

## 2013 Green Mountain Library Consortium Annual Report

May 21, 2013

GMLC has been run by volunteers since its beginning in 2007. However, with its growth, and the balancing of managing current services as well as exploring new initiatives, the work was becoming too much to ask of volunteers. After Mary Danko announced her resignation as GMLC President, the Board discussed how to move forward, both in membership and management structure. GMLC members were informed of the changes in membership structure in the 2013 membership letter. In February, the Board voted to create a one year, part-time Executive Director position and hired former St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Director Lisa von Kann. The role of the Executive Director will be to assist the board and the GMLC bookkeeper by preparing membership mailings and invoices, the annual report, and budget.

### Listen Up!Vermont

From June of 2012 to May 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, Listen Up! Vermont patrons have checked out 79,355 total downloadable materials, consisting of 41,543 eBooks and 37,812 audio books on more than 5,000 titles. We saw an increase from last year of about 18,000 eBooks checked out (with 61,308 eBooks total) and about a 4,000 increase of audio books checked out this year. eBooks keep becoming more and more popular with our holds lists sometimes exceeding 50 patrons (perhaps it is time to change the name of this project?! We are busy fulfilling all the holds and ordering more digital content. There were also about 3,245 free Project Gutenberg downloads in the same time period from our website. In a little less than a year we have had 8,065 new users sign up to use Listen Up! Vermont and 7 new libraries in 2012/2013.

*Fifty Shades of Grey* was our most popular item checked out 226 times this last year. The audio books of *Caleb's Crossing* and *The Hunger Games* followed closely behind with about 200 check outs each. Other popular titles included *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, *The Absolutist* and *Gone Girl*.

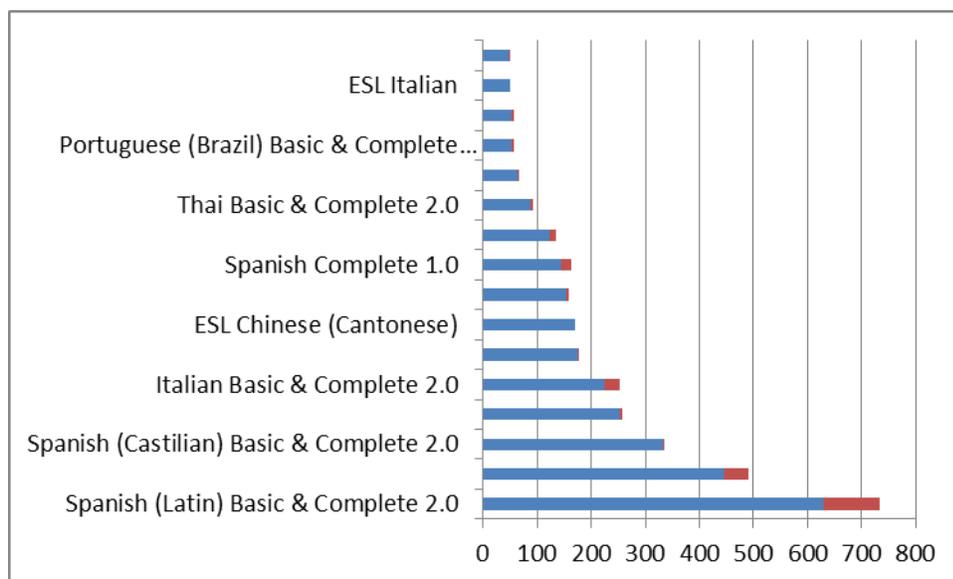
Overdrive dramatically redesigned their website in March of 2013, making their website more accessible and friendly to those borrowing on mobile devices.

Thank you to our selecting committee this year! We have new librarians helping out this year. Currently Ed Graves (Rockingham), Hannah Peacock (Colchester) and Joan LaJoie (Richmond) are selecting. Kip Roberson did a great job and left us earlier this year to a new directorship in Massachusetts. Another selector, Karen O'Donnell-Leach (St. Johnsbury,) also stepped down from selecting this year. We thank both Karen and Kip for such an amazing job while they volunteered with us. We appreciate all the help of our volunteer collection development team!

Judy Russell transitioned out of the Coordinator position (and out of Vermont!) and handed the reins over to me (Lyndsey Runyan of Rutland Free Library) in early 2013. Since then I have been busy coordinating with Overdrive, signing up new libraries, and answering your technical questions at [vtaudiobooks@gmail.com](mailto:vtaudiobooks@gmail.com) . Please keep contacting me with any problems you might be having!

## Mango Languages

Mango Languages features 49 courses in modern and historical languages (including, ancient Greek, Hebrew, and Latin). There are currently 21 GMLC libraries enrolled in the service. The chart below shows the number of sessions (blue="registered", red="anonymous") for the most active courses in Mango for all GMLC Libraries during the last year (5/2013-5/2013):



- Total number of sessions: 3594
- Mobile Sessions: 950
- Average session length: 14.82 minutes

Library with the highest number of sessions: Essex Free (553)

## VOKAL

VOKAL continues to grow and the Executive Committee decided this year that VOKAL will close its membership to new libraries to focus on getting the current list of new libraries migrated or automated in the system, training VOKAL library staff, and streamlining the system. Currently, 41 libraries are circulating in the VOKAL system and another 5 are cataloging their collections to automate their libraries and go live in VOKAL later this year. By the end of next winter there will be over 50 libraries circulating in the VOKAL system.

The VOKAL Executive Committee consists of Wendy Hysko (Brownell Library), Kim Peine (Dorothy Alling Library) and Richard Pritsky (Carpenter Carse Library). The Implementation Team includes the Executive Committee and new team member Nicholas

Clemens of the Quechee Wilder Libraries. Founding Executive Committee and Implementation team member Amy Boisvert stepped down from the Committee and Team in the fall after over 3 years of sharing her incredible expertise in computer administration, project management and SQL programming. We thank Amy for her amazing contribution to the VOKAL project!

VOKAL has sponsored and co-sponsored a number of development requests to improve the VOKAL system and these developments have been included in the standard releases of Koha and will benefit libraries around the world. Our Circulation Committee chaired by Brownell Library's Alison Pierce continues to develop circulation standards for the consortium. The Cataloging Committee chaired by Dorothy Alling Library's Debbie Roderer continues to train incoming library staff on VOKAL cataloging standards and orientation to cataloging in Koha, as well as evaluating the inclusion of additional standards, and incorporating RDA into the standards. Debbie has also been working cooperatively with Tom McMurdo of the Vermont Department of Libraries as they develop standards for their Catamount Consortium. The Training Committee, chaired by Arvin A Brown's Susan Smolinsky, continues to look into training opportunities, the most recent offering a SQL class offered in partnership with CCV. The Consortium Committee, chaired by Richard Pritsky, meets prior to each new Koha release to discuss new system preferences and decide which preferences would be advantageous to use in the VOKAL system. The Reciprocal Borrowing Committee, chaired by Brownell Library's Susan Pierce, meets as needed to discuss handling holds and ILL records with the absence of a delivery system which the Koha ILS is designed to be used with. There is a newly created Welcome Committee that is working on compiling the most useful documentation available on the VOKAL member site for new libraries to have access to, as well as the creation of additional resources to help orient new VOKAL staff.

The VOKAL consortium is proud to be a contributing member of the Koha open source community. We have an excellent partnership with our support vendor Bywater Solutions who have been very flexible in accommodating our unique needs running the first statewide consortium in our rural state. It continues to be a rewarding cooperative experience connecting libraries through open source technology, and sharing experience and knowledge throughout Vermont and beyond in the Koha community.

### **GMLC Board and Staff Contact Information**

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Respectfully submitted,

Lisa von Kann, Executive Director

