

State Library Report March 2016

Activities / Accomplishments

Staff from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) Outreach attended two major conferences to spread the word about their services: North Carolina Conference on Visual Impairment and Blindness and the NC Reading Association Conference in Raleigh and made a presentation at the North Carolina Community College Librarians Association.

LBPH Staff also toured the Scotland Correctional Institution's braille transcription service since LBPH is considering outsourcing some braille transcription and production.

LD Consultants read/reviewed and provided comments for 55 LSTA Grants; 45 EZ Grants and 10 Project Grants. The 2015-2016 EZ Technology Grant Program was launched to assist public libraries in meeting the public access technology needs of their communities.

In other grant news the Institute of Museum and Library Services published a blog post highlighting one of the Innovation projects funded through North Carolina's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program managed by the State Library.

Presentations

Youth Service Consultant Lori Special held 3 very successful Summer Reading workshops in Halifax, Hamlet, and Newton. 98% of the evaluations were favorable to very favorable. She also attended Career Day at West Millbrook Middle School in Raleigh where she spoke about librarianship and library resources to 3 classes of 30 6th grade students. Quotes from thank you letters from the students: "I learned that libraries are like a databases because they are filled with information." "I never knew that librarians were a source of information. I thought all they did was help you find books, but I learned that librarians were more than that. Your presentation encouraged me to ask questions."

Other projects Lori is currently working on include collaborating with state parks for a storytelling program in celebration of the 100th anniversary of NC State Parks, advising the Youth Services Section of the North Carolina Library Association, and the Seeds of Change Project with NC State University targeting children of incarcerated parents.

Molly Westmoreland spoke at the Friends of NC Public Libraries Southeast Area Spring Workshop on March 5 at the Sneads Ferry Branch of the Onslow County Library. She also provided trustee workshops for Alamance and Alexander County Library trustees, Friends and key staff members on March 3 and 14. Workshop participants reported significant increases in their commitment to advocating for their public library, in their understanding of board and Friends roles and responsibilities, and in their comfort level anticipating interactions with government officials. Comments included, "Thank you, Molly! It was wonderful!"

Denise Jones, North Carolina Community College Library Association conference and presented a session on 3/10. The session was on, "North Carolina State Government Publications online - recent and historic." There were 16 attendees in the session. At the close of the session and then later in the day

Denise was told by several attendees they enjoyed the session and found it informative. Cal Shepard attended and presented a State Library Update.

Michelle Underhill participated in the "Integrating primary sources in the middle and high school curriculum through digital learning" workshop coordinated by the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching in March. She presented on March 15 and 16 with Ashley Yandle of the State Archives of North Carolina, and Jason Tomberlin and John Blythe of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill's Wilson Library about the digital resources available online about North Carolina from our institutions and others.

Amanda Johnson gave a presentation entitled Data Visualization Made Easy at the NC Community Colleges Conference in Dobson, NC. This presentation covered general data visualization and design principles.

State Librarian Cal Shepard addressed The North Carolina Public Library Director's Association meeting in Wilmington and also attended the School Librarian's Summit hosted by East Carolina University.

Professional development

Multiple staff attended conferences for professional development purposes. Rebecca Hyman, Kelly Agan, Jeffrey Hamilton, and Irene Patrick attended Computers in Libraries, and Benjamin Murphy and Laurie Reeves attended CODE4LIB.

Oral histories added to NCpedia!

The Government & Heritage Library has collaborated with author and historian David Cecelski and the *News & Observer* to begin incorporating an oral history series done by David Cecelski called "Listening to History" into NCpedia. The series ran from 1998-2008 in the *News & Observer*. Select articles went live in March and the remaining pieces will be added and go live over the next two months. An announcement will go out after they have all been added. Take a look at them at <http://ncpedia.org/listening-to-history> and see who you might find! Special thanks go to Teresa Leonard at the News & Observer who has been researching and sending the photographs from the paper to be added along with the articles. The photographs are wonderful! Many were taken by News & Observer photographer Chris Seward.

130 years in the Federal Documents Depository Program and counting!

Thanks to some detective work from former GHIL staff member Jaime Huaman, who is now at the Government Printing Office, we finally know that the State Library of North Carolina has been receiving federal documents as a member of the Federal Documents Depository Program for 130 years!

GHL Blog stats

1,399 sessions, 2,031 page views, 1,274 users

Top Blog Posts (that were published in March):

1. 127 views - Women's History Month 2016: "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government" March 2, 2016, <http://wp.me/p17ckJ-4G2>
2. 93 views - North American Women's Letters and Diaries, March 21, 2016, <http://wp.me/p17ckJ-4FY>
3. 49 views - Research in Abolished Counties: Bath County, 1696-1739, March 7, 2016, <http://wp.me/p17ckJ-4FB>

LD Blog stats

1,201 sessions, 3,800 page views, 936 users

Top Blog Posts

1. 286 views - Continuing Education Opportunities: April 2016
2. 202 views - LSTA funding up in the air
3. 154 views - New tools: County Health Reports & Roadmaps to Health

NCpedia comments:

--I love this so much I use it all the time for my students

--Very useful thank you!!!

--Great source of information on our early Customs Service operations - the source of funds that supported the early federal infrastructure of our nation, and provided a rich source of information on early commerce.

--Wonderful article on my great-grandfather. Thanks.

Compliments from customers:

- Patron comment to Elizabeth Hayden: "Thank you so very much for your diligent research! ... Again, I thank you so very sincerely for your efforts on my behalf. You did an outstanding job!"
- Patron thank you letter to Kay Tillotson: "Thank you for all the special time and help you were to me. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness."
- A staff member from the Secretary of State's office called Denise Jones with a question about the *North Carolina Manual*. The SOS office publishes the manual but one has not been published in several years. A division director at the SOS office wanted the staff member to get information about the 1874 manual and thought there must have been at least another manual or two from the nineteenth century. Denise sent her the Clearinghouse newsletter article that explained the 1874 law requiring the manual and that the same law was rescinded later that same year. "Thank you so much Denise! You have been so helpful!"
- Denise Jones responded to a copyright inquiry from NC Bar Association Foundation. They had previously contacted another organization but had no response. A staff member of the NC State Bar wrote back "Wonderful, thank you so much for your prompt response!"
- Comment about the Government & Heritage Library: "Very helpful staff. Good experience here. Thank you.-Oregon"

Personnel

The hiring of two new Chiefs was announced on March 15. Michelle Underhill will be the new Chief of Government and Heritage Library and Tanya Prokrym is the new Chief of Library Development. The first order of business for both will be to hire their own replacements!