



# WE ARE ALSC CHAT

## We Are ALSC Chat – Notes from August 27, 2020

Hosted by the **ALSC School Age Programs and Services Committee**:

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**Valerie Byrd Fort**, University of South Carolina School of Information Science  
**Kimberly Grad** (co-chair), Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn NY  
**Laura Lutz**, Corlears School in New York, NY  
**Sierra McKenzie** (co-chair), Cincinnati Public Library, Cincinnati, OH  
**Emily Nichols**, New York Public Library, New York, NY  
**Connie Hollin**, Platt County School District, Guernsey, WY  
**Stephanie Prato**, Simsbury Public Library, CT  
**Cynthia Zervos**, Way Elementary School, Bloomfield Hills, MI

The first topic of discussion was how **public and school librarians** have created partnerships with each other during this specific time.

- One public librarian has created tutorials about how to use the library's online resources; this has been helpful to the school librarians.
- One public librarian worked with a public-school educator to create this document on library resources for students and families.  
<https://www.denverlibrary.org/sites/dplorg/files/linked/virtual/K-5thVirtualClassroomVisitsMenu-Fall2020.pdf>
- Multiple public libraries are using the e-card option with schools; feedback was generally positive and some libraries will continue to use them post-Covid.
- One public library uses photo buttons of the local teachers to indicate books needed for class and/or recommended by their teachers.
- A SAPS committee member sent a survey to local schools re: their preferred platforms to figure out how best to reach them (Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)
- A public librarian asks school librarians contribute their own Bitmojis to the library's page. For an example see <https://glittermeetsglue.com/virtual-bitmoji-classroom/>
- Another librarian adds handouts to books that support emerging readers.
- Some public libraries are dropping off books to schools; the classroom teachers decide how to distribute to the students
- Both public and school librarians are using SORA/Overdrive to get e-books and audiobooks to their users (in many cases, public and school are collaborating together to broaden their collections).
- Some public librarians are doing virtual visits with classrooms, particularly in schools where there is no school librarian.
- A public librarian creates "genre sheets" for books available at the public library, including book cover, various formats available, AR level, etc. Book cover is clickable and takes the browser to the catalog to request it. They send these to the teachers and school librarians.
- Some public librarians are working with schools to set up Community Reading programs such as One Grade Read or a Middle School Read.



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- Some school libraries offer school-side pickup for students who are doing remote learning.
- School librarians have been contacting public librarians to see how to ensure students have access to everything when/if everything shuts down.
- Perhaps create Outreach Cards that are good for teachers to use without fines.
- It is helpful when a public library is fine free.

Some libraries are using **technology** to great effect.

- Some libraries enlist the help of volunteer teen interns to assist in programming. Teens create games, offer craft programs such as friendship bracelet tutorials with younger kids via Zoom. Teen interns are also reading buddies, to assist children 4-10 years-old with reading.
- [Flipgrid](#) is growing in popularity...you can share your favorite books, set up threads, record yourself, set up time limits. A committee member used Flipgrid for their Mock Caldecott.
- Some librarians have also had success with [Breakout EDU](#), which is a game platform that has groups of people working collaboratively. For an example see [Retro-Detectives](#)
- Two recommendations were made: [Writing Boxes](#):The ReadingWriting Connection (free downloads) and [Operation ReadAloud](#) (#operationreadaloud)  
One library doesn't have an e-card option but they're using Overdrive's instant card option with a mobile number. It's not ideal (only one card per mobile number) but it's still quick and easy. It's also a comparable price to a physical card.
- Someone shared an article with great Bitmoji classroom ideas: <https://glittermeetsglue.com/virtual-bitmoji-classroom>

Some **analog programming ideas** were also discussed:

- Creating a Windows & Mirrors bookshelf - hold virtual booktalks (both live and asynchronous) about these titles. (There was also a discussion about the lack of diversity in e-book availability)
- A librarian paired the summer lunch/free lunch program in her area with book checkouts and distributions
- One library system is giving families a wordless book and creating videos to model reading wordless books, along with sharing library resources and literacy tips.
- This link was shared re: free teacher resources (there is a bit available on this site): <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/back-to-school-resources-teachers-parents-financial-education-practitioners/>
- One librarian has checked out class sets for teachers (approximately 25-30 books) to make a mini class library
- Creating "Mystery Packs" - kids get two paperback books in paper bags. The books are matched to the child's age/grade level (and some librarians had kids fill out surveys ahead re: their preferred genres, authors, etc.).
- Brooklyn Public Library ordered approximately 8,000 books for Summer Reading but none of them were processed because the libraries were shut down. In late summer,



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they gave them to 60+ community organizations to distribute, and they also kept some to give out at the branch libraries that opened for lobby service.

- There was some discussion about how to get permissions for teens/kids to participate in the virtual space. One library said that they asked that a parent/guardian be next to their child while participating (under 18).
- Libraries are combining book distribution with food distribution or materials pickup for the school year.