



Reference and Adult Services
A section of the New Hampshire Library Association

**READS President Annual Report
October 2018**

The READS Executive committee met six times this year.

Together the following was accomplished:

Revision to the READS handbook which is now available on the READS division of the NHLA Website:
<http://reads.nhlibrarians.org/files/2018/08/READS-Handbook-2018.pdf>

A bi monthly newsletter was produced and put out to our membership by our membership chair, Emily Weiss.

A joint conference with the IT section was put on at the State library in May.

A series of round tables produced ideas on "Library Spaces."

Elections were held. Betsy Solon will step up from Vice President to President in January and Mindy Atwood will become our new Vice President. Kersten Matera will remain doing an outstanding job as our secretary.

Mat Bose has agreed to remain as our Treasurer for another year. Scott Campbell offered his services as editor to our newsletter and made suggestions for publicity and marketing strategies. Emily Weiss will be stepping up to serve as NEHA's Junior Director and will be resigning as membership chair.

There is always a need for volunteerism on this board because there is a lot of work to do to bring meaningful content to the NH Library community. We will be looking for a new membership chair this year. Please feel free to sign up for something you are interested in at the registration table.

This wonderful conference was put together by our programming committee and chair, Eileen Gilbert and her programming committee.

The READS Award of Excellence committee collaborated and decided on a winner for 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Pietlicki

READS YEARLY TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2017 – June 2018

INCOME

Savings	\$5,293.06
Bank Interest	\$0.35
Membership	\$930.00
Fall Conference	\$1,800.00
Spring Roundtables (fees)	\$1,100.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$9,123.41**

EXPENSES

Spring Roundtables	\$217.80
Fall Conference	\$2,346.00
Public Relations	\$537.13
Award Section	\$229.00
Reads-To-Go	\$1,278.24
Miscellaneous	

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$4,608.17**

BANK ACCOUNTS as of June 30, 2018

Savings	\$4,515.24
Checking	-----

Total in the READS accounts **\$4,515.24**

Submitted by Mathew Bose, READS Treasurer
Annual Fall Conference meeting on October 12, 2018

**READS Membership Committee Annual Report
October 2018**

Of the 189 READS members, 11 are first time members.

This year, in order to keep members better informed of events and resources for reference and adult services librarians, READS began sending a bimonthly email newsletter.

I'm in the process of finding a new membership chair because I will be stepping down in November. I've greatly enjoyed my time with READS.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Weiss
READS Membership Chair

**READS Annual Report from the Programming Committee
October 2018**

Last year's READS Fall Conference, Fall into Collections, took place October 10, 2017. 65 librarians and library workers gathered at the NH Audubon in Concord to hear discussions about starting a graphic novel collection, making your collections stand out, and adapting Dewey to local needs. We also heard from local author Virginia MacGregor.

The 2018 Spring READS Roundtables were held at four locations across the state. Thanks to Rye Public Library, Nesmith Library in Windham, Conway Public Library, and Hooksett Public Library for hosting discussions about adult programming. While the theme was general, specific venues delved deeper into topics like technology training, craft programs, and community partnerships.

READS partnered with ITS in May for a morning at the State Library in Concord. We heard from Maureen Ambrosino of the Westborough, MA, library about the fascinating work they're doing with Repair Cafe, digitizing local history, and providing venues for local businesses. Then some NH librarians stepped up for Ignite-style sessions describing local efforts to make the digital work for NH libraries.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Gilbert

READS-TO-GO Committee 2018 Annual Report October 2018

As of October 4, 2018, READS-TO-GO has 178 kits in the KitKeeper system. In 2018 seven titles have been added to the program and an additional six have been assigned, but are in various stages of processing. Since the inception of the READS-TO-GO program, a total of 189 kit titles have been assigned. Several kits have been removed, including two this summer that were destroyed in Hopkinton's unfortunate lightning strike fire.

The committee continuously reads newly published works of fiction and nonfiction to consider for future kits. We also try to predict the next "hot" item. (We've recently seen *Educated* take off and are waiting for it to be released in paperback before we can add it as a kit. Will next year see requests for *Dear Mrs. Bird* or some other title? What do you anticipate will be in demand in 2019?)

If your library or local organization would like to sponsor a kit, please contact dmayr@nesmithlibrary.org. (The cost of a kit is approximately \$180-\$200 plus your staff time for processing. RTG provides the bag and discussion materials.)

The link to KitKeeper booking system is found on the READS-TO-GO site www.readstogo.org or www.reads-to-go.org. The site provides overall information about READS-TO-GO. It is periodically updated with new kit titles and discussion questions. For 2017 there were 3,299 unique visits to the site, and so far in 2018 there have been 1,780.

Current information of interest to librarians and book groups is provided on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ReadsToGo). We urge libraries to use the Facebook page to recommend titles and for general book discussion group issues. Both the READS-TO-GO site and our Facebook page are under-utilized, so please visit!

Thanks to our committee members for the time, energy, and creativity they put into the READS-TO-GO program, Judy Haskell, Brianna Hemmah, Liz Herold, Claudia Mayer, Natalie Moser, Beth Nerbonne, Tricia Ryden, Martha Simmons, Katherine Parker Wright, and chairperson, Diane Mayr. The committee is currently looking for a new chairperson as Diane Mayr has been at the helm for more than ten years. New members are welcomed.

Special thanks to Brianna and Martha for keeping the KitKeeper online booking system current. A separate report has been issued for the KitKeeper system.

We appreciate the continued support of the NH library community. We offer our thanks to the kit host libraries, to Mary Russell at NHSL, and to the van drivers who transport the kits between libraries. And of course, we'd like to recognize the readers who continue to borrow, read, and discuss the books in RTG kits!

Respectfully submitted by Diane Mayr, chairperson
10/04/18

KitKeeper Annual Report October 2018

This was the first full year of KitKeeper use, as the system was implemented on November 1st of 2016. We still receive questions from libraries unfamiliar with the new system, although this is certainly less frequent than last year. Inquiries typically involve routine problems, such as deleting a reservation or forgetting a password. There are still occasional problems within the system that Plymouth Rocket has to fix. Some libraries struggle with the system more than others.

A year's worth of recorded statistics have yielded some interesting insights. There were 622 total new reservations made during this year. There were 182 kits active throughout the year, and all but 5 kits were used at least once. Of the 5 kits that were not used, 2 already have reservations during the upcoming year. There were 575 kit uses altogether during this year. On average, each kit goes out just over 3 times per year. 8 different kits were booked back to back with 6 reservations throughout the year. 20 kits were booked nearly back to back with 5 reservations apiece.

Of the original 20 kits that were offered, all but 1 have gone out in the last year. These original 20 kits average 2.5 uses per year. The newest 20 kits prove to be popular, averaging 3.25 uses per year. This number is lowered by totals from kits recently added, but generally feature a high number of reservations for the coming year. Kits added in 2017 went out either 4 or 5 times apiece and average 4 uses per year.

2 kits have been made inactive because of damage. They were hosted by Hopkinton Town Library and were damaged in the fire. The 2 kits were *The Beginner's Goodbye* by Anne Tyler and *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. They each went out 3 times this year before they were destroyed. Hopkinton has decided to continue hosting kits, but to replace these titles with new selections.

Statistics for *A Man Called Ove* are misleading, showing 2 reservations for this year. Although this kit was in use it was not in the KitKeeper System until May 20th of 2018. This kit was so popular in October of 2016 that the host library had scheduled reservations through to May of 2018 that were too close together to be transferable into the KitKeeper's automated 8 week system. It currently has reservations into 2020, the only kit to do so.

28 Most Popular Kits:

The Art Forger, *The Boston Girl*, *The Boys in the Boat*, *Breakfast with Buddha*, *Circling the Sun*, *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*, *Close Your Eyes Hold Hands*, *Commonwealth*, *Dead Wake*, *End of Your Life Book Club*, *Etta and Otto and Russell and James*, *Girl Waits with Gun*, *The Glass Castle*, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, *Homegoing*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *In the Unlikely Event*, *Kookooland: a Memoir*, *Little Paris Bookshop*, *A Man Called Ove*, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*, *The Muralist*, *The Muse*, *The Nest*, *Orphan Train*, *The Pearl That Broke its Shell*, *The Soul of an Octopus*, and *The Wright Brothers*.

5 Least Popular Kits:

Middlesex, *My Sister's Keeper*, *Shanghai Girls*, *Sisterland*, and *Us*
Respectfully submitted,
Brianna Hemmah