

To: The Greene County Legislature
From: Greene County Libraries Association
S. Ray, President
Re: 2016 Annual Report
Date: April 1, 2017

Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.
-R. Davis Lankes

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The Greene County Libraries Association (GCLA) is made up of eight public libraries:

Library	Address	Category
Athens (DR Evarts) Library	80 Second St., Athens	Special District
Cairo Public Library	512 Main St., Cairo	Municipal
Catskill (& Palenville Branch) Library	1 Franklin St., Catskill	School District
Coxsackie (Heermance Memorial)	1 Ely St., Coxsackie	Special District
Greenville Library	11177 Route 32, Greenville	Municipal
Hunter Public Library	7965 Main St., Hunter	School District
Mountain Top Library	6093 Main St., Tannersville	Association
Windham Public Library	5379 Rte. 23, Windham	Municipal

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\$32,700

Total County Funding Received in 2016

County funding is distributed as follows:

\$20,500: Greene County Resident Support

The majority of County funding is equally distributed among each Greene County Library (GCL) for resident support. Funding is used exclusively for resident (patron) services.

\$3,800: Technical Training / Support

Each GCL has computers for public use. Public computers are heavily used in each library. To ensure equipment is up-to-date, virus-free, and running smoothly, this portion of County funding is used to compensate IT personnel, whether from the Mid-Hudson Library System or local technology support. Funding is distributed equally throughout the year. At year-end, if any library needs more than their allotted amount, the Association votes whether to approve the request.

\$3,000: Online Databases

Statistics have shown a decline in overall use of traditional print-reference material. In light of this trend, libraries have responded accordingly. Libraries have long understood the importance of digital resources and have prepared for the increase by simultaneously creating and increasing access to electronic resources. This portion of County funding is specifically dedicated to online databases. Each Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) member library contributes funding to the following databases:

- **Chilton Auto Repair Guides:** *Accurate, complete, detailed repair and service information for any make and model of car, truck, van or SUV. Any car DIY job from suspension, brakes, clutch or gearbox, to electrical and engine diagrams for auto repair . . .*
- **Mango Languages:** *An effective language learning system that teaches real conversation skills for practical communication.*
- **Consumer Reports:** *An independent, nonprofit organization that works side by side with consumers to create a fairer, safer, and healthier world.*
- **Hudson River Valley Heritage** (hrvh.org) *Consists of [D]igital collections from libraries and cultural heritage institutions that document the rich history of New York's Hudson River Valley. [P]hotographs, diaries, artwork, publications, and oral history interviews [all] contribute to the stories of the people, places, and events that make this region exceptional.*

\$3,200: Downloadable eBooks & Audiobooks

The popularity of and accessibility to personal devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops) has long changed the way libraries work. In order to properly respond to community wants and needs, this portion of County funding helps purchase new e-content.

\$1,100: GCLA Outreach

Librarians have long heard that libraries “have the best stuff” but getting the word out about that stuff needs improvement. County funding for outreach, publicity, marketing, brochures, etc. assists greatly in getting the word out.

\$600: Book Page Subscription

As librarians, professional development is essential. Staying aware of trends is vital. This portion of County funding enables GCLs to subscribe to BookPage, a collection development publication, easily accessible to librarians and patrons alike.

\$500: Preparation of Annual Tax Report

GCLA is a 501C-3 organization and uses an outside accountant to review and prepare our taxes in order to be completely transparent with taxpayer/county funding.

All GCLs are part of the Mid-Hudson Library System. As system members, GCL patrons in five counties - Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam & Ulster - have access to the collections of 66-member libraries. Collections include books, movies, music, video games, Leaps, Nooks, newspapers, magazines, reference, local & New York State history material. Patrons can place holds on items found in the online catalog (search.midhudsonlibraries.org) and have them delivered to their local library. In the wee hours five days a week, courier vans drive throughout the five counties delivering material to each MHLS-member library.

Greene County Library (GCL) Services & Stories

Greene County Resident Support

Libraries often act as community centers, areas for folks to come together.

Many patrons, especially those who are older and live alone, often confide that the highlight of their week is visiting their library for they know they will be greeted with a smile and remembered by name.

Very often, community members meet at the library and fall into all sorts of conversations: family weddings, impromptu book/film discussions, play-date arrangements, job opportunities.

Welcome centers

Greene County is a popular, year-round, tourist destination (Hudson River Valley, Marinas, Ski Resorts, Restaurants). GCLs often act as welcome centers for visitors who are looking for information.

Extended families

A mom, dad and their two teenage daughters were regular visitors to their GC library. Library staff had known the family for years and regularly helped with resources. When mom became pregnant, staff continued to help, with healthcare, childcare and baby-sitting certification resources.

When baby D was born, she ran before she walked, loved to shout, and pulled items off shelves. Gently, with mom's help, staff enforced the library code of conduct (respect for others & property, inside vs outside voices, sharing, cleaning up) as well as consequences for bad behavior (no library visit today), D's behavior greatly improved. After D was enrolled in the local Head Start program, mom told staff that D never would've been ready for school if not for library staff who, she said, acted as her "extended family". She said that in other public venues, D's behavior was not appreciated, and they were often made to feel unwelcome. Library staff, however, always welcomed D which helped her acclimate not only to the library, but to the world outside.

Programs: Makers Clubs

A few GCLs offer Makers Clubs in response to the popularity of Makers Culture which highlights a Do-It-Yourself philosophy while integrating technology (electronics, robotics, 3-D printing). One GCL conducted an egg drop for all ages with the help of their local Makers Syndicate group. Participants used library craft materials to create a structure that

would protect an egg when dropped from a height. They used the Internet to research air speed, velocity, wind patterns, etc. For this project, three different heights were used: the top of the stairs, the second story window, the roof. The program concluded with three winners.

A few GCLs offer free exercise programs. One offers a monthly program where a licensed/insured instructor visits the library to conduct exercise programs. The library is transformed into a Yoga-like studio, emptying the room of furniture, dimming the lighting and setting up aromatic diffusers.

Summer Reading Programs

SRPs are extremely popular for public libraries. Many of our families look forward to it all year. Many libraries also offer Adult Reading Programs that have been well-received. One GCL noted that one reader completed 100 books from July 1st to August 31.

Miscellaneous

Non-credit college courses sponsored by Columbia Greene Community College
Art/Watercolor classes / Drum & Dance Circle / Healthcare assistance / Lego Clubs

Technical Training Support

The library is the only resource in town, other than paying for college courses, where people can get computer assistance free of charge. The most frequent requests for help are: creating email accounts, creating resumes, completing online job applications.

Patron V visited a GCL for help finding a job. As V had limited computer skills and no written resume, staff suggested one-on-one, hour-long sessions to spend more quality time. Staff got to know V, background and interests, etc. then introduced him to the Job & Career Resources under the Home Access link on the library website. V. was able to get live assistance creating a resume, practicing mock interview skills, and advice about follow-up etiquette after the interview. V found a job that suited him well. Ever since his first visit, he has been a regular library user. Two weeks ago, he returned with a financial donation saying that he wanted to give the library a percentage of the first paycheck for the help he received.

Online Databases

GCL patron Q was thrilled when MHLS bought access to the digital version of Consumer Reports. She was in the market for a new car and CR, her favorite resource for comparing products, was too expensive to purchase on her own. She now owns a 2016 Toyota Rav4. She took a selfie with her new car in front of her local GCL.

Downloadable eBooks and Audiobooks

GCL patron T travels frequently. She always purchased eBooks online until she was told about Overdrive at her library. Overdrive is a digital library that allows patrons to download content on to their computer, table or handheld device. It is free for library patrons. T is

now a frequent visitor to the Overdrive app on her smartphone. She recently thanked the library for saving her money in her monthly budget.

Outreach

Several GCLs cater to the homeschool community offering their time, space and resources. One GCL offered their space for a Homeschool Meetup during their regular hours. The group grew so large that it was disturbing other patrons so the library now offers their space after-hours to accommodate this community group in need. Several families throughout GC have commented that their home (GC) library offers tremendous support to homeschooling families.

A GCL staff member was at the local Recycling Center and learned that the Center acts as a Community Service location for those who may have overstepped the law. She met S who'd had a library card when younger and living in foster care. She wanted library privileges again but her account was blocked for unreturned items. The librarian suggested she come in, speak with staff and see what could be done. As per policy those 17 & under cannot get a library card without a parent or guardian. S, now in her twenties, no longer had contact with her former guardians or access to the unreturned items. Staff was able to compromise with S. reinstating her card. While at the library, S found out that two GCLs offer GED classes & testing.

Two GCLs offer a *Follow That Book* program. FTB takes traditional storytime out of the library building and into the community. FTB has visited banks, restaurants, insurance companies, community centers, arts councils, bicycle shops and small businesses. Participants are given a tour of the location, are provided with snacks and coloring pages and learn appropriate behavior while in public spaces. They, along with their parents and caregivers, have a fun and educational way to learn about the community in which they live.

Many GCL patrons are housebound and therefore unable to physically visit the library. GCLs help these folks either by ordering items based on their wish lists, offering door-to-door delivery, or arranging for easy pick up of items.

Incarcerated

MHLS provides service and support to each of the six state correctional facilities in our region. Libraries are also, often, the first stop for those recently released after a term of incarceration.

*** Youth-Friendly**

All GCLs offer early Literacy or 'storytime' programs include stories, songs, crafts and snacks. Such age-appropriate programs have long proven to prepare our youngest patrons for the future. Kids learn how to socialize, to respect others, to concentrate on individual tasks, to exercise their creativity and imagination and to work on their fine motor skills. Such programs also give parents & guardians the chance to network and socialize with others in their community.

* Reference & Readers Advisory

The Catskill Region is a popular tourist destination and all GCLs frequently see visitors from other parts of the country. Local History collections and NY State history items see increased usage especially during the summer months

Favorite quote

Mom: *The Library has been like a candy store to my kids ever since they were little.*

Thank You

GCLA is extremely thankful for the funding received from the Greene County Legislature. The GCLA is sincerely thankful to the Greene Co. Legislature for recognizing the importance of public libraries and for consistently fighting for continued funding. We will continue to work to be worthy of such support and help build a stronger County.

Operating Fund Receipts**Budget**

1	Greene County Legislative Grant	32,700.00
2	Mid-Hudson Summer Reading Grant	
3	Other Income	
4	Reserve Fund	

Total \$32,700.00

Total Operating Fund Receipts \$32,700.00

Beginning Balance Cash

Balance \$32,700.00

Operating Fund Disbursements**Original
Budget**

1	Technical Training / Support	3,800.00
2	Greene County Resident Support	20,500.00
3	Online Databases	3,000.00
4	Downloadable / eBooks & Audiobooks	3,200.00
5	Preparation of Annual Tax Report	500.00
6	GCLA Outreach (Fair, Brochures/HRVH)	1,100.00
7	Book Page Subscription	600.00
8	Other - Meeting Expenses, Misc.	

Total \$32,700.00

Total Operat. Fund Disbursements \$32,700.00