

MHLS Report to Member Library Directors | June 2023

The format of this report is based on the MHLS service priorities as determined by MHLS stakeholders.

1. Delivery Services

- a. Magazine donations by member libraries through MHLS Delivery Operations correctional facilities served has been extended until further notice. To allow member libraries to continue to support correctional facility libraries by donating deaccessioned magazines, this allowance will be in place as long as delivery volume of library materials continues to stay below 2019 levels. These donations were formerly accepted only by in-person delivery to MHLS facilities, but the pandemic and the reduction of in-person MHLS meetings and trainings means most libraries can't transport these magazines to the MHLS facility.

Donated magazines are welcome according to the guidelines below.


- i. Donated magazines should be in good condition with a published date no more than one year prior to the current year and mailing labels removed or obscured.
- ii. Only donated magazines will be acceptable for delivery. No other donated media or formats have been approved for transportation through delivery.
- iii. Donated magazines being for correctional facilities should be bundled together and addressed to MHLS ILL.
- iv. Donated magazine bundles should be no more than 10 inches thick.
- v. Donated magazine bundles may not be placed into Monday or Tuesday pickups due to high volume on these days.
- vi. Libraries may not send more than one donated magazine bundle per week.

Questions about delivery should be directed to Tom Finnigan, MHLS Delivery Operations Manager, tfinnigan@midhudson.org. General questions regarding magazine donations should be directed to MHLS Interlibrary Loan, ill@midhudson.org.

- b. Delivery Operations is working with our delivery vendor, Valley Courier, to revise our delivery Agreement to reflect the reduction of 14 stops per week based on the MHLS renewed annual review of delivery stops by circulation. The System Services Advisory Committee was notified at the May meeting of these reductions and all libraries being affected have been notified. The new delivery schedule will go into effect on July 1, 2023, and run through June 2024. A message will be sent to the MHLS Notices list once the new schedule is available on midhudson.org so libraries can adjust their pre-sorting based on

the new schedule.

2. Integrated Library System & Cataloging Services

- a. The Innovative User Group (IUG) met in Phoenix AZ, on May 10-13. Laurie and Kathryn Brew, MHLS ILS and Technology Operations Specialist, were both able to attend. The meeting is an opportunity to learn more about our ILS from the product managers, developers, and most importantly, peers. It is a chance to talk with other library and consortia staff about developments and trends in their organizations. Innovative staff and members create the content for the meeting. There is a small trade show. Innovative provides support staff to meet with attendees to discuss long-standing issues or to develop ideas for upcoming projects. This year much of the discussion was around the development of the Vega Discovery platform, which we have been working on for some time as one of a growing number of development partners. Of those partners, Innovative chose the Mid-Hudson Library's customized catalog to demonstrate Vega's features during the opening session.
- b. Our local MHLS Sierra User Group met on May 24th, virtually. The meeting was used to share information with member libraries from the annual IUG. Laurie provided release information on new additions since the last meeting and the features included in upcoming releases 6.0 and 6.1. Nina Acosta, MHLS Data Operations Supervisor, provided information about our Authority Control and the benefits it brings to the catalog, Kathryn Brew, MHLS ILS and Technology Operations Specialist, provided updates on Vega Discover, including a tour of the recent additions. The forum was opened up for questions and discussions, where Corrinne Slaughter from Hyde Park shared information about their space in their library, "The Collaboratory", where new equipment will support podcasting, recording and other creative endeavors. She spoke about the challenges involved with learning the new equipment, but they have already begun sharing on Instagram and Tiktok, so be sure to follow. [A recording of the meeting](#) is linked in the [Sierra Users](#) section of the Knowledge Base.
- c. Two more libraries have gone fine free:
 - i. Catskill Public Library, including the Palenville Branch
 - ii. Pawling Free Library

3. Coordinated IT Services

- a. Google is [ending support for Universal Analytics](#) on July 1, 2023. Anyone using Google Analytics will need to migrate to a new GA4 property before this to avoid any interruptions in statics. This is important for anyone using Google Analytics to collect website visits for the Annual Report. MHLS has already taken care of this for hosted library website.

4. Professional Development & Continuing Education

- a. **Available now in the MHLS Training on Demand Platform.** Did you miss one of our recent educational offerings? You can view them in the MHLS Training on Demand Platform. Printable certificates are available when accessing recordings via the MHLS Training on Demand Platform
 - i. **MHLS Trustee Education Academy:**

1. Essentials
 - a. *Trustee Essentials* Updated April 2023
 - b. *Core Values & Ethics* Updated May 2023
 2. Intermediate
 - a. *Financial & Fiduciary Responsibilities* Updated May 2023
 3. All Trustee Handbook Book Club events are now available (2021-April 2023)
- ii. **Library Sustainability Academy:**
1. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
 - a. *From Diversity to Inclusion: Auditing Your Collection* (added to the MHLS Inclusive Collections Series)
 - b. *NYS Talking Book and Braille Library*
 2. MHLS “Horizon” Series
 - a. *Artificial Intelligence and the Library: The Current Landscape*

b. Trustee Handbook Book Club

- i. Those not enrolled in training on demand can access past recordings at <https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/> (certificates cannot be issued by MHLS).
- ii. **Trustee Handbook Book Club: Financial Planning & Budgeting** | June 20th | 5:00pm-6:30pm
 1. Join co-author of the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and friends for this fun and informative series! At each session, trustees will take a deeper dive on a topic relevant to their role and responsibilities as a library trustee. [Register.](#)
- iii. **Trustee Handbook Book Club: Strategic Planning** | August 15th | 5:00pm-6:30pm
 1. Join co-author of the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and friends for this fun and informative series! At each session, trustees will take a deeper dive on a topic relevant to their role and responsibilities as a library trustee. [Register.](#)

c. MHLS Trustee Education Series

- i. **Trustee Essentials**
 1. Particularly for new board members, but open to all. Library board members looking for essential, basic information to increase their effectiveness in serving on a library board

will benefit from attending this session. Learning Objectives: Attendees will develop a working knowledge of library funding and organization in New York State; receive a clear overview of stakeholder roles and responsibilities and receive an introduction to Open Meetings Law and best practices for effective board meetings. This webinar provides a foundation of knowledge that other workshops in the MHLS Trustee Education Series will build on.

- a. September 18th | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | [Online](#)
- b. September 20th | 10:00am – 11:30am | [Mahopac Library](#)

ii. **Core Values & Ethics** | September 21st | 5:00pm – 6:30pm | [Online](#)

1. Trustees have enormous influence in creating libraries that are relevant and responsive to community needs. From policymaking and fiduciary responsibility to strategic planning and advocacy work, the board needs a strong sense of the core values of librarianship and a commitment to ethical governance to support patrons' rights to access to information and resources while creating a viable, vital and visible library that their community is proud of. Learning Objectives: Attendees will develop a working knowledge of the Core Values of Librarianship and how those values translate to the work of the board, particularly in the area of policy making. This webinar will also review board ethics and use case studies to illustrate "values and ethics in action."

d. **MHLS Member Library Friends Group Online Meetup** | June 27th | 3:00pm-4:30pm | Online

- i. All MHLS member library Friends Groups and directors interested in creating a Friends Group for their local library are welcome to come and share their experiences, questions, and concerns for building and sustaining a Friends Group. Our topic will be recruitment and retention of Friends membership and volunteers. [Register](#).

e. **Save the Dates!**

- i. **This three-part MHLS EDI in Libraries Series presented by [Right To Be](#)** is open to all MHLS member library directors, staff and trustees. Though these events are intended to work together as a series you can attend an individual event as a standalone session. All sessions will be held online but will not be recorded to help foster a safe space for participants to have an open dialogue.

1. **Bystander Intervention 2.0: Conflict De-escalation in the Workplace** | Sept 14
|10:00am-11:30am | Online | [Register](#)

When harassment happens at a public workplace, people are almost always around and if they aren't around, they can be quickly summoned to show up. Our goal is to reduce instances of workplace harassment by giving employees the tools they need to disrupt those perpetrating the harassment. We will equip your employees with the right information on how to be an effective bystander in the midst of workplace harassment using our proven 5Ds methodology; 98% of employees leave our training committing to intervene next time they witness disrespect or harassment.

2. **Conflict De-Escalation in the Workplace: Bystander Intervention** | October 12th
10:00am-11:30am | Online | [Register](#)

If your team interfaces with the public, chances are they will face moments of escalation and will need to know what to do. Conflict de-escalation requires patience, a willingness to listen, and an ability to see the humanity in everyone. Using Right To Be's Observe-Breathe-Connect methodology, we'll learn how to identify potential conflict before it escalates using our "pyramid of escalation" and how to assess whether de-escalation is the right action. We'll also learn how to connect with others by validating their feelings and helping diffuse the situation — even if we don't understand them or agree with them. We'll have time at the end to practice using real-life scenarios. Your team will leave armed with de-escalation techniques so that they can navigate these moments as workplace leaders.

3. **Resilience: This Moment and Beyond** | November 13th | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Online | [Register](#)

This interactive and experiential learning experience will teach you how to author your own resilience, using Right To Be's resilience methodology: sit with what is, create your story, and be in choice. We'll start by talking about what resilience really is, and how it's different (and harder) than self-care. Using guided practices, we'll learn how to hold our pain and still find joy. We'll explore how we're making sense of this moment — and how that's shaping our experience of it. And we'll learn practices to recover quickly when we're knocked down by the world.

ii. Library Sustainability Horizon Series

1. **Understanding Artificial Intelligence: What librarians need to know** | September 21st at 10am-11am | Online - Alison Macrina, director of Library Freedom Project, will present on artificial intelligence and related technologies, and what librarians need to know about this rapidly emerging environment. She'll share a definitional overview of things like AI, machine learning, neural networks, and chatbots, as well as current and potential applications of these technologies - especially how they might apply to the

library world. Alison will also discuss the serious ethical, privacy, and existential concerns that numerous scientists, academics, and other thinkers have expressed about the AI environment, and what efforts exist to reject unsafe uses of these technologies.

Alison is an activist librarian and the founder and director of [Library Freedom Project](#) (LFP). Alison started LFP in 2015 to organize and build community with other librarians who are dedicated to library values of privacy, intellectual freedom, social responsibility, and the public good.

- iii. Nina Acosta will be hosting a 30-minute OverDrive refresher on June 23. The target audience is for those staff who have some familiarity with OverDrive Marketplace, but want to refresh their knowledge or level up. [Register here](#)
 - iv. How brief is too brief? MHLS catalogers will answer that and more at the full Catalog Data entry training on July 11th-[Register here](#)
- f. The 2023 OCLC Distinguished Seminar Series featuring MHLS Executive Director, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, “Sustainability – A Call to Action for the Library Community,” is now available for [on-demand viewing here](#). There is also a [viewing guide](#) available that accompanies the recording.

5. Consulting & Development

- a. Thank you to all who have responded to our request for **permissions for sample policies and program/service sharing**. MHLS is working to update our sample policies page and is always seeking examples of programs/services from member libraries to highlight in the MHLS Bulletin and in reports.

ACTION REQUESTED: By responding to the questions in [this poll](#) in the affirmative, you are indicating your library's permission for MHLS to utilize policies found on your web site on our sample page and images from your web site, newsletters and social media feeds in our newsletter and on our social media feeds.

This will help cut down on MHLS staff time seeking individual permissions.

- b. **Applications for the NYLA Conference Scholarship from the Mid-Hudson Library System are due Friday June 23rd**. This scholarship is designed to help provide new library directors and new library staff with the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference of the New York Library Association by matching funds provided by the library to underwrite conference attendance. “New” is defined as serving in the role of director or at the library as a staff person for three years or less.
 - i. This is a competitive scholarship. One application per library will be accepted. Maximum request: \$500. Minimum request: \$250. Member libraries applying for the grant must agree to at least match the awarded amount.
 - ii. Eligibility requirements:

1. A “new” director or staff person must have been in their role for three (3) years or less.
2. The member library’s board must designate the eligible staff member and authorize the library to apply for this award. This action should be recorded in the board’s minutes.
- iii. The attendee must provide a personal statement that answers the following questions:
 1. Why are you interested in attending the NYLA annual conference?
 2. How do you think attending the NYLA annual conference will assist you with your library responsibilities?
 3. How do you plan to share what you have learned with others?
- iv. Please complete the Application Form and send it to Laura Crisci, MHLS Library Sustainability Coordinator by Friday, June 23rd. Recipients will be notified in July to ensure they can take advantage of the early bird registration deadline for the conference.
- v. For more information, see the MHLS NYLA Conference Scholarship page. Contact MHLS Library Sustainability Coordinator, Laura Crisci, with any questions.

c. Movie Licensing Group Discount

- i. MHLS has again secured a group discount with Movie Licensing USA (MLUSA) according to the terms below for libraries that wish to continue or join the MHLS group buy. **Libraries that wish to purchase a new license or renew an existing license from Movie Licensing USA through the MHLS group discount should email Outreach & EDI Specialist Kerstin Cruger, at kcruiger@midhudson.org by July 21st.** MHLS will invoice your library for the cost of the license based on the rates provided by MLUSA.

To screen movies at library programs and other library events in compliance with copyright regulations the library must secure the necessary public performance license. In some cases, more than one license may be required to secure the rights for all the movies and programs the library plans to screen. There are two companies commonly used by MHLS member libraries that provide this type of license, Movie Licensing USA (MLUSA) and Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC), and libraries should be sure that the licenses they’ve purchased secure the rights needed. Of note for libraries with current licenses with MLUSA is an addition to the current licensing agreement [which provides rights for outdoor screenings](#) of a number of movies without the purchase of an additional license normally required for public screenings outside the library building.

- d. **414 Meetups:** MHLS is hosting regular online meetup events for libraries engaging in 414 vote campaigns in 2023. At these meetups, libraries get support from MHLS for meeting deadlines and completing administrative tasks necessary for a successful 414 effort and share tips and ask questions about best practices for winning at the ballot.

Upcoming Dates

- a. [September 7](#)
- b. [October 6](#)

- e. **[The Great Give Back](#)** is a day for libraries to provide opportunities for their patrons to participate in meaningful, service-oriented experiences, and shine a light on the great work libraries are doing in their evolving roles as community hubs and connectors. This year, The Great Give Back will be October 21, 2023. This is the fourth year of this statewide program. We encourage each county association to

consider a joint effort to help streamline communication about this opportunity. A webinar is being planned for this summer with our peers across the state, stay tuned for more information.

6. Cooperative Collection Development & Digital Collection Access

- a. The Central Library/Collection Development Advisory Committee has approved the transition from Mango Languages to Transparent Language as outlined in the post to the MHLS-NOTICE list on June 5th. Unfortunately, Mango is unable to provide us with a list of patrons currently enrolled in the product, therefore we will need to work through word-of-mouth; advertising in your newsletters and via social media to alert folks of this change that is coming. [Marketing materials from Transparent Language are available here](#), ***we encourage you to help your patrons be aware of this switch coming over the next two months.***

Transparent Language

- 110+ languages. [See all available languages](#). (compared to 70 in Mango)
 - 30+ ESL Courses (compared to 20 in Mango)
 - American Citizen Test Prep course
 - KidSpeak for Libraries is included in our 12 month subscription at no extra charge. These are activities designed just for kids ages 6 and up to learn Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.
 - Complimentary Survival Spanish for Librarians Course
 - Usage stats by individual library (which we could not get with Mango)
 - The Committee also noted that Transparent Language starts off with foundational units in languages with a different alphabet, and is gamified, creating good reinforcement and allowing units to be done in “smaller chunks.”
- b. **NOVELny will sunset in 2024:** The NOVELny program and its online resources (currently from Gale and Britannica) will cease on June 30, 2024. The following is an excerpt from the announcement posted on New York's Libraries Information Network (NYLINE):

This successful NYS Library pilot program, which has provided a variety of databases since 1999, is no longer sustainable with the NYS Library's current funding sources. The Cultural Education fund has not received any recent increases, staff and database costs are rising, and federal funding has only increased moderately. This has led to the difficult decision to cut the NOVELny program.

Provided by the New York State Library, NOVELny is a Statewide Internet Library connecting New Yorkers to 21st century information. NOVELny is supported with Federal Library Service and Technology funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The NOVELny e-resources cost \$2,654,778 for 2022-2023 and are supported fully with IMLS funds.

7. Awareness & Advocacy Services

- a. **414 Petition Signature Reduction Bill (S3594 / A5266):** As of the issuance of this report our bill to reduce the number of signatures from 10% of the number of voters in a town that voted in the last gubernatorial election to a fixed 25 signatures has passed in the Senate and is in the Committee on Rules in the Assembly. The fate of the bill for this legislative session may be known by the DA meeting in June. In the meantime, please contact Assembly Speaker, and chair of the Assembly Rules Committee, Carl

Heastie, to urge him to bring our bill to a vote before session ends: Speaker@nyassembly.gov

b. 2023 State Budget Results:

- i. The state budget was passed more than a month late. While we successfully fought back against the Governor’s proposed cuts to both library aid and State Aid for Library Construction, the final numbers are unchanged from last year which is essentially a cut in view of rising costs and contractual obligations that increase each year:
 1. **Library Operating Aid:** \$99.6 million
 2. **Library Construction Aid:** \$34 million
- ii. The state budget bill included a provision for the increase of minimum wage over the next several years:
 1. 2024: \$15.00
 2. 2025: \$15.50
 3. 2026: \$16.00
 4. 2027: \$16.00 + an increase based on a rate determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in order to keep up with inflation. There would be no increases to the minimum wage in 2027 and beyond if, over a period of the prior year, the calculations published by the U.S. Department of Labor show that:
 - a. The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for Northeast Region Urban Wage Earners is negative.
 - b. The statewide unemployment rate increases by one-half percentage point or more.
 - c. Total non-farm employment decreases (measured seasonally)
- c. Libraries are now featured in the new **Regional Climate Action Road Map and Tool Kit** under development to address how the Hudson Valley region will collaborate to achieve New York’s climate goals thanks to some targeted advocacy. This resource is currently available as a discussion draft (<https://www.hvclimateroadmap.org/>), suggestions for improvements are welcome: roadmap@sustainhv.org
- d. **MHLS and Members featured in recent statewide newsletter for Trustees:** MHLS, the Kinderhook Memorial Library and the Mahopac Library were featured in a “guest editor takeover” of the April issue of the Library Trustees Association Section of the New York Library Association (LTAS) newsletter which focused on the topic of sustainability. The Newsletter is attached to this report for your reference.

8. Interlibrary Loan Services

- a. MHLS welcomes Rebecca Hagan (formerly of Millbrook Library) to the Technology Operations team, filling the position of Inter Library Loan (ILL)/ Cataloging Specialist. While Rebecca can be reached at rhagan@midhudson.org, she will also be available at ill@midhudson.org and through ILL ticketing requests sent to techsupport@midhudson.org. Her extension is 224, the same as previous staff in that position. Rebecca is enthusiastic about libraries and loves working with data, which makes her the perfect person to support both ILL and cataloging!

9. Construction Program Services

- a. The Division of Library Development's Online Grant System portal is scheduled to open for State Aid for Library Construction applications on June 7th. The State has streamlined the application process this year. If you are applying for this round of grants, please plan to attend the **Construction Grant Technical Assistance Workshop** on Tuesday, June 28th at 10:00am. [Register here](#) for this event. Even if you have applied for construction grants before you should plan to join us to learn about the new process. Grant applications will be due on Friday, August 4th. There will be no extensions to this deadline.
- b. The [State Aid for Library Construction website](#) has been revamped. Information has been consolidated under clearer headings and the page now sports a left-handed navigation menu. If you are having difficulty finding information, contact the State's [Digital Services Unit](#).
- c. Grants submitted during the previous fiscal year (August 2022) have been reviewed by DLD and are currently being reviewed by DASNY.

10. Communications Among Member Libraries

- a. The deadline to submit job openings to be included in the MHLS Bulletin is Thursday, 4:00pm of the week prior to publication. The MHLS Bulletin is published every Tuesday. Please send job ads to bulletin@midhudson.org.
- b. MHLS is always looking for member spotlights to share in the Bulletin. If you have a program, partnership, grant, collection, etc. that you would like to share with your peers, please contact [Alexa Stroh](#), MHLS Library Sustainability Associate.

11. Special Populations

- a. The Mid-Hudson Library System is offering two grant opportunities to our member libraries in 2023. **The MHLS Assistive Equipment Mini-Grant and the MHLS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Mini-Grant**. These grants are supported by New York State Outreach Categorical Aid funds received from the NYS Library Division of Library Development and in support of the [MHLS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy](#).

- i. **MHLS Assistive Equipment Mini-Grant**

Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) member libraries that are interested in purchasing new equipment, software or contract services to improve library services for coordinated outreach populations of people who are blind or who have a physical disability can apply for the MHLS Assistive Equipment Mini Grant.

The following grants are available:

Fifteen (15) grants in the amount of \$1,200 each. This is a competitive grant. One grant per library.

- ii. **MHLS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Mini-Grant**

Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) member libraries that are interested in advancing equity and inclusion work to improve library services for their communities are invited to apply for the MHLS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Mini-Grant. This grant is in support of MHLS' commitment to ensuring library services are equitable, respect the diversity of our communities, and are inclusive. For definitions of equity, diversity and inclusion please view the ODLOS glossary.

The following grants are available:

Twenty (20) grants in the amount of \$1,000 each. This is a competitive grant. One grant per library.

To learn more about the requirements for these grants and to access the applications please visit the [MHLS Mini-Grants web page](#). Applications for both grants are due by June 30th.

Member libraries may apply for both the Assistive Equipment Mini-Grant and the EDI Mini-Grant in the same year, but they must apply for funding for different projects for each opportunity.

Questions should be directed to MHLS Outreach & EDI Specialist, [Kerstin Cruger](#).

- b. **New York State's ConnectALL Office has released a statewide [Digital Equity Survey](#)** (bit.ly/connectall-survey) to gather information about barriers and challenges to internet access and digital equity throughout New York State. This input will help NYS make sure that everyone can have access to high-quality and affordable internet service, devices, skills training, and digital support.

We need your help! The MHLS region has a quota of responses we are responsible to help solicit by June 30th. We need at least a total of 138 individuals (one response per household) representing the populations below to fill out the survey:

- Low-income households (income <150% of the Federal Poverty Level): 15
- Aging individuals (60 and older): 33
- Veterans: 7
- Individuals with disabilities: 17
- Individuals with a language barrier, including English learners and individuals who have low levels of literacy: 8
- Members of a racial or ethnic minority group: 41
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area: 23

It would be very helpful to this process if you have patrons in mind that fit the categories above to send the survey to or if you have contacts with local agencies/nonprofits that serve the populations described above that may be able to help connect the right folks with this opportunity to have their voice heard in this process. This online survey is available in 12 languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), French, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, and Yiddish.

- c. **A flyer is available for you to [print](#) and post.** We have sent one color and one black and white copy to each library building but if you would like to request more copies, please contact [Kerstin Cruger](#), MHLS Outreach and EDI Specialist.

12. Cooperative Efforts with Other Library Systems

- a. **Registration is now open for the 24th annual children's and teen literature conference Fall Into Books.** This year's conference will be held in-person on October 26th from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm at the Newburgh Armory. This collaborative event features book discussion sessions ranging from picture books to young adult, and a keynote presentation. This year's keynote speaker is author/illustrator John Parra.

Full details, including discussion groups and registration, can be found on the Fall Into Books website, <https://fallintobooks.org/>. The cost for this event is \$100.

- b. The Mid-Hudson Library System is collaborating with Ramapo Catskill Library System, SENYLRC, Dutchess BOCES and SUNY New Paltz to coordinate the **2024 Banned Books Symposium**. This half day biennial

event is open to public librarians and school librarians and will take place in spring of 2024. More information about the event and a request for presentation proposals will be released at the end of 2023.

13. Administrative

- a. James Coyle has been named our Interim Financial Manager & Personnel Officer. James can be reached at jcoyle@midhudson.org or x214 with any questions checks or bills received from MHLS. We are actively interviewing to fill this position and hope to fill this position quickly.
- b. Web Site Input: We are seeking further input from directors, staff and trustees of member libraries on our redesign of the current suite of web pages associated with midhudson.org. This includes the main page and related pages such as the Knowledge Base and the Public Library Vote Toolbox. To this end a survey will be provided for input this month to build on what we learned at the county director meetings. We appreciate your help with this effort.
- c. 2024 Annual Membership Meeting will be held IN PERSON! Please save the date: Friday, October 27th. We will be going back to the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Educational Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY. We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be **Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director of the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom, and Executive Director of the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF)**, an allied 501(c)(3) organization which participates in freedom of speech and freedom of the press litigation.