

**TO: Public Library Directors & Administrators Summit**  
**FROM: Jason Broughton, Interim State Librarian**  
**DATE: 11/09/2018**  
**SUBJECT: Vermont Department of Libraries Projects & Programs Update**

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**STATUS OF STATEWIDE DEPARTMENT PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES:**

**STEM/STEAM      WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT      LITERACY      HEALTH & WELLNESS**  
**FINANCIAL LITERACY      YOUTH SERVICES      GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

VTLIB conduct a very fruitful discussion the Agency of Administration and the Department of Finance & Management on the tentative budget, pressures and innovation considerations for the FY 2020 fiscal year. All budgets within state government are to be level funded. The department was pleased to know that compliments and accolades were given on the departments budgetary rework, update, compliance, and innovation.

VTLIB is discussing with representatives of VSAC to talk about ways that their adult career counselors could be part of VTLIB's partnerships with public libraries to address issues of employment, job searching, and second careers. Discussions included how the Adult Outreach Counselors could potentially meet with people at VT libraries to talk about jobs, changing careers, financial aid, and financial literacy.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT), along with the Vermont Department of Libraries, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, announces the 8th annual Agricultural Literacy Week, November 12th through the 17th, 2018. For this year's Agricultural Literacy Week, NOFA-VT is proud to present *Celebrating Our Ancestral Roots*. Four main events will feature renowned Abenaki storytellers, sharing aspects of their agricultural heritage, at public libraries around the state. The week's opening event is being held at the Vermont Historical Society Museum, in Montpelier on Tuesday, November 13th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., featuring a new exhibit called, "Seeds of Renewal," curated by Dr. Fred Wiseman, an Abenaki ethno-botanist. Dr. Wiseman and Chief Donald Stevens will speak about the project as well as share Abenaki stories and song. Light refreshments will be available. This event is free and open to the public.

VTLIB is discussing the 2020 Census and Complete Count with the Vermont State Data Center. Key take-aways for potential collaboration between the VT State Data Center and VT Dept. of Libraries. The VT State Data Center would like to engage with Vermont Department of Libraries on coordination of its VT library networks in conducting outreach that communicates the importance of citizen participation in the 2020 Decennial Census.

The ABLE Library hosted an event on October 15<sup>th</sup> for White Cane Day. White Cane Safety Day is a national observance in the United States, celebrated on October 15 of each year since 1964. The date is set aside to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and the important symbol of blindness and tool of independence, the white cane.

VTLIB is reengaging with College & Special Libraries across Vermont. VTLIB will be attending and presenting at the VLA College & Special Libraries Fall Conference titled, People at the Center: User Focused Librarianship.

As a member of the Prevention Council and the Governors Opioid Coordinating Council, VTLIB is launching the following response as a form of social therapy for Vermonters. VTLIB's healing kits were designed to complement the state's wraparound services for families affected by the opioid epidemic. Library consultants curated these kits to address issues of grief, anger, sadness and addiction for a spectrum of ages and relationships through multi-sensory exploration. Each kit contains process-based activities, nonfiction resources (for adults, teens and children) as well as works of literature that seek to address the complex emotional realities confronting our communities in the face of this public health crisis. Through a partnership with our local public and school libraries, the healing kits will be disseminated across the state for use in programming or in-home settings with the aim of supporting both the recovery of individuals and the social-emotional learning of family units as they strive to move forward. This will be launched in the Spring of 2019. This idea was inspired by [The Healing Library](#).

VTLIB has partnered with Vermont Health Connect to ensure Health Care Insurance Information can be provided to Vermonters in a variety of ways. In some areas, public libraries want to do more for communities. Vermont Health Connect is helping train library staff in specific and strategic locations across Vermont to assist Vermonters with navigating information and who to contact for assistance

VTLIB has updated the portal to the Department of Libraries Catalog, known as VTLIBCAT. Use of the digital carousel will quickly allow you to explore the many books and materials for check as a state employee. To view the portal, <https://vt-dl-verso.auto-graphics.com/MVC/>

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### **Upcoming**

- Preparations for Institute for Museum and Library Services, Library Services & Technology Act 2019 site visit and review of programs, services, and 5 Year Plan.
- Updating and Revisions to the Grants Application Process
- Continuous Improvements for the courier services
- The Legislative Session