The pandemic has greatly impacted how we work and has changed our daily lives in many ways. It has also given us the opportunity to try connecting with our patrons and each other in new ways. While ConnectNY members are used to holding committee meetings online, few people used their cameras prior to the pandemic. Now, with Zoom meetings as the norm to connect, everyone is using their cameras. It is great to “see” all of you! The Community Engagement Committee quickly shifted gears when it became evident we could not hold the annual Collaboration Day event in person, developing online events for members to share their experiences. Thanks to all who have attended and many thanks to the Committee.

In the wake of the violence against people of color, I struggle with what we, as the CNY community, can do to affect positive change across our membership. As a starting point for our community, please consider attending an online event on July 14. Nancy Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of OhioNET, will talk about building inclusion in organizations. Perhaps our community can use her talk to spearhead action beyond putting a statement on our website. Please read a brief article Nancy wrote recently calling for action. Details and registration for the event can be found in this newsletter. Wishing you all well. Stay healthy and safe.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Collaboration Day was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, however events were changed to virtual workshops. We decided to start with two events. We scheduled Service Planning in the Pandemic (May 20, 2020) and Faculty Engagement with Virtual Service Points (June 17, 2020). We are pleased to report that 30 people registered for each event. Nancy S. Kirkpatrick, our Keynote Speaker who was scheduled for Collaboration Day will be speaking on July 14 (on Zoom), with the talk, Building Inclusive Organizations: Lessons from My Garden. Registration for the event can be found on page 4 of this Newsletter.

DIGITIZATION
We had to pause our work helping the Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative (EADC) develop their Encoded Archival Description encoding tool, the EADitor, which allows archival repositories to easily generate EAD encoded finding aids. The hiatus in our work with the EADitor was due to issues with the development of the application. Work on the redevelopment of this product is scheduled to recommence in this fall. With these issues in mind the Digitization Committee decided to survey our members to learn what tools they are using for digital asset management (DAM), if members are looking for new DAM solutions, and do our members want to collaborate to share digital collections across CNY membership. Ultimately, this discussion led to the Committee exploring the desirability of a shared CNY consortial institutional repository. It was determined that the best way to accomplish this was to create a survey that could be sent out to our membership. A survey was developed based on a previous questionnaire created by Nicole Scalalessa (Vassar College). It was modified and tested by Committee members. The survey was scheduled to be sent out to CNY members in March 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted our plans. The Committee hopes to resume its work with the survey in the coming months.

E-BOOK
This year, the E-Book Committee focused its efforts on three goals: communication and education (outreach to member libraries’ staff), discovery layer integration, and statistics improvement (for a more complete picture of the current landscape). At the same time, the group continues to educate itself on current and future statistics-gathering processes, and regularly discusses best practices for consortial e-book programming. This year, the E-book Committee provided a biannual report to the Board that included statistics and posted the statistics on the CNY website. Next year, this group will develop regular communication channels to inform the membership about the program and its value. A sub-committee analyzed how configuring the CNY Shared Catalog with Discovery products like EBSCO Discovery Service and Summon (Ex Libris) would impact access to consortial ebooks. After years of working with large spreadsheets from JSTOR, statistics are now available through JSTOR’s admin portal, making it possible to run reports as needed. Both JSTOR and ProQuest have enabled COUNTER 5 reports.

OER
The committee identified consciousness as a primary goal. The work we’ve done this semester has been towards awareness raising and advocacy to help CNY member institutions become more familiar with OER. We’ve developed two surveys; one for librarians to assess where CNY institutions are on the OER landscape and one for faculty to assess implementation of OER materials. We have discovered that some faculty are implementing OER in their classrooms already and are just not broadcasting their usage. We’ve created an annotated bibliography which is available on the CNY website. We have identified the chief challenge to implementation is instructor buy-in. One of the goals of the committee was to assign OER ambassadors to work with the Open Textbook Network’s train the trainer OER program. Pat Coward from Canisius College was selected as an OER ambassador. Noreen McGuire and Greg Murphy from Pace University were also selected to be joint OER ambassadors and will share responsibilities. We aim to connect the ACRL framework in information literacy with OER as a way to interest and engage CNY librarians in OER efforts. The OTN workshop will be offered online in the fall.
NANCY S. KIRKPATRICK
JULY 14 / 2PM


The field of librarianship has some work to do when it comes to building inclusivity into our organizations, our collections, and our research. Given the current state of the world, there is no better time to delve into this topic and examine what we’ve done right, and more importantly look at where and how we can do better moving forward. I’ll spend a little time talking about the history of librarianship, and then move on to address some ways that we can take meaningful action to create a space that honors and respects all of us.

Nancy S. Kirkpatrick is the Executive Director and CEO of OhioNET, a multi-type library consortium based in Columbus, OH and she also runs her own consulting business. She was previously the Associate Director of the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (2015-2018), and prior to that was the Director of Library Services at Marian University (2011-2015).

LIZ KING, CANDIDATE FOR NYLA PRESIDENT
VOTING OPEN 6/15-7/15

I am currently an Associate Director at RPI Libraries, and a member of CNY’s Digitization Committee. My experience working in libraries spans fifteen years, many of those in New York State (with a five-year stint in Austin, Texas).

In April of this year, I completed NYLA’s nine-month Developing Leaders Program, where my seat was sponsored by the Empire State Library Network. My team’s capstone project presentation was recorded and is available on my professional web site.

My priority as NYLA President will be to unify all types in libraries in the pursuit of their shared goals, with an emphasis on equitable access to information and sustainability of libraries. I would be honored to be your next NYLA President, representing an Academic or Special Library. I will make every effort to represent all libraries – school, public, special, and academic, across New York state. Click here for voting instructions.

Q & A to be scheduled soon!

In the wake of the violence against Black, Indigenous, and Trans people throughout the nation, we would like to share some resources:

#BlackLivesMatter
#NativeLivesMatter
#TransLivesMatter

RELATED RESOURCES:

158 Resources for Understanding Systemic Racism
Anti-Racism Resources Collection
Black Women in Non-Profits
BCALA
ATLAM
Lavender Legacies Guide
Talking About Race

Have some ideas on moving beyond words? Want to suggest some readings and/or resources? Please share here.
We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of JILL TOMINOSKY as ConnectNY’s new Member Services Coordinator. Jill is a recent University at Albany MSIS graduate, with a concentration in Archives & Records Management. She also holds a BA in Museum Studies/Art History from the University of Rochester. She is also a Project Archivist for Union College’s Schaffer Library - Special Collections & Archives.

Libraries & Archives are a second chapter for Jill, whose previous work was in Marketing & Public Relations for both non-profit and higher education institutions. Most recently, Jill was the Graduate Assistant for the New York State Library’s Manuscript and Special Collections Unit. Prior to that post, she was at Union College as the Program Assistant for the Modern Languages Department. Hailing from the Lehigh Valley in Southeastern Pennsylvania, she has held positions at the DaVinci Discovery Center, Allentown Art Museum, Lehigh County Historical Society, Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, and the Binghamton University Theatre Department, among others.

In her free time, Jill enjoys visiting museums, building her ever-growing vinyl record collection, hiking, or road-tripping around the country. She resides in Schenectady, NY with her husband, Matthew.

email: jill@connectny.org
pronouns: she/her/hers

Many, if not most, employees in academic libraries transitioned to working remotely for the first time in their careers in March 2020.

This study seeks to answer the following questions: How does working remotely impact communication channels and culture within academic libraries? What sectors of academic librarianship most easily flex to remote work? Could the experience of working remotely impact practitioners’ expectations for that kind of flexibility going forward?

This survey contains questions about your experiences and/or feelings about remote work. All employees working in academic libraries are invited to participate in this study by responding to the SURVEY

The survey will remain open until July 13th. Please email Lori Birrell at lbirrell@uark.edu or Amy Allen at ala005@uark.edu with questions.

GLBT Book Month™ (ALA)
JUNE 15th: Empire Library Delivery Service resumes
JUNE 15-JULY 15: NYLA Election
JUNE 19: Juneteenth
JUNE 20: Summer Solstice
JULY 14th: Nancy S. Kirkpatrick Lecture
OCTOBER 21st: OER Workshop

Please visit our new OER Annotated Bibliography here
SHARED PRINT TRUST MANAGEMENT
The 2018-2019 Committee (members: Adger Williams, David Almodovar, Brian Lym) had produced the document “Memorandum of Understanding” and the ConnectNY Board had proved the MOU in June 2019. The MOU was presented to the library directors of the POD1 group in the Town Hall meeting on March 3, 2020. The document was accepted by the POD1 libraries (12 libraries). The committee would like to thank Mr. Adger Williams and Mr. David Almodovar for presenting the MOU in the Town Hall meeting. Although all the POD1 libraries had completed the original 2014 retention lists, there was no central place (database) to check the retention titles of the group nor mechanism for libraries to record and update any changes, such as missing, weeding, substitution, etc. In order to capture the most current picture of the print trust project, the committee reviewed two possible software systems for recording changes: the homegrown database system developed by Sarah Probst and Chris McDermott (Medaille College), and Gold Rush (Colorado Alliance). After reviewing and discussing, the committee agreed that the home-grown system is sufficient for now. The committee has planned to do further testing of uploading bibliographical records to the retention database. Because of Covid-19, all work has been paused temporarily. The committee would like to thank Sarah and Chris (Medaille College) for developing the retention database system and Adger (Colgate) and Jennifer (Siena) for their willingness to test the procedure and system.

USER EXPERIENCE & METADATA
The User Experience & Metadata Committee (UX&M) has been organizing and overseeing two studies conducted by the Center for Digital Experiences at Pratt Institute. The first study is testing user experience on requesting items from CNY as an integration with EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS). The second study is testing user experience with the more traditional model of searching a local catalog and navigating to the CNY union catalog to place requests. We are still awaiting analysis and results, and the UX&M Committee hopes to provide valuable information to CNY members on best practices for offering the CNY catalog as an integration with EDS or other discovery platforms.