

Barbara Ball
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Hello Working Group,

In Windsor, we have a very supportive community and a decently funded library. (I won't say wonderfully funded since we can't offer any staff benefits and we spend a ton of time fundraising as the town covers 2/3's of our budget.

We appreciate VTLib and all the trainings and connections you all offer. VTLib was such a comfort during the early days of the pandemic too, with then State Librarian Jason Broughton offering a voice of reassurance and direction with everything going on.

Pooling of Resources....

The courier service is a huge help for ILL. It is frustrating that all Vermont libraries don't participate.

Could there be a way for VT incorporated libraries to join forces in offering benefits? Or under VTLib's umbrella get a better deal on being able to offer benefits?

Technology - Josh Muse is sometimes very helpful answering an occasional tech question on the listserv. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was an actual tech person at VTLib who could provide support? Maybe not in-person, but phone consultation could be totally helpful. For those of us in smaller libraries without a tech department, it would be wonderful to have someone to ask questions of, etc....

I'm involved in VLA. It's such an important association, but it feels hard to get anything done when the years go by quickly and positions transition. I think of my own library's board of trustees -- all volunteers, but in my paid role, I can support them and often provide some paid grunt work that helps them move forward more easily with their goals. I wonder if that could be a possibility for VLA. Maybe one paid worker who could provide continuity, support, organization?

I lived in California for a while where -- I think -- libraries were organized on a county system. Maybe that system offered more funding and support, but perhaps, too, less local ownership and love?

Thank you so much for all your work this past year.

Barbara

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