

State Library Report

March 2013

Activities / Accomplishments

The Library Development Consultants were immersed in LSTA grant review for the first two weeks in March. The consultants read and reviewed 68 applications.

Molly Westmoreland joined the section on March 15th as the Consultant for Public Library Management. Molly joins us after 20+ years in public library administration most recently as the director of the Appalachian Regional Library. She has been busy getting up to speed with the LSTA grant process as well as preparing for her first NC Public Librarian Certification meeting.

March was a busy month for Continuing Education Consultant, Kelly Brannock. Kelly made the arrangements for two sessions of LibGuides training in Hickory and Elizabeth City. She also managed the judging process of the 137 entries in Letters about Literature competition. These entries were judged by panels of public library youth services staff and school librarians; and state-level winners and honorable mentions were chosen. NCLA and NCSLMA leaders were thanked for their assistance in recruiting volunteer judges.

Joyce Chapman developed and offered a presentation for the Summer Reading Program workshops about evaluating SRP, using data to tell your story, and the data-driven argument for summer reading. She also developed a “talking points” handout for SRP participants on how to explain the data-driven value proposition of SRP to funders or others within their organization. Joyce is working with the Public Library Survey Review Working Group to finalize ideas for changes to the annual NC public library statistics that will increase our ability to leverage data for advocacy and reporting the value of libraries (economic impact, etc.). She has released a survey to all PL directors to vote on the proposed changes.

Jeffrey Hamilton is preparing a training session on Adobe Connect for the State Library staff who use the system for webinars. The State Library’s educational portal “Train Station” had 2,154 views in March and 97 events were added to the calendar.

Lori Special finished up the last of the Summer Reading Workshops in Sylva. She reports there were “great reviews” for all of the presenters at each of the 3 locations. The evaluations are being compiled and a summary will be available in April. The 80 public library systems have placed their orders for SRP supporting materials.

Raye Oldham and Vicky Wheeler did a superb job of managing the LSTA grant submission and review process. The grants were organized and easily downloaded, the staff review went smoothly and everyone enjoyed the teamwork as well as the delicious snacks. This dynamic duo was also managing the onslaught of reimbursement requests for the 2012-13 grant cycle.

Jennifer Pratt and Lori Special met with Bob Saffold of the "Campaign for Early Reading" to discuss the State Library organizing public libraries in the state as a statewide partner. They are working on a process to begin to plan for this.

Jennifer Pratt spoke at the Grand Opening of the new Gatesville Public Library on March 22nd. The library promises to be a true asset to this community.

Library Development staff contacted and worked with selected regional libraries to discuss how they might weather a proposed cut to State Aid. The purpose of these consultations was to help them find efficiencies and take other actions to prevent any library from closing its doors. J. Pratt visited with the Finance Committee of the CPC Regional Board of Trustees in New Bern on March 25 helping them develop a strategy to balance their budget and a hiring process for their library director.

Wanda Whisnant joined the Library Development section on April 1st as the Administrative Assistant.



The Government & Heritage Library blog, GHLblog, was selected as the winner of the About.com site's 2013 Readers' Choice Award for "Best Library or Archive Blog with a Genealogical Focus." Thanks and congratulations to the GHL bloggers (see blog for names) who continue to provide interesting and informative posts for this valuable online resource! (visit the GHLblog at ghlblog.org) 27 new blog entries, written by various GHL staff bloggers, were posted in March.

NCpedia received a "highly recommended" review in the April 2013 (published in March) *Choice Reviews Online*. NCpedia now has 3,469 entries and 4,187 images.

The GHL's Genealogy Vertical File Transcription Project, launched in mid-2011, continues to enlist volunteers to transcribe the handwritten or hard to read text of thousands of the GHL's digitized genealogy vertical files in order to facilitate searching these files online. Over 115 volunteers have transcribed 2,300+ pages via the GHL's [Flickr](#) site, completing all surname files beginning with A, B, E, and S. Staff is currently recruiting volunteers to begin transcribing the "R" surname files.

GHL staff published and distributed the spring issue of the *Digital Insider* newsletter and the NC State Publications *Clearinghouse Update* in March. Both newsletters are distributed electronically to listservs and may be accessed online.

A new research guide to historic North Carolina *Legislative Journals* now available in the digital NC State Government Publications Collection was added to collection web site.

Beth Hayden, Mitzi Townes, and Swayzine McLean served as facilitators for staff feedback sessions on the final GHL Operations Assessment report prepared by Joel & Sinclair Associates

for the State Library. The facilitators conducted a total of 6 feedback sessions with GHIL staff and are compiling results for presentation to Cal, Laura, and Jan in early April. During the feedback sessions, staff shared their reactions to the assessment, ideas for moving forward, and recommended goals for GHIL for the coming year.

GHIL staff conducted outreach and consultation with 3 state agencies (Denise Jones (Wildlife Resources Commission; DHHS), Cheryl McLean (NC Museum of Natural Sciences staff).

GHIL staff made 5 educational presentations at various conferences and organizations related to print and digital genealogy resources available in the GHIL (Lisa Gregory (ARMA Triangle Chapter), (Kay Tillotson (NCSU Encore Program class)); the NCpedia project (Mike Childs, Emily Horton (Librarian's Association Conference at UNC-CH); NCpedia and other GHIL digital educational resources (Emily Horton, Michelle Underhill (NC Middle School Assn Conference; NC Reading Assn. Conference)).

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) was one of the first 30 libraries in the country to launch the distribution of digital magazines to patrons in March. Patrons overall seemed pleased with the transition with some calling in to say "it's about time!"

LBPH rolled out its new KLAS system OPAC in March. The new catalog is more powerful and flexible; however, patrons have experienced some bugs in the new system. LBPH staff is working with the vendor, Keystone, to resolve the issues and make the OPAC more user friendly for staff and patrons.

Friends of the NC LBPH held their quarterly board meeting at the LBPH in March.

Gina Powell conducted 4 tours of the LBPH for Governor Morehead School students and teachers, State Library staff, UNC SILS students, and interested patrons. Gina also made 3 educational presentations about LBPH services to the Garner Lions Club, the DHHS Division of Services for the Blind Mini-Center in Winston-Salem, and the Triangle Aphasia Project Book Club. LBPH Volunteer, Mary Helen Pearsall provided outreach to individuals about the LBPH at the Deaf-Blind Conference held in Pine Knoll Shores.

State Librarian Cal Shepard was featured speaker at two Regional workshops for the Friends of NC Public Libraries (in Swansboro and Wilson.) She also presented the keynote speech "Library Lessons from Downton Abbey" at the NC Community College Learning Resources Association Conference at Cape Fear Community College. She attended a meeting of the advisory committee for the NC Literary Festival and convened two meetings of the newly-appointed Virtual Petting Zoo committee.

Coming Up

The "Last Saturday" workshop on Researching Your Civil War Ancestors, originally scheduled for April 27th, has been rescheduled for 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 13th. Staff from the Government and Heritage Library and the State Archives of North Carolina will discuss the resources available from both institutions for researching Confederate and Union soldiers, including U.S. Colored Troops. The presentation will cover original records, print resources, and databases, including service records, rosters, pension applications, regimental histories, etc.