CATS Technically Speaking

Computer and Technical Services
A Division of SCLA

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Pictured here: Roseann M., Alison M., Mary O., Cindy I.,Rebecca G., Julia S., Anthony Z., Anthony G.,Nicole P., and Steve A.
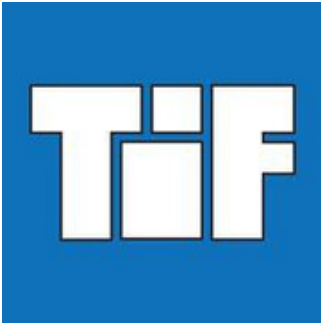
As we step into 2025, CATS is committed to fostering professional development, ensuring that professionals in libraries have the knowledge and resources they need to thrive. I'm honored to lead this effort as this year's CATS President. For those who may not know me, I'm Steve Alcalde, Head of Computers and Technology at Rogers Memorial Library. With many years of experience in the library community—including a term as SCLA President—I remain passionate about advancing technology and professional growth in our field.

We kicked off the year with an outstanding program, Tech Programming on a Budget, which was well attended and offered valuable insights on delivering impactful tech programs with limited resources. Building on that momentum, we are developing two upcoming makerspace programs. The first, So You Want to Have a Makerspace, will take place at SCLS on April 15th, and will provide guidance on starting a makerspace from the ground up, sharing best practices for libraries looking to establish or expand creative spaces. The second, a collaboration with SSD, will highlight the essential role of support staff in running successful makerspaces. Stay tuned for more details! Additionally, CATS is partnering with YASD for the upcoming Maker Faire in Port Jeff on June 7th, where we'll be sharing a table to showcase the innovative technology libraries bring to their communities.

Looking ahead to the Long Island Library Conference, CATS is excited to present two programs. Women and Technology in Libraries will explore gender representation, leadership, and the evolving role of women in library technology. Teaching Emerging Tech will offer strategies for effectively introducing new and evolving technologies to both patrons and staff. And of course, be sure to stop by the CATS table at the conference—you might just walk away with a fantastic prize!

This year promises to be filled with opportunities for learning, collaboration, and innovation. I look forward to working with all of you to continue advancing technology in libraries and creating meaningful professional development experiences.

Technology Information Forum

The Technology Information Forum (TIF) is a professional networking group for library staff across Suffolk County who are passionate about technology in libraries. We meet monthly to share ideas, discuss emerging tech trends, troubleshoot challenges, and collaborate on innovative programming. So far in 2025, we've hosted a virtual joint meeting with NCLA in February and held a Suffolk-only virtual meeting in March. This spring, we're excited to meet in person at South Huntington Public Library on April 10th. Whether you're new to library tech or a seasoned pro, TIF is a welcoming space to learn, connect, and inspire each other!

Technical Services Roundtable

The Technical Services Roundtable (TSR) provides opportunities for any and all Technical Services library staff to come together and share techniques, strategies, and procedures related to ordering, processing, cataloging, and maintaining library materials. The Roundtable is presented as a quarterly open forum, and all are encouraged to come and ask questions, share unique tips and tricks, and network with your fellow Tech Services workers. We hosted a Roundtable at the Longwood Public Library on February 27th where conversation flowed and we delved deeper into the topic we love/ hate - Library of Things. Keep an eye out for our next TSR!

East End Technology Coalition

The East End Technology Coalition (EETC) is a group aimed to help those who work with the unique challenges that East End libraries and many smaller libraries experience. In April, we are hosting "So You Want To Have a Makerspace?". This program provides librarians and library staff with the essential knowledge and tools to plan, launch, and sustain a successful makerspace. From cutting-edge technology and hardware to must-have software, you'll gain practical insights to create an innovative and engaging space for your community.

Become a member of CATS here.

Upcoming CATS Dates

April 10 - TIF meeting @ S. Huntington Public Library
April 15 - So You Want to Have a Makerspace - Register here
May 8 - Long Island Library Conference - Register here
Women and Technology in Libraries
Teaching Emerging Tech
June 7 - Maker Faire in Port Jeff - Get tickets here