

Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum

from

Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records

10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday

April 21, 2020

Notes

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, NSLAPR; Liz Moore, NV State Archives; Brett Silver, NSLAPR Talking Books: Amy Dodson, Douglas County; Amy Geddes, Lyon County; Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County; Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Joy Gunn, Leona Vittum-Jones, Marcie Smedley, Henderson; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County; Tod Colegrove, Diane Baker, Amy Lauder, Carson City; Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas; Susan Wonderly, Shanna Gibbons, Alysha Wogee, Pahump; Cyndi O, NV Library CoOp; Holly Esposito, Washoe County School District; Karleigh Goodale, Elko County School District; Mary Shultz, UNR Medical Library; Caprice Roberson, CSN; Eric Walsh, Great Basin College; Anjanette Jones, UNLV; Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society; Kim Peterson Dept. of Corrections Library and SCLL: Nancy Schmidt, SCLL.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW



Strengths:

- Libraries are actively planning for reopening and are seeking guidance about best practices
- Libraries implementing technologies to assist with the public (3D printers for faceshields)
- Libraries are finding solutions that work for their communities and local circumstances
- Libraries are quickly figuring out to transition to a virtual presence



Struggles:

- Uncertainty regarding how to keep staff safe when reopening libraries
- Budget reductions during current FY and planning for cuts in next FY
- Cancellation of events
- Rescheduling library hours
- Digital inequity



Opportunities

- Promoting Libraries to the Legislature and public
- Stronger bonds among Libraries and schools within their communities
- Narrowing the digital divide in underserved areas
- Maintaining programming for our communities



Trends

- Providing digital hardware and services to our communities
- Adapting grocery store model to public libraries

Welcome – Tammy Westergard welcomed everyone and wished everyone a “Happy National Library Workers Day” and mentioned it as a part of “National Library Week”. She remarked that this year’s theme is “Find Your Place at the Library” and that “National Bookmobile Day” and “National Take Action Day” are upcoming.

Reopening libraries – This is the topic on everyone’s mind, and Tammy said there’s fierce discussion going on about the best way to go about it. Because grocery stores are have had to figure out best practices for continuing to operate during this time, Tammy looked at Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods websites as well as the national parks guidelines for parks and crosswalked their procedures into categories related to alert levels. She also consulted with Forrest Lewis in his role as NLA president.

Reopening Guidelines – The best practices of the “Grocery Store Guidelines” model for the reopening the libraries should be adapted as a way to keep patrons and staff safe for COVID 19. The state remains at high alert and will likely remain that way for the summer. Considerations for reopening libraries include: amending hours to help with staffing issues, continuous sanitizing of the materials and surfaces, practicing good hygiene, social distancing, demarcation of library floors to indicate proper social distance, use of partitions to keep patrons and staff safe, spacing guidelines for outside as well as inside, broadcasting public service announcements using internal p.a. systems, removing chairs to discourage remaining within the library for long periods of time, closing of labs and rooms, employing proper spacing between employees, providing masks and face shields to staff, providing masks with library logo to public that promotes the library to others, and limiting the number of people allowed in the library at one time. Issues remain regarding the homeless, staffing, and dealing with the public.

Forrest reiterated that the discussion was about guidelines and that libraries should refer to their governing bodies for guidance. Tammy stated that as a professional community, together we are looking at best practices for reopening along with the challenges and opportunities that involves. She likened the lighthouse theme of National Library Week to libraries moving their services and programming online and leading their patrons online. Forrest stated that having a set of guidelines will help individual library directors with dealing with their boards and local governing bodies.

Marcie Smedley, Henderson, added that she felt that some of the concerns will take care of themselves as libraries decide on reopening strategies; for example, reducing the number of hours open to the public will alleviate some of the strain on staff. Social distancing at public desks, having only one staff person at a desk that would normally have two people, will also free up staff time. Also, she feels that there may be fewer people coming to the libraries, because of their own caution and concerns, which will also alleviate some of the strain. She reiterated that staff should be equipped with the appropriate equipment for their protection and also mentioned the need to be flexible and to adapt as needed.

Following up on protective equipment for staff, Tod Colegrove, Carson City, offered that his library would produce faceshields on their 3D printers for any libraries who may need them.

Nevada schools – Research of Nevada Public Schools technology status is as follows: of the 17 school districts in the state, 7 of the districts have 1 to 1 technology (Chromebooks, tablets); 3 have limited technology (sharing of chromebooks tablets); 7 have no technology distribution to students.

CARES Act - NSLAPR is working with the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) to determine the connectivity needs in rural and underserved urban areas. NSLAPR may purchase mobile hotspots (if available) using CARES funds to expand connectivity. Outside groups are also working to fill the gap. This is still in the research phase, and more information will be forthcoming. More capital funding may be included in the next phase of CARES funding.

Library Updates:

Nancy Cummings Schmidt – collaborating with Nevada Humanities to promote the books for NVReads. NVReads activities are part of the Center for the Book which is administered by Nevada Humanities through a contract with NSLAPR, and a new person, Kathleen Kuo, has been hired by NV Humanities to run the Center for the Book activities. Libraries can expect to hear from Kathleen soon. We plan to increase the number of digital access copies using Overdrive, but are waiting to hear the cost. The NVReads author live events have been cancelled but we are planning to using radio broadcasts and Black Mountain Institute as well as podcasts to make up for the cancellations. These may serve as a model for future promotions. This year's Literacy Crawl event scheduled for September is still scheduled but is likely to be canceled. Contact Nancy if you want more information.

Marcia Smedley – Henderson is trying to put plans in place for re-opening and is looking at phases of reopening with the team returning for a week before the libraries open to the public. Considering opening just for holds pickup and returning items, but it is a struggle to decide how to handle returned materials in a safe manner. During the reopening, they will continue using a hybrid of working at home and the office, establish social distancing rules for computers, and limiting access to areas within the library. One point that other libraries might want to consider – blocking off aisles where shelvers are working to protect them from patrons getting too close.

Carol Lloyd – voiced the thoughts of many that being a public facing organization with no public is very strange. Churchill County is doing fine for the moment. Using time to clean shelves and sanitize the library and giving thoughts of reopening and what the budget may be.

Cyndi O – CoOp is doing great. Each library is issuing digital library cards and offering digital materials. CoOp is continuing to look for ways to assuage the budget strain of member libraries. This is an opportunity to look at new ways of providing library services.

Susan Wonderly – The Pahump staff are working in the building with social distancing. The last library board meeting was hold on Zoom, and she is working on the budget due May 21.

Caprice Roberson - Campus has been closed since March 18. Before the closing, removed all chairs, closed study rooms, and began digital reference. There were pushbacks from some students on restrictions, but most students understood. Currently learning new ways to serve our patrons.

Brett Silver - Talking Books is closed and encouraging everyone to use the digital services for downloading materials.

Kim Peterson - The Department of Corrections library has been contacted by other states to see what they are doing during the pandemic. They are maintaining programs with social distancing; providing education through the use of packets; and streaming real time instruction provided by college faculty from home via Blue Jean. They are seeing this an opportunity to ask the legislature for limited internet access for digital resources.

Tammy closed the meeting by asking for feedback from the libraries present about reopening. Library development staff will work with NLA to synthesize the feedback and other resources into guidelines.