

FOCL Chat: Booksales Summary

January 16, 2021

Libraries around the state gathered to exchange the current state of book sales at their library and what the road ahead looks like. Each library's situation varied. Variables that impacted their book sales were:

- library open/library closed/ library never opened
- plenty of volunteers/low number of volunteers
- donations accepted/no donations
- space to hold booksale inside/ space to hold booksale outside/no space to hold booksale

The funds raised from booksales are impacting the operations of the groups in different ways. There was a consensus amongst the three chats: sales of dvds, audio books and CDs are slow to non-existing.

10 AM Medium Libraries

- **Madison**- May to December donations accepted and books were sold in a small seating area. Used a grant for a tent which was set-up in May. Sold books on-line.
- **Avon**-created a new face book page, web page. No book sales since 2018. Members are stepping up. Received a donation of \$3000.00. No book donations. Sale possibly in the spring outside. Funds are okay.
- **Niantic**- Hope to do something this June. Plant sale, auction-bid on bag of books. Sell on ebay and amazon.
- **Ellington**- book sale in library re-opened by appointment. Sold by bags(\$10). Good publicity-face book, local own paper. Library closed—went to curb side only. Booksellers allowed in by appointment. Sold on Amazon(make sure item will sell for \$11 plus). Membership \$50-\$100. Hopefully before September will do a bag sale.
- **Old Lyme**- Definite amounts for museum passes and children's summer reading program. Sold 355 books to a dealer. Using the basement-separate entrance. Have 40 – 50 volunteers. Funds are about \$10,000. Open with no appointments/no limits. Had outside book sale the 2 warm Saturdays in November. Was able to use the small business Saturday and art show. Sometimes select a special category of books (ie. romance) and put on their web site as a special.

12PM Small Libraries

- **Essex**- Closed/by appointment/closed. No book sales October 2, outdoor sales in parking lot bags \$5-mystery, biography, fiction, etc. \$400.00 with a matched amount. December 15-January 15th gift sale-\$450. Puzzles-\$175(priced from \$2 to \$8). Not taking donations. Book sales are carts in foyer with a jar(honor system).
- **Harwinton**- Closed in March. Zoom meetings face book page and local paper. Sold crafts on-line-ordered through the library-\$540 curb-side pick-up on porch. Put money in a box. Items were covered notebooks, Christmas ornaments, knit items, bookmarks. Children's department had a flood which damaged their children's books. Donations by appointment and are put in a shed. Plant and book sale. Summer monthly book sale.

- **Prospect-** Book sale was to open 3/12/20 but didn't. Library closed. Book nook is never opened. Donation to summer reading program cut in half. Sent out newsletter-thanksgiving. Dues came in-\$1000.00. Not sure what will happen in the spring. Library is curb-side pick-up; staff is inside working. Have about 110 members.
- **Burlington-** Closed; curb-side. Starting in August getting donations. Sold on-line and bags of books. No book sales. Did get some old books.
- **Portland-** send newsletter every year with membership info. Also put in the local paper. \$17,000. Fund the library directly. Membership starts at \$10-\$1,000(different levels). No book sales since October. Major donations 4 times a year.
- **Killingworth-** Lost major fundraising-golf, big sale. Library is closed but pick-up delivery. No donations accepted due to covid.

2 PM Large Libraries

- **Glastonbury-** book sales were 2 one-day sales and 2 small. 2020 no book sales. Bags-children boy and girl-\$7 for 4 books. Ordered n line and paid with pay pal. 2 pop-ups on the lawn. About \$3200. August through November. Uses face book, social media and local paper. Library closed.
- **Milford-** before-spring with garden club, sales 2 days, on-going book sale. Now-no book sales just whatever books are in the nook. No donations.
- **Farmington-** Before-2 sales 3 days each and book nook. \$500-\$1000. Now books on table; pay by honor system. Now closed. \$5000 outside in tent-DVD/CD sale. Inviting dealers into back room-\$700. Plan to open table in March. No volunteers.
- **New Britain-** Bagged children's books and gave to the school. August had a pop-up sale outside. October outside sale-\$500. April/May sale, maybe. No donations.
- **South Windsor-** Before-book sale on-going. Now-by appointment. In December closed. Hope to open in the spring. Items not selling are: CDs, DVDs, Audio. In 2020 raised \$3500.
- **Newtown-** before annual sale, little book sale, auctions-\$105,00-\$120,000. Using reserve dollars to fund 2021. March through September closed. Off-site storage. Sold at town's farmers market (\$2500). September library opened, donations outside put in pods for 5 days. Use discover. Have a large volunteer base. Use honor system for little book store. Still have amazon but not using.
- **Branford-** large sale on town green under tent (\$65000 in 2019). Warehouse for storage. - 2020-July and August \$24,000.00 over 5 separate weekends. On-line presence has almost tripled. Cart in library offered on-line.
- **Wallingford-** no friends group. Had a bag sale outside under overhang. Made 150 bags and sold all but 10-\$700. No donations. No big storage area.
- **West Haven-** 2 book sales raised more money than previously. Small, steady stream.

If you would like to be put in touch with a Friends group from one of the chats, please feel free to reach out to FOCL to facilitate the introduction or visit the respected Friends Group webpage.