Library System Report

Cara Burton, System Director

Director's Update:

Why Would a Library Need Privacy Pods?

People often move to rural areas for the quiet and solitude. Why would a rural library need a privacy pod? What is a privacy pod?

Prior to the pandemic, in 2016, I was first introduced to privacy seating at university libraries I visited. This high-backed seating provided for not only privacy, but also some sound and visual barrier to surrounding distractions. Students could better focus on their studies. Then came the pandemic.

During the pandemic, people wanted physical barriers from other people to protect from germ transmission, doing

Privacy seating has been popular in college libraries, such as SUNY—New Paltz.

Adaptability: A Key Part of Librarianship

By Charle Riche
Technical Services Manager

Over the past couple of years, library staff have worked carefully to determine how to best lay out the shelving in the new Parksley library. Calculations have been made in regards to linear feet of books, sound recordings, and video recordings in conjunction with square footage measurements, site plans, and best practices for spacing between shelving units.

On a site visit to the Parksley site in May, ESPL staff were surprised to discover three newly created recessed areas in walls in the adult and children's collection areas. These recesses were constructed to hold fire

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what was coined as "social distancing." Whereas past library design focused on group study tables grouped in congregating areas, library seating swiveled to isolationism. This was actually a throwback to libraries of the past that focused on quiet study areas with the traditional "carrels" that had barrier around the table, not the seating.

From the beginning of our building project, I had planned to get one or two privacy seating units. At the May ESPL Foundation meeting, funding was approved for such purchases. An order is being placed for a high-backed loveseat for the children's area, which will be popular

for nursing mothers. A privacy desk pod will be purchased for the Library Commons, near the public computer area.

In May, ESPL and about thirty other library systems were contacted by the Library of Virginia (LVA) as being eligible for a grant, because we serve a "medically underserved area" AND an area of low employment. As a result, LVA is offering the opportunity to receive a little extra help in having our residents access tele-everything. The pandemic made telemedicine common practice, but also highlighted the disparity in access to telemedicine and other online services due to a localities' technology inadequacy.

"Privacy pods" help provide a cost effective solution. They look something like an old-school phone booth, in which patrons can attend their scheduled appointment with their telehealth provider, conduct job interviews, private legal conversations, etc.

LVA staff hosted a demonstration tele-meeting with a Virginia library that has a privacy pod in place now. The library director was able to relate their experiences with patrons using the pod. They found it very popular with patrons and it served an important community need. They also demonstrated how it is truly sound proof.

They are not considered "construction" by the grantor, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), because they basically snap together. IMLS's ARPA funding will not pay for construction, but it will pay for equipment like this. The other benefit of the pods is that they are flexible, in that they can be moved to another spot in the building or another location.

Many of our citizens need a good, broadband connection and computer technology to connect with medical providers, legal counsel, employment services, and family members in a private setting. Perhaps it is even more needed in a rural area where it is too easy for "everyone to know your business."

We are very glad we will be getting the privacy seating and pod to help meet our patrons' needs. We are grateful we will have this new building that will have the space to accommodate this equipment. We thank all who have supported this capital project that enable us to have the capacity to take advantage of such opportunities for new equipment and technology. Hopefully, progress like this will help our community move into the status of being adequately medically served and employed.

Youth Services

Tiffany Flores, Youth Services Librarian

Youth Services Librarian Tiffany Flores returned from maternity leave. And, what better way to return than to attend an outreach event! Tiffany accompanied Cara Burton and Hannah Swimley to the Franktown United Methodist Church's Art and Food Fair. At this event, Eastern Shore Public Library promoted e-resources, the Walking Classroom program, and were set up for library card registration. Tiffany Flores gave out books, taught children origami, and had fun promoting youth-related resources.

Tiffany Flores took on a big project upon her return: distribution of the cases of grant-donated new children's books that were left from various projects done throughout the year and carts full of withdrawn books. Immediately, multiple organizations and schools were contacted to see if they may be interested in both free new books and withdrawn library books. Many reached out and agreed to pick some out for their classroom or nonprofit program use.

By the end of the month we had given away 67 cases of books which amounted to 2,186 books that had been left over from the RED project and a substantial amount of our discards. Many books remain and we look forward to distributing them at upcoming events such as Juneteenth in Exmore.

Staff recently met with Rochelle Grey of TGD and Sara Stuart of ADCO to review rebranding and wayfinding and messaging signage plans and designs.

Progress has been made on improving the accessibility into the Northampton Free Library. Pictured here is the new cement pad that makes for a smoother, safer entrance and usable outdoor space.

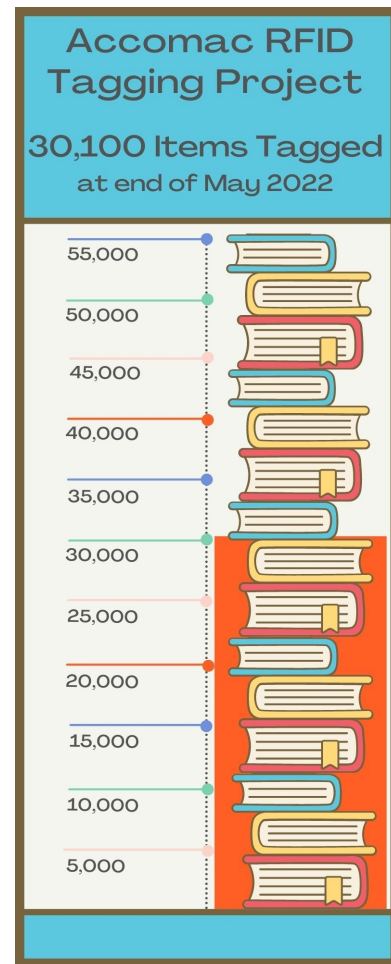# Technical Services

Charle Ricci, TS Manager

extinguishers. Shelving could no longer be installed in these areas, as had been planned. Additionally, building code requires a 36" clearance around each extinguisher.

While library staff have studied the building plans closely over the course of the project, the fire extinguisher cabinets had gone unnoticed. Fortunately, librarians are resourceful, and staff immediately started making alternative plans. Out came the tape measures and pencils! With some creative brainstorming, an area was identified at the rear of the building where shelving, originally intended for one of the three extinguisher areas, could be placed.

The second extinguisher area, near the large print books, could be adjusted for by shifting the book shelving to the left and changing the final location for the newspapers and magazines. The third area, which is in the children's room, was successfully addressed by reducing the width of wall shelving near the Youth Services Librarian's office.

In the end, the alternative shelving plan works well, and ESPL staff gained a bit more knowledge and experience with construction plans and the realities of a building project. While the process of library construction and moving a library is not taught in library school, the adaptability and understanding gained throughout the project will serve our staff well as we begin a new chapter of library service to the Shore community.

Accomac RFID Tagging Project

30,100 Items Tagged at end of May 2022

55,000
50,000
45,000
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000

Fortunately, code allows us to have a skinny book shelf on the left side of this emergency exit corridor.

Heritage Hub

Welcome, Chris Pote, our new ESVA Heritage Center Manager!

This is a new position that will steward our collections into the new Center.

What goes into making the Heritage Center website

By Jazmine Collins, Local History Specialist and Circulation Manager

Type in "make a website" into your browser search bar and the numerous results will display pages that walk through "easy step by step" processes to make an ingenious website. They generally begin with choosing a domain, setting up a content management system, then designing the website and adding content. Of course, these pages often highlight tips and not so subtle hints from specific domain and hosting companies and site builders to draw in customers. These results would suggest that creating a website is a breeze, especially if half the steps, such

as choosing a domain and a web hosting, a site name and much of the "set up" is already complete. Thus, when creating a the new site for the Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center under an existing domain of espl.org, with content that is largely already written and contained under the Genealogy tab, the process should be as simple as moving it over to the new website.

In a perfect library world, it would. What it really entails is a bit more complicated and a lot more tedious. First we start with registering a new domain under our existing domain at espl.org and identifying all of the PDF, documents, photos, .mp3, and other files that are currently housed on the espl.org domain that will need to be migrated. This includes any items with specific software, such as MilesFiles, that requires more than the average technical configurations to be migrated to the new domain. This also includes crossing fingers for luck that none of these files become inaccessible in the process, or more importantly that MilesFiles doesn't go down for more than five minutes, to avoid the influx of emails and phone calls.

That done, the next step, or simultaneous steps are: 1) the design of the website and 2) the content. Of course, with the upcoming new building and Heritage Center, ESPL is "re-branding" with a new logo design and coordinating color template which becomes the foundation for the website's design. Working with TGD Communications Inc. for the website's digital design and development, a process begins of drafting "wireframes" of the layout and navigation op-
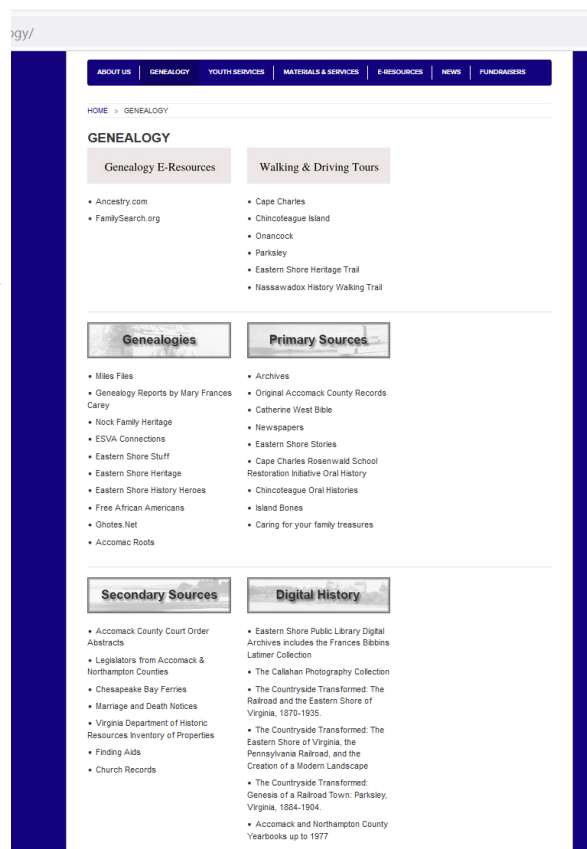
tions. These wireframes are sent to the ESPL website team in an Adobe XD format for staff to make comments, such as the positioning and color of specific items, design symmetry, adding tabs, enlarging items for easier visibility, and other format input. This correspondence takes place over several months, as wireframes are updated or changed, and includes numerous video-conferencing meetings between ESPL and TGD staff to discuss the website vision and gain clarification.

At the same time that the design process is under way, ESPL staff review the content under the current Genealogy tab at ESPL.org, which will be what makes up the Heritage Center website. As staff begin to envision the new website, taking into account the new facility and re-branding, and integrating the lessons of various marketing and engagement trainings and trends, it is decided that the theme for the initial home page tabs will be "action" words that reflect the expectations and functions of the Heritage Center. These changes, once incorporated into the website design, become a new starting point for creating the necessary pages and content as well as re-organizing the content that will be migrated from ESPL.org.

As is often the case with combined efforts of multiple parties, sharing information does not pose as much of a problem as does how the information is shared. Structuring the website content, in particular the tiered menu items and pages, in a format that is both easily navigated by all the staff involved and convenient for the developers to add to the website is challenging. For one staff, creating separate documents for each page, and separate folders for each tier level, is the most logical format. For other staff, especially when needed to review and edit wording, it is more logical to have all of the content on one document and to organize the level of pages in an outline format. The developers may prefer a spreadsheet or table format, with tiered level of pages identified by the column or row.

The local history content on the current espl.org website makes finding resources challenging. The new website will have items better organized and more graphically appealing.

Formatting may seem a trivial personal preference, but is more relevant for the individual to be able visualize the menu items, pages, and sub-pages. For staff, this becomes more critical as the website's design progresses, to ensure that the text matches the design. For example, for the Heritage Center website, the main "tabs" open to pages with headline text and menu items in sleek shadowed boxes that display the page name, the introduction of the descriptive text, and for most, an image. In drafting the text, staff must be able to envision which tier level the page belongs, and what content, or additional content, is necessary to correspond with the elements of the page design.

In addition to formatting, arranging pages from the current site into the new menus, reviewing and editing current text, and creating and drafting text for new pages, staff must also include relevant links. For each webpage on the website, there is at least one link or hyperlink, but usually more.

Staff must verify that any links from the existing text still work and are still relevant.

For new pages, staff must include the links and instructions as to their placement, embedding, wording, etc. As the entire structure of the website is different any hyperlinks to other ESPL pages need to be changed and worded accordingly. Staff also includes photos for the menu items, where relevant.

Once completed and reviewed, edits and suggestions made, the content goes to the developers. The developers add the content to the mock-up, and send it back for comments and staff review for additional pages needed, and the cycle continues. This may seem incomplete, and it is; additional edits and changes may still be needed before the website is ready for launch. Even so, as the Heritage Center's collection grows, and as the resources are digitized, the website will be ever changing, but the effort---all the effort that has been put into the new website, like all the effort and time put into the Regional Library and Heritage Center building---will be well worth the wait.


Pictured l-r: Nancy Bisker, Chapter Regent; Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager; Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian; and Sarah Bingman, Chapter Treasurer.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution recently made a presentation to the Eastern Shore Public Library. On the recommendation of Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian, the chapter purchased The 1787 Census of Virginia, Accomack County and The 1787 Census of Virginia, Northampton County. According to Ms. Ricci, the library was delighted to have these two new editions, which will replace existing ones that are no longer suitable for research use. Christopher Pote, the recently hired Heritage Center Manager, was also on hand to accept the books on behalf of the Public Library.

The future Dennis Custis Lecture Hall.
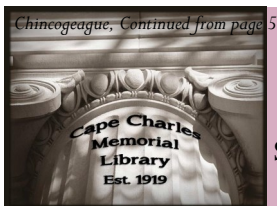
Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager

We started the month of April with a bit of spring cleaning, which included organizing our computer lab and adding a new "Welcome" banner and a Rails to Trails display in our front lobby.

Our themed book displays for April included National Poetry Month and Earth Day. Earth Day Grab & Go bags, which included activities and crafts, crayons, and a book about the environment were shared with our younger visitors. Staff was able to attend the "Blessing of the Worms" with the New Roots Garden and shared some Worm Grab & Go bags!

With the support from our Friends of Cape Charles Memorial Library we have purchased five new Vox Books for children's collection. "VOX Books combine outstanding picture books, chapter books, and non-fiction titles with audio recordings that capture children's attention and make learning and literacy development fun" (libraryideas.com). We have also been able to purchase six Walking Classroom Walk Kits, two STEM Home Kits, and two Walking Classroom Home Kits. Each Walk-Kit audio player is preloaded with educational podcasts — encouraging children to learn while they exercise! The STEM Home Kit is focused on science related topics and the Walking Classroom Home Kits are designed for homeschoolers. Each of these kits include 2 audio devices preloaded with 167 educational topics and a discussion guide.
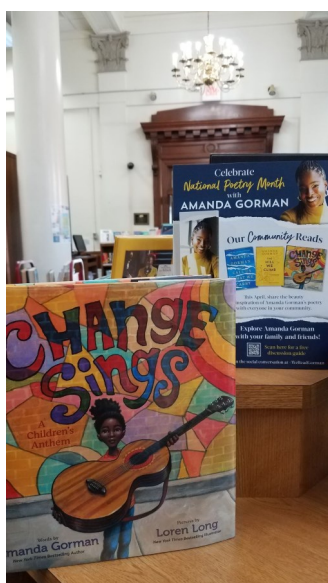
Our Friends group is also helping in part with our Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities". We have scheduled several performers and programs, plus we have some amazing prizes this summer!

On June 21 we will have a registration "shell-a-bration" — stop by and register for the reading program. Each registrant will receive a bag with everything needed to participate, including reading log & stickers. Stay tuned for more details on this and other summer shenanigans!

Chincoteague Island Library

Karen Sharp, Library Manager

The Chincoteague Island Library has been busy with welcoming new Patrons, greeting visitors, answering questions, meeting the needs of our Patrons and community, and with preparing for our upcoming Summer programs.

Circulation, reserves, public computer usage, making new cards; all have been steadily increasing with the Summer approaching.

CIL would like to thank MacKenzie Frankenberg for the "delicious" library window display for May/June! This is very creative. It features cookbooks, some that are local, that the library has with the message to "eat like a local".

On May 13th, CIL hosted an author reading by Pearl Whitfield. She read passages from her book "Apsara". This story was inspired by a trip to Cambodia in 2013, where she still visits once a year. She told us that she felt called to write this book. With her detailed descriptions, we could visualize what has happened and felt like we were there. She left us wanting to know more. This is her second novel. Her first is called "The Storekeeper, A Tale of a Small Town Life".

Our Tales 4 Tots in the Park has been a great success! This program that is for preschool children has been held on Thursdays at 10:30AM at Brianna's Kindness Park on School Street. It has taken place from April 21st through June 9th, which is the last meeting until the Fall 2022. Attendance has increased, with 20 and 15 attending the last two Thursdays.

On June 14th, CIL be hosting a Sunset Cruise on Flag Day! This cruise will end with the sunset and moonrise occurring at the same time! The arrival time for Adults only is 5:30PM at Curtis Merritt Harbor, Chincoteague. There will be music, food and drinks aboard Daisey's Island Cruises' "Martha Lou". Tickets are $55 per person. To reserve your spot, please call Daisey's Island Cruises at 757-336-5556.

The Summer Reading Challenge--"Lubbock's Learners"* starts June 21st through August 12, 2022 at CIL. The theme this year is

"Oceans of Possibilities". Students in grades K-12 are eligible to register and may do so online using the following link:

https://forms.gle/9kaoayKcqHWNvwxy5 OR may register in person at the library. The Kick-off party and registration will take place at our Open House, at the library, on Thursday, June 16th from 4-6PM. A folder with reading logs, rules and information sheets will be handed out. Registration will be taken until June 21st. Bingo cards/Reading logs must be handed in on or before August 12th with a Wrap-up party to be held at 10AM on Thursday, August 18th. All those students handing in their logs will receive back-to-school supplies. At the Wrap-up party, drawing for prizes, refreshments served, and bags of back-to-school supplies will be distributed.

*This program is supported by the owners of Lubbock, a beloved pet who passed away in 2018.

On Thursday, June 23rd at 10:30AM, CIL has a Special Children's Program, in the Theatre Annex: Zoo 2 You by the Salisbury Zoo. This is open to all ages and is Free Admission.

CIL will be celebrating our 27th Anniversary on July 4th! We will be having a non-motorized parade at 10AM in Robert Reed Park. Walkers of all ages, children on bikes, trikes, wagons, scooters (not battery operated) are welcome. Wear your "red/white/and blue"! There will be prizes for the oldest participant, youngest participant, the best decorated "vehicle", and the most patriotic family group. Refreshments following the parade.

Stay tuned for more Special Children's Programs information.

The CIL Board will be meeting on June 10th at 9AM to discuss upcoming plans, maintenance progress, upcoming programs and general business.

Northampton Free Library

Hannah Swimley, Branch Manager

This month was focused mainly on groundworks at the library. The area outside of the meeting room, in between the parking lot and the current walkway, was replaced with cement. There will be two new bike racks placed in that area once they arrive. These projects are being done in order to allow for easier accessibility for those who may need it, as well as making the area look nicer.

Weeding continued to be started and finished in different sections of NFL. As of the end of May, the Young Adult section had been completely weeded, which freed up a lot of space within the bookshelf. The Science Fiction section has been started, however it has yet to be completed.

ESPL Grant Update - June 2022

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) — This ARPA money is distributed to the Library of Virginia (LVA). $28,709 based on the state aid formula. The 3rd quarter report was submitted satisfactorily. Final paperwork needs to be submitted to close out the grant early.

NEH Challenge Grant — The expenditure budget of remaining funds needs to be updated and approved. Discussions continue on the best way to budget the funds. Al McMath is working with the County to ensure the Davis-Bacon requirements are met. ESPL has received $2XXX to reimburse for archival supplies, which act as a starter kit for the new ESVA HC Manager.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) — Emergency Connectivity Fund. Awarded $148,000! Devices are in the process of being ordered for nonprofits signing agreements. Vendors are to bill USAC directly.

LVA ARPA - Because we are designated as serving a "medically underserved area" AND an area of low employment, ESPL will be receiving a privacy pod. This looks like a phone booth and is sound-proof for confidential conversations that require Internet access. The booth will include a laptop or ipad and be located in the ESVA Regional Library.

The grant funded water cooler with a bottle filler will be more sanitary and great for tourists and walkers.

Talkbox Slide privacy pod.