Continuing Education:
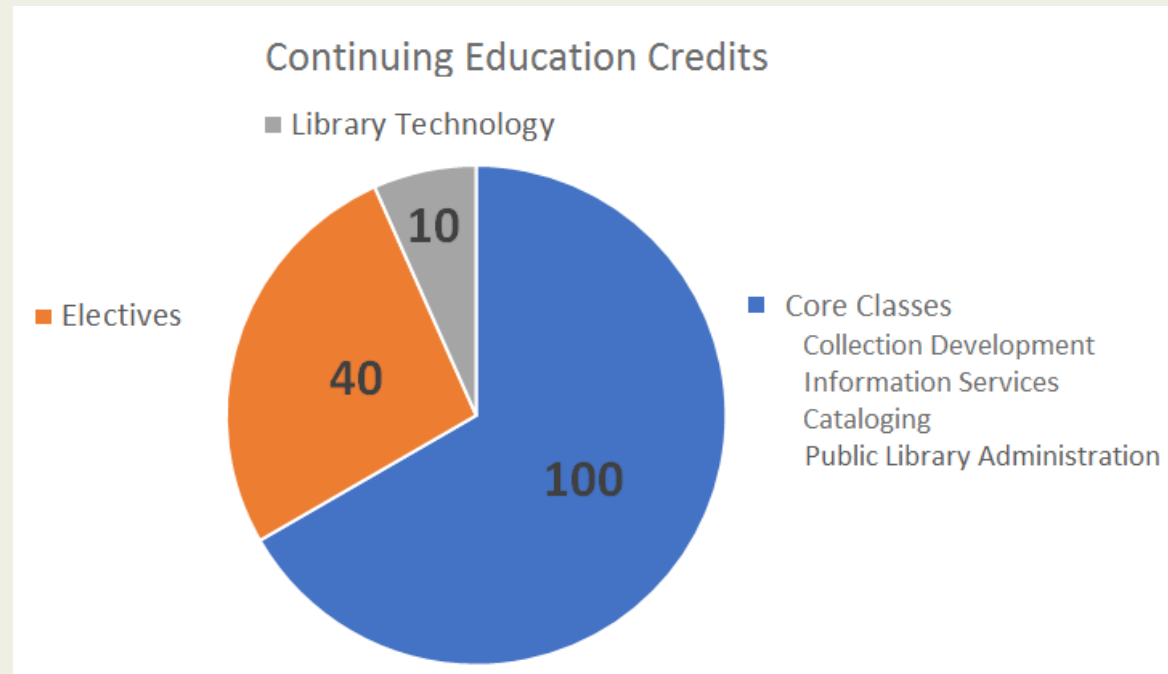
Report from Department of Libraries Staff to the Working Group on the Status of Vermont Libraries

November 18, 2022

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Certificate of Public Librarianship

- History of program
- Why it is necessary
- Intended audience
- Evolution of program
  - Online training
  - Steady growth and expansion since 2018

Program Requirements

Continuing Education Credits

- Library Technology
- Electives
- Core Classes
  Collection Development
  Information Services
  Cataloging
  Public Library Administration

10
40
100

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Certificate Program Implementation

- Orientation, Open house, Enrollment meeting

- Mentor program

- Core courses

- Electives

- Library Technology

Certificate Program Stats

- 120+ active participants
- 70+ new enrollments in the last year
- Certificate completion
  - 27 in 2020
  - 27 in 2021
  - 20 in 2022

Examples of Similar Programs from Other States

Maine State Library, Voluntary Public Librarian Certification Program

https://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/ce/libcert.shtml

Arizona State Library, Library Support Staff Certification

https://azlibrary.gov/libdev/continuing-education/library-practitioner-certification

Massachusetts Library Association PARA Certification

https://mla.wildapricot.org/PARAProgram/

Nebraska Library Commission Public Library Certification

http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/libcert.aspx

Other CE Offered by Department of Libraries

- Niche Academy
- Current trends in librarianship nationally/VT
- Grant opportunities
- EDIA
- Community requests

More Stats

- Number of workshops offered last year: 63
- Total attendance: 1,803
- Round Tables/Informal Meetups
  - County Library Directors meetings: 43
  - Round tables organized by topic: 8

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Examples of Topics Offered

- Technology
- Youth Services
- Building renovations
- Grant Writing
- Strategic Planning
- Asset-based Community Development
- Disaster Preparedness
- Intellectual Freedom
- HR
- Working with Volunteers
- Library Budgets

Partnerships

- Vermont Department of Health
- Vermont Attorney General's Office
- Vermont State Archives and Records Administration
- Vermont Center for Geographic Information
- Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
- UVM Extension
- Community Legal Information Center at Vermont Law School
- Vermont 211
- Inclusive Arts Vermont
- New England ADA Center
- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
- Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Northeast Organic Farming Association

Department-Funded CE for Library Staff

- Conference attendance, virtual & in-person
- Paid long-form training
- Fee-based webinars

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Evaluation of Training

- Did you learn something useful
- Do you intend to use something you learned at your library
- Do you feel more confident about the topic than pre-workshop
- What did you like most about the workshop
- Additional comments, questions, concerns about workshop
- Other CE topics you would like to see offered
- What could the department do to assist you in learning more

Sample Feedback from Post-Training Surveys

- Gave me new insights into the topic and ideas of ways to integrate what otherwise seemed daunting
- It gave me a renewed sense of purpose and dedication to my little library.
- Tons of practical ideas, resources and support to make it successful and tailor to our communities.
- Excellent wealth of information and realistic solutions for a common issue among VT Libraries.
- Thank you very much for this program validating our positions in the community and workplace.
- I learned a great deal and implemented a few ideas already! Thank you so much for such a great experience.
- It helped me feel part of something instead of an island.
- Deeper dives would be helpful in addition to overviews: what to actually do "when the rubber hits the road"
- Thank you very much for this program validating our positions in the community and workplace.
- It was great fun & makes me love my job more.
- Thanks for continuing to create such a robust calendar of continuing education events and connecting us with fascinating and helpful individuals around the state.
- Thank you for the online format!

Suggested Topics on Post-Workshop Surveys

- Board relations
- Staff Management
- Basic technology training
- Salary information related to different roles
- Best practices for providing fair wages and benefits to director
- De-escalation

Other CE Support for Library Staff

- Weekly list of upcoming CE opportunities from a range of providers

- Bi-weekly digest that often includes grant and professional development opportunities

- Creating opportunities for peer-to-peer knowledge and resource sharing

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Regional Graduate Library Science Programs

- UVM School Library Media Specialist est. cost in-state: $4,100

- University of Rhode Island est. cost $31,000

- Simmons University est. cost: $49,000

- McGill University est. cost: $46,000

- University of North Texas Northeast Cohort est. cost: $23,000

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Fee-based Certificate Programs

- ALA Library Support Staff certification
  https://ala-apa.org/lssc/
  cost varies
- UNT Certificate in Rural Library Management
  https://informationscience.unt.edu/rural-library-management
  est. cost $7,800
- Three Rivers Community College Library Technology Certificate
  https://www.threerivers.edu/academics/degrees-certificates/library-technology-certificate/
  est. cost $7,000

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Associate and Bachelor Library Degrees

- Dominican University Library Technical Assistant program
    https://www.dom.edu/academics/majors-programs/library-technical-assistant-certificatemlis-accelerated-program
    est. cost $6,350
- City College of San Francisco
    https://www.ccsf.edu/degrees-certificates/library-information-technology
    est. cost $5,550
- University of Nebraska Bachelor of Science in Education
    https://online.nebraska.edu/programs/bachelors/library-science-bs-ed
    est. cost $31,000

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THANK YOU!

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