

Librarian Report
August 7 2017

We have received all of the equipment for the Oral History Project paid for by the Vermont Humanities Council grant. This includes recorders, microphones, SD cards, cables and headphones. I am now testing the equipment and will soon begin recording the first interview and seeking interviewers for further interviews regarding the Beecher Falls factory closing.

My work with the three summer school groups from Canaan Schools was very successful. We used Little Bits electronics to prototype different inventions and focused on the design cycle. The kids had a lot of fun and were all very creative. Most other summer programs have been sparsely attended, except the weekly robotics meetings. Next year I may work closely with the school and run a reading incentive program just through their summer school time and not beyond it.

I have contacted Rodney Smith on several occasions by phone regarding the electric and have not received a reply to my messages. I recommend trustees reach out in person to Mr. Smith.

We received a grant for a new catalog called VERSO which will begin later this year. The state has moved to a new ILL system called CLOVER which is very efficient and requires no paperwork. It is an excellent update. The vals email is no longer live.

After reviewing the pricing of copying/printing I am recommending to the board that we lower the cost to simply cover our expenses and not profit from the practice. Current prices are 15c per black and 25c per color print/copy. Black print costs include 1c per single page of paper and 2c per page of ink. Color costs 1c per single page of paper and 9c per page of three-color ink. I recommend we change black printing/copying to 5 cents and color to 15 cents. These fees include a small amount added for printer/electric use.

I would like us to consider the possibility of opening one morning per week and one evening until 7pm. I have no fixed schedule in mind when I raise this but Monday morning seems possible. Many libraries allow for one evening and a morning. To maintain current hours we could open later in the day, such as 2pm-7pm, on one day. Adding a morning could mean one full day open until 4pm or closing one afternoon and switching to the morning.

Jim Carrien, Loss Control Consultant with the VT League of Cities and Towns, visited the library for an inspection of the premises. He advises libraries and the league on practices in an effort to lower workers compensation costs. His only recommendation: fire extinguisher inspection and changing their location to exits for more visible access. He will pass the report to the town clerk. He explained that workers comp costs are rising in VT and this is somewhat due to a rise in accidents on the part of librarians. We are currently classified as Admin for workers comp costs. This category expects everyone to sit at a desk, which libraries do not always do. Injuries are unexpected from this point of view as it is expected by that a maintenance department or contractor will carry out maintenance activities (lightbulbs, standing on stools, etc.) and does not cover the broadening of the professional role (yoga, dancing, etc. in some libraries). They are paying more from the Admin category than they

expected. Vermont libraries do not have maintenance departments, on the whole. The league is considering shifting librarian to a higher paying category to cover the cost of increased workers comp payouts, which will increase our rates.

Craig Varley