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Overview

As part of Summer Reading at New York Libraries, the State Education Department and myON partnered to bring thousands of enhanced digital books to children from birth through 8th grade and their families throughout the state, from May through September. Our shared goal was to provide access to more books for more children and families in support of NYSED's focus on summer reading.

This initiative was designed to serve all children who were not already reading with myON through their own school-assigned accounts, which provide them with access during the summer as well as throughout the school year.

At the direction of the Commissioner, the summer initiative was rolled out through New York State’s state-established and state-funded network of 41 School Library Systems and 23 Public Library Systems, coordinated by the NYSED State Library Team and supported by the myON by Renaissance Team.

The school library systems rolled out to 733 public school districts in their service areas. One shared account was set up for each district, except for New York City, where accounts were set up for each Borough.

The public library systems rolled out to 756 public libraries in their regions for use by students attending nonpublic schools and charter schools, homeschooled students, and families with young children from birth to school-age in their respective service areas. One shared account was set up for each public library system.

A special statewide shared account was set up for students who receive educational services directly from their BOCES. Another statewide shared account was set up for the NY State Library.

Regular activity updates were provided to School Library Systems Directors and Public Library Systems Summer Program Leads throughout the program period for monitoring purposes.

Outreach, Communications and Support

The NYSED State Library Team and myON Team collaborated on the following activities:

- A resource web page on the myON website (NY Reads with myON), which housed customized information, resources and a video tutorial for educators and librarians to share with students and families. A web presence for the initiative was also established on the NY State Library Summer Reading website and the DaybyDayNY (English and Spanish) websites.

- Regular, ongoing communication between the NYSED State Library Team and School Library System Directors and Public Library System Summer Reading
Coordinators, covering all aspects of the summer initiative. More than 40 informational messages were deployed during the initiative.

- **Professional development** (live webinars) for School Library System Directors and Public Library System Summer Reading Program Coordinators to provide them with an orientation to the summer initiative and the myON digital books platform, along with needed information to support their rollout to schools, students, public libraries and families. Webinars were also archived on the resource hub. A “Welcome to myON” video tutorial was created for use by staff, students and families.

- A secure **resource hub** set up by the myON team to provide library system leads with customized materials for distribution to the schools/districts, public libraries and students/families they serve as well as regular updates on reading activity within their service areas. This hub also housed copies of all NYSED communications to these groups.

- A dedicated **email account** set up by the myON Team to handle queries and recommendations from library systems re: the rollout. A total of 59 queries were addressed through this channel.

- Access to the **myON Support Team** by phone or email for all educators, librarians, students and families who requested assistance accessing and reading on the myON platform.

### Additional NYSED Outreach and Communications Activities

- Inclusion in the Commissioner’s **Summer Reading at New York Libraries** kickoff event (June) and related news release
- Presentation on **Summer Reading at New York Libraries** at the Regents Meeting (June)
- Regular communication between the NYSED State Library Team, Office of Cultural Education and Communications Offices throughout the project period
- Updates and messaging in the Commissioner’s **News and Notes**, NYSED Weekly and NYSED/Commissioner’s social media throughout the project period
- Targeted communication from the NYSED State Library Team to each Summer Reading partner organization and to the NY State PTA (July-August)
- Information distributed at events including the Black Cultural Arts Festival (Aug); NY State Fair (Aug-Sept).

Copies and samples of Outreach, Communications and Support activities are included in **Appendix A** on page 8.
Reading Summary

The following data was captured within the myON environment as students and families were reading on the special shared accounts set up for this summer initiative.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books Opened / Browsed</td>
<td>192,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books Read / Completed</td>
<td>113,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes Spent Reading</td>
<td>1,496,384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aggregated data was captured when students were logged into the myON platform to browse or read books while they were connected to WIFI.

Students and families also were able to use free mobile apps to download up to 20 books at a time to read offline when WIFI was not available. If these students and families logged back into the myON platform using WIFI after browsing or reading the downloaded books, their activity also was captured and reported in the totals above.

Additional Information

1. Number of Spanish titles opened / browsed: 311 unique titles

2. Grade-levels of books opened / browsed: unique titles in English and Spanish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>PK</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>1,868</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td>3,079</td>
<td>3,025</td>
<td>2,287</td>
<td>2,105</td>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>2,102</td>
<td>1,353</td>
<td>1,319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Books might be counted multiple times since they typically are appropriate for several grades.
3. Most popular titles: the 25 books most frequently accessed through this initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Fiction / Nonfiction</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Times Accessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scary Ghosts</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>1589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scary Monsters</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>1261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scary Places</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>1236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone-Chilling Ghost Stories</td>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>1108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scary Stories</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack of the Mutant Lunch Lady: A Buzz</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaker Brainstorm</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Puppy to Dog: Following the Life Cycle</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodger Dreams: The Courage of Jackie Robinson</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day of the Field Trip Zombies</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Legend of Bigfoot</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night of the Homework Zombies</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great White Sharks: On the Hunt</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapunzel: The Graphic Novel</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hansel and Gretel: The Graphic Novel</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hide and Shriek!</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Legend of the Vampire</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Hero</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Monster in School</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Sniffles vs the Mummy</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Scary Stories</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creepy Urban Legends</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Scary Ghosts</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty and the Beast: The Graphic Novel</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasion of the Gym Class Zombies</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
End of Project Survey Results

Shortly after the conclusion of the myON Summer Reading partnership initiative on September 30, 2018, messages were sent out to the field via various NYLINE lists asking for feedback from School Library System and Public Library System participants. Our goal was to gain information regarding the effectiveness of the myON/SR project rollout and the dissemination of project information to school and public libraries through system contacts at the regional level.

Survey feedback was solicited from School Library System and Public Library System Directors and Youth Services contacts, and the survey link was also made available via the general NYLINE list, which reaches over 3,000 members throughout New York State.

The brief survey consisted of 8 questions that asked the following of respondents:

- Whether they understood the initiative and whether they had all the information needed to support it
- What means they used to communicate information to their staff and customers
- Whether myON was helpful to their customers as a free additional Summer Reading resource
- Whether they received any feedback from their customers on the project
- Whether they thought it would be beneficial to repeat the myON/SR project next year in 2019

The survey also invited respondents to submit comments for each question to add any additional feedback or anecdotal information that they wished to share.

See Appendix B on page 15 for details on their responses.
Appendix A
Outreach, Communications and Support Examples

There are three distinct and mutually supportive sections:

1. Examples of resources that have been developed and posted on informational websites for students, families and staff.

2. Professional Development Schedule – Overview and orientation sessions delivered for library system leads to support their rollout efforts.

3. Examples of messaging from the Commissioner’s office regarding summer reading through this initiative.

Special thanks to the national Collaborative Library Summer Program (CLSP) for granting permission to use the Libraries Rock graphic to promote this summer reading initiative.

Main handout, below, included summary information for all stakeholders.
Section 1. Resource Examples

These resources were distributed to SLS and Public Library Systems for incorporation into their outreach activities. They were also posted on the NY Reads with myON web page and The NY State Library web page.

The web badge above was available for libraries and school systems to post on their web pages, as The NY State Library did below. The badge was used to link to the main initiative resource page on the myON website or to their own informational web pages.
Main resource web page hosted on the About.myON.com website

Welcome to myON!

View our video to learn how to log into myON, then browse or search the digital library to find engaging books for all ages. Step-by-step instructions for finding, downloading and using our free mobile apps are included, too!

Start reading with myON!

Use the login provided by your school or library
Need help? Call myON Support toll-free at 1-888-728-1266, Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 6 PM Eastern.

Download
NY Online & Offline Reading Instructions - English

Download
NY Online and Offline Reading Instructions - Spanish

Select and read great books!

Download
NY Reads Quick Reference Card - English

Download
NY Reads Quick Reference Card - Spanish

Help your kids get the most from myON!

Download
Family Tip Sheet - English

Download
Family Tip Sheet - Spanish

Looking for the official handout?

Download
NY Reads with myON Summer 2018

Check out your public library program!

Download
Summer Reading at New York Libraries Fact Sheet
**Family Reading Tips**

- **Read with your child each day**
- **Choose books that are interesting**
- **Talk about the story and the pictures**
- **Ask questions to encourage thinking**
- **Point out interesting words and concepts**
- **Encourage your child to talk about the story**

**Quick Reference Card**

- **Guía de referencia rápida**
- **Leer con myON**
- **Ingresar con myON**
- **Ver videos de instrucciones**
- **Descargar el libro para leer offline**
- **Añadir libros a la biblioteca digital**
- **Buscar libros por categoría**
- **Sugerencias de lectura**

**Happy Reading!**

**Activity Reflecting Materials**

1. **Material para reflexionar**
2. **Asignaciones de lectura**
3. **Actividades de lectura**
4. **Libros para familiarizarse con diferentes géneros y estilos de escritura**
5. **Historias relacionadas con la historia**
6. **Preguntas para discusión**

**Family Reading Tip Sheet (available in English and Spanish)**

**Quick Reference Card (available in English and Spanish)**
Section 2. Professional Development

Four live webinars were co-delivered by myON and NYSED State Library staff to introduce the summer initiative and provide an orientation to myON. Our overall goal was to provide library system project leads with the information needed to roll out the summer initiative within their service areas.

These sessions were recorded for future reference and sharing with those who could not attend the live sessions.

Webinar Sessions

April 19  Introduction to the Summer Partnership Initiative for SLS Leads
April 23  Orientation to myON for SLS Leads
April 24  Introduction to the Summer Partnership Initiative and Orientation to myON for PLS Leads
June 28  Overview of the Summer Partnership Initiative and myON for PLS and public libraries (requested follow up to the April 24 session)

Video Tutorial

A video tutorial was also developed to introduce staff as well as students and families to the myON digital library. The video was accessible from the resource web page.
Section 3. Examples of the Commissioner’s Messages

Commissioner’s web page

New York’s Summer Reading statewide kickoff event took place on June 27, hosted by Onondaga County Public Library Central Library. Commissioner Elia was on hand to offer strong support to Summer Reading and to public and school libraries working together to combat “summer slide.”

“Education Department Encouraging Summer Reading (Spectrum News video) - June 24, 2018

“The State Education Department is encouraging kids and their parents to head to the library over the summer to work on reading skills and also to learn how to use the library’s many resources. And experts say that sets students up not only for the next school year, but for life. Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia joins the show to explain more.”

Spectrum News interview

News and Notes

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! This week, and every week, I want to express my appreciation and admiration for the work our teachers do every day to help the children of New York State grow and thrive. All week on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, we have encouraged anyone whose lives have been touched by a teacher to express their gratitude and #ThankATeacher. Thank you to all teachers who work hard every day to educate and better the lives of our students.

In this edition of News and Notes, I provide information about the following:
- 2018 My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Symposium and Inaugural Class of MBK Fellows
- Student Data Privacy Public Forums
- New Guidance and Resources for Schools to Implement Social and Emotional Learning
- Regents Act to Amend Dogly for All Students Act Regulations
- Southern Cayuga Central School Teacher Receives 2018 Yonkers Teacher Award
- Public Comment Period on Proposed Every Student Succeeds Act Regulations
- New Exhibitions at The State Museum
- Education Technology Conference
- Earth Science Workshop for Teachers
- Summer Reading at New York Libraries

Thank you again for all you do for the students of New York State.

Sincerely,
MaryEllen Elia
Commissioner

Summer Reading at New York Libraries

It’s almost time for Summer Reading at New York Libraries! This year, NYSED is partnering with myOn to bring digital books to young readers via unlimited access to the myOn digital library at school and in the local public library!

The myOn Library has a collection of over 8,000 fiction and nonfiction e-books geared toward children from birth to 8th grade, many with recorded audio and other useful features.

The goal of the NYSED Summer Reading pilot partnership with myOn is to provide additional resources to keep children reading through the summer by providing them with an abundance of reading material, in school, through the public library, and on their devices through the myOn mobile app. The myOn pilot partnership will run from May through September.

Social media

Do you love music? Read this book, “Strings,” to learn about string instruments: bit.ly/2ARTffr #SummerReading #LibrariesRock #StopSummerSlide

Get unlimited access to the myOn digital library through September: bit.ly/2sUtF4x

Take to the skies in today’s #SummerReading book with songbirds and raptors, and waddle with some flightless birds, too! bit.ly/2PiltD1 #LibrariesRock #StopSummerSlide

Get unlimited access to the myOn digital library through September: bit.ly/2sUtF4x
Appendix B

Survey Results

A brief 8-question survey was administered to the field (via School and Public Library System lists as well as the general NYLINE list) from October 3 through 8, 2018. The purpose of the survey was to gain feedback that would be used to inform the myON and NYSED support teams, assist with the evaluation of the Summer Reading partnership project and help craft the final report. A total of 151 responses were received, along with a number of helpful comments and suggestions.

Q1. Did you clearly understand the myON/Summer Reading at New York Libraries (NY Reads with myON) partnership initiative?
149 responses were received, with 2 respondents skipping this question. 86% of respondents indicated that they clearly understood the myON/SR partnership initiative with the information that was distributed during the initial roll out phase and throughout the project time period of May through September.

Q2. Did you have all the information and resources needed to support the initiative (login credentials, how-to information, accessibility, and usage report data)?
151 responses were received. Nearly 91% of respondents indicated that they received sufficient information and resources needed to support and promote the initiative.

Q3. How did you communicate information about the NYSED/myON Summer Partnership Initiative to staff, students and families?
151 responses were received. Respondents indicated a variety of means used to communicate information about the myON/SR initiative to their customers. The most popular means was flyers or handouts, which were used 62% of the time. Other popular methods included adding information about the initiative to a school or library website (33%) or using email to disseminate relevant information (32%).

Q4. The State Library and myON are collecting examples from libraries, schools, and library systems to include in the end-of-project report for the Commissioner of Education. If you would like to provide samples for this purpose, please email them to: NYReadswithmyon@renaissance.com
108 respondents answered this question by checking the OK box, but the NYReadswithmyON team only received one example from the field.

Q5. Do you think it was helpful to have myON as a free additional Summer Reading digital resource for students and families during the summer?
145 responses were received, and 6 respondents skipped this question. 72% felt that myON was a good additional resource to include in the 2018 Summer Reading program.
Q6. Did your library, library system, or school receive any feedback from families and/or students about using myON this summer?
148 responses were received. 76% did not receive any feedback from their customers, and 24% did indicate they had received some type of feedback.

Q7. Do you think it would be beneficial for your users, students, and families to repeat the project next year?
139 responses were received with 12 skipping the question. 76% of survey respondents felt the myON/SR project should be repeated in 2019.

Q8. Please indicate your affiliation.
151 responses were received. The responses from the field were broken down as follows: 16% School Library System or BOCES; 21% Public Library System; 40% Public Library staff; 23% School Library staff; 1 other.

Summary

Overall results from the survey and the feedback received from School and Public Library System participants indicate a high degree of interest in and substantial use of the myON/SR partnership initiative and resources. One apparent outcome of this collaborative effort between School and Public Library systems to spread the word about myON/SR was the increased awareness of the Summer Reading program and its related resources among school district teachers and administrative personnel.

Outreach to schools to promote Summer Reading has been a priority of the State Library and the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for several years but finding effective ways to distribute information to schools and school libraries has been an ongoing challenge. The myON/SR partnership initiative was helpful in significantly advancing these outreach efforts, by uniting schools/school library systems and public libraries/public library systems in a common effort to combat summer slide and keep students reading all summer long, whether at the library or on a device or mobile app.

The positive feedback on myON as an additional resource and on whether this partnership should be repeated next year seems to reflect that feeling of benefit through increased collaboration as well as a desire to collaborate on future endeavors to help boost student success and literacy. If this project is repeated in the future, feedback from survey respondents indicates an earlier timeline for dissemination of information would be most helpful to the School and Public Library Systems, in order to effectively include this project or similar projects into their yearly planning schedules.
### Appendix C

**Summer Reading at NY Libraries**  
Libraries Rock with myON Partnership Initiative Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NY STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>myON by RENAISSANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-20 Senior Deputy Commissioner's Office</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leadership Team</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jessica Todtman  
Chief of Staff for P-20 Program Implementation | Todd Brekhus  
Chief Product Officer |
| **Office of Cultural Education** | Sarah DiFrancesco  
Chief Marketing Officer |
| **Deputy Commissioner’s Office** | Chris Rudderow  
Regional Vice President for Sales |
| Antonia Giuliano, OCE Communications | **Project Team** |
| **Division of Library Development, New York State Library** | Mark Anthony  
Interactive Designer |
| Carol A. Desch  
Coordinator of Statewide Library Services | Robert Bone  
New York Account Executive |
| Robert Drake  
Website Content Development and Maintenance Creekside Systems | Joan Grossman  
Senior Consultant for Special Projects |
| Jessica Y. Hoffman  
Graduate Student Assistant | Doris Linville  
Customer Success Director |
| Katy Kukulich  
Graduate Student Assistant | Anthony Proulx  
Digital Marketing Manager |
| Sharon Phillips  
Program Manager  
*Summer Reading at New York Libraries* | Regan Richardson  
Support Services Manager |
| Mary Anne Waltz  
Team Leader  
Public Library System Services Team |
Appendix D
Library System Partners
School Library Systems and Public Library Systems
in New York State

http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/slssap/slslinks.htm