

May 10, 2022



Library System Report

Cara Burton, System Director

Director's Update:

The first week of May, I was fortunate to attend the inaugural Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Genealogy Institute. One of only one hundred members able to register for this three day event, it was a privilege to be surrounded by so many committed to genealogy and American heritage. This was certainly a watershed moment for me to participate in such an event shortly before we open our Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center. It was humbling to walk into the DAR Library, housed in the ornate, former Constitution Hall.

The sessions were very relevant to many of our plans for the Heritage Center. Sessions included use of National Archive documents, deciphering colonial handwriting, genetic genealogy methodology, estimating ancestral birth dates,

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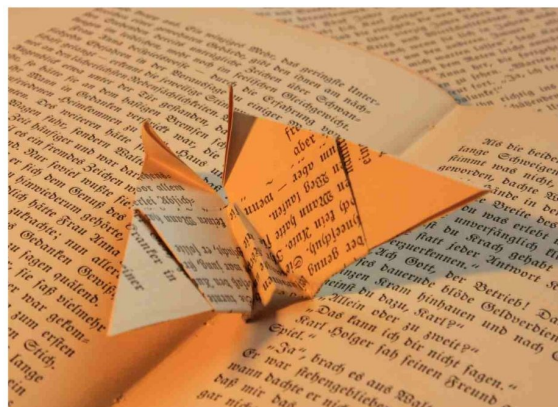
Rightsizing and Rehoming

By Charle Riche
Technical Services Manager

As ESPL librarians at Accomac prepare for the upcoming move to Parksley, a major focus of the preparations has been to refresh and “rightsizing” the entire materials collection for the new library. With new books, audiobooks, and video recordings added to the library every week, the collection is continually expanding, but the available physical space, unfortunately, is not.

When library shelves become crowded, library users find it difficult to identify and locate the materials they need. Since keeping everything is not a viable option, the Accomac librarians are utilizing the strategy of rightsizing to update library materials and retain the very

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and use of DAR Library resources. The E Pluribus Unum Educational Initiative was reviewed to highlight the inclusion of African American, Native American, women, and foreign patriots in genealogical and history research.

It was also interesting to see how expert researchers used the DAR's print and online resources and for me to take the role of "the user," as well. I was not only observing people's behavior and activities, but also their interaction with policies, equipment, collections, collection access tools and staff.

The first thing I noticed, besides the beautiful architecture, was that they had compact shelving on the mezzanine. That was a feat of engineering. The space was packed with every nook and cranny used for shelving books. The Library also has other storage, inaccessible to the public, in the basement. The rows of tables all had lamps. For the most part, the library looked very traditional.

Many of their books are very rare or one-of-a-kind. Going to that library is like a mecca for genealogists. The library started in 1896 with 126 books. It now has over 200,000 history and genealogy books.

The book organization system was interesting. Our Preservation Assistance Grant report recommended that our collection consider this method of organization, which was done in part of the Eastern Shore Room Collection. Instead of Dewey or Library of Congress call numbers, items were organized by call *words*. The word groups were mainly: states, families, and general. For example: Vir-



ginia – Counties – Northampton.

When I did not find "Whitelaw's" in the Accomack nor Northampton

shelves, I saw in the online catalog that it was under Virginia – Regions – Eastern Shore. I have to say, it was pretty cool to go to the shelf and see Families – Burton. With this system, one rarely needed to use the online catalog (which was good as their computers were always occupied), as this system really lends to browsing.

There were two copiers, two scanners, one microfilm scanner, and about six computers. The copiers and scanners all have coin vending units attached. During the pandemic, they converted a microfilm room into a computer lab and they plan to install a projector for training visitors.

Our Heritage Center Lecture Hall will have such computer training equipment. Our Eastern Shore Room now has a book scanner and two microfilm scanners. Their book scanner had an overhead scanner, which is different and more expensive than the one we have. We may want to consider getting one like that, which suits oversized books better. The focus on their library is access to resources, not creating or converting media, which our MakerSpace and Memory Lab will do.

Remarkable differences resided with the access to their in-library use only databases and obtaining images. The DAR's database is highly proprietary and can only be accessed inside their library. The MilesFiles and our online collections are accessed for free from outside the library.



In our library, we encourage patrons to take digital photos of book pages with their phones, which causes the least amount of light damage to the material. The DAR Library requires visitors to pay a \$15 fee to take photos of documents with their phones and sign a policy agreement. Photocopies can be made for 25 cents each, which is expected to cover the cost of ink and paper. Scanned images, however, also cost 25 cents. You cannot take photos or screen shots of the database.

Wearing my library director hat, I was observing other visitors' reactions to



these policies. Most were not happy about the fees. It also seemed the library staff took the brunt of the grumblings about the policies, which we must always be aware of when we make policy decisions. The slowness of their computer system also created joint frustration of visitors and staff. Staff were competent and could readily help patrons find items on the shelves, but they were also at the mercy of a slow computer network. They were constantly on their feet either behind the desk, over at the equipment, or reshelving books. I am sure they were relieved when our research sessions ended. Will our Heritage Center staff have similar activity when groups have programs in our facility?

Women from thirty two different states traveled to this Institute and tried to cram a lot of library research into the few hours available be-

tween program sessions. It had the air of cramming before final exams at a university. Announcements were made of pending closing time at one hour, one half hour, and ten minutes---which added to the frenetic pace. It was truly fascinating to watch and be part of this hum of activity.

The DAR library visit reinforced my understanding of the difference between other non-profit local history archives and libraries and what we are creating with the ESVA Heritage Center. The Heritage Center is part of the public library system. Public libraries' resources are not proprietary and are not member financed. Minor fees, like photocopies, recoup some costs of supplies. Library users must adhere to copyright rules and regulations and we do have policies to protect our collections.

All our policies must recognize public access to government information. Our board members are appointed by government officials and our employees are government workers. Most of the genealogy resources I learned about are government documents: records from the census, courts, and municipalities. This Institute truly gave me a moment to pause and be in awe of what we at ESPL are creating. We will certainly be by and for the public.



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, TS Manager

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best of what the library already holds. Rightsizing identifies and removes items that are obsolete, outdated, physically deteriorated, or unused.

In the May 2022 issue of *American Libraries*, the article “Rightsizing your Collection” by Miller and Ward sums up this process nicely:

“The rightsizing approach suggests intentionality throughout the collections management process — that the same care used in the initial process of selecting materials should be used throughout the life of an item. It is a holistic, data-informed approach to responsibly managing physical collections that allows libraries to thoughtfully determine not only what must be withdrawn, but also what should be retained...”

Accomac librarians and staff use a combination of circulation data, professional core collection guidance, and an assessment of physical condition for each item in order to determine what will remain on the shelves. As rightsizing for each sub-collection is completed, the librarians leave behind a trail of relevant, useful, and popular books that are in good condition, are less crowded, and are more easily browsable.

Even though rightsizing is a necessity, librarians are book lovers at heart, and the ESPL, in conjunction with the ESPL Friends, has been working diligently to find homes for withdrawn items. Friends’ volunteers scan, pack, and send withdrawn books to Better World Books where they are resold to readers around the world.

Additionally, ESPL librarians have developed local partnerships to distribute the best of the withdrawn books to Shore residents and organizations who would benefit from reading materials. Over the past two months, books have been given to the Muddy Toes Public Library on Tangier Island, the Boys & Girls Club, and a neighborhood community in Northampton County. Library staff have also selected and packed withdrawn items to be given away at library outreach events happening this spring and summer.

For years, these items have helped to meet the informational and educational needs of the Shore community while a part of the library collection. Now, they will begin a new chapter as part of libraries in local homes, at a children’s club, and on a Chesapeake Bay island. Talk about a story that ends happily ever after!



Did you see Library System Director in the Onancock St. Patrick’s Day Parade?! She was joined by Tyler Bloxom of Parksley.

Living on an Island is No Barrier to Reading

On Saturday, April 16, System Director Cara Burton traveled to Tangier to meet with a new Tangier Museum board member. The purpose of the meeting was to review documents of organization and grant histories that were recently obtained.

The trip also provided the opportunity to deliver six boxes of books for the children's section. Volunteer Elizabeth Thomas has greatly reorganized the Muddy Toes Public Library, removing overly worn and damaged books. The ESPL books helped to replenish the children's and teen sections. The books were either withdrawn from the Accomac library due to move preparations or were grant funded new books.



Books are loaded about the Courtney Thomas, aka the mailboat, ready to head to Tangier.

ESPL's Youth Services Librarian Tiffany Flores mails activity kits to the Tangier library each month so the children on the island receive the same materials as children that visit the Accomac or Nassawadox libraries. Several adult island residents also make use of the library's books-by-mail service to the island which has become easy to implement with ESPL's Shore-

Cat online catalog request features.

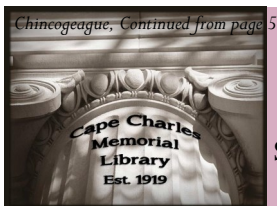
ESPL plans to have a traveling history exhibit at the Tangier Museum in the fall as well as a children's program.

Friends Count!

As ESPL prepares to move to the Parksley location, the value of our Friends' volunteers has really shown. Their return after the COVID-19 hiatus even further punctuates how much we need their help. The Friends' assistance with withdrawing and finding new homes for books removed from our collections is an ongoing activity, but has greatly increased as the book inventory is adjusted for the move. The Friends are also tagging the books for the RFID system. Friends also help process new books to add to the collection. They also come to our aid with impromptu tasks like picking up cases of books ferried to a library in Suffolk. In FY21, Friends donated 402 hours of time. If we had paid staff \$12.00 per hour for this time, it would have required over \$4,800 plus payroll overhead. So far in FY22—and we still have two more months—Friends volunteered 504 hours reflecting \$6,024 in-kind services to ESPL.

Thank goodness we can count on our Friends even more this year when we greatly need their help! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to support our Friends' with membership dues. Forms are in the Accomac library.

Northampton Free Library and Cape Charles Memorial Library also have Friends of the Library organizations. Information for membership and/or volunteering are available at those libraries. Chincoteague Island Library welcomes volunteers as well.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

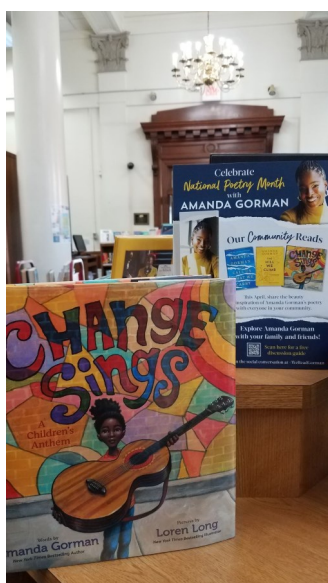
Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



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



Spring has finally sprung! The weather is turning warm and bringing everything out of hibernation. CIL is experiencing an increase in visits from our patrons, as well as visitors. Computer usage has also quadrupled! Reserves are increasing and the welcoming of new patrons continues.

April has brought about the return of our children's program, Tales 4 Tots. Each session occurs Thursday mornings at 10:30AM located at Brianna's Kindness Park. Designed for children up to age 5, they are free and open to all. There is a volunteer/guest reader who chooses a topic to read about and a craft/activity takes place. This Thursday, May 5th, our guest reader, Madison Hudgins of Island Roots has chosen the topic of planting. There will be a surprise for each child to make. So far, with the weather cooperating, there has been an increase in participation. Last Thursday, April 28th, nine children attended even though it was windy and cold. Paul Miller, our CIL Board President/Volunteer, read two Dr. Seuss books and ended with a marching parade to get activity/snack bags.



According to the American Library Association (ALA), libraries across the U.S. have been making displays of books that either have been requested to be banned or have already been banned in order to educate the public. CIL has made a display of these books, without giving away their commonality. It has been encouraging to see the reactions, when either they guess and/or find out why these books have been gathered together. It has brought about some great conversations, both from our patrons and visitors!

Linda Ryan, CIL Board member/Past President and Children's Program Coordinator, has been busy planning the Summer Children's programs. She has many scheduled programs, including CIL's annual Summer Reading Program called "Lubbock's Learners". In collaboration with ESPL, Nassawadox and Cape Charles, the Summer Library Program theme is "Oceans of Possibilities".

The CIL Board continues to oversee several projects and finalizing others. Such as our annual Sunset Cruise and celebrating CIL's 25th Anniversary (in our 27th year). Maintenance continues both in and outside of the library.

The next CIL Board meeting will take place on May 13th at 9AM. General business, as well as discussion on the ongoing projects will take place.

Northampton Free Library

Hannah Swimley, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library also had some work done inside. The circulation desk was moved forward 12 inches from its prior position. This was done to both streamline the check-in/ check-out process but for accessibility reasons as well. There were also new sneeze guards set up on the circulation desk and in between patron computers to assist with keeping all staff and patrons healthy. A new sandwich board was also procured for NFL, which will help with readability when it comes to information the public should know before encroaching the building.

Northampton Free Library has also begun some heavy weeding of the adult sections. Currently, what has been completed are the DVD, audiobook and Large Print collections. It is planned to have the Young Adult and Science Fiction sections completed before the new building is opened. After moving into the Parksley building, it was agreed that weeding in Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, Mystery and Children's fiction would begin. These large projects are being completed in order to allow for new and exciting books for all ages to be brought into Northampton Free Library.



ESPL Grant Update - May 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 will be submitted by the end of May 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.

Virginia Humanities (VH) – 2 grants (1) US250 planning grant is complete and a final grant report needs to be submitted to VH. (2) SHARP grant for the purpose of a Heritage Center planning consultant was awarded and the consultant has been retained. Bryan & Jordan Consulting, LLC, www.bryanandjordan.com, submitted their report to the ESPL Foundation.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – Emergency Connectivity Fund. Awarded \$148,000! Details reported in the May Trustee meeting.

United Way of ESVA – ESPL Foundation applied for the FY22 grant for an outside information kiosk. (around \$2,000) \$750 was awarded on April 6. Purchase of the equipment will take place after the library moves and the construction project completed.

USDA Rural Development Communities Assistance Grant – Grant awarded. Parksley (compact shelving for Heritage Center): Total project \$140,000. 99% of application submitted for \$21,000. Match will be \$100,000 from Northampton County FY22 capital funds and \$19,000 from ESPL Foundation. Equipment will be installed in September 2022.



Future archive room.



Circulation and Public Service Desk area.