

Six Feet Apart: Keeping a Library Running in a Pandemic

By Ingrid Kildiss

**Submitted to the Journalism Board of Study
School of Humanities**

**In partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the degree of Bachelor of Arts**

Purchase College – State University of New York

May, 2021

First Reader: Professor Donna Cornachio

Second Reader: Professor Anna Ozbek

There is a quiet hum of an air purifier emanating through the stacks of the Pearl River Public Library in Pearl River, NY, on this November afternoon in 2020. A table of computers sits unused, accompanied by a plastic container of antibacterial wet wipes along with a sign that requests patrons wipe down the stations after use. A single patron roams the shelves. Despite this, several staff members keep busy ordering books, planning online programming on their computers or cleaning every touchable surface.

Eugenia Schatoff, the library's director, does her laps around the floor to see if there are any patrons that need help, but there aren't, so she talks with her staff. "It's nice to know people still value libraries," she says ironically, shrugging with a meek smile.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Schatoff and her staff aren't seeing as many patrons through their doors as they would in a normal year, but they are finding ways to help and connect with their communities. In December 2019, Emily Dowie, the young adult librarian and a lifelong Pearl River resident, founded the Coalition for Library Workers of Color in response to the lack of support for people of color in the public library industry. Dowie, 29, identifies as half Black and half Jewish. She has long blonde hair, an energetic smile, and a kind and enthusiastic voice. The coalition had one meeting in-person before the pandemic forced them to go virtual, but since then they have grown tremendously in size and power. "The coalition is a group committed to promoting change and growth in support of people of color within the library community," says Dowie enthusiastically via Zoom call. "Libraries are for everyone. They're equalizers."

Hundreds of miles west in Novi, Michigan, Julie Farkas, the director of the Novi Public Library, stands in a brightly striped dress in front of a sign that says, “LIBRARY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Visits 30 minutes or less,” in a YouTube video. Posted on July 17, 2020, the video shows a smiling Farkas going over library guidelines regarding the pandemic. In the video, Farkas puts on a mask with the Novi Public Library logo to demonstrate how masks are expected to be worn in the building and explains the small devices given to patrons to time their stay in the library. “I think you will be very pleased with what we’ve been able to provide so far, and we look forward to expanding those services over the next few weeks and through the summer, so we can get us back to full operation,” says Farkas.

The Novi Public Library did expand its services from July to September 2020, and they continue to do so with every passing month. “One of the things that's gonna launch at the end of October for us is that we have a contactless actual automated vending machine for library materials that is going to be placed in one of our parks just two miles north of the library,” Farkas explains in a phone interview in mid-September. “People will be able to drive up, get out of their car, walk up to this very large machine that holds 240 items at a time, walk up with your library card, and check out five items at a time.” This new library material vending machine is one of the ways Novi Public Library staff have found to reconnect with their community, along with a September Song Fest aimed at pleasing seniors who would otherwise be alone or stuck at home because of COVID health concerns. Patrons were expected to social distance and wear masks. Every Thursday evening in September 2020, the Paradise Park Pavilion filled up with patrons.

In Central New York, just outside of Albany, is the Bethlehem Public Library. Since the pandemic began, Library Director Geoffrey Kirkpatrick has also made his share of YouTube appearances. Kirkpatrick sits in front of a looming brown closet door in his home with a pair of chunky black headphones attached to a microphone in one video from a series of board of trustees meetings for the public library. State laws require public library board meetings to be public, but, like all organizations, the pandemic left this library board and community without a safe place to meet. They settled with live streaming their Zoom meetings over YouTube. Kirkpatrick's living room is his office for the time being.

Nine board members surround Kirkpatrick in their separate video squares in a Zoom meeting from Sept. 14, 2020. "Is there anything you want to talk to the public about, since people may or may not be watching, or they may watch later on, about how the [HVAC] system has any relevance to the COVID situation?" asks board member Charmaine Wijeyesinghe. Wijeyesinghe sits in front of a wall in her own home, styled with paintings, a full book shelf, and hangable wall art of flowers. Like most of the other library board members, she appears to be Kirkpatrick's senior. Kirkpatrick, in his late 40's, became the director of the Bethlehem library in 2011, after working for 11 years as the head of information technology and head of circulation and technical services.

"A little bit," answers Kirkpatrick without hesitation. He explains how the library's aggressive airflow system is actually useful during pandemic times. "It seemed like a negative a year and a half ago, but right now, having a large amount of outside air flowing into the building is a fantastic thing. So we want that."

Despite the learning curves, a whole lot of reinvention, and health anxieties, Kirkpatrick and the Bethlehem Public Library staff have been putting their all into maintaining their library's operation and helping their community. "When you think about a regular checkout: people come to the library, they pick out their books, they come to the check-out desk, and leave," Kirkpatrick explains via a phone interview. "But when we're doing curbside [book pickup], almost everything goes through the whole system. So people are putting things on hold, and those items have to be retrieved off the shelf by staff and checked in and then put on the hold shelf until the patron comes. Then they call us and we check those items out and run them outside. It just equals a lot more staff time."

Public libraries across the country are grappling with the same challenges as the Pearl River, Novi, and Bethlehem Public Libraries. On March 17, 2020, the American Library Association (ALA) issued a statement from the executive board recommending closing libraries to the public. "To protect library workers and their communities from exposure to COVID-19 in these unprecedented times, we strongly recommend that academic, public and school library leaders and their trustees and governing bodies evaluate closing libraries to the public and only reopening when guidance from public health officials indicates the risk from COVID-19 has significantly subsided," wrote the executive board via the ALA website. A survey done by the ALA in late March 2020 found that 98 percent of the public libraries across the country had closed their doors to the public for the time being. The survey also found that a majority of libraries had continued, expanded, or added services like online renewal policies, online services, and virtual programming.

Many of these libraries remain closed to the public to this day or have reopened to considerably reduced numbers of in-person patrons. An article written by Emily Udell in August 2020 for the American Libraries Magazine called “Reclosing... After Reopening” documents how many public libraries have been in flux between open and closed. “Some libraries that have reopened after closing in the early stages of the global crisis have been forced to close again—temporarily or for a longer term—for reasons ranging from staff members testing positive to patrons flouting safety measures,” wrote Udell.

Many of the public libraries that closed were also a kind of community living room and provided access to many necessities that lower-income patrons cannot afford on their own, such as computer access or job counseling. A Pew Research survey done in 2015 found that 37 percent of Americans in households that make less than \$30,000 a year say that public libraries closing would have a major effect on them, and 44 percent of this demographic also said that libraries helped a lot with getting health services. Polly Anne, a resident of Hudson, NY, who also works for the local social service agency, noted that when the Hudson Area Library closed, many in-need community members, like young adults struggling to get on their feet, lost a valuable resource. “I’m assuming you know what Hudson is like,” Anne said via phone interview. She referenced the 23 percent poverty rate in Hudson (which is nearly double the average poverty rate in New York State) and the deteriorating school system. “The public library had a lot of programs right there in person for young adults and children to put them in the right direction,” said Anne. “There was one for young women and teenage girls that just completely had to stop.” Anne refers to a support group for young girls that has fizzled out since the pandemic began.

Many of these public libraries are also dealing with budget worries on top of closures. Despite the fact that the Bethlehem Public Library's budget vote passed in September 2020 with a moderate increase of less than two percent, Kirkpatrick admits he's nervous about the future. "Next year the concern will be that as costs go up, pension costs will also go up. That's just the way the world works," says Kirkpatrick. "When the stock market goes down, the pension pots go up and staff costs increase as the longer-term affects on the economy."

Some public libraries have not been as fortunate as the Bethlehem library, with typical pre-pandemic fundraising efforts like book sales and late-fine collections out of the picture, communities in financial trouble voting down library budgets, and local governments facing increasingly challenging budget seasons. The ALA proposed the Library Stabilization Fund Act to distribute \$1.7 billion to local libraries in early July 2020, but it is yet to gain the kind of support it needs to pass in the Senate or the House.

"It's really interesting how people can come to identify what are essential services when they're removed from them for a couple months," says Kirkpatrick. It's clear to him that even if the Bethlehem Public Library is an essential service, it won't be seeing anywhere near the 310,464 people physically coming through its doors this year, as it did in 2018-19.

Funding Worries

A question concerning the future of the Bethlehem Public Library's finances causes Kirkpatrick to laugh nervously over the phone. "As a library director, that's what you worry about, the budget. I worry about it all the time," he says. Kirkpatrick explains that many of the

library's expenditures, like staff costs, might go up in the next few years while the funds the library receives from local and state government may shrink.

Public library budget funds are received from a number of sources, including local and state government, fees, and donations. Surveys done by the Center for Education Statistics and the Institute of Museum and Library Services found that the average portion of public library budgets that came from local government in 1995 was 78.8 percent, and by 2014 that percentage grew to 85.4 percent. The increase in local funding to public libraries correlates to the smaller amount the state government provided to public libraries over time, which lowered from 12 percent in 1996 to 7 percent in 2014. This means public libraries in areas with struggling local governments (especially during the pandemic) will not be able to rely on the state to help make the difference.

In December of 2020, Julie Farkas, director of the Novi Public Library, explained that her library had more expenditures than expected for the fiscal year ending 2020 because of the pandemic. One reason for this was that the library had to purchase personal protective equipment for staff and patrons. "At least through the end of November [2020], we've had over \$40,000 dollars in PPE costs," said Farkas.

Most public librarians are no strangers to unsteady budgets and surprise expenditures. In February 2020, former President Donald Trump included a request of \$23 million dollars in his fiscal year 2021 budget to fund the closure of the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS). The IMLS was established under the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 with a mission statement that included the intent to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations.

Trump attempted to do away with the IMLS for every fiscal year he was in office, according to Publishers Weekly. His February 2020 budget was dubbed “A Budget for a Better America,” despite his proposed cuts to libraries across the country by means of the elimination of the IMLS. The Biden Administration quickly invested \$200 million dollars in the IMLS when they took over in January 2021.

ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo issued a statement in response to Trump’s Federal 2020 budget on the ALA’s website on Feb. 10, 2020. She emphasized what public libraries mean to their communities and credited bipartisan support in Congress as a reason to hope. “Elected decision-makers, including appropriators in both the House and Senate, agree that funding IMLS programs such as the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) is a sound investment and that to cut funding for libraries is to undercut opportunity for their constituents,” says Garcia-Febo.

The Library Service and Technology Act was signed into law on Oct. 1, 1996, by President Bill Clinton. The purpose was to provide more than \$150 million to State Library Administrative Agencies through a program called Grants to States. The IMLS webpage for the LSAT and Grants for States claims that the money must be used to serve the needs of children, parents, teenagers, adult learners, senior citizens, and the unemployed. State Library Administrative Agencies distribute the funds to libraries within the state. Each of these agencies is responsible for creating a new plan every five years regarding how the funds will be distributed to individual libraries and the goals that they hope to meet. Because each state has their own control, there are a variety of different ways that public libraries across the country receive the funding and what they use it for.

Although the IMLS and LSTA exist to help public libraries around the country, many libraries require more funding for a variety of reasons. Emily Dowie, the young adult librarian in Pearl River, NY, worries about the structural integrity of her 60-year-old library. “Loss of funding is something I really worry about,” says Dowie. “I also worry about if the building would just fall down. Because the roof sags. Sometimes when the rain falls down, the roof is kind of caved in, and one time I was standing and I saw a bubble and was like ‘That looks like it's going to...’ and water just came streaming in.”

Putting extra stress on local government funding often leaves less privileged communities with smaller library budgets and less aid to lend to their communities, despite their need for more. Removing funding from places like the IMLS and the LSCA would ensure that trends like this continue and that marginalized communities remain marginalized.

Virtual Meeting Places

When public libraries across the country physically closed their doors in March 2020, their communities needed new places to meet. Many public libraries began moving services like library programming, newsletters, notifications and information resources to online services like Zoom, YouTube, and other social media. “Our YouTube presence is a lot higher than it used to be,” says Kirkpatrick, director of the Bethlehem Public Library.

The Bethlehem Public Library is a brown brick building with three castle-like pillars. The building has a complicated geometric shape, which makes it interesting to look at. A beautiful garden follows visitors up to the front door. Library patrons who want to see library board meetings no longer have to visit the building to find what they’re looking for.

The library, like many other public libraries, has relocated their board meetings to Zoom and live streamed them onto YouTube since the beginning of the pandemic. In many ways, this method archives board meetings in a way they have never been before. Not only can viewers watch it in real time, but they can also view it again as many times as they would like. Minutes are usually recorded at these meetings, but adding an audiovisual recording allows the public to refer back to the meeting with more ease. “All of our board meetings are on YouTube,” says Kirkpatrick. “We have to do that in order to adhere to New York State law. In order to have meetings you need to live stream them out. You have to provide them to the people.”

The Bethlehem Public Library also hosts a new anti-racist book talk every month over Zoom. Librarian Kate Lambert has led the group since its first meeting on July 22, 2020, in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement. The book selection for March 2021 was “Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning” by Cathy Park Hong. After joining the Zoom call, regulars of the group spoke among themselves until a majority of the regulars filed in. With about six participants there, they begin. When the talking started, there was one topic that everyone kept bringing up. “She [Cathy Park Hong] would be great to have at the library when we open back up all the way,” says Joanne Shawhan, an elderly Bethlehem resident. She is seated in her living room in front of an overflowing bookcase. Despite being virtual, the group of participants seem to be good friends.

This is just one of many programs hosted by the Bethlehem library. On their Facebook page, the library does community outreach by posting about programs as well as the library’s hours. One particular post describes the option to text the library when you arrive for curbside

pickup. This excites their audience. “Thank you for your awesome service,” writes Alan Dominitz, whose comment is among several others confirming its usefulness.

The Growth of a Coalition

In December 2019, just three months before the pandemic shut down the United States, Emily Dowie founded the Coalition for Library Workers of Color in response to the predominate whiteness of library industry workers. She wanted to create a space where library workers of color could find support. Since then, the coalition has grown from operating in a single library system to being a statewide coalition in New York devoted to the well-being of library workers of color. With just a year under her belt as the president and founder of the coalition, Dowie says that they are just getting started. “Library staff all over New York can join and I’m really excited about it!” she says.

The mission statement for the coalition sits on the homepage of their website and states that they also strive to be a space for library workers of all colors, their allies, and members of fellow marginalized groups like the Jewish and LGBT communities. Kelly Yim, treasurer for the coalition and supervising librarian of the Todt Hill-Westerleigh Public Library in Staten Island, NY, said that she was pleased to find an organization that was advocating for people of all colors in a white-dominated industry, during an interview in March 2021. “I was like, wow, you guys are doing fantastic things,” said Yim. “I love that you’re representing everyone, every color, every gender. So that was something I wanted to help in any way that I possibly could.”

Yim, an Asian-American, says that in January 2020 she started receiving racist comments at her workplace as news of the pandemic in China started to spread. “February came along and

we started getting all these phone calls to the library that were saying ‘Oh, is that Chinese girl working there today?’ I would be like ‘Yes, and you’re talking to her. How can I help you?’ and they just hung up.”

As lockdown commenced in New York State, the incidents only got worse. Yim felt unsupported by some of her colleagues on the issue. “So I had a choice in my life,” said Yim, “I can either, like, dwell on this or make this into an awesome opportunity.” Yim used this mindset to create a conference series for the New York Library Association (NYLA) called Combat Racism. Over 3000 people attended the virtual meeting. Yim was floored. “It brought such joy to me that 3000 professional librarians were interested in the topic [racism in libraries] and how to combat it.”

The Coalition for Library Workers of Color expanded beyond the Ramapo-Catskill library system, of which the Pearl River Public Library is a member, when they became a part of the New York Library Association (NYLA). NYLA itself leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community. It hosts conferences, programming, advocacy events, and other resources for librarians in New York. Dowie considers their partnership to be the culmination of a year of hard work.

Elisabeth Portillo is vice president of the coalition and also the head of youth services at the Finkelstein Memorial Library in Spring Valley, NY. She describes the change she’s seen in just a few months. “When I joined the group it was more of an open discussion for library workers of color in the Ramapo Catskill Library System,” says Portillo. “Now we are a structured group with a 10-person e-board and an official New York Library Association

Roundtable group. By expanding we can reach a lot more people and start these meaningful conversations.”

Portillo’s path to the coalition started after the Black Lives Matter protests started. She was uncomfortable that no one she worked with was talking about it. “I remembered hearing of a new group for Library Workers of Color and reached out to the founder, Emily Dowie, and asked if there would be a meeting to just discuss our feelings right now,” said Portillo. “Emily and I got to talking and had some big ideas on where the coalition could go, the first step being formalizing to become an actual structured group. Emily asked me to be vice president and the rest is history!”

Now that the coalition is a part of NYLA, their programming will affect more librarians and library workers than ever. Dowie is particularly excited about a program for mixed-race librarians where she will be able to talk about her experiences with Portillo, who also identifies as mixed race. Dowie is already planning for a second part of this program where they will discuss colorism. Previous programming has included panel discussions on librarians of color and diversity, an author discussion with Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (a local Black Writer), as well as a panel on understanding Jewish constituents. “We’re presenting on a panel for the Urban Librarians Unite Conference this May, about creating BIPOC safe-spaces for staff,” says Portillo. “We’re very excited to use this as an opportunity to get some new interest and members to join us.”

Looking back, Dowie sees how the pandemic has changed the coalition. “I think us going virtual made the coalition more accessible to people,” says Dowie. The coalition met once before

the pandemic began. Dowie explains that moving to Zoom was actually helpful. “And so for us to be virtual, I think it was easier because someone just had to have a Zoom account.”

President Biden's Plan and the ALA Midwinter Meeting

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill into law, which included \$200 million for more than 17,000 public libraries. The funding was meant to make it easier and safer for public libraries to reopen, as well as enhance library resources.

Earlier, on Jan. 26, 2021, the ALA hosted a midwinter meeting which included First Lady Jill Biden as its closing speaker. According to Library Journal, Biden did not lay out any solid plans for her coming years in the White House, but she did offer some words of encouragement for library workers. “My message is: never forget that what you’re doing matters. Right now, someone out there is a better thinker because of you. Someone is standing a little taller because you helped them find the confidence they need.... And someone is kinder because you showed them what that meant,” said Biden, according to the ALA’s website.

Biden has been a community college professor for more than three decades and has written books like “Where the Light Enters: Building a Family,” as well as two children’s books. She holds two master's degrees and a doctorate in education. The subject of education is important to both Biden and public librarians across the country. “If you are a librarian, you are also an educator,” says Emily Dowie during a phone interview in January 2021.

The event was a big deal for librarians across the country. “We are honored that Dr. Biden will be joining us at the American Library Association’s Midwinter Meeting,” ALA President

Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. said in a video on the event's website. "As our nation's students struggle with distance learning, maneuvering digital jungles and grappling with digital literacy, we believe librarians and library workers have a critical role to play in supporting the needs of learners. From homework help to assisting adults with job-searches, our nation's library professionals will also take an active role in our nation's COVID-19 recovery. We are grateful for Dr. Biden's support and advocacy as we move forward in supporting and transforming lives through education and lifelong learning."

The ALA's Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits is one of the nation's largest professional events for librarians and library workers. Last year's event was postponed because of the pandemic. This year is the first year it was virtual in its history, but it still brought in a plethora of guests, including Senator Jack Reed, the actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson, poet Amanda Gorman, the actor Ethan Hawke, and the now late actress Cicely Tyson, among many others.

Vending Machine Pending

The Novi Public Library is a strikingly geometric red brick building in the town of Novi, Michigan. The front of the building says "Charles and Myrtle Walker Novi Public Library," and on the side there is a logo for the library where the V in Novi is an open book. Big glass windows decorate the building. Novi Library Director Julie Farkas's biggest concern at the moment is opening up the doors of her library again.

"We are open," says Farkas during a phone interview in February 2021, "but it's only our lobby and our lockers, which is a locker service where you can pick up items after hours, which is contactless. And then our drive-through window is open to pick up items."

During a board meeting on Jan. 28, 2021, Farkas describes filling the front lobby with books so guests could briefly take a moment to peruse, even if they couldn't go all the way into the library.

Despite the challenges, the Novi library has done much to stay in touch with their community. One project that Farkas was especially excited about in the fall has yet to come to fruition is a book vending machine that was supposed to find a home in a local park at the end of October 2020. During the January board meeting Farkas described the progress they have made. The machine will be located close to parking, including handicap accessible spots. The shell of the machine is there, but its insides are yet to be filled with the books that will be available to the community with the swipe of their library cards. The last point Farkas makes is that the porta potties that are nearby will find a new home as soon as park construction is done.

Farkas mentions in a phone interview that the delay is no fault of the library. The pandemic set back the Parks Department's construction on the park by several months, and the vending machine can't go into operation before its completion. Despite the setback, Farkas is still enthusiastically grateful to the Parks Department and the opportunity to place the vending machine there. The new launch date is set for late-spring 2021.

One College Library Yet to Open Back Up

At SUNY Purchase, a college located just outside New York City in Westchester County, much of the 4,234-person student body is concerned that they have had little physical access to their campus library since March 2020. "The library was always a place I could go to cram for midterms or finals and be in a space just for work that wasn't my room," says Colin Bateman, a

senior psychology major who is among around 900 students living on campus during the Spring 2021 semester. “There isn’t any place that is that same kind of space that’s just for getting work done. There’s scattered areas on campus, I’m sure, but nothing akin to the library.”

The Purchase College Library is a large and colorful building that contrasts with the rest of the campus’s buildings, which tends toward a drab brown brick. It is scattered with windows, and above the entrance, on the red awning, it says “Purchase College Library.”

“I feel like without the library, I spend just as much time and even more mental energy on the same workload and it just doesn’t get done efficiently,” says Kim Robeson, a senior biology major. “The library’s biggest appeal to me wasn’t actually any of the specific resources inside; it was the near-constant availability of having a safe space to do any type of work you need to.”

Many students just miss the ability to print out their homework and reading assignments with ease that they once had. “We don’t exactly have access to computers or the full printing lab, but there are other printers on campus. I just don’t know where they are or how to access them,” says Bateman. The SUNY Purchase Open Forum on Facebook is littered with students asking where they can go to print out material for classes.

Library Director Mustafa Sakarya explains that the situation isn’t as simple as it seems to be. Sakarya took over as the library director in October 2019, just six months before the pandemic forced the library to close to the public.

“We’re one of the few libraries that are not open in the SUNY system,” says Sakarya. “Part of that is because we’re closer to New York City and closer to COVID outbreaks and not as isolated out there as some place like SUNY New Paltz.” New York City has been one of the hardest-hit cities in terms of coronavirus cases in the country, and many students who attend

Purchase also live in the city. Sakarya worries about all the points of contamination in the library, and how they will be able to tell if a student is asymptomatic before entering the library.

Despite his worries, Sakarya believes the library will be open for the Fall 2021 semester, with some limitations. Students will be able to come into the library by appointment for a couple hours, then the staff will clean the building so another group of students or faculty can come in to use the resources.

Sakarya says he looks forward to meeting more students once the library opens back up. “It's been a challenge, but at least most of the hard transitions are behind us and we're all getting used to it,” he says.

Community at Work

Each of these libraries are plunging headfirst into a new world. It is likely that when the pandemic ends and libraries open back up, there will be many aspects from the pandemic that stick around. “I don't think we get to stop doing curbside pickup. Maybe ever,” says Bethlehem library director Kirkpatrick. “People are very attached to it.”

“Our community has been super reactive to adopting technology,” says Novi library director Farkas, gratefully. “We have seen over 30 percent increase in digital downloading. There have been over 100,000 thousand downloads for just digital materials this year [2020].” Considering that the population of Novi is just over 60,000, the number of materials being distributed is impressive.

Pearl River library's teen librarian Dowie is not daunted by the prospects ahead. “But we have to come together in some way. And I think the library community evolved so quickly, even

though it was scary, even though it was really hard to transition to working from home. We did that as quickly as we could. We were shooting videos [for virtual story time] day one quarantine.”

“I learned that people are able to evolve,” Dowie says. “Within our community, we're stronger when we're together.”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hinds, Shawnda. "ALA Hopeful for Bipartisan Support from 116th Congress, despite "Discouraging" White House 2020 Budget Proposal." *ALA News*. 11 March 2019. Web.

Horrigan, John. "Chapter 3: Lower Income Americans and Communities of Color More Likely to see Libraries as Community Anchors." *Pew Research Center*. 15 September 2015. Web.

Jefferson Jr., Julius C. "A Message from ALA President, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr." *ALA*. 14 January 2021. Web.

Morales, Macey. "ALA Executive Board recommends closing libraries to public." *ALA News*. 17 March 2020. Web.

Maher, Kevin Baker, Gavin. "The Library Stabilization Fund Act." *American Library Association*. No Date. Web.

Morales, Macey, "Jill Biden to bring ALA Midwinter Virtual to a close." *ALA News*. 30 December 2020. Web.

No Author. "2018-19 Annual Report Bethlehem Public Library." *Bethlehem Public Library*. No Date. Web.

No Author. "Public Library Revenue, Expenditures, and Funding Sources." *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*. No Date. Web.

No Author. "IMLS Statement on the President's FY 2021 Budget Proposal." *Institute of Museum and Library Sciences*. 10 February 2020. Web.

No Author. "Grants to States." *Institute of Museum and Library Sciences*. No Date. Web.

No Author. "Novi Public Library Board Meeting, January 28, 2021." *Novi Public Library*. 3 February 2021. Web

No Author. "From the Director's Desk - Novi Public Library is Open!" *Novi Public Library*. 17 July 2020.

No Author. "Bethlehem Public Library September Board Meeting." *The Bethlehem Public Library*. 14 September 2020. Web.

Plagman, Emily. "Public Libraries Respond to COVID-19: Survey of Response & Activities." *Public Library Association*. No Date. Web.

Udell, Emily. "Reclosing ... after Reopening." *American Libraries*. 4 August 2020. Web.

SOURCES USED

Interviews:

1. Julie Farkas, Director at Novi Library, 09/16/2020 and 01/10/2021, phone interview

Subject: COVID and Libraries

Contact: 282-869-7233, jfarkas@novilibrary.org

2. Emily Dowie, Teen Librarian at the Pearl River Public Library, 09/22/2020 and 01/12/2021 , phone interview

Subject: COVID and libraries

Contact: 845-735-4084, edowie@pearlriverlibrary.org

3. Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director of the Bethlehem Public Library, 10/06/2020, phone interview

Subject: COVID and Libraries

Contact: 518-439-9314, Geoff@bethpl.org

4. Polly Anne, Hudson Library Patron, 11/22/2020, phone interview

Subject: COVID and Library Use

Contact: 518-929-1769

5. Mustafa Sakayra, Director of the Purchase College Library, 03/25/2021 Zoom interview

Subject: Library Closures

Contact: mustafa.sakarya@purchase.edu

6. Elizabeth Portillo, Vice President of the Coalition of Library Workers of Color, 03/10/2021, phone interview

Subject: Libraries and COVID and the Coalition

Contact: 845-352-5700 or eportillo@rcls.org

7. Kelly Yim, Treasurer of the Coalition for Library Workers of Color, 03/24/2021, phone interview

Contact: 718-494-1642 or kellyyim@nypl.org

8. Colin Bateman, Student at Suny Purchase, 03/23/2021, phone interview

Subject: School library closures

Contact: +1 (631) 617-3636, colin.bateman@purchase.edu

9. Kim Robeson, Student at SUNY Purchase, 03/01/2021, phone interview

Subject: School library closure

Contact: kim.robesson@purchase.edu

10. Grace Riario, Ramapo Catskill Library System Executive Director, 09/10/20, phone interview

Subject: COVID's effect on libraries

Contact: griario@rlcs.org; 844-330-2020

11. Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid Hudson Library System Director, 09/13/20, phone interview

Subject: COVID and Libraries

Contact: rsmith@midhudson.org; 845-471-6060

12. Jason Lea, Mentor Public Library Community Engagement Coordinator, 09/15/2020, phone Interview

Subject: COVID's effect on Libraries

Contact: Jason.Lea@mentorpl.org

13. Mike Monhan, Addison Public Library Head of Adult Services, 09/22/2020, phone Interview

Subject: COVID and Libraries

Contact: monahan@addisonlibrary.org; 630-458-3314

14. Terri Davis, Rapid City Library Director, 09/24/2020, phone Interview

Subject: COVID and Libraries

Contact: Tdavis@rcplib.org; 605-394-6713

15. Sheri Britsch, Director of the Pleasant Grove Public Library, 09/25/2020, phone Interview

Subject: Covid and Libraries

Contact: SBritsch@pgcity.org; 801-855-8522

16. Jen McCreery, Director of the Desmond-Fish Public Library, 10/06/2020, phone Interview

Subject: COVID and Libraries

Contact: director@desmondfishlibrary.org; 854-424-3020

17. Emily Chamiedies, Director of the Hudson Area Library, 10/01/2020, email Interview

Subject: COVID and Library Changes

Contact: (845) 242-5193

18. Margaret Stone, Director of the Dakota County Public Library, 09/25/2020, phone Interview

Subject: COVID and Libraries

Contact: margaret.stone@co.dakota.mn.us; 651-450-2930

