Bureau of State Library Report for the GAC Meeting on 5/30/2019.

Renovation and Moving Update

During the Forum Building's renovation period, the Bureau of State Library's (BSL) Makerspace and its Digitization and Cataloging Unit will be located at the State Museum (300 North St.) BSL staff members who are not located at the State Museum will relocate to either 333 Market St. or the Commonwealth Keystone Building (400 North St., Harrisburg).

The Keystone Building will house the State Library's core public services in the former PHMC library space on the plaza level. A portion of the library's collection will move here (primarily law books and popular Pennsylvania newspapers), and another part (primarily microform and the 800 Dewey Decimal range) will move to remote storage in New York. The bulk of the collection's stacks will remain in the Forum Building under plastic sheeting to protect books from dust and debris. The Rare Collections reading room and vaults will be maintained "as is" at the Forum Building during construction. Also, warehouse space is being leased from the State Turnpike Commission as swing space for new acquisitions during the renovation period.

The Department of General Services (DGS) requires us to vacate the Forum Building no later than August 31. To achieve that goal, BSL's Digitization Unit and the Makerspace moved to the State Museum the week of May 6, 2019. DGS' Bureau of Facility Management (DGS FM) did a fantastic job of moving all the furniture and supplies for both the 5th floor State Museum staff space and the 1st floor State Museum Makerspace area. They completed the move well ahead of schedule. BSL was grateful to DGS FM for its hard work on getting Digitization and the Makerspace moved quickly and efficiently. Also, BSL was grateful to the Office of Administration's Information Technology group (OA-IT) for its work in making sure that the Makerspace and the Digitization units were up and running. All staff are currently set-up in the new spaces in the State Museum and have resumed their work. The Makerspace is in the process of unpacking and setting up equipment. It will be fully operational by mid-June for the start of the Makerspace Summer Camps.

One important outcome of working with OA-IT on this move has been that BSL's public services are now being supported entirely by OA-IT.   This is quite an improvement from the past when BSL was expected to support its public-facing operations independently of OA-IT. Now OA-IT has a greater understanding of BSL's service operations and the important role they play in state government, plus BSL benefits from greater technology expertise.

To move the library's collections, a library relocation company, BiblioTech, Inc., was chosen to relocate BSL's core public collection to the new temporary space in the Keystone building and to pack and transport materials that will go into remote storage. BiblioTech will also move the collection back into the Forum Building as well as clean and shift the collection to make space for returning items in the existing stacks and in new high-density storage. BiblioTech is based in Westbrook, CT and has been in the library relocation business for 27 years. They have done work for libraries such as the University of California System, Yale University, and the Army War College. Brian MacLachlan, BiblioTech's owner, is the project manager for the BSL move.

The State Library will close from June 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019. This is to allow staff and the library relocation company time to pack and move to the Keystone building. The move to the Keystone building for both the collection and staff is planned for mid-June. The State Library will reopen on July 1, 2019 in the new temporary space in the Keystone building. The move of the collection that is going into storage will start in late June, early July and be completed by the beginning of August.

Open Positions

The State Library has two positions it plans to fill this summer. The Rare Book Librarian and the Cataloger position. They are currently going through the HR process and should be posted in the coming weeks.