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President's Perspective

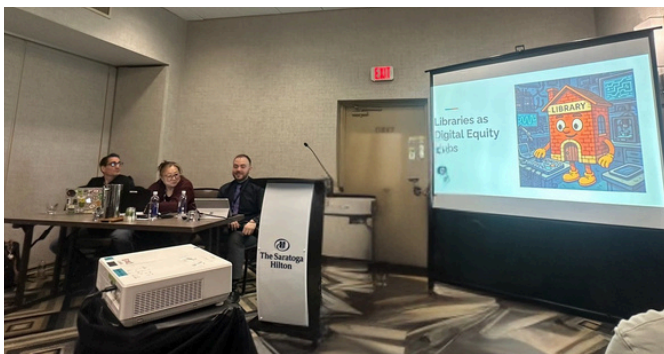
I am proud to share that CATS finished the year strong with several well attended programs that highlighted our division's creativity, collaboration, and spirit. This momentum reflects the dedication and effort of our members and supporters across Suffolk County and beyond

In October, we held a joint meeting for the East End Tech Coalition and the Technical Services Roundtable at Rogers Memorial Library in Southampton. The meeting brought together staff from multiple libraries to exchange ideas, compare workflows, and strengthen professional networks through open discussion and shared problem solving. Also that month, we hosted a makerspace tour at the Connetquot Public Library's Learning Commons. Attendees had the chance to see innovative equipment in action, talk with staff about their workflows and service models, and leave with practical inspiration to bring back to their own libraries.

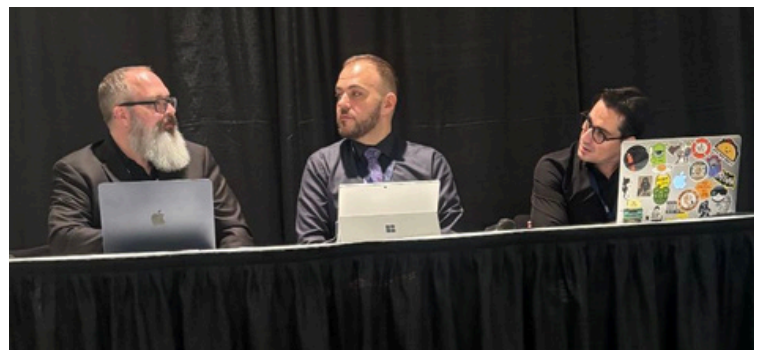


Connetquot Public Library's Learning Commons Tour

November was a major month for CATS at the 2025 NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs. Several CATS board members proudly represented our division and SCLA through three programs. Anthony Giansante, Sara Fade, and I presented "Navigating the Future: Embracing Emerging Tech in Libraries." Anthony Giansante, incoming 2026 CATS Vice President Dave Jones, and I presented "Creative Tech Solutions for Tight Budgets." Finally, Erin Kanelos from SCLS and I helped close the conference by presenting "Judged by the Covers: Organize, Advocate, and Overcome." All three sessions were very well attended, with the first reaching standing room capacity. It was a tremendous showing for CATS and Suffolk County, and wonderful to see so many colleagues engaged and participating.



NYLA - Navigating the Future: Embracing Emerging Tech in Libraries



NYLA - Creative Tech Solutions for Tight Budgets



NYLA - Judged by the Covers: Organize, Advocate, and Overcome

Also in November, CATS hosted another makerspace tour, this time at Middle Country Public Library's Innovation Space. Attendance was outstanding, and participants were truly impressed by the depth and creativity of MCPL's services. These tours continue to be among our most popular offerings because they provide real world models and ideas that libraries can adapt to their unique communities.

Finally, we closed the year in December with our CATS Annual Meeting. NYLA Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon addressed a full room and spoke on the current state and future of eBook legislation in New York State. It was an important and timely conversation. I want to thank AnnaLee for joining us and sharing her expertise, and I also want to thank CCP Solutions for bringing an incredible technology petting zoo and providing breakfast for our members. Their support helped make the event special.



CATS Annual Meeting with NYLA Executive Director, AnnaLee Dragon

As I exit my role as president, I want to share my deep appreciation for the incredible CATS Board. Your hard work, guidance, generosity, and passion helped make 2025 a truly successful year for our ever-growing division. It has been an honor to work alongside each of you, and I am grateful for the friendships, laughter, and collaboration we shared along the way. I am excited to support incoming president Nicole Malley, and I cannot wait to see the direction she leads us in throughout 2026.

Truly, thank you all for an outstanding year. Here is to continued growth, innovation, and connection as we move forward.



Technology Information Forum (TIF) – November Meeting Recap & What's Next

Curious about tech in libraries? So are we! The Technology Information Forum (TIF) met on Zoom on November 13 at 2:30 PM for an engaging conversation focused on the real-world technology questions library staff are navigating right now.

The meeting began with a NYLA Annual Conference recap, giving members who couldn't attend a chance to hear about standout sessions and emerging ideas from the conference. From there, the conversation shifted toward the future, with a thoughtful discussion on 2026 makerspace goals and strategic planning. Members also shared practical tips and experiences around filament storage and management, including storage racks, airtight containers, bins, and dryers. Another key topic was planning for technology during building replacements, renovations, or construction projects, with attendees exchanging advice on what to consider before, during, and after a major move. The meeting wrapped up with an open Q&A, allowing participants to ask questions, share challenges, and learn from one another's experiences.

Interested in joining? TIF meets monthly and offers CEUs, making it a great opportunity to stay current with library technology while earning professional development credits. The forum is a welcoming space for library staff at all comfort levels with technology—from those tackling day-to-day tech challenges to those planning large-scale projects or simply looking to learn what other libraries are doing.

Our next Zoom meeting will take place on January 8 at 2:30 PM, and new members are always welcome! The meeting invite will be shared via the SCLA listserv. If you're curious about library technology and enjoy learning in a collaborative, low-pressure environment, we'd love for you to join us.

East End Technology Coalition & Technical Services Roundtable – Joint Session Overview



A joint roundtable hosted by the East End Tech Coalition and the Technical Services Roundtable was held on October 9 at Rogers Memorial Library. The majority of the discussion focused on Baker & Taylor going out of business and how libraries are navigating the impact. Participants shared alternative vendors, workflows for canceling and replacing orders, and strategies for diversifying vendors in the future.

Keep an eye out for EETC and TSR programs in 2026!

Welcoming 2026 with the incoming CATS Board!



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Tory Young, Sara Fade, Andrew Tarantowicz,
Nicole Parisi, Cindy Ilardi, Alex Cranshaw,
Roseann Mammina, Stephen Burg,
Robert Johnson, Rebecca Goldstein



We're on Instagram—follow us!

@cats_scla

Upcoming CATS Dates

1/8 - TIF meeting via Zoom, 2:30 pm

More to come in 2026!

