



NEVADA STATE COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES AND LITERACY

Biannual Report to the Governor
and Nevada State Legislature



2021

**KEEPING STUDENTS LEARNING
AND ADULTS EARNING.**

LETTER FROM STATE COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN

— JOAN DALUSUNG —



The Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy is pleased to present the 2020 Report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding Nevada's libraries. We deliver this report at the end of a year like no other, when the coronavirus has severely impacted every aspect of our industries, our schools, and our lives. We thank you for your previous support of an additional \$420,000 in funding during the last legislative session which was used to further enhance the dynamic statewide workforce development tool, the Nevada Career Explorer. This funding provided the foundation for innovations like the College of Southern Nevada pilot project that married virtual reality to workforce certification and training. We were also thrilled to take advantage of tools like the state-funded Beanstack Summer Reading Program platform, a tracking tool that follows patron enthusiasm for reading, learning, and engagement throughout the year.

As we know, in March 2020, industries and agencies were shut down as the coronavirus pandemic hit our nation and our state. This report illustrates just how quickly our libraries were able to rebuild every aspect of their service models to continue to deliver materials and programs virtually. Libraries continued the work of early and family literacy through digital library cards, online programming for all ages, and increased allocations for online resources. To bridge the digital divide, the Nevada State Library administered CARES funding that was deployed in libraries throughout the state to extend wireless networks, check out hotspots, or offer outdoor computer access, safely.

The pandemic demanded that libraries' methods of delivery change quickly, but their missions remained steadfast. As libraries look ahead to 2021, many will choose to continue the new service models that were built this year even as they return to more in-person services and programming. Council is committed to supporting the initiatives and innovations of our libraries. We welcome your continued support as we work together to keep students learning and adults earning.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Library Services Technology Act's (L.S.T.A) federal goals and the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records Library Services Technology Act, Five Year Plan 2018 – 2022 were approved by the Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy, June 20, 2017 and accepted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services on July 10, 2017. Additionally, resources made available from the 2019 Nevada State Legislature through Governor Sisolak's budget foster and further the establishment and proper maintenance of superior libraries and literacy programs. Many thanks to the Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy for leadership of statewide initiatives described within.

The authors of this report greatly appreciate the time and expertise of the report writing team, including each member of the State Council as well as Chairwoman Joan Dalusung and Board member Nancy Cummings-Schmidt. Also, Library planning and development staff Norma Fowler, Sulin Jones, and Tammy Westergard made substantial contributions as well.

By-laws of the State Council on Libraries and Literacy, Article III, Functions and Duties of the Council, #5, a report shall be made biennially to the Governor and Legislature. The report must be filed on or before January 1 of each odd-numbered year. Questions and requests for specific information may be directed to the telephone numbers listed under Library Development at www.nsla.nv.gov.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES BY THE NUMBERS 2019

NEVADA LIBRARY OVERVIEW:

- Library systems - **22**
- Library locations (+bookmobiles) - **87**
- Library employees - **858**

NEVADANS & LIBRARIES:

- Residents: **3,023,369**
- Library card holders: **1,348,230**
- Nevadans w/ library cards: **41%**
- Public library visits: **9,491,236**
- Visits per capita: **3.02**

MATERIALS, ETC!

- Items available to borrow: **5,738,955**
- Items borrowed: **17,396,697**
- Electronic items borrowed: **3,496,454**

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

- Library programs (all ages) **34,213**
- Program attendance **662,081**
- Youth/children's programs **25,876**
- Youth/children's attendance **24,323**

COMPUTERS

- Public computer sessions **2,526,052**
- Wifi sessions **1,437,841**

COMMUNITY

- Library volunteers: **1,524**
- Volunteer hours: **83,308**

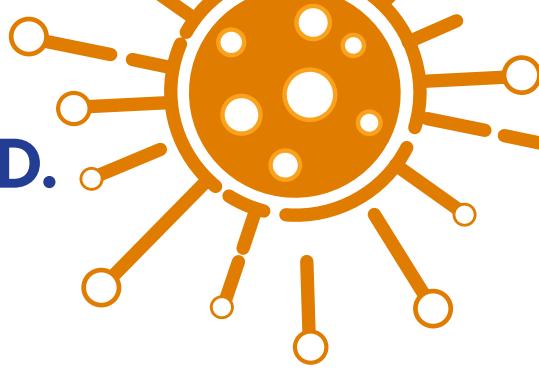
*Public Libraries Survey.
(2020, October). In IMLS.gov.*

LSTA NUMBERS

Library	LSTA Year	Award Amount
Amargosa Valley Library District		
Reading Program: A Tale of Many Stories	2020	\$10,000.00
Reading Program: A Universe of Stories	2019	\$10,000.00
Beatty Library		
Programs FY2020	2019	\$5,250.00
Boulder City Library District		
Year of Reading	2019	\$7,500.00
Carson City Library		
Bionics Camp @ the Library	2020	\$26,376.00
Capital Makers	2019	\$10,000.00
Churchill Co High School		
Flexible Learning Centers	2019	\$10,000.00
Churchill County Library		
Building Program	2019	\$10,000.00
Downloadable Collection Development	2020	\$10,000.00
Virtual Reality Hidden Cave	2020	\$74,240.00
Clark County School District - Johnson Academy		
Book Repair & Maintenance	2020	\$2,000.00
Henderson District Public Libraries		
Connect with Summer Learning	2020	\$10,000.00
Imagine, Discover, Connect	2019	\$10,000.00
Humboldt County Library		
Book Bike	2019	\$3,510.00
EDGE	2019	\$1,350.00
Teen Space at the Humboldt County Library	2020	\$33,452.00
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District		
Museum Family Adventure Pass	2020	\$55,000.00
Lincoln County School District- Panaca		
Just Keep Reading!	2019	\$10,000.00
Lyon County Library		
3D Printer	2019	\$3,807.00

Library	LSTA Year	Award Amount
Nevada Librar Cooperative		
NLC Gains the Edge	2020	\$15,000.00
Nevada State Library		
Changing Spaces	2020	\$39,653.00
Niche Academy	2020	\$5,500.00
Scan & Go	2019	\$9,882.00
North Las Vegas		
Computer Classes @ Aliante Library	2019	\$5,500.00
Storywalk	2020	\$6,011.00
Summer Reading Program	2019	\$4,500.00
Pahrump Community Library		
Seasonal Reading Programs	4039	\$20,000.00
Pershing County Library		
Youth, Adult and Family Programming	2020	\$10,000.00
Youth, Family and Adult Programming	2019	\$10,000.00
UNR		
Crowdsourcing Transcriptions: A Pilot Project	2020	\$3,300.00
Northern Nevada Neon	2020	\$62,145.00
Washoe County Library		
Jail Library Services	2020	\$10,000.00
Toddler Stay & Play	2019	\$10,000.00
Washoe County School District		
Access to Information: Tech for WCSD Libraries	2020	\$54,496.00
White Pine County Library		
Information Access	2020	\$7,060.00
Newspaper Preservation Online	2019	\$2,600.00
Promote Thinking, Writing, Making	2019	\$7,400.00
WNC		
Room 201 Reimagined	2019	\$9,764.00
Grand Total		\$595,296.00

PREPARED FOR WHAT WE COULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED.



At the start of 2020, who could have expected the situation we'd find ourselves in today?

The world changed decidedly this year and Nevada libraries stayed focused on our communities. Together we worked in these challenging circumstances to respond to the shutdown and to ensure the continued success of the citizens we serve.

Connecting people to libraries and libraries to each other through our statewide network also took on new meaning and significance, as we all moved from in-person services to a predominately virtual environment. Each Tuesday between March and December State Librarian Tammy Westergard convened an online forum for Nevada librarians wherein we freely shared our insights, knowledge, expertise and support.

In August of 2020, nearly five months into the global health crisis, seeking to take stock of the realities of COVID-19, Nevada library directors re-evaluated library strengths, opportunities, aspirations and results (SOAR) compared to said same from 2018. Aggregated results revealed many professionals see the current time as a good opportunity to change the status quo and to experiment with new models. As summed up by one person: "The world turned upside down gives libraries a new opportunity to show their agility and responsiveness to community needs." Examples of potential changes included: going fine-free permanently, continuing to offer adult programs using instructional and take-home kits, and continuing the increased level for readers' advisory sparked by offering curbside service. Closely echoing what respondents saw as the greatest strength, collaboration was seen as one of the greatest opportunities. Several people felt that the Nevada library community is closer-knit and collaborating/communicating more now, and as one person said, "using the improved collaboration referred to in 'strengths' to our advantage."

The consensus was that all the priorities identified in 2018 first, marketing; second, partnerships/collaboration; third, resources for patrons; fourth, community connection; fifth, storytelling and sixth, innovation/adaptability remain relevant, but most respondents felt the order of importance has changed: innovation and adaptability rose to the top in almost all responses. The new order of priorities: first, innovation/adaptability; second, resources for patrons; third, partnerships/collaboration; fourth, marketing; fifth, community connection and finally storytelling.

Nevada State Library Planning and Development. (2020, August 27). State Council on Libraries and Literacy Meeting, August 27, 2020. In Nevada State Library Archives and Public Records. Retrieved from https://nsla.nv.gov/ld.php?content_id=56646562

SOAR RESULTS

Strengths Opportunities
Aspirations Results (SOAR)
2018 compared to 2020 Survey Results

2018 PRIORITIES IN ORDER OF PRIORITY



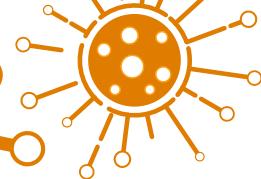
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2020 PRIORITIES IN ORDER OF PRIORITY



NEVADA STATE

Library, Archives & Public Records



FROM BOOKS TO 3D PRINTING COVID-19 NASAL TEST SWABS.

Carson City Library Responded to the Community's Need

It took just one call from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and Carson City Department of Health and Human Services to Tod Colegrove, PhD, MSLIS, director of the Carson City Library, and the wheels were set in motion. Four days later, thanks to the library's 3D printers and a team that came together across the region, the printers were producing nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs to aid in the coronavirus (COVID-19) testing being conducted around the state. According to Colegrove, it was the right thing to do.

"Libraries aren't just about books and magazines anymore," said Colegrove. "Libraries are places that align with the needs of their communities, including the more urgent needs we're seeing now. The Carson City Library is an innovation and knowledge center filled with all the comforts that we love, and continually works to equip its community with the resources and tools they need to succeed. From virtual reality to 3D printing and everything in between, we're working to encourage involvement in STEM and to grow opportunities for our next generation. As a result, we were also in the perfect position to help the communities we serve when they needed it most."

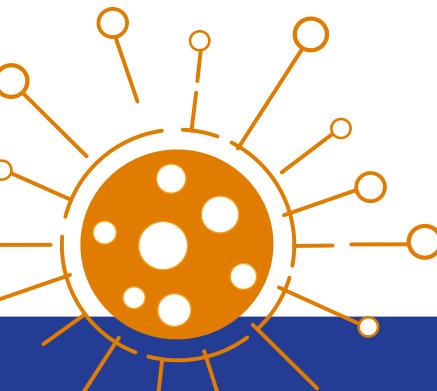
Just days earlier, those same library 3D printers had been enlisted to produce much needed PPE. Today, one printer is producing over 500 nasal swabs daily. Combined with the printers at the University of Nevada, Reno Innovation Center—Powered By Switch, the team is providing over 1,000 of the testing swabs every day.

"It may sound trite, but we've seen first-hand how libraries change lives. With the Library producing PPE and the nasal swabs, we're stepping up to do what we can to make a difference and help save lives," said Colegrove.

In addition to 3D printing, technology equipment at the Carson City Library supports training and education in engineering, electronics, robotics, multimedia and textile design and is funded by federal grants, state monies and from donations from the Friends of the Carson City Library, through the capital city's only true bookstore.

Washoe County Libraries were also frontline in the PPE effort, with 8 printers continually going for several weeks in the homes of our staff members. "The Washoe County Library system printed over 1000 pieces for face shields," said WCLS Library Director Jeff Scott.

Keeping healthcare workers protected is necessary for area hospitals to maintain adequate staffing levels as the number of patients increases. Nevada libraries leveraged together statewide to respond to this unprecedented need.



NLA DIGITAL TOOLKIT GRANT

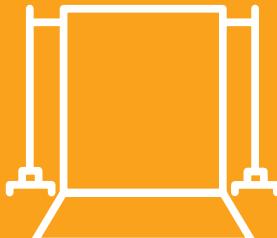
With health and safety precautions in place due to COVID-19, libraries have needed to rethink traditional service and outreach models and shift programs online. The need for this virtual shift also creates a need for virtual technology tools. During weekly Summer Reading/youth services check-ins, the state library discovered that very few public libraries had 1) experience with producing virtual programs and 2) adequate technology to produce virtual programs staff were using personal devices. With input from libraries who were already testing out digital programs, a wishlist of core digital programming technology tools (a “toolkit”) was compiled and an interest survey was distributed, to which fifteen public library systems responded. Using survey results, NSLAPR partnered with NLA on a grant to purchase a digital programming toolkit for libraries to produce online summer programs. The toolkits became the property of each participating library.

The Nevada State Library Planning and Development team (LPD), as project programmatic partner, ensured 1) all participating libraries understood best practices for the creation of virtual programs and 2) knew how to monitor engagement and effectiveness (social media comments, page hits, analytics, etc.) The LPD team also provided a support network by hosting/moderating Monday Check-ins for Youth Services staff throughout the summer, which incorporated learning circle elements to encourage peer-to-peer sharing and relationship building.

DIGITAL PROGRAMMING TOOLKITS



IPADS



GREENSCREEN



CASES



LIGHTING



MICS



TRIPODS



NEVADA STATE

Library, Archives & Public Records

RURAL BOOKMOBILE GRANTS FY19 AND FY20

RURAL BOOKMOBILE GRANTS – FY19 AND FY20

Three rural bookmobiles operated by Humboldt County Libraries, Elko-Lander-Eureka Library System, and Lincoln County Libraries travel to remote areas in Humboldt, Pershing, Elko, White Pine and Lincoln Counties and provide library service to people for whom it would otherwise be inaccessible. Bookmobile stops include schools, parks, senior centers, assisted living facilities, daycare centers, honor camps, mailboxes, or the side of the road.

ANNUAL FUNDING AMOUNT:

FY19: State: \$110,953; LSTA: 26,000

FY20: State: \$102,953; LSTA: \$ 26,000

Libraries operating bookmobiles: Elko-Lander-Eureka Library System, Humboldt County Library, Lincoln County Library

Use: Operating funds (vehicle maintenance and repairs, fuel, staffing, collection, programming)

Area served: Elko, White Pine, Humboldt, Lincoln, Pershing counties

Outputs: 10,000 visits and 31,000 items checked out (FY19)

6,500 visits and 23,000 items checked out (FY20) - The Elko bookmobile was off the road for several weeks for repairs and engine replacement; the Humboldt bookmobile missed some stops because of not having funding for a relief driver; all bookmobiles had limited services from mid-March to end of June due to COVID-19.

Outcomes: Nevadans of all ages who are not able to visit libraries because of distance or other reasons are able to participate in library services and programs.

PROGRAMMING:

Elko - FY20 - Handed out 100 craft kits for children and adults in September and October

Humboldt - FY20

The Bookmobile held an educational field trip for two of the rural schools and several homeschool families featuring sheep production and the shearing process onsite at the Duferrera Ranch where they had a presentation, book displays, and were able to ask questions while viewing the shearing process in person.

Lincoln - FY19 “Hands on bookmobile painting” (photos)

COLLECTION:

Humboldt: The Little Golden Books were met with great enthusiasm and had a wide range of appeal. The 2nd Grade class in Orovada, which is a two-room school for grades K-8, 32 miles north of Winnemucca in a strong ranching and farming community showed great delight in the new titles on the shelves. Their smiles speak for themselves.

The Playaways are very popular on the bookmobile as they are easy and convenient to use for those on the go, requiring nothing but a pair of headphones or access to an A/V jack. The tractors are a hot-spot for these as they spend a lot of time driving around in circles and a good audio book is a great distraction from the tedium of farming. I have also seen these used on horseback while driving a slow bunch of cows across the dry desert.

Note: **Douglas County Libraries also have a bookmobile but do not receive Federal or State funding at this time.**

TESTIMONIAL:

“In kindergarten I was a very poor reader, but thanks to my mom, my teachers, Ginny and the Bookmobile I am now an avid reader. I am very grateful that Ginny and the Bookmobile came to Paradise Valley every two weeks with new adventures to read. A library can spark an interest in reading, as the Bookmobile did for me, and reading is the cornerstone of education. I believe this is very important because I see the huge impact it has made in my life and I believe that everyone should have the same opportunity.” Cade Bell, Paradise Valley, NV; Essay by Humboldt County Library Scholarship winner, 2020.



KEEPING STUDENTS LEARNING

Collection development is an art and every Nevada library, along with the community it serves, is unique. Many libraries have certain collections that are especially relevant to their patrons. Nevada public library collections are supported with funding from the State Legislature through State Collection Development grants distributed on an equitable funding formula.

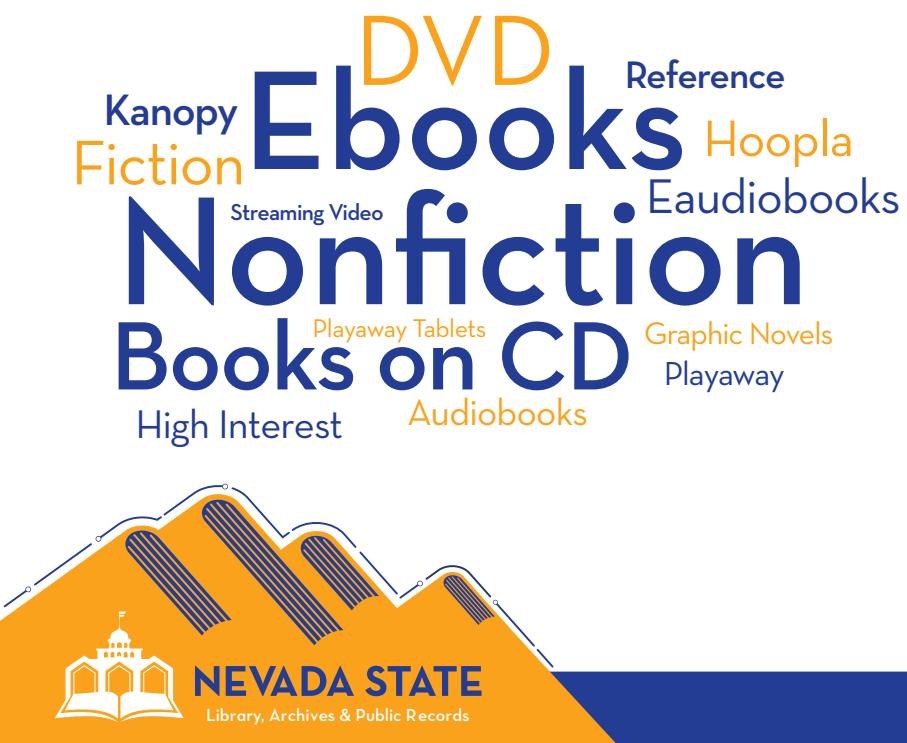
FREQUENT USE OF FUNDS IN FY19

Libraries looked for gaps in their collections – areas that were outdated and specific types of materials that users had been requesting

- **DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS** – eBooks, eAudiobooks, Streaming Pay-per-use (Hoopla, Kanopy)
- **UPDATING/FILLING GAPS IN COLLECTIONS - NONFICTION AND REFERENCE COLLECTIONS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS**
- **ONLINE RESOURCES** – Great courses, Acorn TV, New York Times online, Creativebug, Ancestry, Legal information reference center
- **MATERIALS FOR TARGET GROUPS** – Comic books and anime for reluctant readers, Spanish collection, Boys and Girls Club collection, business materials, children's materials

OUTCOMES REPORTED BY LIBRARIES

- **IMPROVED CUSTOMER SERVICE**
 - Reduced wait time for popular items
 - Items available at library without having to borrow from another library
- **GREATER CUSTOMER SATISFACTION**
 - Libraries reported many positive comments and compliments
- **INCREASED CIRCULATION/USE**



NORTH LAS VEGAS – BOOKS FOR BOYS

The impact of providing materials that can encourage children, especially boys, to read cannot be overstated. One parent from our downtown lower income branch told the staff how thankful she was for the library, as the only thing she could get her son to read was graphic novels and she could not afford to buy new ones all the time. Another parent who visited the library, looking for books to help improve her 1st graders reading level, was introduced to the Playaway Launchpads by a staff member. She originally hesitated to check out the tablet, because she felt that it was more of a game, but the staff explained the reading component and how the tablet was testing reading comprehension, so the parent gave it a try. She later came back to tell the staff how much she appreciated the suggestion. Her son was reading more and it wasn't so much of a fight. Getting children to read is more than just an issue to be solved in the classroom. It takes the teacher, the parent



and the library to provide the resources and information to get the job done.

LAS VEGAS CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT - FOCUS FOR ONLINE IMPACT

The Las Vegas Clark County Library District allocates resources to ensure that the collection meets the needs of the community. Priorities are established annually to purchase materials in support of the Library District's service objectives and strategic goals. While you are practicing social distancing, use your free library card to access these fun, educational, and FREE online focus to help pass the time, teach you something new, and keep your skills sharp, including online tutoring, learning tools that perform like video games with prizes and incentives to sharpen math, English language art and science skills for grades K-8. National Geographic for kids, novelist K-8 Plus which is a trusted source of read-alike recommendations for younger readers helping kids find books that are just right for their reading level and interest. Also Lynda.com, the online learning library that helps anyone learn business, software, technology and creative skills from over 3,100 engaging video courses taught by recognized industry experts is suitable for nearly any age learner.

BOULDER CITY - UNIQUE COLLECTIONS

Our Unique Collections Project has enabled library users to educate themselves, entertain one another, and bring the library into their homes. There are library users who come in every week to get a new board game to play as a family, users who now stream their favorite television shows that they could not access elsewhere, teachers who can teach coding in their classrooms, and non-profit organizations that are able to save money while entertaining children.



DOUGLAS COUNTY - DIGITAL RESOURCES

Patrons have provided positive feedback about Hoopla, OneClick, and other digital resources at both library locations. Many have said that eBooks and eAudiobooks have given them a chance to try new authors, and that discovering those authors brings them back to the libraries to read more and attend programs.

ELKO-LANDER EUREKA - UPDATED NONFICTION

We continue to receive a lot of positive patron comments, compliments, and gratitude in regard to the updated collection. They found the titles that were more readily interesting them or met their needs. Also, we were more likely to have a title on hand that they could check-out during their visit versus requesting the required materials from other library systems.

HUMBOLDT - CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

The Graphic novels are a great way to get reluctant readers to read, although the genre appeals to many people. The use of visual as well as written storytelling can make it easier for patrons to bring the story to life, use context clues to learn new words or read material that would otherwise be to intimidating for them. New materials for the youth help encourage literacy building skills in children, encouraging them to read with popular characters and new topics that catch their interests, helping to build a life-long love of reading.



PAHRUMP - AUDIOBOOKS AND OVERDRIVE

Collection Development Funds have been a valuable source of support for the library to keep up with the demands of the patron. Audiobooks are entertaining, the reader's voice brings the characters to life. Audio books allow the listener to do other things as they listen. Audios make a boring task more interesting, example walking the tread mill while listening to a book helps the miles go by. Traveling with an audio can make the trip enjoyable for everyone.

SMOKY VALLEY - MANHATTAN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK UPDATE

The updated book collection has put a variety of subjects and authors at the patrons' fingertips. They no longer need to purchase materials or travel to Round Mountain Public Library to find what they need. Several patrons have expressed their appreciation for the expanded collection.

WASHOE - REDUCE WAIT TIMES FOR DOWNLOADABLE EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS

Washoe County Library System is committed to providing timely access to resources for our residents. These additional eBook and digital audiobook copies meant that patrons got their materials faster. Our number of users of eBooks and downloadable audiobooks has also increased 18% since adding these additional copies.

WHITE PINE - MOVNG FORWARD

Residents come to the library expecting current information on a subject that is important to them. Fulfilling a request with current information in a new bright book is one of the best feelings around for both the librarian and the patron.



NEVADA PUBLIC LIBRARIES' WORK FOR EARLY AND FAMILY LITERACY

The early learning experiences of children before they reach age for formal education in kindergarten or first grade can vary a great deal. Public libraries strive to be a common denominator to aid in the development of early literacy skills as well as enhance these early childhood education skills for caregivers and families. When early literacy practices are introduced between birth and age 5, children arrive at school with sound educational foundations, ready to learn more. As is clearly illustrated through the variety of programs and services listed here, Nevada's libraries are committed to being this unifying community resource for early and family literacy. The article below is but a sampling of the responsive early and family literacy programming developed by our public libraries. Even through the 2020 pandemic, libraries throughout the state are finding innovative ways to offer literacy resources and services online.

EARLY LITERACY

Henderson Libraries' Born to READ and the **Churchill County Library Books for Babies** start newborns on a path to success by providing a book, their first library card, as well as early literacy information for families that is freely available at the library.

Boulder City Library, Washoe County Libraries, Henderson Libraries, Pahrump Community Libraries, Las Vegas-Clark County Libraries, and the Lyon County Libraries host programming for babies through programs specifically for these littlest library users that introduce them to animals, sounds, colors, and letters, and associating pictures with words.

Libraries throughout the state present Toddler Times and Story Times to enhance story comprehension skills accompanied by a song and craft. Peer socialization and acquisition of spatial skills are also vital facets of these programs. Families are able to further engage with their children to enhance early literacy skills through daily routines using suggestions from programs like **Mind in the Making**, **Vroom** and **I'm Ready for K**, produced by The Children's Cabinet.

Libraries offer **Summer Reading Programs** for community members of all ages. Even our youngest participate by being read to – these minutes count! In 2019, **43,190 Nevadans** participated in Summer Reading, and **10,078** of those were readers from newborn to age 5.

Beanstack is an online platform for Reading Programs that allows readers of all ages to register making it easy to earn virtual badges, tickets for drawings, and real-world prizes by keeping track of their reading. Readers can also post book reviews and keep track of activities they complete along the way. Beanstack is funded through the Nevada State Library and Archives.

In 2020, 15 of Nevada's 21 library systems used Beanstack for online summer reading, including:

- Amargosa
- Boulder City
- Carson City
- Churchill
- Douglas
- Elko
- Henderson
- Humboldt
- Las Vegas Clark County Library District
- Lyon County Library District
- Mineral County Library
- North Las Vegas Library District
- Pahrump
- Smoky Valley Libraries
- Washoe County Library System

Many libraries assist families in tracking reading progress throughout the year by tracking milestones using the **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program.



FAMILY LITERACY

As families are the first teachers for their children, family literacy programming strives to enhance families abilities to build on early literacy skills and integrate these learning opportunities through daily routines. Libraries throughout Nevada participate in Family Literacy efforts including:

- Amargosa Valley Library STEM take-home projects and related book
- Boulder City Library Family Storytime and Family Reading Program
- Carson City Library and Friends of the Carson City Library partnering with CDECAC for an early childhood reading center
- Churchill County Library Family Reading Program
- Elko-Lander-Eureka Library System's Family Reading Program
- Humboldt County Library Family Reading Program
- Las Vegas-Clark County Libraries hosted family storytimes and parent education workshops, and partnership programs and attended Pre-K Standards Training and Professional Development Sessions. They also created module trainings and learning concept videos with VROOM tips.
- Lyon County Libraries family literacy programming
- North Las Vegas Library System's partnership with Nevada Early Intervention Services and "Music and Me" programming
- Pahrump Community Library Family Literacy Nights and STEAM Tinker Days

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Churchill County Library conducts regular story times at the Northside Early Learning Center, NAS Fallon, and the Fallon Migrant Child Care Center.

Las Vegas-Clark County Library Outreach promotes and integrates the national model of **Mind in the Making** early childhood development curriculum into all aspects of Library Outreach Education to children ages 0-5 and their families. For example, 500 parents were reached at a public baby shower at Parkdale Community Center in February, 2020. **Mind in the Making**, **VROOM** tips, app, and keychains were shared. Pre-recorded segments of story times were sent to community partners like Acelero Headstart, CCSD FACES, Las Vegas Urban League, and Cure 4 the Kids.

Lyon County Library was involved with Lyon County Human Services "Kids Day" in 2019 and reached over 600 children.

Washoe County Library System had an existing program where parents could get their child a library card upon enrollment using Infinite Campus. This allowed them to connect with the 64,000 students who attend school in Washoe County. This model was easily modified to provide access to digital cards after pandemic library closures. Washoe County Librarians also host regular story times at local Head Starts and the Kids Kottage.



PIVOTING DURING THE PANDEMIC

When the pandemic hit in March, 2020, libraries in **Beatty, Boulder City, Carson City, Churchill County, Douglas County, Elko-Lander-Eureka, Henderson, Humboldt, Las Vegas-Clark County, Lyon, Mineral, North Las Vegas, Pershing, Smoky Valley, and Washoe County** quickly pivoted to offering virtual story times online through YouTube or Facebook groups. These virtual story times provided critical access to story time engagement when everyone was asked to stay home. These story times “on demand” have been wildly popular with libraries like Washoe County Libraries reporting over 40,000 in attendance for online events for all ages. Nevada State Library awarded a LSTA grant to the Nevada Library Association to purchase digital programming equipment for public libraries. 15 public library systems, representing 31 branches participated and created:



287

Number of Video Story Times offered during Summer, 2020 offered during Summer, 2020



53,468

Total Number of Views



Also recognizing that online access was paramount, many libraries quickly expanded the ability for patrons to gain immediate online access through digital library cards. Libraries like **Carson City Library, Henderson Libraries, Las Vegas-Clark County Libraries, and Washoe County Libraries** expanded digital cards and increased digital holds. Washoe County Libraries, for instance, reported a 80% increase of student usage of e-books.

The onset of the pandemic and the resulting limited library services made it necessary for our libraries to adjust service models very quickly. Our libraries plan to resume in-person story times as soon as it is safe to do so. However, a November 2020, survey revealed that most libraries plan to add these virtual services to their regular offerings once our libraries are open more fully.



EARLY LITERACY AND FAMILY LITERACY SURVEY-NEVADA PUBLIC LIBRARIES



GETTING BOOKS TO CHILDREN



BOOK DISTRIBUTION



LITERACY ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMING

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN	10
AWE STATIONS	5
AWE TABLETS	7
BABY LAPSLIT/STORYTIME	5
TODDLER/PRESCHOOL STORYTIME	11
(Some libraries' programs are for ages 0-5 so the breakdown between baby and toddler/preschool programs may not be completely accurate.)	
FAMILY STORYTIME	10
PAWS TO READ	5
SUMMER READING PROGRAM	18
OTHER	

RESPONSE: 19 out of 21 library systems responded (all except Lincoln County and Beatty). November 2020



KEEPING ADULTS EARNING

Nevada's community colleges are not seeing the increased enrollment that has been typical in other recessions and/or economic downturns as dislocated and displaced workers seek training to enter a new career. In conversations with DETR leadership, this is thought to be a result of a combination of factors:

- a belief that as a COVID vaccine becomes available, jobs will return as they were pre-pandemic;
- the absence of 'work search' requirements to maintain unemployment benefits;
- lack of comfort with or knowledge of the community college role in job preparation by the most vulnerable, least-educated populations; and
- lack of access to career exploration, guidance, coaching, and support for the lowest level workers seeking to re-enter the job market.

Historically, libraries are a well-established resource for those seeking information, technology access, and training materials. Libraries provide a safe, non-political space for exploration and assistance. The Nevada State Library connects to 87 public libraries across the state, many operating in Nevada's hardest hit and poorest communities.

One of Nevada State Library's primary roles is to meaningfully link quality resources and out-of-school-time programs with formal education systems. In recent years, through State Council on Libraries and Literacy leadership, statewide efforts have expanded library presence in the workforce development space, piloting innovative programs to support all manner of job seekers to expand community workforce goals. A key priority is to support instructors and programs that are deploying industry certification and credential curricula relevant to Nevada's priority sectors and occupations. Here is a summary of some innovative efforts in the last several years:

- "Nevada's Working Capital" project (2015), the first of its kind in the nation, that leveraged library technology and special programs to provide "maker-spaces" for STEM learning, access to specialized engineering software (SolidWorks) for employers/employees seeking to advance in manufacturing careers, and formalized training opportunities to earn a recognized industry credential, Manufacturing Technician 1 (MT1).
- Nevada Career Explorer deployment (2018), a comprehensive Nevada-first career information platform that connected the numerous occupational, education, training and job search sources for easy navigation and search. This allowed every Nevadan with a library card to access the database, helping students, parents and job seekers make sense of the increasingly complex career environment and job market.
- "Workforce Recovery Partnership Project" (2019), a partnership between the Nevada State Library and College of Southern Nevada (CSN), to pilot a 3D and virtual reality career exploration system mapped to an accelerated 12-week training program for Kidney Dialysis Technicians, an in-demand occupation that pays a living wage. The fully online program, previously only offered in the Las Vegas Metropolitan area, expanded access to this much-needed training across the state. The success of this pilot program has set the stage for expansion to other high-demand, limited-access program development that will strengthen the skilled-worker pipeline in the most remote regions of the state.



For the past decade, Nevada's community colleges have worked diligently to align certificates, training, and degree programs with real-time labor market needs in the high priority sectors of health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology and skilled trades. As the pandemic has stretched from weeks to months, these colleges have pivoted quickly to adapt programs that were already underway to create and implement accelerated programs to help get people back to work.

A key deliverable for the Nevada State Library is to help Nevadans reduce the time it takes to explore career pathways and prepare for these careers. This directly supports the work community colleges are already doing in the development of short-term and accelerated education/training programs. Nevada's public libraries have the resources and expertise needed to support community colleges to develop/use virtual reality tools to augment or replace in-person labs and clinicals, provide a network of career navigators to support educational success, raise awareness of programs, career opportunities, and personal skills through an easily accessible, comprehensive digital platform that connects directly to Nevada career pathways and job opportunities; and offer decentralized learning options to a geographically dispersed workforce, thereby expanding access to Nevada's most vulnerable workers.



KEEPING NEVADANS CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET



Adapting to the disturbance caused by COVID-19 has been not only disorienting but has also driven swift increase in online service and access. While our buildings have been closed, library staff have quickly developed innovative ways to continue to deliver library services remotely. Our digital library and virtual services are always available. Nevada libraries have all expanded digital resource offerings, continued to serve the patrons online and by telephone, made Wi-Fi accessible in our parking lots and more, and offered both educational and entertainment opportunities for students, families and people staying at home. And like every other industry, Nevada's libraries are focused on what comes next.



PROJECT SANDI

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada was facing a severe skilled labor shortage. The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) identified healthcare, advanced manufacturing and other STEM-related sectors as key industries to drive growth (Brune. 2020). Nevada has been a health professional shortage area for years and COVID-19 can only exacerbate the need for skilled STEM workers, especially in healthcare (CDC. 2020). Project SANDI (Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals), a Federal grant, provides the opportunity to assist thousands of adult and dislocated workers who have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

Nevada libraries will carry out large programmatic pieces of the SANDI workplan - to deliver services to the community to best transition dislocated workers back into the workforce. The Nevada State Library in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) will work to braid together the career navigation system and virtual reality technology, or XR

technology, to deliver industry credential training. Additionally, data enhancements and XR integration to the Nevada Career Explorer will assimilate the process of translating work experience into credentials enabling a job training specialist or “career navigator” to assist underemployed or dislocated workers more efficiently. Through virtual reality assets, job seeker engagement will increase as individuals will be able to “see” into elements of new careers.

This “Skills Decoder” prototype will then be leveraged to populate real-time data that will assist community colleges as they serve dislocated workers and move them into career pathways. The goal is to automate the intake process so that career navigators can connect dislocated workers more efficiently and effectively to high-quality career pathways and to collect quality data from our community college partners, workforce boards and service providers.

The Nevada State Library and Nevada's public library network are critical in rolling out this system which identifies existing dislocated workers' skills and experience and effectively translates them into competencies or certificates which are competitive in today's market.

The award of this grant was thoughtful in housing this job seekers' tool with our libraries to direct job seekers to appropriate open-entry/open-exit courses and self-paced learning modules. Combined, this creates access to individuals seeking to assess their existing skills and to understand how they may best re-enter or skill up within the workforce -- as well as to enable our navigators/librarians to engage and help job seekers.

This began through a mere \$22,000 in funding from the State of Nevada granted in 2017 to advance emerging technology, founding Nevada XR Libraries. One of the initiatives of XR Libraries are XR modules for various careers. XR Libraries have completed a module in the healthcare area for the career of Dialysis Technician. This completely captures CSN's Dialysis Patient Care Technician (DPCT) program into a 3D virtual environment so that a potential



student can take a field trip of a dialysis lab, shadow a dialysis tech, and, upon enrollment in the program, “dive into” figures within their textbook guided by their instructor; as well as work through their homework with a librarian—all in an XR environment. The American Library Association featured this groundbreaking program in its national tour in August 2020 (ALA. 2020). In these modules, students visualize reactions and processes while solving problems. The modules combine real world context (dialysis), critical thinking, and some mathematics to develop quantitative reasoning. Curated for diagnostic healthcare, the 3D content helps cognitively anchor difficult science concepts, thus creating meaningful understanding of the job.

In addition, the evidence shows that students perceive virtual simulations to be user-friendly, useful, and a complementary addition to their education (Padilha, 2018). Unfolding case studies will also provide an excellent educational opportunity for students as they can be done virtually and have been shown to successfully support students’ knowledge synthesis, clinical competence, and their transition to live practice (Meiers, 2019).

SANDI’s efforts will promote apprenticeship into STEM careers through the Nevada Strong Consortium of Community Colleges, formed by Nevada’s four community colleges in July 2020. This Consortium works to help industry partners develop apprenticeship programs for students enrolled in Consortium Colleges over the next four years; including possible apprenticeships at, for example, Armscor Precision International, Haas Automation, Inc., Panasonic Energy North America, Carson Tahoe Health, DaVita Kidney Care, Fresenius Medical Holdings, LLC, Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital and Northern Nevada Medical Center.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Broadening participation in STEM and exposure to XR to recruit more students into STEM professions by introducing them to these professions in a safe, virtual environment and by bringing information about such career pathways to them in their own communities.

Development of a strong network of stakeholders outside academia, including industrial partners, public policy makers and the broader scientific community, who are invested in leveraging XR to better serve underserved populations by improving access, education, and STEM workforce.

The potential impact of SANDI is nation-wide, creating an XR instructional model that increases access and familiarity with STEM for underserved populations that standardizes the curricula for living wage STEM careers through cost-effective virtual textbooks and that leverages the existing massive power of public libraries in new ways.



FROM THE STATE COUNCIL'S POINT OF VIEW

The State Council on Libraries and Literacy advises and assists the State Library, Archives and Public Records with its statewide library and literacy responsibilities. Membership, as outlined by NRS 380A.041, consists of citizens appointed by the Governor to reflect the diversity of the State as well as ex-officio representatives of state government agencies that share in the advancement of library and literacy goals.

GOVERNOR APPOINTEES

Bryan Allison, Sector - Private Sector Employers
Nancy Cummings-Schmidt, Immediate Past Chairperson, Sector - Private Literacy Organizations
Ananda Campbell, Sector - Labor Organization
Holly Esposito, Sector - School Libraries
Maggie Farrell, Sector - Academic Libraries
Lisa Foley, Sector - Member of the Public
Jeanne Price, Sector - Special Libraries
Joan Dalusung, Chairperson, Sector - Public Libraries
Pat Ragains, Sector - Persons with Disabilities
David Ortlipp, Sector - Library Trustees
Ian Salzman, Sector - Classroom Reading Teacher

STATUTE EX-OFFICIO

Margot Chappel, Designee - Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Karsten Heise, Designee - Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Randi Hunewill, Designee - Superintendent, Nevada Department of Education
Kimberly Petersen, Designee - Director, Department of Corrections

VACANT

Sector - Member of the Public Designee for the Dept. of Administration
Designee - Department of Employment Training & Rehabilitation



Your Carson High School @SenatorsLibrary has become a Cyber-Library! Transitioning to remote learning has been an interesting endeavor for us all. One which brings many lessons and will, I'm sure, create a paradigm shift in the way we school library in the future. In the library, so much of our physical space is intertwined with the social emotional needs of our staff and students. It is a place of respite and calm - a place to relax, socialize, take a time out, create, learn, or even nap. It is also a hive of activity, with classes rotating through to check out materials, engage in lessons, or see presentations. The @SenatorsLibrary is a place to gather, and it is the daily personal connections we are missing most. Our students who bring energy and focus to our days. And now? We work both in person and virtually providing the same supports and so much more, in new, creative ways. It is an amazing transition and I am incredibly impressed with the work I am seeing district-wide from the Carson City School District Library Staff.

ANANDA CAMPBELL





My wife and I are big readers. Libraries have always played a big role in our lives and that continued even when COVID meant we couldn't visit in person. Instead, the library came to us through digital lending. We relied on libraries more than ever to expand our minds, teach us the lessons of history and help us escape from daily stress. We have borrowed and devoured more than 50 books since March, along with a few audio books and online films. During one of the most unusual and challenging times in our lives, libraries have truly been there for us.

BRYAN ALLISON

Nevada is recognized nationally as a leader in the development of cutting-edge solutions for workforce development. These efforts have been spearheaded by the Nevada State Library and the support of the SCLL. So often seen as passive participants in the community, libraries in Nevada are active catalysts for change in developing informational resources to assist the community to address real world issues such as economic diversity and workforce development. The recent award of a \$13.8M grant to Nevada as part of Project SANDI is a testament to the tireless efforts of The Nevada State Library. My fervent hope is that as a library community we continue to foster innovation and be recognized as essential partners in striving for economic prosperity for Nevada.



**DAVID ORTLIPP,
CHAIR-ELECT**



Eight elementary school libraries in the Washoe County School District have been selected to participate in the Nevada State Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Access to Information grant for the 2020-2021 school year.

The purpose of the Access to Information: Tech for WCSD School Libraries LSTA grant is to provide WCSD elementary students much needed technology and access to library and 21st century resources such as Destiny, state-wide databases using grant-funded iPads. Each of the eight school libraries received 15 grant-funded iPads in a school-wide effort to provide students real-world opportunities to be responsible citizens and connect information literacy concepts across content areas. In these uncertain times, librarians and teachers are coming together to receive training, build lessons, and engage students with new lessons and tools to enhance learning. It is encouraging to see new ideas and lessons taught with new excitement utilizing rich resources and tools.

HOLLY ESPOSITO



While our Nevada schools faced unprecedented times due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, our state's libraries, both in our communities and in schools, rose to become a sustaining force. As a principal, I feared our students would fall behind in reading due to the challenges of distance learning. Nevada's libraries have helped our children to continue reading excellence by providing both in-person and online options for young and teen readers, free WiFi in parking lots to support online education, and access to free online entertainment and educational resources. Even during the most challenging times, Nevada libraries continue to make a difference!

IAN SALZMAN



The Wiener-Rogers Law Library at UNLV's Boyd School of Law continues to assist the community by sharing law-related information through new and supplemented digital outreach and digital collections that make the work of the Boyd School of Law available to the world. Video-recorded Lightning Lessons and online Research Guides help Nevadans navigate federal and Nevada law and legal resources – from courts and lawyers to free classes and mediation centers. The law library's Scholarly Commons makes available the Nevada Law Journal, UNLV Gaming Law Journal, Boyd Law conferences, and scholarship authored by law faculty, and includes recordings of Tax Talk Tuesdays that highlight common federal tax issues.

JEANNE FRAZIER PRICE



In addition to Council Chairperson, my role is to represent public libraries. I have been amazed at the quick, effective adjustments that Nevada's public libraries made to serve our communities during the pandemic. Public libraries have long offered downloadable ebooks and audiobooks, but the pandemic highlighted issues of digital access to these resources. My home library system, Washoe County Libraries, immediately adjusted to offer instant access digital library cards. We've had over 11,000 patrons take advantage, and we've seen an over 90% increase in student usage of ebooks. Public libraries throughout the state are also regularly offering virtual story times and other online events to continue our support of early and family literacy efforts. Our smallest patrons have been thrilled to learn and engage through story times with their favorite librarians throughout this unprecedented year. Our talented and creative Nevada library staff are stalwart and dedicated to keeping students learning, no matter the circumstances.

JOAN DALUSUNG



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The pandemic is acting as the “great accelerator and magnifier” of trends - both technological as well as socioeconomic - that already had been in place prior.

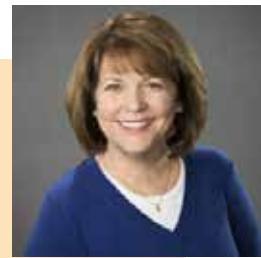
In such an environment, the Library having been at the forefront of key developments in these fields, is now producing increasing returns to scale: Virtual Reality (VR) applications in career exploration as well as remote learning for national recognized credentials and embedment in continuous expanded platforms such as the Nevada Career Explorer has led to national recognition epitomized by the recent US DoEdu SANDI-grant award to Nevada in which the Library will have a substantial stake. The proof-of-concept program in collaboration with CSN for the dialysis technician certification utilizing VR-technologies replacing in-person lab-classes - now more important than ever in a remote-learning dominated environment - brought the American Library Association to Nevada during their 2020 (virtual) national tour.

In addition, co-locating Las Vegas OneStop Career Centers with libraries as well as the City of North Las Vegas Library’s Business Outreach Call Center Initiative are best practice examples of how the Library acts in the socioeconomic realm to reach deep into every community which in a pandemic- and post-pandemic world will substantially benefit the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in our state.

KARSTEN HEISE

UNR Libraries and TLT played a key role in utilizing technology to assist the university in successfully responding to Covid concerns.

- The Libraries/TLT’s Instructional Design Team transitioned 21,000 students and 1,000 faculty members to emergency remote learning over the week of Spring Break. Tune in to “Checked Out!” the Libraries pandemic-inspired podcast, to hear just how Teaching & Learning Technologies and the Instructional Design Team (TLT/IDT) pulled this off.
- Read story here: <https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2020/libraries-tlt-podcast-episode-9>
- The University’s special events underwent dramatic change in 2020 due to Covid. From commemorating the opening of a new building to celebrating the University’s Spring and Fall 2020 graduates, the Libraries @One digital media services team worked long hours behind-the-scenes to deliver high-quality video and virtual programming to those tuning-in from home, no matter where they reside. “Figuring out how to pull off a new kind of University event was difficult, but we are learning, adapting, troubleshooting and rising to the challenge,” Read story here: <https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/stories/going-virtual>
- George and Josephine Go Virtual: A New Project Brings Their 1914 Adventure to Life <https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2020/1000-miles-primary-source>



KATHY RAY



KIMBERLY PETERSEN

Since late winter [February? March?] of 2020, in order to maintain mandated safety protocols and social distancing, Nevada's prison education and rehabilitation programs ceased. Furthermore, inmates have not been allowed to attend work programs, not even the desperately critical fire reduction jobs this state relies on. Prison libraries have been off limits as well.

Even though GED and other classes have been cancelled, learning in the prisons continues, thanks to dedicated educational professionals such as Kim Petersen. Petersen reports that "during this year's difficult isolation period, the one saving grace is that Educational Correction staff distribute a broad variety of reading materials, even during lockdowns. Providing offenders with books offers so much more than relief from monotony: it decreases facility violence and prepares offenders to successfully reintegrate into communities upon release. Educational Correctional staff encourage offenders to: Legally escape---read a book!"

Note: Members Petersen and Foley have issued a combined perspective.



LISA FOLEY



My role on the Council is serving as the advocate for literacy. Recognizing the needs of families, early childhood and family literacy is one of Council's statewide initiatives. Nevada Public libraries provide a myriad of quality programs for these families. A recent library survey captures the breath and scope of such programs, and powerful examples of these are reflected in this report.

The profoundly negative impact the COVID 19 crisis has on families makes this initiative even more necessary. Recognizing this work cannot be done in a vacuum, the State Library has partnered with a number of community and statewide organizations. We participate in the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council's strategic planning process and hold a seat on the Nevada Pritzker Prenatal to Three Leadership Collaborative. State Library staff members have collaborated with the Children's Cabinet Mind in the Making Program which originated at the Las Vegas Clark County Library District, and the Northern Nevada Literacy Council Family Reading Program. We also are members of the Northern Nevada United Way's Reading Coalition. Responding to the needs of public libraries, the State Library Staff is developing an invaluable online literacy tool kit which ensures that quality resources are available. Partnerships and projects such as these coupled with the efforts of Nevada's public libraries becomes even more crucial since the Department of Education has reduced support for early literacy programs, and but for these endeavors a critical path to early literacy support evaporates.

NANCY CUMMINGS-SCHMIDT



NEVADA STATE

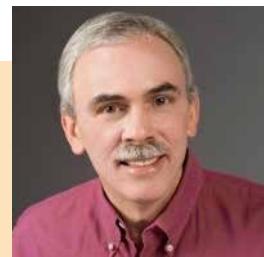
Library, Archives & Public Records



When the pandemic began, staff in the Department of Health and Human Services began sorting through intellectual capital on past pandemics. The most recent, closely related incident was H1N1, a type of influenza A that caused the 2009 swine flu outbreak. Far fewer people died or were impacted by H1N1 however. It was challenging to sort through archived files to find resources that might be applicable in the COVID-19 pandemic. So I spoke to the NSLA Administrator who agreed to collect and store all messages sent out on listservs as well as a compendium of information issued by the state, CDC and CMS. That single action will ensure that the next group of staff facing something similar will have access to resources developed during this one. We are grateful to the NSLA for assisting us with this helpful resource and compendium of information for the next generation of public servants! https://nsla.nv.gov/covid-19_info_hub

MARGOT CHAPPEL

Even during the pandemic, Nevada public libraries continue to enhance the lives of the disabled population, including those whose temporary or permanent physical disabilities make it difficult to come to a library. Carson City Library, Las Vegas/Clark County Library District, and several other library systems provide homebound delivery, not only of books, but iPads, wifi hotspots, dvds, and more. LVCCLD Outreach Services Manager Glenda Billingsley wrote, "We often receive letters from these customers who state how much they appreciate homebound service - some even say it keeps them alive, and that they can't imagine what they'd do without it." Las Vegas/Clark County Library District buildings are open and service to disabled users continues, while rigorously observing social distancing measures. Due to mask requirements, deaf persons cannot lip-read, so they communicate with library staff by writing notes and gesturing. Assistive software for readers available in LVCCLD libraries includes readers, JAWS, Dragon Speaks, Windows Narrator and Open Book.



PAT RAGAINIS



Education in Nevada made a 360 degree turn this past year. First, as a newbie to the group I have been educated on the variety of programs, projects and solid structures that our libraries provide to our local and state communities. When the State Council on Libraries and Literacy were approving grants several months ago, did I ever think we would still be in the year of technology today? This is where our libraries have really stepped it up to provide the emotional and educational support to our thriving communities. They have partnered with the Nevada Department of Education on the Digital Learning Collaborative and so many other projects to provide career exploration, skill certification and when others have closed their doors.

RANDI HUNEWILL



NEVADA STATE

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**KEEPING STUDENTS LEARNING
AND ADULTS EARNING.**

2021