

August 10, 2021

Library System Report

Cara Burton, System Director

Director's Update:

Pandemix Programs

During the pandemic, public libraries have worked to continue to provide services to their communities, even when the library is closed to visitors. Staff are required to collect library use data each year for a state annual report to demonstrate how the community values and needs library services. The program statistics counted library programs inside the library, so all the virtual and off-site programs would not be captured using the pre-pandemic report statistics.

I have coined the new data collection items as Pandemix: the hybrid types of programs offered by nonprofits to respond to the vacillating operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 30th, I met with the Technical Services Manager Charle Ricci and Youth Services Librarian Tiffany Flores to review the new FY2021-2022 state

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The Acquisitive Character of the Collector

ShoreCat provides an easy way for patrons to keep track of new items at the library that are written by their favorite authors, are part of their favorite series, or are about their favorite subjects – all with the nifty ShoreCat feature, Watch Lists. By creating a Watch List, a patron will receive an email or text message when an item is added to the library's collection that matches any of their Watch List terms. They can then request the new item if they so desire.

Any library patron with an email address and password saved to their library account can set up Watch Lists. They will need to log into



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data collection requirements. Flores was able to educate us about the difference between synchronous and asynchronous programs*, due to her online education experience. The number of data fields to collect expanded, capturing:



StoryTrails are library programs, however, we cannot count attendance.

in-person offsite, in-person on-site, and virtual, with each requiring data by age groups and attendance of each.

Needless to say, our spreadsheet for recording data needed to be updated.

This started a conversation as to what programs we are actually doing that we have not counted in the past. For example, about five years ago, Ricci recommended we have “passive programs.” We do not have the staff to have a lot of programs; passive programs provide a low staff alternative. Examples were the jigsaw puzzles and the large coloring sheets at the entrance that provided for individuals to participate in a group program, but not all participating at the same time.

These type of programs are also great for individuals with busy schedules that find it hard to put a specific day and time of a program on their calendar. Recorded virtual programs

have helped fill a program gap for these library users.

Virtual programs have also proven convenient for learners not wanting to leave the house and for those unable to leave their house or office. ESPL successfully has several such programs, as mentioned in past system reports. We have not offered any over the summer due to staff capacity and it seems everyone is ready to meet in person now that we can.

A recent passive program is the Northampton Walking Trail brochure. This would be classified as a “synchronous general interest program session” in that it targets the whole family. It is also a “synchronous in-person offsite program.” Other non-traditional programs we need to count include the nature backpacks, the birding backpack, letterboxes, StoryTrails, and the CSB WalkKits. The Director speaking at a recent Rotary Club meeting also counts.

Libraries change over the past two years is driving innovation in library services and programs. While use data collection, which is used in strategic planning, seems mundane and tedious, it is useful in evaluating success and public interest so that future programs and services respond to community needs.

*Synchronous events take place in real-time. Asynchronous events are recorded and participants can attend the program at any time that works for them.

Heritage Hub

Local History Services

Stacia Childers, LH Specialist

In preparation for the Board of Trustees upcoming Strategic Planning project, staff was asked to prepare recommendations of our own departmental goals for consideration by the Board. To that end staff has been looking over the Heritage Center's Mission, Vision and Value Statements which were approved by the Board last month.

At the same time, we answered a query from the Eastern Shore of Virginia Rail Trail Working Group partnership, the group tasked with promoting and supporting development of a 50-mile hiking and bicycling trail along the Eastern Shore's railroad line. As a member of the partnership, Library Director Cara Burton asked staff to check our digital image collections for photos of the railroad and tracks for a rack card the group is creating.

The request (and Cara's involvement as a member of the group) ties into the second bullet point of the ESVA Heritage Center Value Statement about partnerships: "We build collaborative relationships with educational systems, cultural institutions, community-based organizations and local governments." And it fits with the first bullet of Historical Stewardship which states that we will "share our rich heritage."

We were happy to contribute to a Shore-wide economic and cultural development project. It also provided a great opportunity for us to spread the word about our diverse collections to members of the group and to anyone picking up that rack card in the future. The Heritage Center is not just about collecting our history but making it as accessible and available as possible – not only for the benefit of individual researchers, but also for the benefit of the greater community.



Local History Staff Childers recently found photographs in the library's collections to help the Rail Trail Committee.



Youth Services

Tiffany Flores, Youth Services Librarian

Youth Services Librarian Tiffany Flores was able to attend one of Eastern Shore's Healthy Communities Sexual Education courses. While this event wasn't remarkably successful, it still proved to be a worthwhile outreach event. As an attendee, Tiffany was able to distribute and promote both sexual education resources and general resources the library has, give out a few books, and participate as a student alongside the youth who were there. By doing so, she was able to help engage the students and see just how well the class was put together. At the end of the event, she handed off the resource sheets so they may be distributed throughout the following lessons. So, while only one teenager was at this event, these resources would be shared with future participants.

On July 23rd, 2021, Cascading Carlos the Juggler visited Eastern Shore Public Library as part of our summer programming. The event began at 10:30 and a total of four people showed up. While it was a small event, Carlos did an excellent job performing for the group and engaging the children in the wonderful world of juggling. One child, in particular,

seemed quite enthralled by it and excited to try out the different types of juggling tools available. By the end of the program, he had managed to master one of the techniques, seemingly inspired by the art and performance. Who knows? Maybe Carlos inspired the next world-famous juggler!

It is gardening season at Northampton Free Library! We are now offering Garden to Go kits at Northampton Free Library until kits run out as there is only a limited supply. Each kit includes a grow bag, soil, and seeds so kids have everything to begin growing their own vegetables to enjoy. The program began in late July and, as a budding program, there has been some interest. So far we have had four parents with their kids come in and receive kits. Youth Services Librarian Tiffany Flores hopes that people continue to come in to receive kits.



Carlos was back tossing fun into the Summer Reading Program.



Future gardeners pick up their Garden To Go kits.



Chincoteague Island Library

Karen Sharp, Library Manager

Chincoteague Island Library is continuing to experience a busy summer with new patrons, our current and awesome patrons, visitors and programs/events.



Speaking of programs, CIL is sponsoring, along with the Chincoteague Island Arts Organization and the Virginia Commission for the Arts, a puppet show. The Barefoot Puppets Presents "Galapagos George" at the Island Theatre August 2nd at 7PM. This program is Family fun for "children" of all ages. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. The show is based on the true story of "Lonesome George" and tells the tale of a truly one-of-a-kind tortoise from the Galapagos Islands. George is a Giant Galapagos Tortoise and the last tortoise to be found on Pinta Island in the Galapagos archipelago. Described by the Smithsonian Discovery Theatre as "an uplifting eco-fable", this unique show was awarded a 2005 UNIMA Citation of Excellence, the highest distinction in American puppetry!

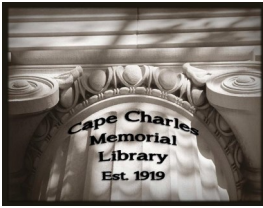


Some of CIL's past programs, recently held, have been the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team along with Misty's Morning Glory who visited the library this past Thursday. Morning Glory is the great-granddaughter of Misty! An extra treat, Misty's great, great grandson Thunderstorm was waiting in the trailer for his "aunt" to return from her visit to the library! A HUGE THANKYOU to handlers Sophie Gallivan, Baily Edwards, Jordan Penland, and owner Kendy Allen for making this such a special day for "kids" of all ages!!



The Young Explorers (3rd -5th Graders) had a great day on Thursday, July 22nd. They experienced a behind-the-scenes tour at the Island Theatre. Behind the curtains, speaking into the microphone, shown the "letter room" where letters for the marque are stored, visited the projection room and watched a film showcasing Chincoteague. A BIG

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Cape Charles Memorial Library

Ann Rutledge Library Manager

As usual, July was a busy month for CCML. We were able to offer a limited selection of Summer Reading programs this year; with all of them being held outside or virtual for the safety of our patrons. We also added a new Library Assistant, Betsy Doherty, to our staff this month.

We held three outdoor story times (Preschool Outdoor Fun) and we were excited to see some old friends as well as new visitors. The Virginia Living Museum again provided us with an interesting virtual program, Lost Dinosaur. Kiptopeke State Park held three outdoor programs for us, bringing back a favorite – an outdoor Treasure Hunt. On this very hot July day we had 55 people to participate in this program. The highlight of July was the visit by Carlos the Juggler, who entertained both kids and adults with his amazing juggling. We were also able to provide two programs for the Migrant Headstart children. They visited the library and participated in crafts and played with educational toys. And finally, Library Assistant Sharon Silvey provided Campfire Stories at Kiptopeke State Park.



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THANKYOU to Mr. Bill, George and Doug for showing them around and for the great experience!!

CIL'S Summer Reading Challenge, "Lubbock's Learners" will be ending soon. The last day to turn in their reading logs will August 14th with a wrap-up party scheduled for August 19th.

The Board of CIL will be holding the monthly meeting on August 13th.



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, TS Manager



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ShoreCat and click on the blue “My Items” button in the upper right corner of the screen. Select the Interests tab, click “My Watch Lists”, and then “Add” to set up a new Watch List term. Not only can Watch Lists be added for Authors, Series, or Subjects, but they can also be set up by material type, such as audio, book, or video.

Alternatively, Watch List terms can be added while searching in ShoreCat and while logged into your patron account. When viewing the Full Details of a particular item in the catalog, simply click on the eyeglasses icon next to the author, series heading, or subject, and a new Watch List will be automatically created. There is no limit to the number of Watch Lists that can be created for each patron account.

If a patron’s reading interests change over time, it is easy to edit or delete Watch Lists from the same screen where they are created. ESPL staff can also help to manage a patron’s Watch Lists from the staff side of the library’s circulation software if a patron is not comfortable doing it on their own.

There are currently only a handful of ESPL patrons utilizing Watch Lists, but hopefully this article will help to raise awareness about this wonderful feature of ShoreCat. Give Watch Lists a try, and let ShoreCat lend a paw in keeping you in the know about all of your favorite things.

Eastern Shore Public Library

Search

GO

Advanced Combo Media

Home Search Visual List Links

Account

Logged On: CARA JANE BURTON

Log Off

Temporary Bookbag (0)

View

My Items

PATRON: BURTON, CARA JANE

You Have 5 Items Checked Out

You Have 1 Items Reserved

You Have 2 Watch List Items

Reserves Items Out Fines Account Interests History

MY BOOKBAGS - CLICK TO VIEW

MY WATCH LISTS - CLICK TO HIDE

YOUR WATCH LIST TERMS

Type	Term	Material Type	Action
Subject	Revolutionary War	Any Material Type	Edit Delete
Author	wally lamb	Any Material Type	Edit Delete

Northampton Free Library

Coming Soon! A new Branch Manager



Attention is being paid to the library's grounds, a great asset. Brush was pruned back.



New Branch Manager Hannah Swimley toured all ESPL libraries as part of orientation.

Some staff at the main, Accomac library still telecommute to help maintain social distancing and because of the stress of working in cramped work spaces that are not conducive to concentrating on technical work. Staff look forward to the new regional library's workspace and appreciate the hard work of the volunteers that have and are spending time and money to get us there!



Staff often have no room to work as new equipment and books arrive for the new library ahead of the move. Safety is a top concern. This is the office in the Accomac library.

Staff Development Day

July 19th



Staff Development Day involved all 22 ESPL staff and took place at Historic Onancock School. The retreat allowed for a review of the Trustee's new Mission and Vision and the start of planning goals for the ESPL System Strategic Plan. Charle Ricci gave tips on using ShoreCat's Atrium system. Nan Carmack, Director, Library Development & Networking Division, gave an overview of the Library of Virginia's new e-Resources and how to know when they are of use to patrons. The ESPL team also had fun doing a group exercise that highlight's the system's mission to be welcoming and promote reading.

Grant Update

August 2021

The **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** has several streams of potential funding we may get. We cannot use the money for construction, however, equipment that falls within the ARPA guidelines will lessen the “outfitting” of the ESVARLHC. Most funding opportunities involve Internet and digital resource access. All are applied for through ESPL (not the Foundation).

- **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** – This ARPA money is distributed to the Library of Virginia. ESPL should receive \$28,709 based on the state aid formula. Application submitted with budget for: RFID installation (due to construction delay) - \$10,000; security system - \$9,000; HC website - \$6,000, phase 2; tech consultant - \$3,523.
- **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** – Application submitted. Should hear in October 2021. ESPL is partnering with the Nabb Center at Salisbury University. ESPL would get a subaward, if Nabb is awarded this competitive grant. We might receive an archivist 20 hours/week for a year and other benefits on work that will support their DelMarVa African American History database project. The burden of grant application, recordkeeping and fiduciary responsibility falls on SU.
- **Virginia Humanities (VH)** – Continue to work with US250 consultant, paid for with VH grant. Kasey Grier is applying for the SHARP grant for the purpose of a Heritage Center planning consultant.
- **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** – Emergency Connectivity Fund. Application submitted that will support technology for area nonprofits, namely wifi hotspots, ipads, and ChromeBooks.

Pending:

- **NEH Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections** – August award date. Will support compact archival shelving. ESPL Foundation applied.
- **VRSA (ESPL'S insurance company) Risk Management Grant** - \$500 matching grant. Applied for file cabinets with non-tipping features.

Awarded:

- **USDA Rural Development Communities Assistance Grant** – two grants were awarded for a variety of technology and equipment. Paperwork and purchasing taking place now. We do not receive the USDA money until all equipment has arrived and all matching funds expended.
- **ESVA Community Foundation (\$50,000)** – This will be the match for the Accomac USDA RD grant and will support children's shelving and the Digitization Lab. Awarded to the ESPL Foundation.

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Unfunded

- **NEH Preservation Assistance Grant (PAG)** – Unfunded. Received notification 8/5/2021. Was to provide a consultant to assist with the organization system for the archives.

