



Introduction & Welcome Message

From the Board of Trustees President & the Executive Director

The Board of Trustees and staff of South Central Regional Library Council (SCRLC) are pleased to present SCRLC's 2023-2024 Annual Report, which highlights this past year's accomplishments.

As a member-driven organization, we achieve together with our 85 members, what would be impossible alone. Together, we build programs and services that benefit our communities across SCRLC's 14-county region, including awarding grants to enhance these efforts.

Indeed, eleven members received competitive grants from SCRLC totalling \$59,179, primarily supporting digitization projects. Additionally, twelve hospitals received \$11,000 in grants for library materials and technology. We continued to fund hotspot subscriptions for the telehealth/digital equity kits that had initially been provided to 19 public libraries from the Network of the National Library of Medicine. The Council also received a grant from the American Astronomical Society in support of total solar eclipse activities. In turn, SCRLC funded mini-grant projects for member organizations of all types. Also this past year, three members who received diversity, equity, and

inclusion consulting grants completed their work and presented it to the broader SCRLC membership.

We also offered free learning opportunities and provided electronic resources with low cost-shares for the regional subscriptions. The Hospital Library Services Program funded medical resources for the 12 hospital members, including the online New England Journal of Medicine.

Advocacy remains central to our mission, whether advocating for increased state library aid, safeguarding the freedom to read, supporting inclusivity in libraries and cultural organizations, or championing digital equity.

SCRLC's close partnership with the other eight Empire State Library Network (ESLN) councils continued to result in free or low-cost programs and services for SCRLC members. SCRLC also continued to participate in the Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition and collaborate with the NYS ConnectAll Office.



engaging with the Council in so many ways, e.g., through advisory committee participation, task groups, learning opportunities, New York Heritage, NYS Historic Newspapers, and field visits to name a few. There is always room for more at the table, and active involvement in the Council is a great way to connect with colleagues, shape regional programs and services, and make an impact that extends to the state level and beyond..

With Gratitude and Warm Regards,



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Mary—Carol Lindbloom

Mary-Carol Lindbloom

SCRLC Executive Director





Mission

South Central Regional Library Council empowers our members through advocacy, networking, resources, and professional development; and by supporting diversity, innovation, and collaboration to strengthen their ability to serve their communities and promote environmentally sustainable practices.



Vision

South Central Regional Library Council envisions a future where all people who live, work, and study in our communities have equitable and reliable access to information and sustainable resources available anywhere, anytime, and are competent in all literacies. To achieve this vision, our member organizations include and welcome all people, and are valued and well-funded community partners, central to those they serve. In this envisioned future, environmental sustainability is central to our mission and practices.

Sustaining Our Organization

We prioritized sustainability through learning opportunities; by offering online documents and minimally printing; telecommuting as feasible; holding mostly virtual programs (knowing that even remote programming contains a carbon footprint); sharing office space; traveling mindfully around the region for our visits, consultations, and deliveries; celebrating and promoting the sustainability efforts and progress of our members.







SCRLC Programs & Services

SCRLC was chartered on May 25, 1967, by the New York State Board of Regents "to improve reference and research library services within the area, and to promote inter-library cooperation in the use of such resources." Member organizations include academic libraries, historical societies, hospitals, museums, public libraries and public library systems, school libraries and school library systems, and special libraries.







These five Strategic Directions succinctly articulate our vision, mission, and values, which will lead to their realization. They are woven into our Program & Services Goals, Activities, and Intended Results that appear in the following pages.

SCRLC...

- 01 advocates for its members.
- encourages innovation and future-forward thinking.
- cultivates learning.
- facilitates partnerships and collaboration.
- serves as a catalyst for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and sustainability.

01 ... advocates for its members.

Advocacy that increases members' visibility and their role and importance in society.

Advocacy is an ongoing process of building relationships. SCRLC staff participated in the February 28 Library Advocacy Day, both in-person and virtually. Advocating together with the New York Library Association (NYLA), the New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS), the Empire State Library Network (ESLN) and library workers everywhere, we collectively increased funding by \$4.252M to \$103.852M in State Library Aid and by \$10M for a total of \$44M in Library Construction Aid.

Libraries of all types advocated throughout the year to keep **NOVELny**, this invaluable suite of electronic

resources that many learners, librarians, and faculty at schools and college libraries as well as researchers and community members rely upon for access to credible information. Together again, we achieved success: a new \$3M allocation has enabled NOVELny to continue.

We maintained the ESLN Library Assessment Tools LibGuide, which had 1,910 views. The nine archived YouTube assessment videos were also viewed a total of 3,377 times to date, including 149 times in the last year. Assessment and visualizing the resulting data (also one of the 9 webinars) are storytelling tools for advocacy.



02 mencourages innovation & future-forward thinking.

Innovation and future-forward thinking that provides effective programs and services and continually identifies opportunities and uncertainties, imagining and co-creating our future in partnership with our members.



Resource Sharing

At SCRLC, resource sharing is at the core of everything we do, whether through supporting interlibrary loan, collaborating on collection development, building shared resources like the New York Heritage Digital Collections and NYS Historic Newspapers resources, sharing expertise–both yours and ours–in such services as AskUs 24/7 virtual reference, Ask the Archivist and of course, our many learning opportunities.

19 academic libraries received \$180,709 in Coordinated Collection Development Aid for Academic Libraries.

SCRLC's Bibliographic & Referral Center (BARC) placed 2,254 requests on behalf of our members—an increase of 16% and the second busiest year in the last two decades.

Medical Information Services Program funds paid \$648 for interlibrary loans for medical/health-related requests sent to the NNLM libraries.

SCRLC and the Central NY Library Resources Council teamed up to offer yet another successful Resource Sharing Users Group event, this time focusing on incarcerated people. *Books Opening Doors: Prisons, Libraries, and the Resources* attracted 107 participants from around the state, a 46.6% increase over last year's attendance.



Leading and Supporting Innovation

Technology and Digitization Grant Awards. SCRLC distributed 13 digitization and technology grants for the 2023-2024 grant cycle, totalling \$59,179.00. With these grants, digital objects were added to New York Heritage Digital Collections and New York Historic Newspapers, projects built collaboratively with 8 ESLN Councils, including SCRLC.

The 2023-2024 Grant recipients were:

- Broome Tioga BOCES SLS: \$4,145 to digitize year-books from Chenango Forks CSD.
- Cayuga Museum of History & Art: \$3,055 to digitize the diaries of Helen Smith Alexander.
- Cayuga Onondaga BOCES SLS: \$4,925 to digitize yearbooks from the Southern Cayuga CSD.
- Chenango County Historical Society: \$5,000 to digitize 700+ photographs from the Mary Fargo and Lee Brown Coye collections.
- Fenimore Art Museum: \$5,234 to digitize public domain newspapers from the 20th century.
- Greater Oneonta Historical Society: \$800 to acquire archival records of Oneonta-area veterans from World War II and digitize them.
- Historic Ithaca & History Center in Tompkins County: \$7,651 to digitize a collection of 5,600+ tax assessment photographs.
- Seneca Falls Library: \$1,457 to digitize early historical documents about the canal.

- Seymour Public Library District: \$2,000 to create and digitize oral history interviews.
- Southern Tier Library System: \$5,234 to digitize newspapers from Angelica, NY.
- Waterloo Library & Historical Society: \$3,550 to digitize 15 microfilmed newspapers and a collection of student written magazines.

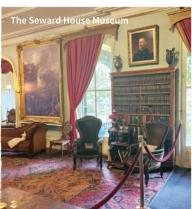
Visit https://scrlc.org/Grant-information to read the final reports.

Electronic Resources. SCRLC provided all governing members with Literary Reference Center, (EBSCO), FirstSearch/WorldCat Discovery (OCLC), Niche Academy, Tech-Talk, and access to LibGuides. Members continued to collectively save thousands of dollars in subscription fees.

Virtual Reference. SCRLC's AskUs 24/7 statewide virtual reference participants offered their users point-of-need reference service, while saving money by participating in this collaborative service: Broome Community College, Cayuga Community College, Cornell University, Houghton University, Ithaca College, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Delhi, and Wells College.







03 ... cultivates learning.

Equity that provides access to inclusive information (from historical materials to digital content), services, and spaces for all of our communities and healthy and diverse work environments that nourish the mind, body, and spirit for our members.

Connecting to Our Past through Digitization

SCRLC uses collaborative and innovative approaches to improve access to the past for present-day learners and researchers, and those who will need this material in the future.

New York Heritage Digital Collections. All 14 SCRLC counties are represented in NY Heritage, and the number of items from SCRLC contributors increased from 22,759 to 32,800 (up 44%). The total pageviews across the region's collections increased from 322,018 to 426,764 (up 33%).

SCRLC staff surveyed the geographic extent covered by existing NY Heritage collections and identified our underrepresented counties for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 grant cycles: Allegany, Delaware, Schuyler, Tioga, and Yates. Organizations in those counties were encouraged to participate and add more materials with extensive assistance from SCRLC staff. Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, Alfred University in Allegany County added 360 more objects. In Delaware county, Hanford Mills Museum added 711 more objects. In Schuyler County, the Backbone Ridge History Group's collection grew by 88 objects.

New York State Historic Newspapers. All 14 SCRLC counties are represented here, as well. There are now 206 newspaper titles on New York State Historic Newspapers from the SCRLC region, up by 46 titles from the year before, an increase of 28.8%. The region is now represented with 1,634,794 pages (up from 1,115,359 from the year before, a 46.6% increase).

CONTENTdm. Membership in the NY Heritage collaborative saved SCRLC participants at least \$115,000 in fees for CONTENTdm, the digital collection management system used for the NY Heritage Digital Collections.

Traveling Exhibits: Traveling exhibits about Women's Suffrage, the Erie Canal, the US Census, Hurricane Agnes, Immigration in New York State, and the local Craft Beverage industry circulated a total of 37 times to members and their members.

Engaging a Learning Community

Learning that is responsive, relevant, engaging, and transformational.

Learning Opportunities. We hosted and/or facilitated 52 educational activities this year including conference programs, webinars, meetings, learning circles, demos, article discussions, and training. Attendance totaled 1,335. Topics ranged from the total solar eclipse series (funded by an award from the American Astronomical Society's Jay M. Pasachoff Solar Eclipse Mini-Grant Program) to a five-session series of BRAVE Dialogues, which helped participants engage more deeply with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging initiatives. We also held a discussion with the author of an issue brief, Changing the Racial Demographics of Librarians. **DEI Engagement: What We Learned in a Year** featured our three DEI grant recipients. Seven Lunch and Learns were offered featuring health and wellness topics. Other programs included Tree Selection and Care and Alternative Vocabularies. We also hosted a meeting on the NYS Digital Equity Plan.

On-Demand Learning. We weeded our YouTube collection, retaining 67 up-to-date archived webinars. Fourteen were newly added, and views surged from 2,542 to 7,801 (an impressive 207% increase), largely driven by the popularity of the eclipse series. Our YouTube channel had 145 subscribers at year's end. 250 people were subscribed to the Tech-Talk newsletter, with 192 logins recorded in the Tech-Talk database. Additionally, 71 SCRLC members attended 24 Tech-Talk webinars covering a variety of topics. Three members used our Library Juice Academy discount.

Career Coaching, available to regional LIS students, recent graduates, and seasoned professionals alike, led to a successful job placement.

Improving Patient Outcomes: The Hospital Library Services Program (HLSP)

Effective librarians, liaisons, and credible resources that improve the effectiveness of medical providers and improve patient outcomes.

Twelve regional hospitals participated in the HLSP program, receiving electronic resources, interlibrary loan support, research assistance, consulting, and individual grants that totaled \$11,000. The grants were spent as follows: 48.8% on books (half were electronic, half print), 6.1% on training materials, 39% on journal subscriptions (all electronic), and 6.1% funded circuit services. The members used the funds to expand their library offerings to the medical providers and administrators at their hospitals.

"this grant money is my only source of money that I can spend as I choose... and the funds give me the ability to give our physicians, nurses, and other caregivers the information they need that is not included in those sources. It keeps the library collection growing and responding to patron needs, and I'm very grateful for it.

-SCRLC member

Electronic Resources for Hospitals. SCRLC served as a central agent for hospital library members' electronic resources, which included the *New England Journal of Medicine*, accessed by the hospitals 9,306 times. Stat!Ref, also provided to all hospitals, was used 1,563 times. Four hospitals (**Bassett Healthcare, Cayuga Health, Lourdes Hospital,** and **UHS Wilson**) participated in a 60-40 cost-share with SCRLC for a set of OVID e-journals, used 2,162 times.



04 facilitates partnership & collaboration.

Collaboration that supports and advances the ability of SCRLC members to meet their users' needs and that engages all members in SCRLC leadership, collaborations, programs, services, and beyond.

Communicating and Collaborating

Collaboration is also central to what we do, enabling us to do far more with partners than we could possibly do alone. You will see collaboration highlighted throughout this report.

SCRLC's 25 bi-weekly electronic newsletters were sent to 374 subscribers and 89 subscribers received the monthly SCHOAM! (Special Collections, Historical Organizations, Archives and Museums) Newsletter. The quarterly **HLSP News** for hospitals reached 24 subscribers. Visits to SCRLC's virtual spaces totaled 510,722, an increase of 35.5%. New York Heritage collections were visited 426,764 times; scrlc.org, 40,141. Facebook engagement increased from 299 to 317 followers. SCRLC's 15 LibGuides received 36,016 views. The most-viewed were the resources for 2024's Total Solar Eclipse (16,164), History Unbound (9,849), Disaster Planning and Recovery for Libraries (2,269 views), Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (2,092 views), and Library Assessment Tools (1,910 views).

Field Visits totaled 37, plus 13 consultations.

The 57th Annual Meeting featured a workshop by
Rachel Ivy Clarke, "Reconceptualizing Librarianship as a
Design Field."

Eighty-five individual benefit-contribution summaries were distributed.

Ask the Lawyer: SCRLC spent \$1,300 on questions posed by our members.

Collaborations Abound! Collaborations, especially with other ESLN Councils, are included throughout this report. Here are some not found elsewhere.

More Learning Opportunities. The 10 ESLN-sponsored webinars included two walk-throughs of the new New York State Historic Newspapers platform, AI in Education and Libraries, Inclusive Metadata, Homeschoolers in the Public Library, Arranging Contracts for E-resources, Institutional Repositories, The Future of IPEDS, Basic Book Repair for Libraries (47 SCRLC attendees for that one!), and ESLN AIR (Academic Institutional Repository).

Our Member Engagement Librarian and Digital Services Librarian organized the two ESLN NYLA programs at the annual conference on behalf of ESLN, one of which was the luncheon, Building Power and Community During Crisis Times, which was presented by Stephanie "Cole" Adams and the other was a showcase of ESLN programs and services.

Through our ESLN collaboration, 643 (up from 574) library workers from outside the SCRLC region participated in our learning opportunities and many SCRLC library workers engaged in those offered by other councils.

Digital Equity for All. In partnership with Finger Lakes Library System, Four County Library System, Southern Tier Library System, staff of the Ithaca College Library, and Mission: Ignite, the Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition, was formed to continue the work of digital equity in the 8 counties of our region not otherwise served by digital equity coalitions.



05 ... serves as a catalyst for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, & sustainability.

Diversity, inclusion, and justice, which recognizes that these are essential for equity for historically oppressed and marginalized groups of people, and that values anti-racist work and social movements that support equity for all.

Including Everyone

- Ten specific DEIJA learning opportunities were offered. Overall, our programs included a diversity of presenters.
- The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA) LibGuide was updated, including the section on inclusive metadata & best practices. An assessment tab, which includes the DEI Assessment for Library Systems (DEIALS) was added.
- Further best practice guides and learning opportunities were shared in the SCHOAM! newsletter.
- Through digitization grants, items that reflect historically oppressed and marginalized communities were added to New York Heritage.

- DEIJA actions were featured in our biweekly newsletter.
- Alfred University Libraries, Ithaca College Library, and Seymour Library District worked throughout the year on their projects and presented to the membership in May through a webinar, Guided DEI Engagement: What We Learned in a Year.
- SCRLC worked with two groups of Cornell University's
 Building Racial Equity in Organizations students to
 visualize developing a cohort program to attract BIPOC
 students to the profession. These students learned more
 about the profession and conducted a survey, did some
 interviewing and created marketing materials.



SCRLC PEOPLE & Our Members

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MARGARET KAPPANADZE

Elmira College

MARY ANN MUNROE

Greater Southern Tier BOCES School Library System

FIONA PATRICK

Corning, Incorporated

DAVID SCHUSTER

Binghamton University

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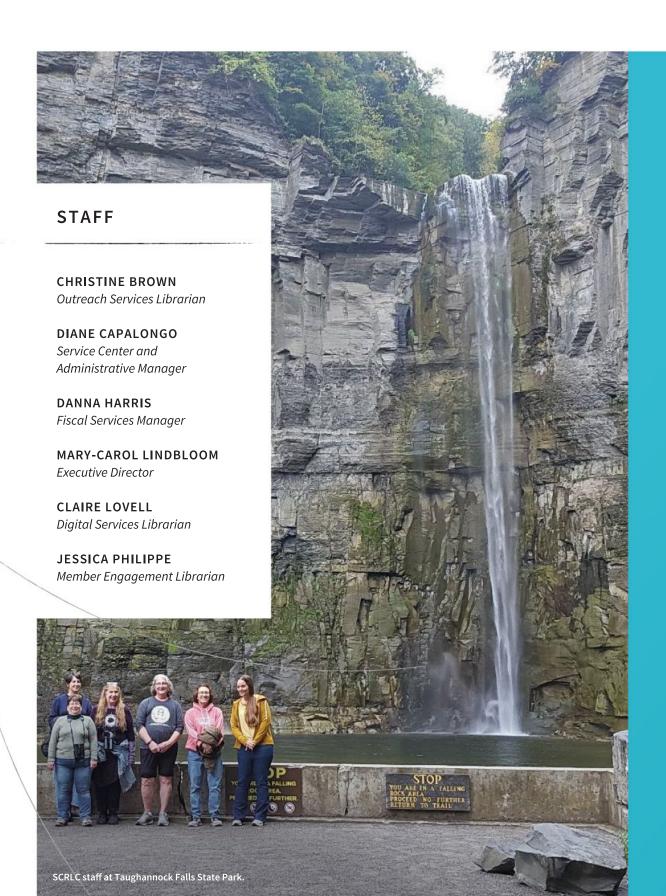
Houghton University

BRIAN SULLIVAN

Alfred University

KARIN WIKOFF

Ithaca College



ADVISORY COMMITTEES

AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

Steven Bachman, Four County Library System Sarah Glogowski, Finger Lakes Library System Brian Hildreth, Southern Tier Library System Penny Sweeney, Cayuga-Onondaga School Library System

DIGITIZATION

Julia Corrice, Cornell University
John Hosford, Alfred University
Erika Jenns, Southern Tier Library System
Erin Rushton, Binghamton University
Maggie Young, Steele Memorial Library

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, JUSTICE, AND ACCESSIBILITY

Beth Hylen, Corning Museum of Glass
Virgilio Pinto, Ithaca College
Allie Shanafelter, Corning Museum of Glass
Jenny Shonk, Finger Lakes Library System
Penny Sweeney, Cayuga-Onondaga School Library System
Karin Wikoff, Ithaca College
Lucy Yang, Tompkins Cortland Community College

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Megan Benson, Binghamton University
Simone Clunie, Binghamton University
Lauren Delaubell, SUNY Cortland
Laura Kuo, Ithaca College
Brian D. Lee, Four County Library System
Jenny Shonk, Finger Lakes Library System
Penny Sweeney, Cayuga-Onondaga School Library System

HOSPITAL LIBRARY SERVICES PROGRAM

Hilary Westgate, Cayuga Medical Center Laura Liepke, Binghamton University Matthew Roslund, Bassett Healthcare Kellee Selden/Mikki Smith, Lourdes Hospital Danielle Zavada, UHS Wilson Medical Center

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES (ACITS)

Doyin Adenuga, Houghton College Erika Jenns, Southern Tier Library System Peter McCracken, Cornell University Mary Ann Munroe, Greater Southern Tier School Library System Susanna Van Sant, Tompkins Cortland Community College

RESOURCE SHARING

Lorie Brown, Southern Tier Library System
Caitlin Finlay, Cornell University
Deb Geier, Finger Lakes Library System
Ben Hogben, Ithaca College
Sarah Shank, Ithaca College
Elise Thornley, Binghamton University
Erin Wilburn, SUNY Broome Community College
Lucy Yang/Gregg Kiehl, Tompkins Cortland Community College



MEMBERS

Alfred State College
Alfred University Libraries
Allegany County Historical Society
Auburn Community Hospital
Backbone Ridge History Group
BAE Systems
Bassett Healthcare
Big Flats Historical Society & Museum
Binghamton University Libraries
Broome County Public Library

Broome-Tioga BOCES
Canal Society of New York State
Caroline History Association

Cayuga Community College

Cayuga County Historian's Office

Cayuga Medical Center
Cayuga Museum of History & Art

Cayuga Onondaga BOCES

Chemung County Historical Society

Chemung County Library District

Chenango County Historical Society & Museum

Chenango Memorial Hospital
Civics4Action Collaborative

Cornell University Library

Cornell Offiversity Library

Corning Community College

Corning Inc.

Corning Museum of Glass

Cortland County Historical Society

Delaware Chenango Madison Otsego BOCES

Delaware County Historical Association

Dryden Town Historical Association Edith B. Ford Memorial Library

Edmeston Museum

Elmira College

Fenimore Art Museum

Finger Lakes Library System

Four County Library System

Genoa Historical Association

George F. Johnson Memorial Library

Greater Oneonta Historical Society

Greater Southern Tier BOCES

Hanford Mills Museum

Hartwick College

Historic Ithaca

History Center in Tompkins County

Houghton University

Huntington Memorial Library

Int'l. Motor Racing Research Center

Interlaken Public Library

Ithaca College Library

Jones Memorial Hospital

Keuka College

Lourdes Hospital

McGraw Historical Society

Mt. Saviour Monastery

Newfield Historical Society

Northeast College of Health Sciences

NY Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health

NYS Academy of Fire Science

O'Connor Hospital

Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES

Schuyler County Historical Society

Schuyler Hospital

Seneca Falls Historical Society

Seneca Falls Library

Seward House Museum

Seymour Public Library District

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital

Southern Tier Library System

Spencer Historical Society

Steuben County Historical Society

SUNY Broome

SUNY Cortland

SUNY Delhi SUNY Oneonta

Swart-Wilcox House Museum

Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center

Tompkins Cortland Community College

Tompkins County Public Library

Tompkins Seneca Tioga BOCES

UHS Wilson Medical Center

URMC St. James Hospital

Village of Aurora Historical Society
Waterloo Library & Historical Society

Wells College

Yates County History Center

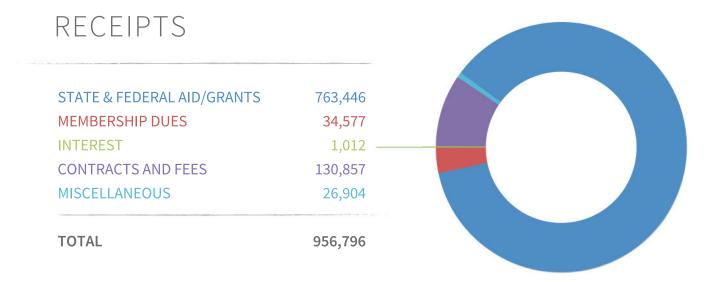


South Central Regional Library Council (SCRLC) is one of nine regional, non-profit multitype library consortia of New York State. Headquartered in Ithaca, SCRLC serves libraries and other cultural organizations across 14 counties and 10,045 square miles. The counties are Allegany, Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Chemung, Delaware, Cortland, Otsego, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, and Yates. The counties comprise the unceded homelands of the Cayuga, Onondaga, and Seneca peoples of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The region also includes Susquehannock and Lenape lands in the south/southeast corners of the region.





2023-2024 Financial Report



SALARIES & BENEFITS MEMBER SERVICES GENERAL OPERATING TOTAL 923,289

A Brief Summary

The financial report reflects receipts surpassing expenditures by \$53,896. This was largely due to the receipt of the final 10% of the American Rescue Plan Act grant (\$42,402), which was expended in the previous fiscal year. It also includes 90% of a Humanities New York grant that was awarded. Digitization services income comprises most of the miscellaneous income category. The Board used some of those funds to award additional digitization grants for the current fiscal year. In total, \$5,516 was added to the cash balance.

