



Connect Pass

Emily Blackmore, Children's and Youth Services and Collection Librarian

Anna Swanson, Social Media and Collections Librarian

Stefany Royles, Library Technician IV, A.C. Hunter Public Library

This March the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries launched the new NLPL Connect Pass program, a partnership between the public library and arts and recreation groups across the province. Anyone with a public library card can use the Connect Pass program to book passes to a large range of activities- from theatre shows, to campground spots, to local sports games, to museum passes, and more! Community partners include our provincial parks, various museums and historical sites, Memorial University's Botanical Gardens and Johnson Geo Centre, just to name a few.

Goals of the Connect Pass

The Connect Pass was designed to make culture and learning more accessible to everyone in Newfoundland and Labrador, and encourages our patrons to have fun and learn while saving money. In an article for CBC in March, Anna Swanson, who oversaw this project, said that the Connect Pass program "grants a low-stakes way for people to try new things while providing fun activities, hands-on learning opportunities or even a chance to find new hobbies"

"There's so many ways that learning happens, and hands-on learning is something we really wanted to be able to provide. That kind of free and equitable access ... because not everyone has access to it,"

"It can cost a lot to try something new, especially with a larger family.... But if you go and it's a big hit and everyone loves it, then it's a known quantity and it's a little easier to bundle up the next time and head out and do that. So it really is a chance to build new experiences and habits and familiarities."

Our system goals for the Connect Pass are varied, and include the widespread promotion of library services alongside our province's varied and rich cultural and recreational services, to reach new audiences for both the library and our community partners, to support social connectedness, and to collaborate with multiple groups with whom we can strengthen bonds that lead to in-library programming.

How does it work?

Passes for this program are provided as in-kind donations for community partners, and each pass is good for up to two adults and 4 children or youth. All someone needs to access it is a NLPL library card. Once a patron

NL residents can use the NLPL Connect Pass program to book a pass for free admission to a wide range of museums, art galleries, parks, gardens, recreational facilities, performing arts shows, and sports games. This program encourages our patrons to save money, have fun, and learn more about what Newfoundland and Labrador has to offer. All that's required is a library card!

books a pass with the Connect Pass it works much the same way a concert or movie ticket does. You either download the pass to your phone or device or print it off and show it, along with a valid driver's license, to get into your chosen activity or event. Patrons booking the pass must have an adult or teen library card and be 13 or older. Patrons who don't have access to a digital device, the internet, or a printer at home, can get assistance from the library with booking and printing, and printing a pass is free of charge- a wonderful accessibility feature for our patrons.

A subset of the program focuses specifically on organizations serving newcomers, youth at risk, indigenous communities and other groups that can face barriers to access. This part of the program, administered in partnership with NL organizations, allows their staff to book passes of a larger size to support existing programs. For example, an organization serving newcomers can book a group pass for a volunteer host family to take a newcomer family out to a local activity. This allows the library to extend the service to groups who might otherwise be hard to reach. It also leverages cultural and recreational resources of the province to help address social isolation, foster a sense of belonging, and overcome barriers to access and participation in community life.

How has it been going?

Everyone involved in this project was excited to see it get off the ground, and interested to know how the public would respond. As a system we saw over 1400 new registrations the week that the Connect Pass was launched, so respond the public did! There was lots of news coverage about the Connect Pass, and staff across the province has received training and plenty of emails to detail how it all works.

Staff have also reported that patrons are very happy with how easy the software we use to book the passes is to use, and many people have reported using the pass to take in local events or amusement- a huge success in the first few months since it's launch by any metric.

So far the Connect Pass program has been a huge success for both the NLPL and our community partners. Similar lending pass programs have been offered by other library systems across the country, and the benefit for both libraries and the community is plain to see. We're very excited to be able to offer this wonderful initiative here in Newfoundland and Labrador and look forward to connecting with even more community groups in the future.

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CBS New Library Opening

Emily Blackmore, Children’s and Youth Services and Collections Librarian

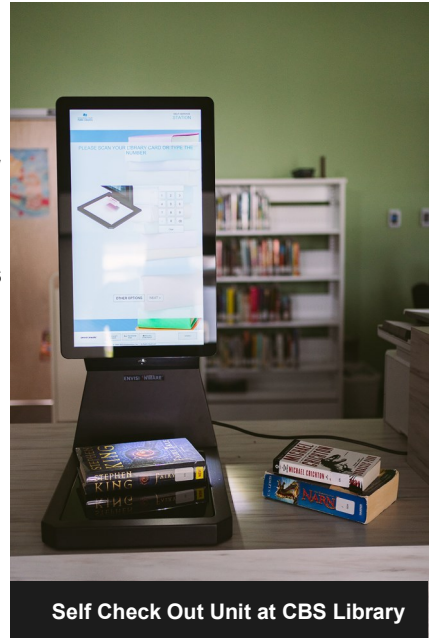
Andrew Lockhart, Eastern Division Manager

On April 6th 2023, the town of Conception Bay South and the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries held a grand opening for the new Conception Bay South Public Library. At the event, the town officially named the building the Clarence J. Morgan Building, dedicated to long-time Conception Bay South businessman Clarence J. Morgan. On hand to help celebrate the new library were Mayor Darrin Bent, the Honourable Dr. John Haggie, officials from both the local and provincial Library Boards, Bonnie Morgan acting as the Director of Library Operations, many library staff, and over fifty members of Mr. Morgan’s family.

The new library includes a tablet loaning station for in-library use, an outdoor reading garden, a children’s programming space, and a makerspace (that includes a 3D printer, hydroponic gardens, and a sewing machine) that has allowed the NLPL to test out lots of new equipment and initiatives. The makerspace that was developed has inspired several other local boards to fund their own spaces. Eastern Division will have five makerspaces by the end of the year.

For our first purpose-built library in over a decade, there was a considerable amount of thought put into accessibility: It’s all on one floor, and has accessible washrooms, an accessible PC desk, and a child-minding station. The modular layout of the furniture has “let us host huge community events,” Andrew Lockhart, Eastern Division Manager says, “including author readings, a Canada Skilled Trades event, and a visit from Buddy the Puffin.”

Circulation is up 60 percent from pre-pandemic levels and the branch has registered over 1500 new users since opening. A boon to the community, patrons have been flocking to the new branch to view the space, attend programs, and check out library materials.



Self Check Out Unit at CBS Library



Picture of the new Conception Bay South Public Library from the Town of Conception Bay South website.

Andrew Lockhart had the following to say: “The library has been a huge success. Everyone involved in the project put in a huge amount of effort, and I think that it shows when you walk through the space. The local library board deserves a lot of credit for pushing this project along for decades. And their fundraising is what allowed us to have a makerspace and lots of the new technology beyond what we normally have in our libraries, like the public use tablets, and even extra furniture.



It was a big project from the get-go, and many hands were involved in its creation. Andrew states that the staff at the branch “did a great job moving to the new space and getting it opened. And once we opened it didn’t stop: it was a huge effort developing an entirely new slate of programming. So many different people and groups reached out to partner with us or make suggestions. We tried to listen to all of the needs of the community members and deciding what offerings would have the largest effect.”

“Seeing people using the library and being in the space the first day that it opened was very rewarding. The project was just sets of plans and ideas for so long, it was surreal to see real people enjoying the space. I also really enjoyed getting to meet our first artist in residence, Hanna Furs, and see her working and showing her process to patrons. I’d really hoped that the new space would make projects like that feasible.”

A big thank you to all of the staff involved in the planning, packing, moving, unpacking, setting up, and run-



A peak of the Children’s area at the new library.

ning of our newest library branch. We look forward to seeing how well the community of CBS is served by its library for years to come.

Some quotes from the article the town of CBS did on the opening for their website:

“We are very proud to add this state-of-the-art library resource center to our town for the benefit of all residents. The

resources and technology offered here at no charge have already provided our youth with new ways to explore their imagination and are an accessible venue for our seniors to avail of new technologies, learn new skills, or simply have access to books and videos. Since opening its doors, our local library has registered

1,315 new members, a true testament to its value. I am grateful to our government and community partners who have helped us enhance the quality of life of our residents.”

His Worship, Mayor
Darrin Bent
Conception Bay
South



3D Printers at the CBS Library

“Whether it is getting your first library card to sign out your first book or taking your child to story time, public libraries are an important part of a community. The Provincial Government is pleased to provide \$230,000 annually to the library so it can provide the best services and make this a space for everyone in the community. Congratulations to all those who helped make the new Conception Bay South public library a reality.”

Honourable John Haggie
Minister of Education

“This is a very exciting day for Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries. This new building is a reflection of the importance and vitality of public libraries. We appreciate the ongoing support of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, The Department of Education, and the Town of Conception Bay South, and we look forward to working together to provide excellent library services to our communities.”

Andrew Hunt
Executive Director, Newfoundland Labrador Public Libraries

“Our family is proud to have the Clarence J. Morgan Building named in recognition of our father’s lifetime of contributions to the town. Dad was all about community development and a big believer in learning and education. This is certainly a fitting tribute that will honour his legacy.”

Christine Hand
Daughter of Clarence J. Morgan



End cap display at CBS Library

Introducing...

A segment to introduce new people and positions at the NLPL

We asked some of our new team members about their jobs, what led to them working in libraries, and to tell us a little bit about themselves in this new feature.

Chantel Gale, Early Literacy Training Administrator

My name is Chantel Gale and I am the new Early Literacy Training Administrator for the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board. I am the administrator to our team of Early Literacy specialists.

With early literacy in mind and its importance for children from birth to six years of age, our team will be focusing on community outreach, providing supports for early literacy programs offered in libraries, and promoting what we can do for families, caregivers, teachers and ECE's in our communities. Working with the libraries will allow us to help provide literacy experiences to young children, I believe every child should have equal opportunity to develop reading skills and learn a love for books! I am so excited to promote early literacy in our communities and show everyone what Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries can offer families and their children.

I am a busy mom of two: My son Jaxon is 14yrs old and my daughter Julia is 9. I also have two Havanese dogs (Josie and Jett). My hobbies would include volunteering with my kid's sports programs, evening walks with my dogs and the occasional craft project on my Cricut machine. My favourite snack is basically anything sweet, I have a weakness for pastries and candy lol. I look forward to getting to know everyone!



Chantel and her family

Sherri Wright, Early Literacy Training Specialist for Western

My name is Sherri Wight, Early Learning Training Specialist for the Western region. I am able to guide and support staff in helping them enhance their Early Literacy Programs through training, as well as by helping find ways to engage the public and entice families to come enjoy our amazing libraries and the programs that we have to offer. I will also be doing outreach with the children in our communities, by providing story times in child care settings, community events, as well as supporting Educators in providing information about what Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries can do to support them.



Sherri and her dog

For me, working with the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries has always been a dream. I have fond memories going to the Corner Brook Public Library (used to be at the Sir Richards Squires Building), with my family as well as with summer day camps that I used to attend. From a very early age, I was presented with the importance that libraries have on our education and future. When the job posting came up, I knew that it was destiny that I applied. An opportunity to work with NLPL as well get to utilize my background in Early Childhood Education.

My priority is to ensure that staff have the training and support that they need to be successful in engaging our early literacy patrons. I am very excited about doing outreach in our communities, meeting the public and showing how amazing our libraries are and what we have to offer.

The last book that I loved was “Anatomy: A Love Story” by Dana Schwartz. My favorite quote is “Maybe hope has a way of unlocking itself, as long as you allow it to.” – Chief Boden, Chicago Fire. In my spare time you will almost always find me with my husband as well as with my dog, reading or enjoying the wonderful outdoors.

Natasha Mercer, Early Literacy Training Specialist for Eastern Division

My name is Natasha Mercer and I am the Early Literacy Training Specialist for Eastern. My job is to continue outreach and training initiatives while assessing current needs and supporting library staff. This is my first time officially working in libraries but I have always been involved with my local library. Originally, I am from Victoria and I was a regular patron to my library as young as a toddler. I presently live in Whitbourne and was member of the local board for many years. I love providing any support that can enhance the literacy skills of anyone but I have a long history volunteering and working with children.

As an Early Childhood Educator I have been in the daycare field for over 20 years, regulated and unregulated, and I understand the needs for early years literacy intervention. My priority, and the thing I am excited about in this role is outreach and educating the public about everything that the libraries offer. Through this education, I hope to encourage the public to continue utilizing the libraries and all it offers.

The last book I read was Mistborn by Brandon Sanderson. It's a great series and I am continuing to read book 2, The Well Of Ascension.

I don't think I have a favorite saying but I feel "subject to change" is something I often think and use. Be prepared to alter plans. My favorite hobby is hanging with my husband, 3 teenagers and 3 dogs- never a dull moment.

Rachel Head, Literacy Services Librarian

My job is dedicated to helping develop, maintain and promote literacy services for adults and families. Currently, I'm working on promoting our LinkedIn Learning service, partnering with other literacy organizations, and creating a literacy services Subject Guide for patrons and staff.

My love for books, building relationships with communities/organizations, and helping people with their information needs is what led me to work in libraries. My short-term priorities for this role are continuing the projects that the last Literacy Services Librarian planned/collaborated, teaching the team about LinkedIn Learning, and finishing/publishing the Literacy Services Subject Guide.

My long-term goals would be building relationships with various stakeholders to serve the diverse needs of our patrons. For example, I would really like to work with the Association for New Canadians (ANC) in order to create a series of book club kits with basic information about the library and literacy services/tips/books.

I really loved the music from the new Little Mermaid movie with Halle Bailey, my favourite saying is “no worries”, and I'll quote anything from Lord of the Rings if given the chance. I love playing Dungeons and Dragons in my spare time, and my favourite snack would be ketchup chips.

Emily Critch, Indigenous Storyteller in Residence, A.C. Hunter Public Library

My work with NLPL includes supporting the development and delivery of creative library programming for all ages around Indigenous storytelling and sovereignty as well as mentoring and advising new and emerging storytellers. The other part of this position as the storyteller in Residence is working on my own creative projects, including drafting my first collection of poetry, development for art exhibitions and curatorial projects, writing about art history and visual culture in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and also writing articles and reviews about local art exhibitions. My priority is to encourage and support as many emerging Indigenous storytellers locally, and more broadly within this province, as much as I can.



Going to the library was one of my favourite activities as a little kid (and it still is to this day). I've always loved reading and art, so I knew I would be involving those things in my professional life as an adult. Outside of this residency, I work primarily as a freelance curator, writer, and artist, using a variety of ways to participate in storytelling. I was referred to NLPL for this Indigenous Storyteller in Residence position by the team at First Light.

I would love storytellers of all mediums to reach out or come visit me at the library during my open hours to share about the work they are doing. I am able to offer mentorship and support to new and emerging storytellers who work within any medium of their choice (including but not limited to writing, visual arts, dance, film, music, curatorial practice, and more). Some things I can help you with are:

- Talking about how to brainstorm,
- Refining the ideas you are trying to communicate and how to present them,
- Reading and discussing your work in progress,
- How to apply for grants and funding to support your storytelling, and
- Knowledge on support you could access on a local, provincial, and national level.

I just finished the video game Lemon Cake...I'm not a big videogame person but I love time management restaurant games like Diner Dash (R.I.P.), and farm games like Stardew Valley and Harvest Moon. Lemon Cake is a time management video game where you restore and upgrade an abandoned bakery and prepare the pastries from farm to table. When I'm not curating exhibitions or writing articles or poems, I am knitting and watching movies!

Nathan Hynes, Digital Literacy & Technology Librarian

Tell us a bit about the scope of your job (what do you do? what are you in charge of?)

I'm working on expanding our digital literacy resources and programming province-wide. This includes the upcoming rollout of new online learning features for patrons, and additional staff training in technology-related skills.

What led you to work in libraries?

My background is mixed - I hold a B.Sc., majoring in Pure Math and Computer Science. Then I completed my Bachelor of Education, combined with a Diploma in Technology Education. All of these things jumbled up, plus my history growing up at the Mount Pearl public library, meant that I was drawn to libraries as a space where people gather and I can use my tech skills to help others.

What's something you'd like people to know about the work you're doing for the NLPL?

I'm always interested in seeing what other folks are doing with technology in libraries. If you've got an interesting project or idea in the works, let me know!

What are some things you're excited to take on in the role?

I'm excited to roll out some additional training and supports for staff, and begin offering more one-on-one learning experiences for our patrons!



Nathan's best friend, Jake! (Husky mix, age 7)

What's the last book/videogame/film/album you loved?

I've been inching closer and closer to the 100% completion of the newest Legend of Zelda game.

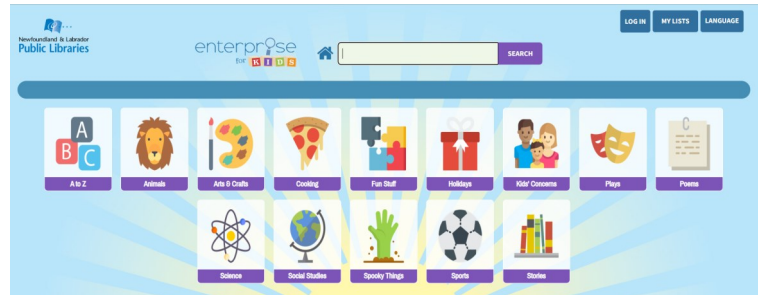
Tell us about a hobby you enjoy?

I am a huge gaming nerd, playing a lot of video games and board games with friends and family. I volunteer with a group of gamers who raise money for local charities every year (Sandbox Gaming). I'm also involved with a community choir here in St. John's – Spectrum Queer Choir – and really enjoy the community building that comes along with it.

An Overview of the NLPL Children’s Catalogue

Liam Whalen, Systems Librarian

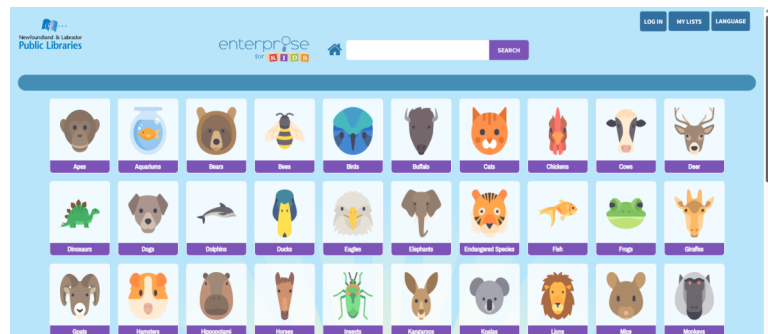
With the new school year just starting, NLPL has a new catalogue that kids can use to help them choose items for their reading goals. The children’s catalogue is designed to show readers books in the juvenile collection. It offers icons that youngsters can use to get to know their library’s online space and a search bar for those smarties that are no longer satisfied with the icons’ results.



The pictures on the main page allow patrons to interact with the images and get search results without having to know exactly what they are looking for. Some icons, like Poems, will get search results right away. Others, like Animals, will display another set of icons to give the kids more choices.

Search Bar

As kids start to learn more, they can use the search bar to find items in the children’s collection. This search works like the search bar in the NLPL catalogue, but it offers less options to make the process simpler. The search is a key-word search. If kids or staff want to look for specific details, they can use the facets (more about those below) to the right of the search results.



Search Results

After searching with an icon or entering keywords, the results show large book covers that are easy to interact with and see.

When patrons hover over an item, the title of the book is shown. This may cause the icons to get larger and move the row below it down. This is normal for the children’s catalogue.

Facets

Patrons and staff can use the facets on the right of the screen to narrow search results quickly. For instance, children at the Port au Port library can find the 12 items at their library that match the icon search Science -> Science Projects. To do that, they can click on the ‘View all’ at the bottom of the ‘Library’ facet and check the box besides Port au Port, then click the ‘Include’ button.

Facets in the children’s catalogue, with the exception of the ‘Publication Date’ facet work the same as those in the NLPL catalogue. You can learn more about facets in the new catalogue staff LibGuide: <https://guides.nlpl.ca/catalogue/facets>

Library Card Accounts

Access to patron accounts is limited in the children's catalogue. Because some kids may not have cards, this catalogue allows access to My Lists, which can be used with or without a card. If a child has a card, they can log in to place holds. However, they will not have the Enterprise My Account options. By using the NLPL logo in the upper right corner of the children's catalogue, kids can easily access the main catalogue if they have permission to do so.

The screenshot displays the search results page with several filter panels. The 'Library' panel on the left lists various locations with their respective result counts. The 'Limit Search Results' panel on the right shows filters for Library, Author, Format, and Subject, each with an 'Include' and 'Exclude' button.

Library	Results
<input type="checkbox"/> St. John's - A.C. Hunter	(44)
<input type="checkbox"/> Corner Brook	(30)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mount Pearl - Ross King Memorial Public Library	(20)
<input type="checkbox"/> St. John's - Marjorie Mews	(20)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carmanville	(13)
<input type="checkbox"/> Gander	(13)
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Lawrence	(12)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Falls-Windsor - Harmsworth	(12)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Port au Port	(12)
<input type="checkbox"/> Clarenville	(11)
<input type="checkbox"/> St. John's - Michael Donovan	(11)
<input type="checkbox"/> Port aux Basques	(11)
<input type="checkbox"/> Glovertown	(10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Labrador City	(10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wabush	(10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pouch Cove	(8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Marystown	(8)

Library	Include	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> St. John's - A.C. Hunter		(44)
<input type="checkbox"/> Corner Brook		(30)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mount Pearl - Ross King Memorial Public Library		(20)
<input type="checkbox"/> St. John's - Marjorie Mews		(20)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carmanville		(13)
▶ More		
▶ View All		

Author	Include	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Gardner, Robert, 1929-		(8)
<input type="checkbox"/> VanCleave, Janice Pratt.		(8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Young, Karen Romano.		(7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonnet, Robert L.		(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rakola, Matthew.		(5)
▶ More		
▶ View All		

Format	Include	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Books		(121)
<input type="checkbox"/> Audio disc		(2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Resources		(1)

Subject	Include	Exclude
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Enterprise guide for My Lists: <https://guides.nlpl.ca/catalogue/lists>

Enterprise guide for placing holds: <https://guides.nlpl.ca/catalogue/catalogue-account-holds>

Select an Action

When looking at search results, patrons can click the 'Select an Action' menu to add check marked items to My Lists, send those items' details to an email address, or place a hold on them.

Enterprise Guide for the Select an Action options: <https://guides.nlpl.ca/catalogue/catalogue-details>

Sort By

Kids can sort their results by author, publication date ascending and descending, relevance, and title. When the results are sorted, the 300 most relevant results are chosen and the applicable sorting is performed. Notice the 1,204 results for science fiction and the 300 results in the next picture, which shows those same results sorted by title.

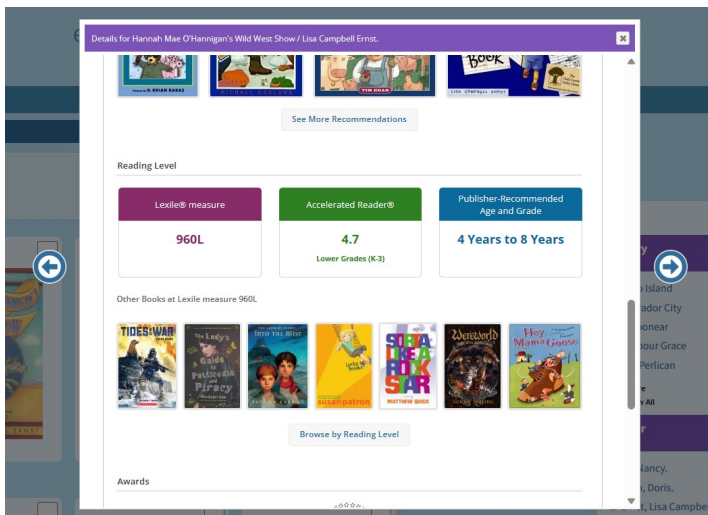


Reading Level

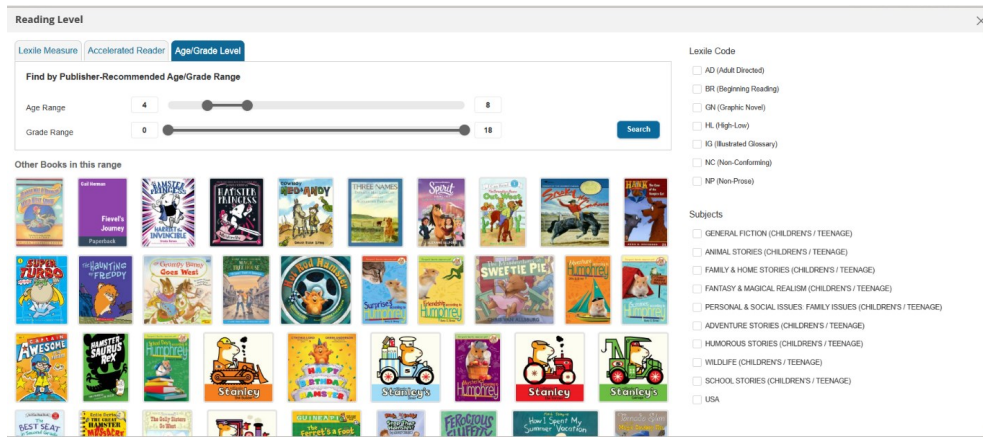
Similar to the main catalogue, the kids' catalogue has added content in the Details and More... tabs. There is a Reading Level feature that is designed to help parents, staff, and children, find items that are suitable for kids' reading levels. If your grade five bookworm needs more of a challenge, the reading level recommendations can suggest titles for higher grades. Conversely, if someone needs more support, then easier to read items can be found.

There are three Reading Level features that may or may not be shown for an item: Lexile measure, accelerated reading, and publisher-recommended age and grade level. When patrons click on one of these they are shown a window with new titles they can choose from. These items will be similar in reading level to the book they are looking at. In addition, the settings for the recommendations can be adjusted to find less or more advanced reading options.

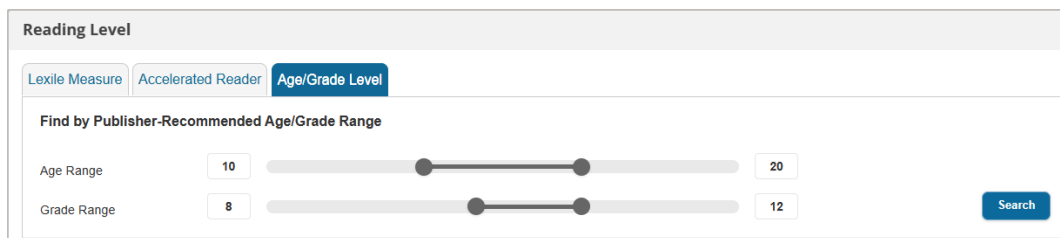
The three Reading Level options.



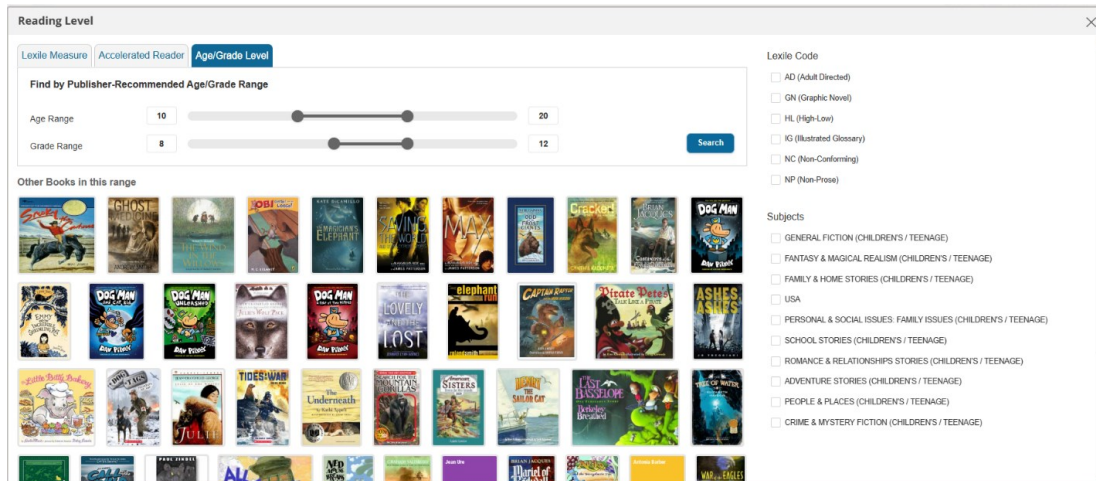
The title suggestions when using the Publisher-Recommended Age and Grade feature.



The Reading Level Age Range and Grade Range sliders after adjustment.



The title suggestions using the new age and grade ranges.



You can access the [children's catalogue](https://catalogue.nlpl.ca/client/en_US/children) (https://catalogue.nlpl.ca/client/en_US/children) at the NLPL website's Library Catalogue section.

A Visit with Premier Andrew Furey at Deer Lake Public Library Judy Dunne, Library Technician IIA, Deer Lake Public Library

It was a pleasure to welcome Premier Andrew Furey and his associates to the Deer Lake Public Library on the afternoon of May 17th, 2023. The local library board had extended an invitation to the premier, by way of a letter several months earlier, to visit our library. Premier Furey is also the MHA for our district, so the board was doubly vested in having him visit. The visit provided an opportunity to show Premier Furey around the library facility, highlight some of the many services and programs being offered by the library staff, to speak of current projects of the board, as well as share some needs that the board would like to have addressed. The premier also had the opportunity to meet and speak with patrons of our Kindred Spirits (knitting) group and dropped in to see young readers at our Storytime

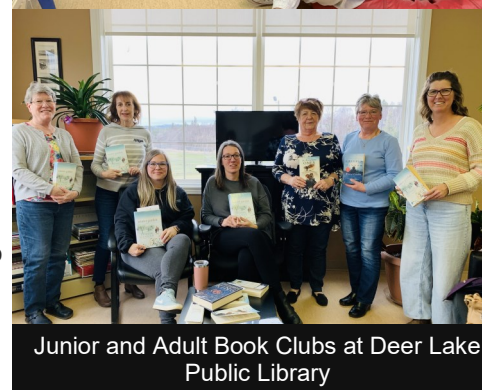


Premier Andrew Furey visits the Deer Lake Public Library

program, both happening at the time of his visit, at the lower level of the library. Premier Furey was genuinely interested in the happenings at the library and spoke to understanding the important role libraries have and was positive of his appreciation of the Deer Lake Public Library. All around, it was a successful visit, and an opportunity to showcase the positive influence of Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries.

Reading - Fun for All Ages Judy Dunne, Library Technician IIA, Deer Lake Public Library

We all love books, and one way to showcase our passion for reading is to host a monthly book club. At Deer Lake Public Library, we currently host 3 separate book clubs per month, highlighting 3 different age groups. We started an Adult Book Club back in the fall of last year, and currently have 12 registered for this program, with a growing interest. In the New Year, we decided to try a Young Adult Book Club, that is continuing to grow in popularity. In April of this year, we hosted an outreach event at our local Junior High School and took advantage of this opportunity to promote a new book club for Junior students. When we host our book club, we strive to make a comfortable space for patrons, to sit back, relax, and talk about books! One way to spark interest in our programming is by promoting our service through our Facebook page. After each meeting, we share a photo of the current book we read and a short description to engage with other patrons. It is always great to connect with your community and to remember to have fun along the way. Happy reading!



Junior and Adult Book Clubs at Deer Lake Public Library

Newcomer Artist in Residence

Sarah Bartlett, Regional Librarian Eastern Division

Hanna Furs is the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries' first Newcomer Artist in Residence.

Hanna, who is originally from Ukraine, is a multidisciplinary artist whose skills include painting, paper cutting, and doll making – all in the Ukrainian tradition.

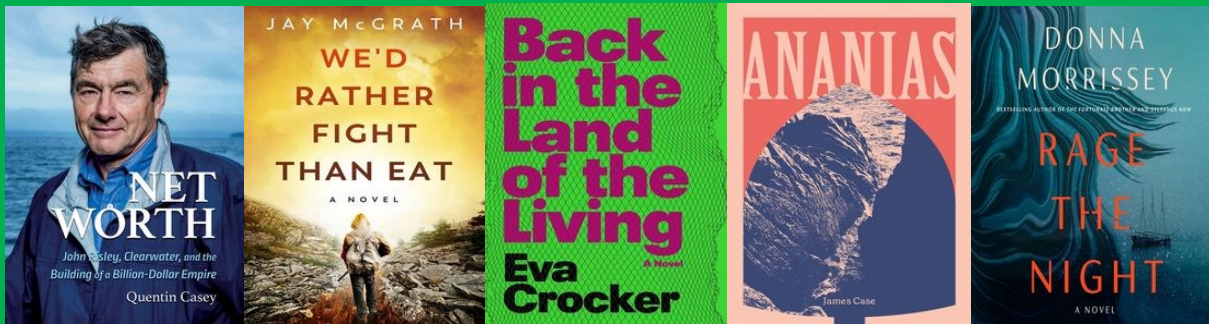
This opportunity arose from a partnership struck between NL Public Libraries and the CBC, allowing Hanna the opportunity to practice her art and share her knowledge with the community.

Workshops were open to the public starting June 10th, running through to August 12th at the Conception Bay South Public Library. The library was very excited to have her!



Hanna Furs, the NLPL Newcomer Artist in Residence with her art on display at the C.B.S. Public Library

New in the eLibrary for patrons who love Libby!



Bay Roberts Seed Library

Sarah Bartlett, Regional Librarian Eastern Division

The Bay Roberts library is now offering seeds to patrons in their new Seed Library initiative.

Laura Saunders, Library Assistant in Bay Roberts, was instrumental in making the program a success. With help from the local board, seeds were purchased and instructional pamphlets were created to inform gardeners on the best practices for their crops.

Seed libraries often encourage patrons to grow food as well as save seeds from their crops to be returned to the library for future harvests. Laura was able to compile seed saving tips for many types of seeds, encouraging patrons to return seeds for next growing season.

As a result of Laura's hard work, more seed libraries were deployed in the division using the materials she created. Not only do patrons in the Bay Roberts area get access to her program, but 10 other libraries were supported as a direct result of this work.



Carbonear Knitting

Sarah Bartlett, Regional Librarian Eastern Division

Carbonear Public Library has launched a drop-in knitting circle. Each Thursday, local knitters can get together from 2-4 PM to meet others, work on their craft, and learn from other knitters in their community. Originally, Tracey Vaughan-Evans, branch staff, had planned solely to promote the Anna Templeton Centre's exhibition 'They Knit,' which calls all knitters to knit a Christmas stocking for a fall exhibit in Quidi Vidi Village Artisan Studios. While program participants are welcome to contribute to the 'They Knit' initiative, the drop-in group aims to bring together local craftspeople as well as those new to knitting.



Torbay Francophone Week Celebrations

Sarah Bartlett, Regional Librarian Eastern Division

The Torbay Public Library held events celebrating Provincial Francophonie Day in May. Community volunteers offered storytime in French, and the children's French collections were highlighted. The local board received a grant to supplement the existing French collection, materials from which were on display and available to loan. Colouring sheets and local French magazines were available as well as a variety of pins, flags, and other goodies for patrons to take home with them. Reception from this event was very positive, and efforts are already underway to focus more on French language materials as well as increase access to children's storytime in French.



Display for Francophone Week at Torbay

Little Free Pantries Partnership in Mount Pearl

Cindy Hall, Library Assistant, Mount Pearl Public Library

**Editor's Note: In March Cindy was given a Local Hero award by Member of Parliament Seamus O'Reagan for her work on the Community Care Kits she's been working on throughout the pandemic. These kits have included food and personal hygiene items, and ballooned to include a series of pantry locations throughout Mount Pearl. Please read this excerpt from the Match APLA bulletin to learn more about Cindy's work.*

A wonderful partnership began this year between me, the City of Mount Pearl, and NL Public Libraries. For the last twelve months, we have worked together to provide non-perishable food and hygiene items to those in need via little free pantries. In early January, I saw a local Twitter post of a freezer bag that had been left on a park bench for someone to find, filled with various food and person hygiene items. Instead of clicking a button and just sharing the post I decided to take it a step further and make my own bag of supplies to leave for someone. I had collected enough items to make four bags. In each one was a set of hat and mitts, ready-to-eat food items like granola bars, and a toothbrush and toothpaste. When I shared a photo online of my own kit, many people came forward wanting to donate items and money for me to make more. The four 'care kits,' as I called them, turned into hundreds. Storage and distribution scaled up tenfold almost overnight. Thus began the partnership with the City and NL Public Libraries. The city approached me with the idea to build and place seven permanent pantries to hold the kits. The Mount Pearl Public Library also offered space to house the incom-



Cindy, receiving an award for her work with Little Free Pantries

ing food and other donations. Volume 86, Issue 3, Winter 2023 ISSN: 0001-2203 APLA Bulletin – Volume 86, Issue 3, Winter 2023 ISSN: 0001-2203 Since the pantries have been built, I've formed a committee of volunteers who help shop, promote, and fill the pantries with me. During special times of the year we will hold fundraisers to make appropriate seasonal kits. This September we raised funds to make Back to School kits that had everything a child would need to start the school year. Once word got out about the school kits, a local business, Dick's Office Supplies, sent enough items to fill several kits. In October we made Thanksgiving meal kits. Fresh vegetables, ham, tins of gravy, boxes of stuffing and after dinner treats were packaged and left in the pantries. A similar fundraiser is happening now for our complete Christmas dinner meal kits. The NL Public Libraries once again provided space for our First Annual Santa Storytime. Non-perishables were the price of admittance and the response was excellent. As a result, we raised enough money and food to see us into the next year!

Corner Brook Public Library's Writer-in-Residence

Sandra Harnum, Regional Librarian, Eastern Division

This past Fall/Winter, the Corner Brook Public Library proudly introduced Hannah Jenkins as their Writer-in-Residence Intern. NLPL offers Writer in Residence Internship opportunities to qualified students enrolled in Memorial University Grenfell's Master of Applied Literary Arts program. Hannah is a graduate student at Grenfell Campus working towards her Masters in Applied Literary Arts.

Hannah did poetry readings for numerous Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library branches throughout the province, including Carbonear Public Library and Gander Public Library, while she completed a cross-province book signing tour. Hannah published her first book of poetry, *The Birds Come Back in the Spring*, in April 2022, with Engen Books.

Hannah's first book of poetry offers the best kind of storytelling: direct, playful, deft and wise. Hannah writes poetry that you'll want to quote and read aloud to the people you love. Her voice is fresh and the stories she tells will resonate across the generations. In many ways this collection is about the growing up we've all had to do and are still doing, and will be doing for the rest of our lives. You'll read this collection again and again. I already can't wait for her next book. -- Michelle Porter, Approaching Fire.

NLPL's Writer-in-Residence Interns balance the creation and delivery of writing programs (in partnership with the library) with work on their own writing project(s). Some of the things Hannah is working on include (but are not limited to): developing and delivering writing programs and/or workshops for the public, collaborating with library staff to plan public readings and/or other engaging events showcasing her work and/or the work of other local writers, connecting with emerging local writers to provide feedback and support through peer-learning activities, as well as completing work on her own writing project(s).

At the Corner Brook Public Library, Hannah is stationed at the Writer-in-Residence desk, near the first-floor circulation desk, during set hours throughout the week so that patrons are aware of what she is working on and able to ask her any questions about her current and/or future work. The Corner Brook Public Library staff are delighted to be working with Hannah during her residency with the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries.

Brittany Noseworthy, Corner Brook Public Library's Branch Supervisor, speaks of the experience working with Hannah:

Hannah has been a joy to have here at the Corner Brook Public Library. She brings with her a passion for her craft and an enthusiasm to work with us. Aside from her regularly scheduled 'Drop-In Hours', Hannah has also helped to organize multiple events with the library, with even more on the horizon. During her first semester with us, she put together a small Literary Festival centered around the works of Margaret Atwood and has given talks to our own Creative Writing Group. We are so happy and fortunate to be able to work alongside Hannah.

This is the first time that a Writer-in-Residence has been in a Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library branch and we certainly hope that it is not the last. Hannah has been doing a tremendous job sharing her expertise with our library staff and patrons. Thank you, Hannah, for your dedication to your craft and for sharing your talent with our patrons in Newfoundland & Labrador!

You can read more about Hannah and follow her writing journey on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/hannahjenkinsauthorandartist/>) or Instagram (@creativelyhannahjenkins)

PJ Storytime and Family Literacy Day at Gander Public Library

Jennifer Lane, Library Assistant, Gander Public Library

NLPL has great guidelines for PJ Storytime; like many other libraries, we choose a theme for our stories and add supporting activities to enhance the PJ Storytime experience. Sometimes we invite special guests - they're the icing on the cake!

Family Literacy Day was January 25th. Susan St. Onge, our temporary supervisor at GGR, and Karen Smith, our programming coordinator began preparations for a special Family Literacy Day. Meetings and plans were made with input from the Murphy Centre, and Qalipu First Nations.

The goal for the evening was primarily to have a fun, book-based experience, but we also hoped people would be reminded about the many multi-age reading supports in Gander and have time to browse the inclusive family-friendly books selected for display.

Storytime opened with a reading of the Land Acknowledgement and the award-winning book "Fry Bread" by Kevin Maillard. Ms. Vey-Morawski from the Murphy Centre then treated everyone to try some real "fry bread" with a condiment of their choice! It was delicious, and a pleasure to share in food with friends and family. Volunteers from the planning organizations then guided groups of participants in making paper airplanes, drumming sessions, Lego challenges and designing bookmarks. Our very special guest reader, Dawn Baker also hosted an art activity centre. Ms. Baker has written and illustrated many books, and adults and children alike were enthralled with her reading of her book, "The Puffin Patrol".

Earlier in the week, Susan had organized attractive activity loot bags for the children. Everyone left with new ideas in their head, a smile on their face, and a surprise in their hand. It's amazing how books and a library can bring us together!!



Family Literacy Day at Gander Public Library

Age is Only a Number When Visiting the Library

Alicia Drake, Library Assistant, Kindale Public Library

Odelle Garnier has been visiting the Kindale Public Library for well over ten years and she is 90 years young. Our staff love to see her visit the Library once or twice a week. Odelle was born in Shallop Cove, St. George's and still lives in that area today. When Odelle visits our library, she is accompanied by her son Eugene Colombe. She regularly brings packages of muffins and other sweet treats for staff to enjoy.

Odelle loves to read Amish books and Newfoundland Collections both fiction and non-fiction. When asked what she likes most about visiting the Kindale Public Library, Odelle replied, "The people working here are so kind and helpful. Unreal. I love the people in the Kindale Library. It is like I am visiting friends."

Odelle Garnier is an inspiration to all the staff at the Kindale Public Library and is living proof that you are never too old to read a book.



Odelle and her son Eugene

Tween D&D: Oh the Skills They Can Learn!

Jan Moffett, Library Technician IIA, A.C. Hunter Children's Library

Over the past year, I have been offering Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) for tweens (ages 10 to 13) here in St. John's at the A.C. Hunter Children's Library. It is an extremely popular program! D&D is one of the oldest TTRPG (Table Top Role Playing Games) – it has been around for about 50 years and has had a surge in popularity over the last five years thanks to youtube, podcasts and tv shows like Stranger Things. For our group, I was able to solicit a donation from our local comic store (Timemasters Inc) of dice sets and a few books to help get us started.

But what benefit does playing a TTRPG have in the library? It turns out, it is a great way to encourage math skills, literacy and creativity. Math skills are improved with every roll of the dice. D&D uses a set of multi-sided dice, from one with 4 sides up to one with 20 sides. Every roll of the dice involves simple addition and subtraction – with a bit of pressure to do so quickly! Reading comprehension is also a major part of the game. Each child has a booklet with information about their character and they can research the rules to find out what kinds of spells, actions and statistics their character can do.

Most of the time, the tweens don't even notice how much they are learning because they are having so much fun! The role playing aspect encourages them to be creative, think on their feet and develop confidence talking with others. In a time when it has been difficult to get out and be with others, a TTRPG helps social interactions with peers. Learning to lead D&D can feel daunting. There are big rule books and a whole history of stories – however, there are also lots of ways to learn online. A simple youtube search of "D&D simplified" can teach the basics. Plus you may find other TTRPGs to learn! The tools of the trade can be as simple as a pen and paper. D&D can appeal to all ages, from 10 to adult! If you don't have a staff member who feels comfortable leading, you can also seek out members in the community and simply provide a space for playing. TTRPGs can be valuable tools for literacy for anyone.

Library on the Go

Emma Craig, Regional Librarian, St. John's

Research, Development and the First Six Months

When I joined Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries in June 2020, I was introduced to the mobile outreach unit project. The unit's main goal would be to expand the reach of the library in St. John's through program and service delivery as well as loaning materials. I was tasked with expanding on the research and inquiries about library outreach vehicles, and to work closely with Susan Prior and the St. John's Public Libraries Board (who had funded the project with support from the City of St. John's) on the development of one for PRL. This work would eventually culminate with the unveiling of NLPL's Library on the Go.

Research

Luckily, there was no need to reinvent the wheel (pun intended), as I came across several libraries who has their own outreach vehicles. Talking with these other outreach librarians helped me get a better idea of the struggles we would face moving forward with the project, from supply line issues to promoting the service. Many were happy to share resource lists and articles, as well as direct me to other libraries.

When it came to acquiring a vehicle and turning it into the library van of our dreams, the global pandemic worked against us. Supply line issues meant that finding a van suitable for our project would prove to be more difficult than first imagined. While a few vehicles were looked at, we decided that it was best to wait for the right one to come around.

However, we didn't think that said vehicle would show up across the street from one of our board members with a "For Sale" sign on it! We quickly jumped on the opportunity.

The owner of the vehicle, who had a great affection for the public libraries, was happy to walk us through operating the van. This really helped me feel more comfortable with the prospect of operating such a mammoth vehicle. Learning to care for a library van was definitely not something I expected to do with my library degree! Through reading the vehicle manual and driving practice in empty mall parking lots, we were able to grow our confidence with the van and its different quirks.

Development

Through feedback from library staff and board members, the name "Library on the Go" was decided on. Now that the vehicle had been christened, it was ready for some shelving and a fresh coat of paint!

After a consultation with Action Trucks in St. John's, it was determined that wall mounted shelving would not be the best fit for the van. We decided to get creative with storage because of this, and what is a library without its book carts! We purchased several brightly coloured carts and had a hydraulic lift installed, allowing for easy loading and unloading of materials.

Next came collection and program development. Using funds from the local board, we purchased a small collection of books that would live in the van permanently. This small collection could then be supplemented by additional library materials from the A.C. Hunter when we planned visits. We also assembled programming materials and seating/mats to be pulled out for programming.

For the van design and logo, we turned to Jud Haynes, who designed the Once and Future Library logo used for a past project. The result is the colourful design you see on the van today, which was done by Mike Davis Signs in Mount Pearl. Jud also created the design for a matching pop-up tent (design was printed by E.C. Boone LTD in St. John's) and Library on the Go t-shirts. In house, I created promotional materials for the project, including social media graphics and bookmarks.

When it came to promoting our new van, our tagline from the beginning was “not your Nan’s bookmobile.” While we wanted to play on the nostalgia of the NLPL bookmobiles of old, we also wanted patrons to know that this van would be doing so much more for the St. John’s community than just delivering library materials.

I worked closely with Anna Swanson and Kristian Brown on developing a social media campaign for the van once it was ready for launch. We wanted the hashtag #LibraryOnTheGoNL to serve as an easy way for patrons to search for information about the van across NLPL social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram). Once that was all complete, the press releases and invitations for the upcoming launch were sent out.

The First Six Months

The Library on the Go project officially launched to the public on July 26th, 2022, at a small event held at Bannerman Park. The event was attended by St. John’s Public Libraries Board members, City of St. John’s councillors, and many other members of the community. Board Member Monique Tobin, Deputy Mayor of St. John’s Sheilagh O’Leary, and Susan Prior all spoke. O’Leary and I were the ones who cut the ribbon wrapped around the van before swinging open the backdoors to unveil the interior.



Library on the Go at the Victoria Park Lantern Festival

Since the initial launch in July, the van has travelled to many locations around St. John’s. We have delivered programs at City of St. John’s Day Camps, performed Storytimes at Victoria Park’s Lantern Festival, held a zine workshop for the Hold Fast Festival, and held pop-up libraries at long-time care homes. We have had the honour of partnering with another mobile service, Food on the Move, to visit community centres outside of our main service areas this past fall.

It feels too early to think about the future of the Library on the Go van, but there is still so much more that the team wants to do. The van has been a great opportunity to reintroduce people to the public libraries, especially after a global pandemic disrupted our lives. It shows them that the familiar figure of the public library is ever evolving to serve the community, redefining it as not just a place, but an accessible service.

Celebrating 50 years of the Home Reader Service!

Daniel Murphy and Stacey Lucas, A.C. Hunter Library

The book mobile is a nostalgic image of library staff bringing the library to the people, and for many, the Home Reader Service is their modern day book mobile! 2023 marks the 50th year of the St. John's Libraries Home Reader Service bringing materials from our shelves to patrons doors. Currently, we are visiting close to 90 patrons in their homes across St. John's on a 5 week rotation, giving them access to library materials which they may not have access to otherwise.

To be eligible for the service, patrons must reside in St. John's and have difficulty visiting the library on their own due to physical or visual impairment. Each home reader patron receives a curated bag of materials based off of their interests and needs. With access to all of the library's various materials, we are able to provide the same services as you'd receive in the library to these patrons in the comfort of their own home. Whether it be to patrons living in their own homes and apartments, or patrons residing in long term care facilities, we're endeavoring to ensure that everyone has equitable access to all aspects of the library.

With community partnerships through long term care facilities' recreation departments and various community groups such as Seniors NL, we've been able to reach many individuals who may never have been able to enjoy what the library has to offer, including books, DVD's, magazines, audiobooks, board games, musical instruments and much more!

Using what we've learned from the great service provided over the past 50 years, we're looking to the future and working to continue to provide equitable access to library services and expanding our services to meet our patrons ever changing needs. This means highlighting underserved groups and working with advocacy groups to find more inventive ways to bring the library into peoples homes. With the pandemic, we saw changes in how patrons access library services, including an uptick in E-Library usage and the start of virtual programming. Virtual programming allows home reader service patrons the opportunity to attend these programs from their homes which they previously couldn't do with in person programming.

As we look to the next 50 years, we want to remain dynamic and engaging to ensure that all residents of St. John's including the most vulnerable populations have access to all library services.



The Home Reader Team (Daniel Murphy and Stacey Lucas) packing up and ready to head out.

You Can Contribute to Insights, Too!

Do you have an interesting program or initiative at your branch you want to share with other staff? Is there something you would like to learn more about? Reach out to your Regional Librarian and they will be sure to bring all ideas for future Insights to the editing team!

Your contributions to Insights are greatly valued and appreciated, please let us know what you have going on at your location.

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