

**Director's Report**  
**Livingston Free Library Board Meeting**  
**February 15, 2023**

**1. Open more hours and different hours.**

- ❖ A common request from the Community Survey in the spring of 2022 is more hours and different hours.
- ❖ In November, December, and YTD January, 90% of the patrons come into the library from 3PM-4:30PM, **before it gets dark.**
- ❖ 10 years ago, the library was open 18 hours a week with 3 employees, now it is open 15 hours a week with 1 employee.
- ❖ Add Thursday as another day, it is the day after a Wednesday MHLS delivery of items. Suggested hours:

Monday        Open between 12PM – 4PM  
Thursday

Wednesday    Keep 3-7PM hours. These are the days of the MHLS  
Friday        delivery and a few school teachers pick up items on  
                  the way home from teaching.

Saturday      Keep the 9-12PM. Once the Post Office and Town Hall  
                  close on Saturdays, the library had no patrons.

**2. Trustee Education Policy draft to review.**

**3. Results from informal “Post -Covid” survey, 75% MHLS Directors Response**

This gives you input in today's patrons focus in library usage.

- E-circulation (ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, emagazines) is steadily rising.
- Circulation of print materials is flat or decreasing in most libraries.
- Program attendance is steadily on the rise but is not back to pre-pandemic levels for most libraries.
- Door counts are steadily on the rise but are not back to pre-pandemic levels for most libraries.
- Here to stay: ebooks; lending wireless hotspots; online programs, outdoor programs
- Popular programs include “things that bring people together in a relaxing way,” for example: crafts, children's programs; outdoor activities (walks, story walks, eco-literacy-themed); food related; local history; concerts and plays.

- Popular materials: romantic comedies; children's; new fiction; "light fiction"; graphic novels; the "library of things," in particular: puzzles, museum passes, sewing machines, and tools.
- Motivations of patrons seem to have changed, to summarize, folks see more desire for socialization among patrons and between patrons and staff. Interactions have become less transactional at the libraries.
- 2:1, libraries are reporting they are issuing more library cards than in pre-pandemic times.

We now live in an era where in Columbia County several *Lions Clubs* and *Rotary* have disbanded due to lack of participation. The role of libraries has changed to take on some of the services these agencies did provide. For example, collection site for food pantries, collecting winter coats and items for cancer patients through the annual "Great Give Back".

#### 4. Summary of "Overdrive," Libby for 2022

10 Libraries had less e-book usage than Livingston Free Library, including 4 in Columbia County: Canaan, New Lebanon, N. Chatham, Philmont Libraries. This is not the same amount for e-audio books, maybe more commuters in other libraries.

This is an indicator that our patrons are following the trend of preferred usage of e-material. Need to increase our collection budget to meet this demand.

#### 5. System wide Director's Meeting February 9, 2023

##### Overdrive changes

- ❖ Previously NYS funding to the Central Library (Adriance) for e-material purchases was only for Non-Fiction items.
- ❖ DA voted to approve change in policy to allow both Fiction and Non-Fiction items to be purchased with Central Library funds.
- ❖ Adjust the spending targets to include those items with the highest Consortia Holds. This would help the burden of individual libraries purchasing popular new items.

##### Reciprocal Lending Agreement with Overdrive

OverDrive offers a "Reciprocal Lending Agreement" (RLA) to allow library systems to share their collections "across borders" with other library systems how have negotiated access terms with each other. The platforms of the other systems would remain separate from ours, available as an external link where our patrons might seek out additional content.

- ❖ Currently MHLS has been in agreement with Upper Hudson Library System for this agreement. More MHLS patrons borrow from Upper Hudson Library System than their patrons borrow from MHLS
- ❖ Southern Adirondack Library System (19,000 items to share) and Mohawk Valley Library System have reached out to share items in Overdrive.
- ❖ DA voted to agree to allow these 2 library systems to reciprocal lendin