

Utah State Library Board Meeting

September 12, 2024

Director's Updates:

- Understanding how each staff member contributes to the services and mission of the library was my first order of business. I've met with every Utah State Library staff member and I'm thrilled to be a part of this great team.
- I attended my first Western Council of State Libraries (WestCo) meeting. The WestCo librarians are invaluable to me as a new state librarian. They are truly positive leaders in libraries and they shared innovative services and programs from their states.
- So far, I've visited 13+ libraries across Utah from Rich County to Wasatch County to Washington County including two bookmobile headquarters. It is a pleasure to meet library directors and staff and witness how they are positively impacting their communities.
- While traveling to visit public libraries in Southern Utah I attended my first UALC meeting. The Utah Academic Library Consortium warmly welcomed me to their summer retreat where I learned more about their role in supporting libraries in higher education.
- The program managers, including the Bookmobile program, have worked with CCE admin on the budgetary ask to the legislature. We are focusing on rightsizing the Resources Program, restructuring the Bookmobile Program, and asking for an increase for CLEF.
- CCE MarCom is working on cohesive and strategic marketing. USL created a marketing team of all staff who create, manage, and produce content. The team is in the early days but has huge enthusiasm and great momentum. Our goal is to promote and create more awareness of the USL's programs/services and public libraries across Utah.
- A few staff and CCE admin attended the Culture Connect Conference. We attended helpful and engaging sessions about strategic planning and marketing messaging.
- All of the USL staff participated in a Taste of Change Leader presentation and activity. We connected with one another and enjoyed a meal together. Kat and Donna from the CCE admin team attended.

Blind Program Update

- The blind program is developing a podcast in our in-house studio, with Jeri Openshaw conducting interviews or providing information on topics of interest to the blind and print-disabled community. Our first episode has been completed and features local

author Julia Lyons, discussing her book: A Dinosaur Named Ruth: How Ruth Mason Discovered Fossils in Her Own Backyard.

- The blind program and division of services for the blind and visually impaired are holding an open house at the library building on October 10 from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. We are sending mailers and running an ad on KSL to encourage the community to attend and learn more about the services available. All board members are welcome, we will offer booths for information and training, and tours of the building.
- Tia Wilcox who works in the Multistate Center received her braille transcription certification and is now running the braille scanner device. Anyone interested can see the braille scanner in action during the next in-person board meeting.

Development Program Update:

- In July Rachel Haberman wrapped up our annual LSTA competitive grant round at the end of June. There were 11 public libraries, 1 university, and 1 school library that received LSTA funds to implement projects like installing self-checkout stations, creating a digitization station, creating a library of things for early learners, and much more. For more details, please reach out to Rachel Haberman.
- The development team worked on collecting recertification documents and making recertification visits to libraries.
- In August Heidi worked to have our annual statistical report finalized and certified by IMLS. She is getting the new annual report ready with the prefilled data. Shout out to Heidi who was selected to receive an Early Career Travel Award to attend the Library Assessment Conference happening in November.
- Also in August, Rachel Lenahan opened the Library Administration course in Canvas. We had 52 participants sign up and the course is currently ongoing.
- Rachel Lenahan attended the annual continuing education forum and Karen attended the annual Collaborative Summer Library Program conference. They each had the opportunity to meet with their counterparts nationwide for professional development, best practices, and networking.
- Karen wrapped up the annual Book Your Summer (My529) competition and the winners will be announced soon.
- In August we interviewed candidates for our open part-time contracts analyst position. (Big thank you to Rachel Haberman who helped us while we were short-staffed.) We've made an offer to Amy Shirk who will begin on September 17.

- Rachel Lenahan has been busy finalizing the annual directors' summit plans. The summit this year is at the Provo Marriott on September 25-27.
- Alan continues his work in partnership with UEN on the technology inventory survey. It is currently open for libraries to submit.
- This quarter Merrily and Cara visited with four large library directors and the development team has met with most of the small library directors across the state.

Library Resources Update:

- We have hired a new bookmobile librarian in Multi-County. His name is Jakob Thygerson. He has been training with Jami and our relief drivers and should have his CDL in record time so he can take over the route.
- The repairs to the Tri-County truck, after having been off the road the entire summer, are nearly complete. We hope to have it back on the road in the next few weeks and retire the old Sanpete County truck that Leon has kept limping along for the last few months.
- We have a meeting on Monday, September 23rd in Fairview with local city officials and library directors to talk about how to move forward with library services in that area. We have representatives from each community in northern Sanpete County, as well as the directors and/or city councilpersons representing Manti, Mt. Pleasant, Ephraim, and Manti Public Libraries.
- We have implemented all the new databases on Utah's Online Public Library and have begun training sessions for all who are interested. Brian and Darci completed new web pages to house the new links at onlinelibrary.utah.gov, integrating a directory plug-in that gives the pages a new fresh look and a lot more versatility. Still in the works is further customization of the pages that will give each library their own space or page with library-specific links for just them.
- Our contract with Innovative for Polaris (the library catalog software) will very shortly be in its last year. We intend to work with the State Historical Society and the Utah Law Library to publish an RFP sometime in February 2025.
- We have made an offer to a new cataloger to replace Rachel Haberman. She will hopefully be starting in the next few weeks.