeinOnline) - 296 portfolios
- Animal Studies: Law, Welfare and Rights (HeinOnline) - 2210 portfolios

- Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP) (HeinOnline) - 1 portfolio
- EBSCO eBooks – various publishers - 246 new eBooks
- Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) (HeinOnline) - 2857 portfolios
- Judges and the Judiciary: Exploring America's Court System (HeinOnline) - 3621 portfolios
- Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases (HeinOnline) - 15272 portfolios
- Religion and the Law (HeinOnline) - 4474 portfolios
- Reports of U.S. Presidential Commissions and Other Advisory Bodies (HeinOnline) - 3201 portfolios
- Sage Criminal Justice Package (Sage Publications) – 8 portfolios
- Voting Rights & Election Law (HeinOnline) - 3155 portfolios
- West Academic Casebooks Archive (Hein Online) - 4276 portfolios

Collection Services deaccessioned 21 volumes of **looseleaf legal treatises**. The materials weighed approximately 86 pounds and freed 5.25 linear feet of shelf space in the library Stacks location.

The Cataloging Unit 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 staff completed 3,400 updates. Examples include:–*Six centuries of work and wages. The history of English labour*, by James E. Thorold Rogers, M.P. 1884. *The development of the state: its governmental organization and its activities*. by James Quayle Dealey. 1909.

The Cataloging Unit contributed 44 records to the **NACO** (Name Authority Cooperative) database. Noteworthy contributions included records for Connecticut Cooperative Transportation Research Program and for Young Emeralds' Society (Portland, Conn.).

Significant **USGPO titles cataloged**: *Battlespace journal*. Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA : Air Land Sea Application Center, #c 2021-. *NATO's July 2024 Washington, DC summit*. Washington, D.C. : Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, 2024.

Significant **Connecticut State Documents cataloged**: *County government in Connecticut*. Connecticut General Assembly. Office of Legislative Research, 2015. *Questions concerning the disposition of neglected burial grounds*. Connecticut General Assembly. Office of Legislative Research, 2016.

The Digitization and Digital Collection Services Unit digitized over 5,900 pages of **State Library collection materials**, including 12 volumes of historical Connecticut General Assembly proceedings transcripts from 1965 and 1967 and 91 Connecticut state documents. Thirty digitized Connecticut state documents were added to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) for digital preservation and public access.

The first newspapers digitized by the **Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project** for its sixth National Digital Newspaper Program grant cycle have been made available on the Library of Congress' Chronicling America database: [The Weekly Gazette \(East Hartford\), 1925-1941](#); the [Danbury Times, 1837-1870](#); [The Danbury News, 1870-1871](#); and Prohibition newspapers [The](#)

[Connecticut Home \(Willimantic\), 1889-1891](#), and [The New England Home \(Hartford\), 1892-1894](#).

The [new DLD home page](#) was published on November 1. With an eye towards accessibility, the new home page and subpages are designed to be user friendly and allow visitors to find what they are looking for quickly and efficiently. A DLD Staff Directory drop-down menu is included on all pages so visitors can easily connect with their library liaison or a DLD staff member to answer any questions they may have.

In late September 2024, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) launched the open beta program of the **My Talking Books** skill for Alexa enabled smart speakers. The My Talking Books skill allows NLS patrons nationwide, including CT LAB patrons, to stream audio books available from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service offered by NLS. Open Beta is a stage in software development where members of the public have an opportunity to experience and test software prior to production release. This program is operating as a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) service. CT LAB patrons enrolled in BARD and who have an Alexa enabled smart speaker can enroll in the open beta program.

Collections are a large part of the library ecosystem, and DLD has always offered workshops and trainings to help library workers better manage their collection. To better support libraries, Kym Powe has collated all relevant information to a [Collection Management Libguides page](#). Currently the Libguides page holds access to the Magazines and Journals for Libraries, information on building an inclusive library collection and collection audits, weeding workshops, and Readers Advisory.

DLD had 173 Public Libraries submit their **annual report** on 10/1. As reports are reviewed, a major trend we're seeing is eAudio downloads are up in libraries across the state. DLD is on track to release the FY2024 Statistical Profile in December. Barbara Ghilardi is working with Novus to finalize the Public Charts portion of the platform. This will allow libraries to download their own charts and reports straight from the platform. There will also be a public page set up for the public to view data. This should be released at the same time as the Statistical Profile.

The Museum of CT History **acquired new collection items** including Governor McConaughy's marble pen stand (as seen in his official portrait); a basketball signed by Donny Marshall, UConn men's team ca. 1991-1995; and two Cabbage Patch Kid dolls ca. 1982 & 1985.

The Museum received for exhibition purposes **incoming loans**: a bracelet composed of metal from a Japanese plane during WWII made by a Connecticut Marine ca. 1941-1945; and an Iraqi car license plate collected by a Connecticut National Guardsman, ca. 2003-2004.

The Museum shared collection items as **outgoing loans**: King George III lead statue fragment to the Greenwich Historical Society for their exhibit, "Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line," open October 2024 through March 2025; and World War II hatchet and flashlight, coffee shipping box to the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History for their exhibit, "Coffee: A Connecticut Story," open November 2024 through November 2025.

Researcher and numismatist Kevin Vinton met with Beth Burgess to review **1787 Fugio coins in the Mitchelson Collection**. (Fugios were the first federally-minted cents in the U.S.) Vinton used the information about the Museum's Fugios in preparation for a talk for the American Numismatic Society's annual conference in November.

The Museum configured and distributed **environmental dataloggers** to agency units that manage stored collections. Individual monitoring devices have been placed at 231 Capitol Ave. and 75 Van Block to collect and monitor temperature, relative humidity, dewpoint, and light level information. Staff will review data on a monthly basis, looking for fluctuations or anomalies, and responding as needed to provide adequate environmental stewardship for paper-based and material culture collections.

The Museum team, with the capable assistance of the Archives staff, continues to **reorganize its storage areas** following conservator recommendations and move large objects between buildings.

LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 522 municipal and 230 state agency authorization forms for records disposals.

Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz accessioned 496 cubic feet of agency records; deaccessioned 1,490 cubic feet; processed 223 reference requests; and processed 77 re-files and inter-files at the Records Center.

Elizabeth Swan has begun scanning 46 volumes of indexes for the **Joint Stock Companies** from the Secretary of State Incorporation collection in the State Archives covering the years 1913 to 1922. The data from these scans will be added in the future to an existing online searchable database of such incorporations that went live this year on the Open Data portal.

The Law & Legislative research **guide to constitutional history** has been updated to include amendments to the state constitution and their legislative histories that have passed since 2008 when the original guide was created and printed by library staff for distribution.

Susan Bigelow and Jeannie Sherman both have helped in creating simple listings of Connecticut State Library scanned materials that are on the **FamilySearch website** but are difficult to access. An example of this work is a new listing of Connecticut Probate Estate Files (1636-1915) that includes approximately 2,100 entries that is much simpler to use and leads to the digitized original records on the FamilySearch website.

With the assistance of Eric Paiva and Elizabeth Esquilin, the **Federal Documents program** processed 1,880 discards submitted by selective depository libraries in Connecticut and Rhode Island during September and October. During this same time period, Kris Aberly added 42 items claimed from the selective depository libraries and cataloged 448 items within the collection.

Jenny Groome implemented the updated version of the **online database list** to make the most of the valuable new features it offers and begin practicing with the new framework that will be utilized by the rest of the agency's research guides in 2025.

Jenny Groome, Susan Bigelow, Lindsay Cawley, and Andrew Bourque dedicated considerable time to **checking and correcting the links** intended to redirect users from the State Library's old website to its new one on the state portal.

Maria Paxi has completed processing three boxes of **vital records (births and deaths)** for the Connecticut State Farm and Reformatory for Women and will now finish processing the administrative records of that agency that are housed in the State Archives.

Steve Mirsky has completed the 2024 legislative entries for the **Special Acts Index**.

To celebrate the start of fair season, Kris Aberly and Wafaa Razeq assembled an **Agricultural Fairs in Connecticut display** containing state publications and promotional materials.

In October, Nora Sawyer proposed and created a **witchcraft display** related to the joint resolution issued by the General Assembly last year absolving those Connecticut residents indicted for and convicted of witchcraft.

Sarah Morin, student interns, and volunteers processed 17 cubic feet (34 boxes) of the **New Haven County Court records**. They completed County Court files 1819 (Nov); Superior Court files 1780-1798; Superior Court criminal files 1797-1855; Superior Court judgments (civil case files) 1798-1819 (A-S, U-V, Y); and Superior Court papers by subject category Executions 1712-1798. They identified approximately 37 cases involving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Sarah Morin published one blog entry, [Meet Our Student Interns! Part 5](#), as well as two Instagram posts, cases of [corporal punishment and hard labor for crimes](#) and [grave robbery by a Yale medical student](#). Student volunteer Abby Davidson wrote a guest post for the blog, [Divorce in Nineteenth-Century Connecticut](#). Sarah Morin also gave a presentation, "Setting and Applying New Standards for Descriptive Language," for the *Righting/Writing the Wrongs of Archival Description* webinar on November 4. Her November 2022 blog post, [Beware the Stranger and the Unworthy: Poverty and Public Welfare in Colonial and Early American Connecticut](#), will be printed in the Winter 2024-2025 issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) highlighted the project on their [Facebook page](#) with a post about the [Elizabeth Gould case](#) on October 30 and the blog post on [Divorce in Nineteenth-Century Connecticut](#) on November 1.

Recent Archives Accessions include:

- **Town of Woodbury** school records, 1973-1974, 0.25 cubic feet (RG 062:168). The records are not open to the public per CGS 1-210 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- **Connecticut Commission on the Arts** personnel files, circa 1966-1988, 6 cubic feet (RG 097). The files are not open to the public per CGS 1-210

State Library staff met on October 16 with **Family Search** staff and their new scanning vendor Intelligent Image Management Inc. (IIMI) to discuss the transition from missionary couples and Family Search staff members to IIMI staff to scan our probate court files. Family Search staff member Jesus Villanueva completed his scanning work at the end of October. Jesus and Damon Munz are working with IIMI on the transition going over workflows such as document preparation of probate court files and quality control of the scanned images. IIMI will be scaling up to work through the millions of pages to be scanned of probate court files. Once scanned the files will be available for free on the Family Search website.

Staff News

Law & Legislative Reference welcomed the **addition of Nora Sawyer as a Librarian I** in October.

Brittney Rankins joined the State Archives team on October 28 as the new **Digital Records Archivist**.