

MHLS Report to Member Library Directors | April 2024

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

1. Delivery Services

- a. We welcome our newest Material Handler, John Cantamessa, who is learning all the MHLS libraries and working firsthand in the resource sharing process of preparing materials for delivery to member libraries and their patrons. John enjoys going to the Boardman Road Branch Library with his grandchildren.
- b. Valley Courier driver Davion Scott, who drives route #5 on Monday and Tuesday to libraries in Dutchess and Ulster county, has an assistant, Dwayne Stewart. In addition to Dwayne currently assisting Davion, he will be covering the route on occasion in Davion's absence.
- c. Delivery Operations offers non-profit organizations the use of the delivery system to distribute flyers, postcards, and posters to promote their events in the five county MHLS region for a fee of \$10.00 per county. Please refer any non-profit organization inquiring to use MHLS delivery to Tom Finnigan tfinnigan@midhudson.org. MHLS has been providing this service for several years and some of the recent users have been Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Walkway Over the Hudson, and La Voz, a monthly grass roots Hudson Valley Hispanic news and culture magazine published at Bard college.

2. Integrated Library System & Cataloging Services

- a. Innovative Users Group (IUG) 2024: Laurie Shedrick, MHLS Assistant Director and Technology Operations Manager, Nina Acosta, MHLS Data Operations Supervisor, and Kathryn Brew, MHLS ILS and Technology Operations Specialist attended the annual IUG, held in Detroit. The conference spanned three very full days with over 470 users in attendance. The conference provides a tremendous opportunity to interact with other users, Innovative product managers and developers. We split up for even better coverage of the conference content. Highlights include a look ahead to the next 2 Sierra releases, introduction to the New Consortia elements in Vega Promote and LX Starter. It was also notable how Innovative is shifting towards the Clarivate brand. Clarivate colors are replacing Innovative Orange and there was an intentional use of Clarivate as the company name. Laurie was awarded the Mid-Atlantic User conference scholarship, which covered all costs related to the conference attendance.
- b. Vega Discover update on outstanding items:

In the previous report we discussed Vega Discover issues that were identified in discussions, feedback forms and in meetings. We presented these pain points to Innovative developers and administration, and we have continued to work with them in meetings, email exchanges and documentation. There is movement on most, though likely not as quickly as we might like. This has been a very busy period for Innovative as they were gearing up for their annual conference event.

 - i. **The Location Facet**

Location Facet Navigation is improved to allow sorting, preferred locations, and view of all locations without searching. ~Updated March 13, delivery Q2
 - ii. **Patron Login errors.** A fix was applied to our Sierra application server. While we are experiencing less reports, 2 tickets were opened since the fix, to resolve patron record access issues.

- iii. **Facet order** (Location promoted to the top of the list): No update posted, but mentioned as coming, in Q2.
 - iv. **Relevancy:** Relevancy is increased for exact matches of search terms to main title fields. Relevancy is modified to allow for sorting newly published materials by an author to the top of author index term hits for search results. ~Updated March 13, delivery Q2
 - v. **Search bar:** The search bar is centered on the home page and cell padding has been improved to better use the space on the screen. ~Updated March 19th, delivery Q2
 - vi. **On order location:** No planned development in
 - vii. **Due date:** The due date of each item is displayed.
 - viii. **Roll up fixes:** Reindexing has been completed to apply the rollup logic changes we released this year. ~Applied March 14th
 - ix. **White space**
 - In general display: Cell padding has been improved to better use the space on the screen. March 19th, delivery Q2
 - in listed areas – No updates
- c. **Also coming to Vega Discover**
- i. Improved advanced search form
 - ii. Digital asset harvesting – we are beta partners
 - iii. Staff User roles for managing homepages.
 - iv. Custom pass-through configuration – search your collection, then check other availability outside of your collection.
 - v. Scoped view of Syndetics Unbound content when in Kiosk or collection mode.
- d. **Mobile App:** During the February 22nd meeting that we had with Yariv Kursch and Carrie Pearson of Innovative (Clarivate), we were given the Innovative Mobile App for patrons. We will begin installation of the app as soon as possible. Each library will have the opportunity to have a customizable instance of the app. As we understand the implementation process better we will share more information. For now, we have posted some content on Knowledge Base in our Sierra Road Map section under [Innovative Mobile](#).
- e. **LX Starter (Notices)** will begin beta testing for consortia sometime in May. We need a software update to our Sierra system, which was not yet released at the time this report was created, but we are queued to be among the first to have access. We will be preparing a launch kit, documentation, and staff training, using the documentation available now for standalone libraries, and will modify it for consortia as information trickles in. Documentation for LX starter is posted on Knowledge Base. In the coming weeks as we prepare a launch kit, that page will evolve.
- f. **Software and OS upgrade pending:** We will shortly be posting the schedule for 2 necessary upgrades.
- i. **6.1.0_10 Sierra is now available.** It contains the patch we need to move forward with LX starter. My goal would be to get it installed next week or early the week after. This is a very small update to our current release and will have no impact to staff workflows. In addition to prepping us for LX Starter, it contains 2 noted elements:

- **Library admin option to restart Sierra Web** - Sierra Web can and does hang user licenses. This will give MHLS access to clear those hung licenses without a ticket with Innovative.
 - **Upgrade management of SW_SESSIONS_PER_TOMCAT**-This is intended to move libraries to access up to 60 user licenses in Sierra Web. Our goal is to ensure we don't get set "back" to 60, as we already have 70.
- ii. **OS Update to Red Hat 8:** Red Hat 7 will reach its end of maintenance on June 30th. Innovative is scheduling OS upgrades with all sites to bring them forward to Red Hat 8 before the end of Maintenance. This is a significant process that will include downtime in the overnight hours. This update should not change our Sierra experience, so we will likely be scheduling later than sooner.
- g. **Baker & Taylor - Title Source 360.** Currently 27 libraries place orders for library materials through the web-based platform from B&T. Staff fill "carts" in Title Source 360. Once the cart is ordered, MHLS staff retrieve the bibliographic record and add it to Sierra. When the titles are received, the process is streamlined, as the record already exists. MHLS has brokered a greatly reduced price of \$50, annually, for our member libraries. Your account is created with your profile for material discounts, processing and Sierra codes included. Links between Title Source 360 and our catalog, let you check local copies as you consider titles. Selection lists, reviews and other content are available within the product to assist in ordering. If you would like to discuss adding Title Source 360, or just to learn more about it, contact the cataloging department.
- h. **A long-awaited name change** has taken place for three of our member libraries who had a reason to rebrand and rename since our migration to Millennium/Sierra. Mountain Top Library, Olive Free Library and Roeliff Jansen Community Library are now represented by the name they have chosen, which reflects the communities they serve. It has been a long time coming. Visibility issues in the Discover platform pushed the issue to the forefront. We met with Innovative at the IUG conference noted above. Vega Discover had the bones in place to support this work and with the story behind the problem, and being face to face with the developers, the inspiration was in place to find a solution. The corrected names are now visible, searchable, and located in the correct alphabetic list location in all areas of the Discover platform.

3. Coordinated IT Services

- a. [The FCC has updated the definition of broadband](#). The Commission's Report, issued pursuant to section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, raises the Commission's benchmark for high-speed fixed broadband to download speeds of 100 megabits per second and upload speeds of 20 megabits per second – a four-fold increase from the 25/3 Mbps benchmark set by the Commission in 2015. **This benchmark is for a household connection** but illustrates the rate of increase that libraries should be keeping pace with. The goal of a gigabit down that we had set for libraries is now the long-range goal for single family households! The article concludes with a statement that 45 million Americans lack access at these new benchmarks, and this is where libraries become a lifeline.

4. Professional Development & Continuing Education

- a. **REMINDER:** All member library directors can manage staff and trustee access to the MHLS Training on Demand Platform. Laurie is currently working with Niche to fix some bugs in the “supervisor” level access to please stay tuned for a new training video on Training on Demand that will help new directors understand how to use this feature to track/assign trainings for staff and trustees. In the meantime feel free to open a ticket with techsupport@midhudson.org if you have any issues.
- b. **Sierra User Group | May 9 | 10:00 am | Online | [REGISTER](#)**
Join colleagues to discuss the Sierra Integrated Library System, Vega, and related platforms. Let’s talk workflows, projects and share “how we did its” related to the Sierra systems. We will discuss the New Patron App that will be coming out this summer and (Finally) talk about the launch plan for LX Starter.
- c. **Upcoming Trustee Education Opportunities (All events listed here qualify as eligible trustee education session that apply towards the NYS Trustee Education Requirements.):**
- i. Live: All are online from 5-6:30pm
 - Wednesday, June 5: Trustee Essentials
 - Monday, June 10: Finance & Fiduciary Responsibility
 - Tuesday, June 18: Libraries for the Future: An Introduction to Sustainability as the Newest Core Value (Trustee Handbook Book Club)
 - Thursday, September 5: Trustee Essentials
 - Monday, September 23: Policies 101
 - Tuesday, October 15: Governance Structure: The Role of Board Officers and Board Committees (Trustee Handbook Book Club)
 - Monday, October 28: Financial Planning
 - ii. In person sessions are being planned in partnership with county associations for 2024
 - ii. [Training on Demand for Trustees:](#)
 - Trustee Essentials
 - Core Values & Ethics
 - Finance & Fiduciary Responsibilities
 - Sustainable Funding
 - Financing & Managing Construction Projects
 - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access & Justice
 - Strategic Planning
 - Financial Planning & Budgeting
 - The Board-Director Relationship
 - Open Meetings Law
 - Effective Meetings Using Parliamentary Procedures
 - Planning & Evaluation
 - Ethics + Conflicts of Interest + Intellectual Freedom, Censorship and Privacy
 - Policies & Risk Management
 - Facilities
 - Budgets & Finance
 - Duties & Responsibilities
 - Library Board Meetings
 - Personnel

- After Party I, II, and III (these recordings are of the hosts of the Trustee Handbook Book Club answering questions they didn't get to at the live sessions)

d. **MHLS EDI in Libraries Series: NYS Talking Book and Braille Library Informational Session** | Online April 18, 2:00-3:00 PM | **REGISTER**

In this one-hour online program New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) Senior Librarian Laurene Teachout (she/her/hers) will provide an overview of services, focusing on institution membership and the important role public libraries play in connecting community members to accessible reading materials. This session is open to all member library directors and staff.

The New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) is a free library service for residents in Upstate New York who have difficulty reading standard print due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. TBBL's service includes free circulation of audio and braille books and magazines through the US Postal Service, long-term loan of playback equipment, and access to a free online downloading service called Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD).

e. **414 Vote Libraries Meetup**, April 19th Online 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | [REGISTER](#)

At this meetup we'll check in with MHLS member library teams going for a 414 vote this year, share best practices and ensure your team is on track to hit all of the required milestones for a successful vote. This is also an opportunity to learn from your peers also working on 414 vote campaigns this year.

f. **Applying for Funds Through the State Aid for Library Construction Program** | Online, April 24, 10:00-11:30 AM | **REGISTER**

This webinar is designed for Mid-Hudson Library System member library directors and trustees who would like an introduction to the New York State Aid for Public Library Construction Grant Program and an orientation for how to take the first step to apply in the new grant cycle – the submission of the MHLS Action Memo reporting a library's construction needs and intent to apply for a grant. During this webinar we will cover:

- An introduction to the grant program
- A review of the MHLS Board's priorities for funding
- Orientation to the MHLS Action Memo which serves as the first step to applying

g. **Rethinking Summer Reading** | April 25 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | MHLS Auditorium | [Register](#)

This 2-hour in-person session will provide an overview of summer reading research and trends and help library staff re-focus on how to set kids up for future success using real-world examples. There will be a discussion session for participants following the presentation. Presented Millbrook Library Director, Courtney Tsahalís. This event is open to all MHLS member library staff who plan, program or promote their library's Summer Reading Program. *This is also the kick-off event for the Evaluating Our Impact: Summer Reading Program Cohort 2024-2025.*

- h. **MHLS Horizon Series: Balancing Acts: Cultivating Compassion for Library Worker Wellness** | May 1, MHLS Auditorium 10:00 AM-1:00 PM | [REGISTER](#)

Compassion has been identified as a key component of individual, organizational and societal well-being. Employees in compassionate organizations not only are more resilient to stress and burnout but have reduced anxiety, increased motivation, and are more engaged and collaborative. By cultivating our personal capacity for compassion and developing compassionate work cultures, we can better sustain ourselves, support our coworkers and transform our libraries and our communities for the better. This half day in-person workshop will address:

- Why compassion is vitally important for individuals and our communities
- What compassion is and how it differs from empathy
- How to apply compassion in our workplaces to minimize suffering
- How to cultivate compassion through mindful self-awareness

Participants will be invited to attend four follow-up online mini sessions held on:

- Tues 5/14 10:00 am – 10:45 am via Zoom
- Wed 5/29 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm via Zoom
- Thurs 6/6 10:00 am – 10:45 am via Zoom
- Thurs 6/13 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm via Zoom

Presenter, Jennifer Bollerman is Assistant Director at the Patchogue-Medford Library and is certified as an Ambassador of Applied Compassion Program through Stanford University.

- i. **The Book Doctor Is In** | May 30, 4:15-7:15 PM, Dutchess BOCES
[5 Boces Rd Poughkeepsie 12601](#) | [REGISTER](#)

The Mid-Hudson Library System is partnering with Dutchess BOCES School Library System to offer a free book care workshop with Kimberly Young, the Book Doctor from DEMCO. Book Doctor Workshops provide book care training with the aim of helping you keep your collection in circulation longer.

- j. **The Best Publicity Practices To Promote Your Library**, Online June 3, 10:00 – 11:00 AM | [REGISTER](#)
- Understanding media and publicity can be a daunting task but with the right Public Relations plan in place, you can reach more of your community and promote your library in a way that will build support from your local community members. The session will address:
- How to set realistic publicity goals in 3-6 month increments
 - How to identify spokespeople in your library that can be introduced to media
 - How to write a press release
 - How to create and execute a successful public relations strategy
 - The best ways to nurture relationships with writers and publications after a story is published
 - How to collaborate with local influencers to gain publicity

5. Consulting & Development

- a. **An updated edition of the Municipal Ballot / 414 Vote manual** has been created: [Inch by Inch, Row by Row](#): Using the Municipal Ballot Option in Education Law 259(1)(b) to Obtain Sustainable Funding for

- b. **Congratulations to the Kinderhook Memorial Library** on completing the Sustainable Library Certification Program. Matt and his team completed more than 140 actions in 12 categories* to achieve this certification which helps libraries think through everyday choices they make through the lens of the triple bottom line of sustainability: environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility. Kinderhook's final presentation is available at <https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/media/document/557>
- i. Did you know? All NYLA members get a free one-year membership in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and a 20% discount on the Sustainable Library Certification Program.
 - ii. *SLCP Action Item Categories:
 - Organizational Commitment
 - Energy Usage
 - Materials Management – Waste & Recycling
 - Materials Management – Purchasing
 - Transportation
 - Land Use
 - Water
 - Collective Impact
 - Social Cohesion
 - Community Resilience
 - Financial Sustainability
 - Collections
 - iii. To learn more about the certification program visit: <https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/about-us/program-faq>
- c. **New Directors Forum: Sierra Admin Checklist with Laurie Shedrick**, June 11 12:30 – 3:00 PM (directly after the June DA meeting, lunch will be provided) Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium, [105 Market St. Poughkeepsie 12601](#) | [REGISTER](#)
- New Directors, join us for an informal gathering of New Directors (in your role for 3 years or less) to discuss relevant topics related to finding your path as a new director. Facilitated by MHLS Executive Director, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, author of the Handbook for New Library Directors in New York State & co-author of the Handbook for Library Trustees in New York State, this program will address questions submitted in advance by attendees, particularly in the areas of working with your board, planning, and project/time management. Submit your questions here: <https://forms.gle/GVVDxvEGmprPXTfWA>
- d. **Trustee Handbook Book Club: Libraries for the Future: An Introduction to Sustainability as the Newest Core Value** | Online, June 18 5:00 -6:30 PM | [REGISTER](#)
- 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.
- Have questions for the panelists? Submit them [here](#). This event qualifies as trustee education and may be applied towards the NYS Trustee Education Requirements.

- e. [Evaluating Our Impact: Summer Reading Program Cohort 2024-2025](#): The Mid-Hudson Library System Summer Reading Program Cohort members will evaluate their library's current Summer Reading Program (SRP) by focusing on why they hold the SRP and evaluate current practices through dollars spent, organizational goals reached, and other specific aspects chosen by participants. This program spans April 2024 to September 2025. This cohort is open to all MHLS member library staff who plan, program, or promote their library's Summer Reading Program. Multiple staff members from an individual library are welcome to attend as a team. This cohort has a limit of a total of 10 libraries participating. To increase participation all group work will now take place online.
The application deadline is closed for this cohort, however if you attend the *Rethinking Summer Reading Workshop* on April 25 and decide you would like to join the cohort you can still do so. Please contact MHLS Outreach & EDI Specialist, [Kerstin Cruger](#).

6. Cooperative Collection Development & Digital Collection Access

- a. **Time Magazine in OverDrive**: Recently we were notified that Time Magazine would be included in OverDrive. Shortly after it was made available OverDrive let us know that there was error and Time Magazine access has ended as of March 30th.
- b. As of April 15, 2024, all OverDrive websites, and apps, (including Libby and Kanopy) will no longer be supported on devices running Android operating systems 7.1.0 and earlier. OverDrive's web certificate provider must implement this change to ensure security and privacy for users. OverDrive predicts that approximately 1.5% of OverDrive users will be impacted. **Beginning March 25th, affected Libby users will see a message in the app prompting them to update their OS or switch to a supported device to continue using the app.** This message will instruct users on transferring their account, including cards, loans, holds, and tags to another device. After April 15, any users still running Android OS 7.1.0 or earlier will no longer be able to use OverDrive services until they update to Android 7.1.1 or later or switch to a supported device.

7. Awareness & Advocacy Services

- a. **State Budget Update**: As of the issuance of this report, the New York State budget was still being negotiated despite the statutory requirement that a budget be in place by April 1st.
- b. **The Putnam County Library Association has chosen the in person trustee education topic of Advocates and Ambassadors**, this session will be offered at their April 18th PCLA meeting in Mahopac. This session is eligible to apply towards the Trustee Education Requirement for member library trustees.
- c. **County Funding Advocacy Group**: The annual meeting of folks involved in advocating for county funds for member libraries will be held on Friday, May 24th at 10:00am online. Please register online for this event: <https://midhudson.org/events/county-funding-advocacy-group/>

8. Interlibrary Loan Services

- a. **Empire Delivery Issues**: MHLS ILL Specialist, Rebecca Hagan recognized an inconsistency in the Empire Delivery turnaround time and after investigating identified several titles that were too long in delivery. A full investigative search was launched to locate these items and on Friday April 5th, six crates of items were delivered to MHLS. The items had been found. For weeks the items were mislaid and sitting in a trailer and may not have been detected without MHLS raising notice. Because the delivery

was so delayed, many items were due back. MHLS is working with the lending libraries to renew items borrowed through OCLC for member library patrons. For those of you sending SEAL items through MHLS using Empire delivery, you also might have detected some delay. If you have questions about this incident, please contact Rebecca Hagan at rhagan@midhudson.org or extension 224 or open a ticket with an email to techsupport@midhudson.org.

- b. Please [review SEAL shipping directions](#). If they are **not** an [RCLS](#) member or a [participating in Empire Library Delivery](#) site (i.e. a special library, school library, etc.), you will need to send it using UPS, USPS, or a similar method.
- c. SENYLRC is in the process of reviewing the regional borrowing rules. Changes in the ALA rules, mostly in areas around accessibility and equity will be included. The Regional ILL Committee (RIC) is in the early stages of review. MHLS will have an opportunity to review and vote on the adoption later this year.

9. Construction Program Services

a. Construction Program Services

- i. 2024 State Aid for Library Construction Applications: Applications submitted in August of 2023 have been reviewed by DLD and are now in the process of being reviewed by DASNY. MHLS staff will be in contact with applying libraries for clarifications and updates as requested by DLD and DASNY. Official announcement from the state for award funds for this round of projects is expected between June 2024 and October 2024.
- ii. **MHLS Action Memo #24-03: Construction Needs Update & Intent to Apply for State Aid for Library Construction** was sent to the MHLS-Notice list on April 1st. This will be the first step to apply in the next funding round. **All directors are asked to please fill out the survey** found at <https://mhls.wufoo.com/forms/gz12hn60p7jj2j/> (Yes, even if you do not plan to apply for a construction grant this year.) Submissions **are due by May 24**.

b. 2023 Construction Grant Timeline

- i. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to MHLS Library Sustainability Coordinator, Laura Crisci, to discuss potential projects well ahead of any due dates.
 - **April 1** – [Construction Needs/Intent to Apply MHLS Action Memo](#) Released
 - **April 24** – Applying for Funds Through the State Aid for Library Construction Program Webinar
 - **May** – Construction Grant Office Hours by Appointment
 - **May 24** – Construction Needs/Intent to Apply MHLS Action Memo Due
 - **Early June** – Construction Grant Portal Opens
 - **June** – Construction Grant Office Hours by Appointment
 - **June 20** – Construction Grant Technical Assistance Workshop
 - **July** – Construction Grant Office Hours by Appointment
 - **August 9** – Grant Application due to MHLS
 - **September 27** – MHLS Board of Trustees Reviews Applications
 - **Mid October** – Applications are due to DLD from MHLS
- c. **June – October, 2024** – Libraries receive confirmation of Grant awards from DLD

10. Communications Among Member Libraries

- a. **Job Postings:** The deadline to submit job openings to be included in the MHLS Bulletin is Wednesday, 4:00 pm of the week before publication. The MHLS Bulletin is published every Tuesday. Please send job ads to bulletin@midhudson.org the job posting should not be more than 100 words and include a link to the complete job posting.
- b. **Library Spotlights:** 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 let us know, bulletin@midhudson.org.

11. Special Populations

- a. **Celebrate Smokey's 80th Birthday by joining the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge!** This challenge is meant to engage youth in reading about wildfire prevention, forests, and natural resource careers while they explore their local environment. It is also designed to complement the 2024 Collaborative Summer Reading Program theme of *Adventure Begins at Your Library*. READsquared the Summer Reading Program online registration tool provided by the NYS Library free to public libraries has incorporated the Smokey Bear Challenge into their platform. The challenge is geared for ages 4 to 10, but all ages are welcome.

The Mid-Hudson Library System has a limited number of stickers, stamps, and information cards for our members.

Interested member libraries should complete this form to receive these materials to use in their program. First come, first serve!

Smokey Bear Challenge downloadable [library toolkit](#). Digital toolkit items include:

- Paper challenge log
- Smokey's Reading List
- Printable posters, bookmarks, certificates, coloring sheets, games, and prizes
- Promotional images for web platforms, digital displays, and social media.

Participation requirements: The USDA Forest Service will be asking for feedback from libraries that used the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge program materials. **Libraries should keep track of completed challenge certificates and report that number back to their systems in the fall.** Additional information will be provided by the State Library when it's time for libraries to report on their Smokey Bear Challenge activities.

Questions? Please contact MHLS Outreach & EDI Specialist, [Kerstin Cruger](#).

- b. **Summer Reading Posters from NYS** should be arriving at MHLS in the next two weeks. Each member library will receive one poster per building. Looking for Summer Reading Program resources? Visit the [New York State Library web page](#) and the [Collaborative Summer Library Program website](#). If you need the password for the CSLP manual, please contact kcruger@midhudson.org. We are unable to post the password publicly.

- c. **MHLS Early Literacy Cohort kicks off on April 22nd.** There are 7 libraries participating this year. This program consists of four 90-minute interactive online sessions taking place in April, May, June, and October as well as individual work between sessions to establish a partnership and implement programming
- d. **Outreach Mini-Grants:** Without an approved state budget for this fiscal year, we are unable to proceed with announcing plans in this area just yet.

12. Cooperative Efforts with Other Library Systems

- a. **Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley** spring cohort began on April 9. The next cohort will run from July to October. When applications are opened for the summer/fall cohort we will notify members via the MHLS-Notice list and the Bulletin.

The program is open to anyone who works at a library or a community-based organization that would like to offer Digital Navigator services to their patrons. Applications are available to individuals who work at libraries and nonprofit organizations in the following counties: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. This cohort is open to individuals who have previously trained as a Digital Navigator and those new to the program. Visit the Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley website to view the program requirements. Navigators who meet the requirements will receive a \$500 investment incentive payable to their organization.

13. Administrative

- a. Reminder: Signed Memo of Understandings are due by April 30th to MHLS. Libraries that fail to meet this deadline will forfeit membership in the Mid-Hudson Library System.
- b. NYLA Membership Renewals: Please note that the New York Library Association has launched a new customer management software solution which will require us all to create new membership accounts. Please review information about personal and organizational memberships found here: <https://www.nyla.org/membership-categories> and reach out to Lauren Hoyt, NYLA's Director of Association Operations at membership@nyla.org with any questions.