

DIRECTOR REPORT February-March 2025

Administration

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Erica Freudenberger resigned, and her last day will be March 12, 2024. She brought professionalism, laughter, and energy to her work and made SALS shine. I know she will be missed by our member library staff and boards, as well as the SALS staff and board. I wish Erica a fabulous new chapter.

SALS, trustees, and member library staff visited our Assembly and Senate representatives via Zoom. Pamela DelSignore scheduled the meetings for us. Two school librarians joined us. We appreciate Erica Freudenberger and Jack Scott for the informative slide deck.

Visiting our legislators is a joyful experience. Due to the excellent work done by our membership year-round, our legislators are familiar with their districts' libraries. We need to broaden our reach to include our federal representatives.

At the Director's Council meeting, it seemed that we needed to rethink the Zoom meetings. Some people should attend the day in Albany and then schedule visits to the legislative offices before the final budget.

The 2024 SALS satisfaction, use, and value survey has been collected, and summarized. Here is a [link to the survey](#). We received 131 responses. The largest responding group was library staff, followed by member library trustees. Once again, 98.53% reported being satisfied with the SALS services, and 97% found the services valuable. One more thing to note: despite the involvement and time commitment of the JA staff to facilitate the separation of Schenectady County Public Library from the Joint Automation Project, our member libraries reported 98.36% satisfaction with the JA services.

The 2024 SALS Annual Report is attached to this board packet. Please review it before the meeting; it will be submitted after the March 2025 Board Meeting.

Kudos to the SALS staff for their work on this report. Colleen Smith and Pamela DelSignore also assisted the member libraries in completing their reports, which is a time-consuming activity.

Colleen will complete the Comptroller's AFR (formerly AUD) report and facilitate member library participation in the Traliant Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. All employees in NYS must complete sexual harassment training. It is highly recommended that SALS Trustees also complete the training.

The SALS and JA staff participated in CPR and AED training, followed by a staff appreciation lunch.

SALS has been invited to work with the American Library Association regarding the Microsoft licensing issue. Michele Largeteau and her staff are sharing valuable information about how this affects smaller and rural libraries.

Information regarding the MFA is being shared with the member libraries.

Cataloging and Training

Jill Ryder met with Chloe Whittaker, the new Library Director at the Waterford Public Library, for Polaris/new director training.

Jill worked with JA staff to complete a large patron database cleanup project this month, following changes to our eCard patron registration system.

As part of her day-to-day work, Jill assists library staff with running reports, changing Polaris system administration settings, bulk changing library items in the catalog, database cleanup, and answering all Polaris questions that arise.

SALS catalogers (Jill Ryder and Johanna Hall) modified 2,354 bibliographic records in the catalog during February 2025. 2,311 new bibliographic records and 11,347 new item records were added to the database during the same month. This work is done by cataloging and technical processing staff at the System offices and the member libraries. Bib records represent the individual works (a book or a DVD, etc.), and item records represent each library's copy of that work.

Jill oversees the purchasing of eBooks and eAudiobooks for the shared OverDrive collection; 172 titles were purchased throughout February 2025. Popular titles purchased include Anne Tyler's novel *Three Days in June*, Jojo Moyes's latest novel, *We All Live Here*, and Alice Marshall's thriller, *A Killing Cold*.

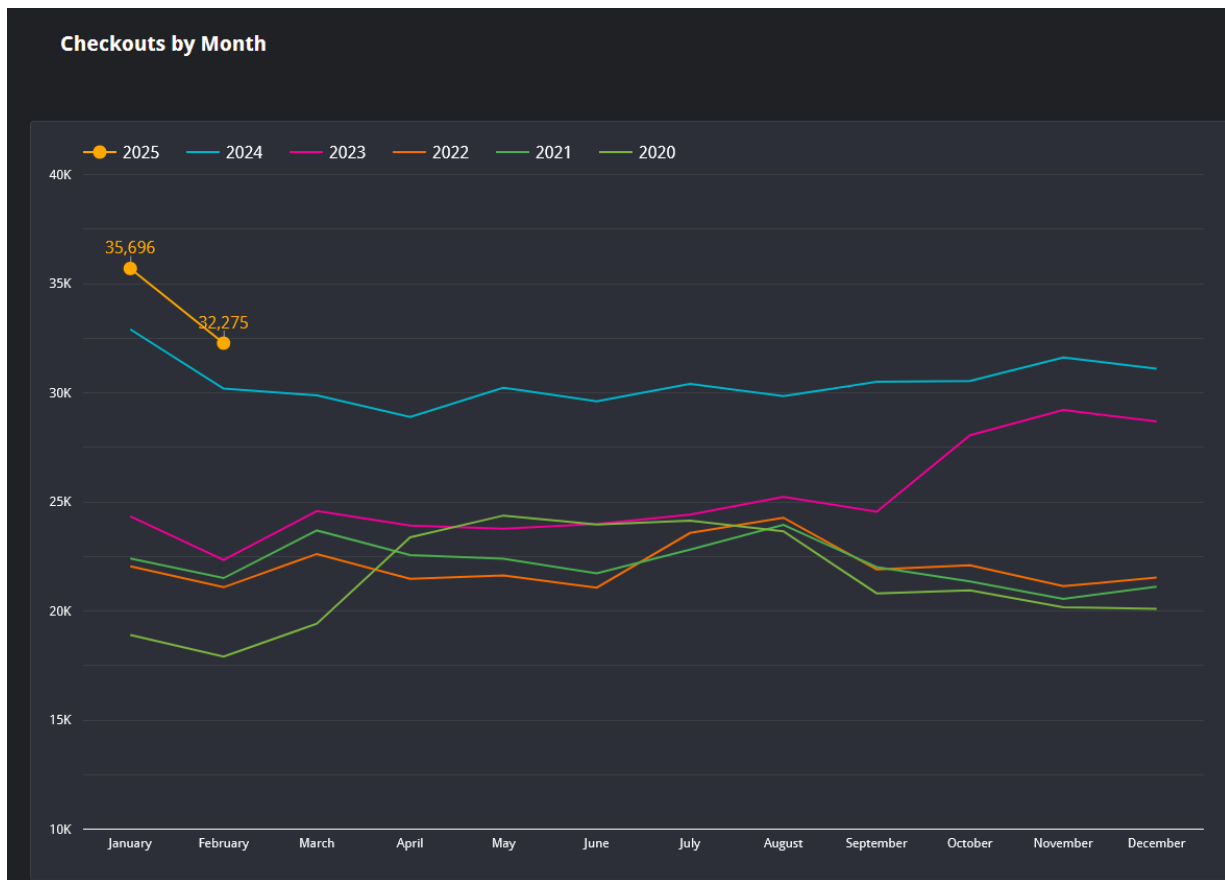
Technology & Youth Services

SALS Website: In January, our website received 1k visitors. The most visited pages were the Job Postings, About Us, Contact Us, Cataloging, and Maps.

Technology: Our Accessibility Working group, in collaboration with systems across the state, continues to develop solutions. Our next full meeting is scheduled for March 2025.

OATS: Senior Planet reached out to ask if SALS is interested in partnering with them in applying for New York's Digital Equity Program Capacity Grant program. If accepted, the grant would run from Q4 2025 through 2027. Our initial request for the period is \$71,500 annually.

OverDrive: In February, an estimated 32k items were downloaded by 7k users, with 12k holds placed. For January, we borrowed 1,512 items from other systems and shared 519 items with other systems.



GALE: In January, Gale recorded 948 sessions.

Ancestry: In January, there were 640 searches.

Youth Services:

SALS hosted our children’s summer reading workshop on Feb. 25, and 269 people attended. The teen workshop will be on Mar. 11, 2025.

We launched our 6-week Youth Services AI Challenge on March 3rd. Each week, there is a new challenge. Jack will share the full results when the challenge is completed. The comments after the first day of the challenge have been exceedingly positive.

SALS has partnered with MVLS and UHLS for a summer teen reading program called Read It Forward. This program allows teens (approximately grades 6-12) to read a featured title and pass the book on to their peers, who continue the cycle of reading and sharing. As of our first meeting on March 3rd, 10 SALS libraries have expressed interest in participating.

GOATS. We’ve scheduled our annual Greatest of All Time Teen Services Meetup for mid-October.

Meetings:

February 19, 2025	ALA PPA interview Assemblymember Woerner
February 20, 2025	ALA Executive Board Meeting
February 24, 2025	Right to Read
February 26, 2025	Core Values Working Group
March 10, 2025	Right to Read
March 12, 2025	JA Council at SALS
March 13, 2025	Sustainability Roundtable Steering Committee
March 17, 2025	Right to Read
March 20, 2025	ALA Executive Board Meeting CDLC Board Meeting
March 24, 2025	Right to Read
March 26, 2025	Crandall Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Dallas
3/7/2025