Out-Doing Outreach in a COVID-19 World

Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services

Cathy Zimmerman - President ABOS
Susan Parkins - Past President ABOS
For many years, Professor Bernard Vavrek from Clarion University sponsored two organizations, the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) and the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS). They would have a joint conference in Columbus, Ohio each year. Clarion University hosted a listserv for each organization.

In 2006, Professor Vavrek retired, and the two groups decided to separate.

ALA/ODLOS Affiliate

More information about our history can be found on our website!

(www.abos-outreach.com)
Outreach librarians strive to provide equitable delivery of library services to all people through the development of programs, policies, practices, and behaviors which make the library available to all people.

(ALA Diversity, Literacy & Outreach Services)
What types of libraries provide Outreach Services

- Public
- Academic
- Government
- Medical
- Special
Where and to whom are Outreach Services provided

- Underserved populations
- Daycare facilities
- Small and/or rural schools
- Homebound (all ages)
- Assisted living/retirement centers/nursing homes/hospitals
How Many Kinds of Outreach Are There?

- Book Mobiles
- Lobby Stops
- Book Fairs
- Touch A Truck
- Business Expositions
- Senior Fairs
- Resource Information
- eReader Demonstrations
- Reminisce with the Library Program

- Virtual Travel
- Book Clubs
- Reading to Memory Care
- Citizen Health Initiative
- Census help
- English as a 2nd Language programs
- The list is endless
How were you “Out-Doing” Outreach

- What was your Mission?
- Who was your target audience?
- What goals did you have to expand services?
How are you “Out-Doing” Outreach in a COVID-19 World

• What is your NEW service plan?
• How has your audience CHANGED?
• What are your NEW procedures?
Bookmobile Service

• “Step on” vehicles
• Modified van
• Lobby Stops
• Book Bikes
Bookmobile Services

COVID-19

• Neighborhood Routes
  • Onboard limits
  • No contact service
  • Reimagined routes

• Schools/Daycare facilities
  • Onboard limits
  • Teacher services

• Mobile Hotspots
Senior Services

- Armchair Travel Programs
- Memory Care Activities
- Audio books
- Book Clubs
Senior Services COVID-19

• Reader Advisory
• Memory Care programs
• Support Services
• Virtual Programs
  • Armchair Travel
  • Topic programs
  • Games
  • Crafts
  • Bookclubs/discussions
Homebound Services

• Books By Mail
• In person delivery
• Partnerships with community agencies and organizations
• Dial in services
• Talking Book libraries
Homebound Services  COVID-19

- Increased Books By Mail
- Contactless delivery
- Suspended services of other organizations
- Change in roles
Resources from ABOS

WEBSITE

SOCIAL MEDIA

MEMBERSHIP

LISTSERV

BOIR
Thank you for taking part in the program

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ABOS website - www.abos-outreach.com
“Jazz Up Your Outreach”

- October 12-14, 2021  St. Louis, Mo Hilton Ball Park
- Carol Hole travel grants plus other award recognition
- Go to: abos-outreach.com for more information