

OHM BOCES

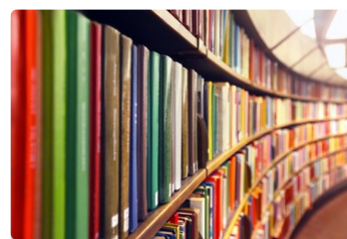
SLS/Media Newsletter

December 2021

What's New/FAQ

It's December?!

Whew! What a start to this school year, huh? A sudden email from TekData in September announcing that they would no longer be supporting SNAP starting October 15 meant that we had to accelerate and complete our catalog migration to OPALS several months early while, at the same time, trying to update student and teacher accounts, send out welcome packets, catalog new books and music, provide training, update database subscriptions and so on – hence the much-belated first newsletter for this school year. Sorry about the wait!



Large Print Titles Collection

We now have a small collection (one copy each) of large print titles to match some titles in our Multiple Book collection. This way, if your student has an IEP or difficulty reading small print, we can provide a large print version. Currently, there are 16 titles available in this collection; if you have a certain title you know a student will need, you can request its addition [via this form](#). It does take up to two months to order and receive, so please plan ahead. As a reminder, e-book versions on Sora often offer larger font sizes as well and can be used for this purpose.

Next SLS Librarians Meetings – Tuesday, December 14

Our next meeting for C3 and all librarians will be held next Tuesday, 12/14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at our 502 Court Street, Utica - 3rd Floor, with the Council meeting to be held immediately following it at 2:30 p.m. You can register on MLP: [C3/All Librarians Meeting](#) | [Council Meeting](#)

Faculty List Updates

There are still quite a few schools that haven't updated the faculty list we sent out this year – Aileen will soon resend the lists to librarians at those schools so we can create and update accounts for everyone. New teachers can also use [this form](#) to request an account or update.

OH! Libraries Facebook Group

Join our Facebook group for all Oneida-Herkimer school librarians, to encourage conversation, stay informed of any news and events, or just to keep in touch.

[Join Here](#)

Media Library - SNAP to OPALS Migration Updates

As you all know, on Monday, November 1, BOCES made the full migration switch from SNAP to our new [O/H Media Library](#) catalog in OPALS for booking any of our physical materials. Our digital resources can be found there as well, via the Digital Resource Library radio button, although teachers are welcome to continue using SNAP for those until it no longer works.

While there are certainly things that need updating and kinks to work out, so far it seems to be operating relatively smoothly. We sent out an email on the 1st with the access information for our new catalog – please share this with all your teachers if you haven't done so yet. You can also [find it here](#) on our website.

If you need help replacing the SNAP links on your OPALS with the new O/H Media Library catalog link, let us know. Or if you'd like help formatting a request for your IT Department to replace any links on your school website, [you can take a look at this example, made by Roma.](#)

We know there are several features we still need to have OPALS turn on/create, such as automatic booking emails – please know that we are still working on these. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Sora / OverDrive Updates and Upcoming Changes

Sora Summer Reading Contest Winners

As announced at an earlier meeting, the winners for our two spring/summer Sora Reading Contests were Benton Hall Academy (Little Falls) and Watson Williams Elementary (Utica). We'll be contacting both librarians to let you know how to collect on your prize.



NY Reads and Mid-York Library System Collections

Please let your staff and students know about these two “libraries” that they can add to their Sora accounts - both provide access to even more e-book and audiobook titles. Mid-York allows access to the local public library system collection (only titles corresponding to their account's access level) without having to have a MidYork library card, and NY Reads contains a collection of Simultaneous Use (Always Available) titles, shared by multiple BOCES within New York State.

You can download [these instructions](#) on adding the collections and share them with teachers and students.

“Always Available” Sora Collections Updated

We've updated the “Always Available” collections on the Sora Explore tab – rather than being divided by age level, these simultaneous-use titles are now divided into a “Classic Literature” collection, which contains many popular literary titles often used in schools, and a “Contemporary” collection, which contains the more modern, lighter reads.

Upcoming Changes to the Overdrive App

According to a recent email from the company, “OverDrive will soon start the process of retiring the legacy OverDrive app and encouraging all students to use Sora as the primary app.” The OverDrive app will be removed from app stores in February 2022. Current app users can continue to use it, while new users would be directed to the Sora app. The OverDrive website (<http://ohsls.lib.overdrive.com/>) will be

available until they begin further migration to Sora (no set timeline at this point). Access via the Sora app and the Sora website (<https://soraapp.com/library/oneidaherkimer>) will remain unchanged.

Going forward, if you've promoted the use of the OverDrive app, we would recommend you highlight the Sora app instead – OverDrive encourages “users to switch to Sora, with a goal of moving most over by the end of 2022.”

We'll keep you notified of any further updates and changes as OverDrive informs us.

Kanopy Update

Using Kanopy Streaming Video (Documentaries)

Next time you use Kanopy you may notice a difference: it's now set up more like Swank, where you submit a request for the titles you'd like to use. Because Kanopy is oriented toward the college & university audience, we had a little difficulty in blocking the titles that are not age-appropriate for our students. This change corrects that issue. **These instructions are for librarians and teachers only - please do not share with students.**



- Visit <https://boces.kanopy.com/> (You can also find this link on the “For Teachers” tab in the [O/H Media Library Catalog](#))
- Use the orange “Log in to BOCES” button at the bottom left.
- (The upper right “Log In” button is for individual subscribers)
- **Username** = boces
- **Password** = access
- (You will be logged in even though you see the “Log In” button at the upper right. It's still for people with individual accounts.)
- Select or search for a title and click “Watch”
- For films with an available trailer, you can watch the trailer (many titles don't have one)
- Titles that have already been licensed to us will appear in your search without a 'request' form
- New titles will direct you to the request form, which comes to us at the SLS office
- Please enter an educational reason for using the film, just like in Swank
- We should be able to get back to you within 3 workdays
- Play the video in class, or give the link to your students (if virtual teaching)
- Students will also log in with the same credentials. Please note, we have blocked titles that we noticed were age-inappropriate from search, but students can in fact search Kanopy once there. They would only be able to watch titles that are already licensed for our BOCES.

Upcoming Webinars

Underground Railroad in Rome

When

Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 5:30pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

Before the Civil War, thousands of people traveled from slavery to freedom on what became known as the Underground Railroad, an epic movement for civil rights in America. With easy access to transportation by road, canal, and railroad, Rome, NY, became a hotspot. Here, freedom seekers found local allies and often stayed to live, work, and raise their families. Judith Wellman will present research that confirms some underground railroad locations in Rome. Join us to hear their stories, ask questions, and learn how you can help carry on this work.

[Sign Up via Zoom - Rome Historical Society](#)

Library Signage and Wayfinding: Best Practices, Tips, and Guidelines

When

Thursday, Jan. 6th 2022 at 2-3pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

In this 60 minute presentation, Mark Aaron Polger will discuss some of the best practice guidelines when designing effective library signage. He will discuss the process of conducting a signage audit (or inventory), and how to use different signage research techniques in order to get feedback from users. Topics will include how to compose an effective signage message, design basics, mounting/placement, and ADA requirements.

[Sign Up via LILRC](#)

Play in the Classroom: Active Learning and Gamification Ideas for Academic Librarians

When

Wednesday, Jan. 26th 2022 at 1-2pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

Students tend to engage best with material when they're having fun with it. In this workshop, we'll talk about ways that you can gamify both physical and virtual classrooms to engage students in more active learning techniques, especially when it comes to leading information literacy sessions. From simple tools like buzzers or dry erase boards to creating augmented reality games or choosing your own adventures, you'll learn about a wide range of easy to complex activities you can implement in your own classes.

[Sign Up via LILRC](#)

[View More Events on the Empire State Library Network site](#)

Useful Resources

[Resources for Challenged Books](#)

Our list of great resources to consult if any books in your library are challenged, including Roma's fantastic School Library Management Buzz course, links and articles from the American Library Association, and more. *(Thank you, Roma and Heather!)*

[OPALS End of Year/Beginning of Year Guide and Checklist](#)

A guide to and checklist for the administrative duties behind the OPALS library catalog – great for anyone new to using the OPALS catalog system, or for anyone needing a refresher!

["Girls Who Code" Club Programs](#)

For those who would like to create official, free coding clubs for "3rd-5th and 6th-12th grade girls and non-binary students to join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models using computer science to change the world." Clubs can be held in-person or entirely online.

[Updated REALM Research and Toolkit Materials](#)

As of July 2021, the REALM Project (REOpening Archives, Libraries, and Museums) provided updated briefings, toolkit resources, and more.

[Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework](#)

This past May, the NYS Board of Regents "acted on measures to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in schools across New York State and promote civic education opportunities." As part of this, they released this framework, which "helps educators create student-centered learning environments that: affirm racial, linguistic and cultural identities; prepare students for rigor and independent learning, develop students' abilities to connect across lines of difference; elevate historically marginalized voices; and empower students as agents of social change."



Confronting COVID-19-Related Harassment in Schools

A fact sheet for teachers, students, and families from the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice to combat “harassment and other discrimination” against Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students “stemming from prejudice and unfounded fears about the coronavirus (COVID-19).”

Project Look Sharp

Project Look Sharp, Ithaca College’s not-for-profit media literacy initiative founded in 1996, sees librarians as the key leaders in our schools to support the integration of media analysis throughout the curriculum. In collaboration with SLSA they have put together [a series of short letters](#) that you can send to your teachers that highlight their free resources for integrating [question-based media analysis](#) into the teaching of core standards in social studies, ELA, health, science, math, arts, music and library/information literacy. All of the lesson materials, including the rich media documents (short video clips, social media posts, paintings, songs, articles, etc.) are available to educators who set up a [free account](#).

SLSA Statement on Intellectual Freedom



SLSA Statement on Intellectual Freedom

[Download](#)

611.5 KB



Oneida/Herkimer School Library System & OHM BOCES Media Services

[Facebook](#) [@OHMBOCES](#)

Under a plan of service approved by the Commissioner of Education, the Oneida/Herkimer School Library System (O/H SLS) serves the school librarians, teachers and students in 22 school districts and three nonpublic schools by promoting and facilitating equitable access to diverse, inclusive, and accurate information through coordinated resource sharing.

By providing professional development, we assist O/H SLS members in adapting to the dynamic nature of digital technologies and developing instruction in digital fluency and information literacy.

The O/H SLS advocates to stakeholders on the positive impact of school librarians and libraries on student learning.

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