



ANNUAL REPORT - May 24, 2011

Dear GMLC Members,

What an adventurous year it has been!

One of our biggest changes at GMLC has been the departure of two of its wonderful founders and board members: Stephanie Chase and Judah Hamer. Stephanie is Head of Programming & Outreach at the Central Library of the Multnomah County Library in Oregon. Judah Hamer is the new Director of the Rutherford Library in New Jersey. Everyday I become more aware of how much of their time they volunteered to GMLC. They both continue to be extremely helpful during this transition period. I thank them heartily for everything they've done and for all they continue to do.

Volunteers are what make GMLC happen. Librarians from all over the state help in innumerable ways to get things done - all while working their regular jobs! Thank you! And thank you to the Directors who generously allow their staff to volunteer for GMLC. Your support is extremely important.

Being a volunteer run organization sometimes means a little more patience is needed from our members when questions need answering, but I assure you we will get back to you. We are not a vendor and we need your help whenever possible. Later in this report you'll see some volunteer opportunities. I hope you will consider giving some of your time to GMLC.

Even with all our volunteer help it was necessary this year to hire a bookkeeper to keep track of our finances. Again, this has meant some transitioning, but ultimately will result in streamlining financial processes and easier reporting.

Finances have always been a challenge for GMLC. Three year commitments from members greatly help in planning, but we are always in need of more money, especially since adding eBooks to our Overdrive content. This new format has brought in a whole new patron base. So while for next year we expect that GMLC fees will remain the same for those members who commit for 3 years, we will be asking for an optional donation of ½% of your library's print expenditure budget for eBook purchasing. This is entirely

optional, but we hope you will consider donating this amount or some other amount that you feel is appropriate to help support GMLC. Look for membership agreements to be emailed at the end of August.

As we look ahead to future membership years we are anticipating increased costs. We definitely know that we will have to take on the costs of hosting as we have grown and cannot expect to rely on the generosity of Middlebury Colleges and their server. Also, due to our growth we are considering creating an Administrator/Volunteer Coordinator position that would receive a stipend as the day-to-day responsibilities for GMLC work will continue to grow. We also anticipate that this position will help in keeping member services consistent. And finally, as we see our usage in downloadable content continue to grow, we will need to buy more content to satisfy those needs. It is not too early to begin thinking critically about how your library's budget needs to reflect these changes, too.

Please read the rest of this report that has more specific information about our services: ListenUp! Vermont, VOKAL (Vermont Organization of Koha Automated Libraries) and Mango Services. Special thank yous to Virgil Fuller, Wendy Hysko and MaryPat Larraby for their liaison & coordinator work with these projects!

Finally, I would like to thank the rest of the GMLC board members for all their hard work: Wendy Hysko, Chris Kirby, Deborah Tinkham, and Lucinda Walker. Their time, wisdom and energy is greatly appreciated.

Best,

Mary Danko – GMLC, Board President

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LISTENUP! VERMONT

Since January, we've added seven new members: Shrewsbury, Whittingham, Springfield High School, Abbott Memorial Library, Haskell Free Library and Bixby Memorial. We plan on adding at least two new members in July- Varnum and Grand Isle. Since the last meeting we have also had some cool changes to the website: My Help, an interactive feature that allows users to help themselves- at least for basic troubleshooting problems. We also added a feature to the top of the screen that allows users to search via eBook, audiobook or search by both. E-books! We added e-book content in November and even without much advertising our circ stats have gone up *each* month that we had them. In December, the first full month we had them, there were 560 checkouts. In April, there were 1134 checkouts. I would like to thank our selectors Joan Lajoie, Karen O'Donnell Leach, Kip Roberson and Nancy Tusinski for their great collection development. Also thanks to Chris Kirby for all his tech support. *Virgil Fuller, ListenUp! Coordinator*

VOKAL

VOKAL has been growing quickly since September with 12 libraries circulating in the VOKAL Koha system. As of mid-May circulating libraries include:

- Brownell Library
- Marlboro Elementary School Library
- Dorothy Alling Library
- Jericho Town Library
- Burnham Memorial Library
- Bent Northrup Memorial Library
- The Lanpher Memorial Library is currently cataloging into the system.
- Johnson Public Library
- Warren Public Library
- Joslin Memorial Library
- Warren United Church Library
- Pierson Library
- Richmond Free Library.

The VOKAL Implementation Team/Executive Board consisting of Amy Boisvert (Jericho Town Library volunteer) Wendy Hysko (Brownell Library), Kim Peine (Dorothy Alling Library) and Richard Pritsky (Carpenter Carse Library) meets weekly to coordinate migrations, touch base on any open tickets with our support company Bywater, and address any issues that come up on a variety of fronts. Last summer the Consortium Committee worked hard to set the shared system preferences with input from a range of libraries and determine initial consortium policies. The Cataloging Committee developed work flow and cataloging standards and organized a training. The Reciprocal Borrowing/ILL Committee determined a policy that covered the needs of member libraries and the continued use of the VALS system. The newly formed Circulation Committee is currently discussing consortium etiquette with information in patron records for libraries who share patrons. A number of professional development trainings have occurred throughout the year including general Koha, cataloging and MySQL training with more being planned for this spring, summer and fall.

Mid-May stats include:

Number of valid patrons 21217

Number of active patrons 8895

Number of biblios 190954

Number of distinct titles 137365

Number of items 285080

Total circulation 349838

MANGO

Mango is the GMLC's answer to online language learning. It's a fast and easy way for our patrons to learn to speak a foreign language. The system is completely web-based and remotely accessible, so patrons can learn anywhere they have an internet connection (they just link to their library's Mango page and access with their library card). There are 19 Vermont public libraries offering Mango to their patrons. The average session lasts about 15 minutes and the most popular languages are French, Spanish and German. But patrons are intrigued by the selection of 50 language learning experiences and are not afraid to experiment as we have had Vermonters log on to learn basic Indonesian and

basic Croatian. Like any service we offer our patrons, a little PR can go a long way. The Mango website has an administrator link that allows you to get resources to help you promote Mango to your patrons. This is a fabulous resource to be offering to our patrons. It's a great supplement for students studying a language in school, for travelers getting reading for a non-English speaking destination, or anyone wanting to brush up on that foreign language they studied way back when. *MaryPat Larraby, Mango Coordinator*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GMLC relies on volunteers to keep our engine running vigorously. Please consider volunteering for any of the following openings:

NEW PROJECTS ADVISORY BOARD – Members are needed to consider new projects, determine their feasibility and then report to the GMLC Board.

GROUP PURCHASING COORDINATOR – A member is needed to negotiate group buying discounts for GMLC and then communicate them to the membership.

GRANT WRITER/GRANT COORDINATOR – A member is needed to help identify and write grants.

If you are interested, please drop a line to vtaudiobooks@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Our NEW mailing address is:
Green Mountain Library Consortium
PO Box 250
Hartland, VT 05048

Contacting the GMLC

- Listen Up! Vermont (for second-tier support questions, purchase suggestions, or to join): vtaudiobooks@gmail.com
- VOKAL, Vermont Koha Project: vokal_implementation_team@googlegroups.com
- GMLC Board of Directors: gmlcvtboard@gmail.com
- Questions about GMLC billing: gmlcvt@gmail.com