



2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Advocating for Libraries

Academic Libraries Open Data Project

WNYLRC funded salary data collection for academic library staff in the Western New York region from the Integrated Postsecondary Education System (IPEDS) database. The project team extracted data and produced interactive visualizations for WNY libraries to be used in advocating for increased funding and promoting librarianship as a profession. You can search the data repository here: <https://wnylrc.libguides.com/salariesurvey>

Asset Mapping Our Libraries

The Library Education, Advancement, and Partnerships (LEAP) Committee developed a survey to understand what assets exist in WNY libraries that support digital inclusion and makerspaces for learning through inquiry and collaboration. Survey data will be incorporated into a series of freely available visual data representations, which can be used to identify strengths and address needs for more resources in this important work taking place in our libraries.

Digital Equity in New York State

Staff and several member libraries and library systems are working with the Western New York Digital Equity Coalition (WNYDEC) and the New York State Digital Equity Network (NYSDEN) to promote digital inclusion and digital equity for our region and state. WNYDEC hosted a listening session in March 2023 and subsequent focus groups throughout WNY to gather community data for the NYS ConnectALL Office. NYSDEN meets monthly to unite regional groups and advance digital equity priorities through coordinated statewide efforts.

Diverse Collections Development Grant

The High School to College Committee distributed grants of \$500 each to Lafayette High School, Gowanda High School, Panama Elementary, Mount Saint Mary Academy, and Falconer Middle/High School. The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-racism (EDIAr) Committee also provided financial support for this program.

State Legislative Advocacy

15 in-person meetings were held with Western NY State Assembly and Senate members throughout November and December. Staff from Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Nioga Library System, Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System, Erie 2 BOCES, and WNYLRC attended NYLA's Advocacy Day in Albany on February 28th. WNYLRC advocated for several key pieces of legislation and increases to Library Operating Aid and Library Construction Aid in the NYS budget, all of which will benefit NYS libraries.

Embracing Experimentation



The Empire State Library Network started a new statewide program that provides participating institutions with a secure, robust, and low-cost institutional repository to organize, share, and store faculty and academic research.

Digital Projects Internship

An internship opportunity was created to introduce current students to the various skills required for modern librarianship. Amanda Horner, a Master of Public Health student at the University of Albany, assisted WNYLRC with projects relating to podcasting, 360 photography, photogrammetry, and digitization.

Message from the 2023 WNYLRC Board President



Alicia Thompson,
Buffalo Public Schools

This annual report validates the organization's programs' and services' impact on member libraries and libraries around the state. WNYLRC's membership base is strong and has continued to grow, with over 65 dues-paying member institutions. The Board with the Executive Director worked on several initiatives preparing the organization for the future, including a leadership succession plan, a board orientation handbook, a board mentoring program, a committee member orientation handbook, and the location of new office space. All board-approved initiatives adhere to the strategic plan goals in ensuring both short-term and long-term targets are met, including activities and outcomes surrounding the organization's fiduciary integrity, adherence to diversity and inclusiveness, professional development, and service innovation.

To ensure engaging discussions and a strong partnership team, the board of trustees, the board president, and the executive director began work in four areas to improve the organization's responsiveness to its members. Area 1: Finding and identifying what matters most to our members and building strategies and action around their needs. Area 2: Framing the identified problem and ensuring that the board's expertise drives strategic outcomes for improved member benefits. Area 3: Focusing on the big picture and working on important issues impacting our members and the library industry in general. Area 4: Facilitating meaningful dialog among all vested parties. When partnerships are strong and a culture of mutual respect and trust exists, the parties can overcome significant challenges and work collaboratively for the betterment of the organization.

The dedicated hard work of the WNYLRC Staff and Executive Director has been a beacon for resilience and innovation for the organization's continued success. Thank you for allowing me to serve as president of the Board of Trustees. It has truly been an honor to serve this organization.

Program and Service Highlights



Building Community

- 134 library jobs were posted on WNYLRC's job board in 2022-23.
- The Frank. E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library and Niagara Falls Public Library were recently awarded the Diversity Internship Grant from WNYLRC. This new grant is designed to attract diverse future librarians to the community and financially support their internships at the grant recipients' institutions.
- In 2023, WNYLRC contracted with Madison Curr, a Communications: Media Production student at SUNY Buffalo State University, as a Communications & Member Engagement intern. Madison helped WNYLRC develop social media marketing strategies and update promotional materials.

Facilitating Collaboration

AcademicSHARE

Twenty libraries statewide now participate in AcademicSHARE, a program expanding access to academic library materials and resources for students, staff, and faculty throughout New York State.

Archival Services

Support was provided to 15 member institutions, offering care recommendations, assessments of storage and physical spaces, assistance with locating grant funding, and opportunities to join preservation initiatives.

Ask the Archivist

Regional Archivist, Heidi Ziemer, answered 10 questions through this new online service from libraries statewide regarding the management of archival collections.

Ask the Lawyer

60 questions from library staff statewide were answered this year by attorney Stephanie "Cole" Adams and 35 were added to the Recently Asked Questions (RAQs) database.

Ask Us 24/7

46 libraries now participate in this collaborative, virtual reference program. NY Librarians answered 17,776 questions asked by patrons of participating institutions.

Coordinated Collection Development Aid (CCDA)

WNYLRC facilitated the distribution of \$153,880 in state funds to 16 participating academic institutions to enhance regional collections available for resource sharing.

Empire State Immersive Experiences

This collection of 360 images has grown to include 33 panorama tours with 526 digital objects.

New York Heritage

23 collections were added this year. WNY members' contributions now total 127 collections from 43 organizations.

New York State Historic Newspapers

Grant funding was provided to digitize and add issues of the Sherman Advance and additional issues of the Challenger Community News, Chautauqua News, and the Niagara Gazette.

Cultivating Learning

Podcasts from the Past

Two new episodes were added to WNYLRC's new audio/visual series, created and supported by the Preservation Committee. This growing collection of recordings was designed to share fascinating stories in WNY history, highlighted through collections of unique primary sources housed in member institutions.

Unconference

55 library staff attended the 5th annual Unconference hosted by the Continuing Education Committee. It was held on October 7, 2022 at BECPL's Central Library.

Webinars and Workshops

- 62 workshops and webinars were provided, with 1,532 attendees
- WNYLRC members accessed the Tech-Talk database 320 times
- WNYLRC supported 25 member seats across 14 NEDCC webinars
- Highly attended trainings were on the topics of Controlled Digital Lending, understanding the NY State Budget and other state funding opportunities, FOIA and FOIL requests, and addressing challenges to library collections.

In 2022-23, the Hospital Library Services Program provided 11 participating hospital libraries with access to medical databases and research support.

- 2,141 research questions answered
- \$31,553 in grant funds to hospitals for print and e-resources
- \$65,815 spent on the Ovid Discovery Service, containing health, biomedical, and pharmaceutical databases
- 115 registrations sponsored for Medical Library Association webinars





Member Libraries 2022-2023

Members in good standing as of June 30, 2023

Benjamin and Dr. Edgar R. Cofeld Judaic Museum of Temple Beth Zion*

Bryant & Stratton College

Buffalo AKG Art Museum

Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park*

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

Buffalo Broadcasters Association

Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora*

Buffalo General Medical Center

Buffalo History Museum

Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society

Buffalo Museum of Science

Buffalo School Library System

Burchfield Penney Art Center

Canisius University

Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier

Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University*

Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES SLS

Center for Inquiry Libraries

Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System

ConnectNY

D'Youville University

Daemen University

Erie 1 BOCES SLS

Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES SLS

Erie County Medical Center Corp.

Fellowships of the Spirit Lakeside Learning Center

Forest Lawn - Margaret L. Wendt Archives and Resources Center

Genesee Community College

Hilbert College

Historical Society of the Town of Clarence*

Houghton University - Buffalo

Jamestown Community College

Jesus The Liberator Seminary of Religious Justice*

John R. Oishei Children's Hospital

Kenmore Mercy Hospital

Library Consortium of Health Institutions in Buffalo

Medaille University

Mercy Hospital

Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital

Mount St. Mary's Hospital

Network of Religious Communities

New York Power Authority Niagara Power Project

Niagara County Community College

Niagara County Historical Society

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

Niagara University

Nioga Library System

Orleans-Niagara BOCES SLS

Our Lady of Victory Charities

Polish Genealogical Society of New York

Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

St. Bonaventure University

School Librarians' Association of Western New York (SLAWNY)

Sisters of Charity Hospital and St. Joseph Campus

SUNY Buffalo State University

SUNY Erie

SUNY Fredonia

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

Town of Niagara Historian*

Trocaire College

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District

University of Buffalo, Dept. of Information Science, Graduate School of Education

University at Buffalo Libraries

Villa Maria College

WNY Genealogical Society

***New Members in 22-23**



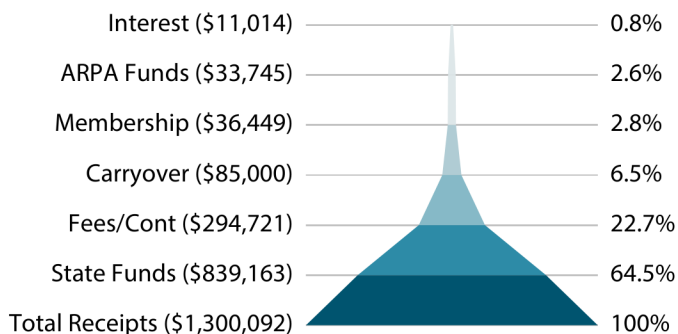
Consider the Source New York
Teaching with Historical Records

During the past year, WNYLRC collaborated with the Archives Partnership Trust's IMLS-funded Consider the Source project which resulted in the following:

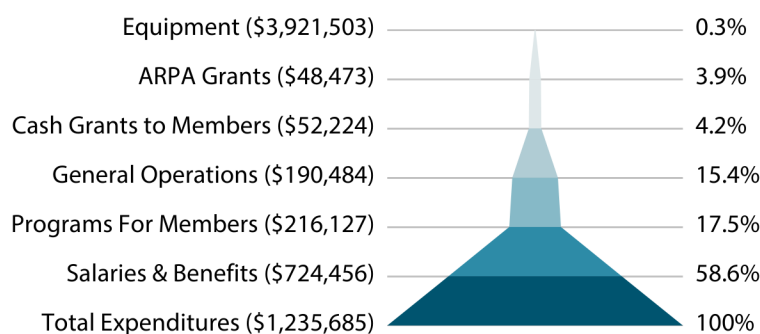
- recruiting five new WNYLRC members,
- nine collections were digitized for this project and seven are currently accessible on [ConsidertheSourceNY.org](https://www.considerthesourcenewyork.org),
- professional development training was provided for school librarians and teachers in WNY, and
- several k-12 lesson plans are now featured on the Consider the Source site.



Receipts



Expenditures



2023 Board of Trustees

Board Officers:

President: Alicia Thompson, Buffalo Public Schools
 Vice President/President Elect: Kathryn Leacock, Buffalo Museum of Science
 Secretary: Deborah Chiarella, University at Buffalo
 Treasurer: Jan Dekoff, Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System
 Immediate Past President: Cecelia Fuoco, Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES School Library System

Board Members:

Dan Albertson, DIS, University at Buffalo
 Dennis Galucki, Center for the Study of Art, Architecture, History and Nature
 Donna Berryman, University at Buffalo
 Heather Gring, Burchfield Penney Arts Center
 Jamie Smith, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
 Jeremy Lyman, Buffalo School Library System
 John Spears, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
 Justin Cronise, SUNY Erie
 Kristine Kasbohm, Canisius University
 Lisa Erickson, Nioga Library System
 Gabby Harrington (Ex officio), Office of Senator Sean Ryan

WNYLRC Staff

Caitlin Kenney - Research and Reference Services Coordinator
 Debra Porter - Accounting Manager
 Emily Carlin - HLSP Circuit Librarian
 Grace Di Virgilio - HLSP Co-Coordinator and Circuit Librarian
 Heidi Ziemer - Outreach and Digital Equity Coordinator
 Jay Barone - Technology Services Coordinator
 Jenn Northup - Member Engagement Services Coordinator
 Sheryl Knab - Executive Director

Former Employees 2022-23

Olivia Helfer - HLSP Co-Coordinator and Circuit Librarian
 Adrienne Doepp - HLSP Circuit Librarian
 Barrett Gordon - HLSP Circuit Librarian



Western New York
Library Resources Council

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