



November 29, 2011

The Assembly Standing Committee  
on Library and Education Technology  
Chair: Bob Reilly

For too many years now we have been using the phrase "in this economy". What this really means is that we have to do with less, tighten our belts and look for ways to make our resources work harder for us. One very obvious way to do this is to share services, to work cooperatively and to purchase collectively. Some people talk and act as though this was a new idea and maybe for many it is. Not so for libraries. We are the poster child for this method of doing business. In the community we offer the cost benefit of purchasing one to serve many. We don't stop there, however. We take it to the limit by belonging to a system, which provides so many benefits it would hard to list them all.

Our particular system, the Ramapo-Catskill Library System offers us many options that would be impossible to provide on our own. The way we operate on a day to day basis, circulating material, helping people by providing a wide range of information and preparing material for circulation, are functions centralized at our system. In addition, the collections of each library are accessible to all via interlibrary loan. The delivery of the above interloans would be expensive and out of reach without the benefit of our system. The cost savings to the public, who use this service in record numbers, is incredible.

I have been serving the public as a librarian for 17 years and have seen first-hand what a jewel our system is. People depend on us, especially in these tough economic times, to provide the resources that they can no longer afford on their own. I guess you could say we are ahead of the times. We're good at what we do and need your help to maintain our ability and even to grow. We are masters are making a little go a long way, but we have reached a point where we need some TLC.

I respectfully ask you to consider the value systems and libraries add to the quality of life in New York State, and to help us help our citizens make New York the best place to live in the USA.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,  
Sincerely,

Marilyn J. McIntosh, Executive Director  
Monroe Free Library