VT Library Association Conference

Empowerment Through Access: An Update on the Statewide Shared Digital Collection

Ebooks & Community Engagement

A division of ✦Lyrasis

Agenda

VTLIB History with Palace

In 2022 the Vermont Department of Libraries began a new eBook and eAudiobook service with the Palace Project, available to all public libraries in the state and state employees at no cost.

Previously, econtent was offered through RBDigital. The mission and model of the Palace Project and Lyrasis lined up with the goals for a statewide project.

Previous content migrated over to Palace and the collection was refreshed with new content from Baker and Taylor and the Palace Marketplace. Libraries who participate may also buy additional items for their specific patrons.

Palace works synergistically with the great work of the Green Mountain Library Consortium so shared content will populate into the app for participating libraries.

Collection Development

One time ARPA funds provided a portion of initial funding for perpetually licensed items from Baker & Taylor and The Palace Marketplace.

Funding comes from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries.

The collection has been developed to serve as a permanent core collection for the state. The collection consist of eBooks and eAudiobooks for all ages and in multiple languages.

Where possible, we have focused on diverse authors and topics, Vermont award winners, and Vermont-related books.

VTLIB Shared Collection Content Overview

The VT Department of Libraries has purchased a significant number of titles that have been shared with all VT libraries that adopt The Palace Project!

26,121 items are in the shared collection. Some highlights include:

- Ebooks and Audiobooks for all ages
- Award Winning Titles
  - VT Youth & Adult Book Awards
- Library Science
- Professional Development
- Vermont Focused Collection

- World Language Titles
  - Arabic, Farsi, French, Spanish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese
- Includes Baker & Taylor, Palace Marketplace, and Palace Bookshelf Open Access Materials

Curated Lists of Shared Content

VTLIB has created a number of curated lists that can be used by any library to create a lane to feature content in the Palace app.

List Topics:

- Vermont Authors Fiction
- Vermont Nonfiction
  - Spooky Titles
  - Biographies
  - History
  - VT Foodies
  - Library Science
  - VT History

- Vermont Youth Titles
  - Green Mountain Book Awards
  - Vermont Golden Dome Book Awards
  - Red Clover Book Awards
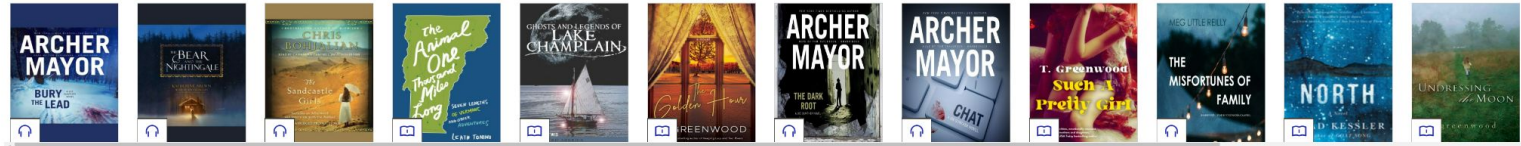
Examples of Curated Lanes Available

All Books > All > Vermont Collection   Search

Vermont Authors

Vermont Nonfiction

Vermont Youth

Book Vermont Library

The Book Vermont Library is available to any VT resident or visitor!

- If your library doesn't have Palace yet, they can help patrons sign up for Book VT Library
- Sign up in app for a virtual library card
- Access shared collection materials provided by VTLIB
- Available to seasonal visitors for free

Snapshot of Usage in Vermont

- 18,338 total checkouts in 2023
- 7,646 total checkouts as of April 2024
- Audiobooks are very popular! 77% of checkouts are audio.
- VT libraries are adding an average of 120 new users per month across the state
- 160 Vermont State Employees have used Palace
- Approximately 3,000 total patrons have logged in to Palace

Statistics for All Libraries

Patrons

3k Total Patrons

311 Patrons With Active Loans

1.5k Patrons With Active Loans or Holds

Circulation

625 Active Loans

9.2k Active Holds

As of May 8, 2024

New Palace Features

In the Palace App:

- Search within EPUBs on iOS and Android
- Added audiobook duration to the book details page (when available)
- Changed the forward and rewind buttons from 15 to 30 seconds
- Push notifications
- Language localization on Android

In the Palace Collection Manager:

- Enhanced reporting data dashboard - coming soon!
- Added collection item count by format to the Collection Manager dashboard
- Integration with Aspen Discovery Layer
- Support for FOLIO ILS using SIP2 authentication

Focus on Discovery

Content from The Palace Project can now be integrated into Aspen Discovery!

- Integrate Palace Marketplace & Palace Bookshelf Content
- Check out items or place holds directly in Aspen

Exploring additional integrations with: **SirsiDynix**, **Innovative**, **BiblioCommons** and more…

Note: SirsiDynix has opened feature request voting for integration with Sirsi Enterprise.

*Email support@thepaleproject.org for more information.*

Focus on Discovery

- Default setting is to showcase titles that are currently available

- Highlight whole collections over holds queues

- Display your backlist selections alongside more recent titles that are "available now"
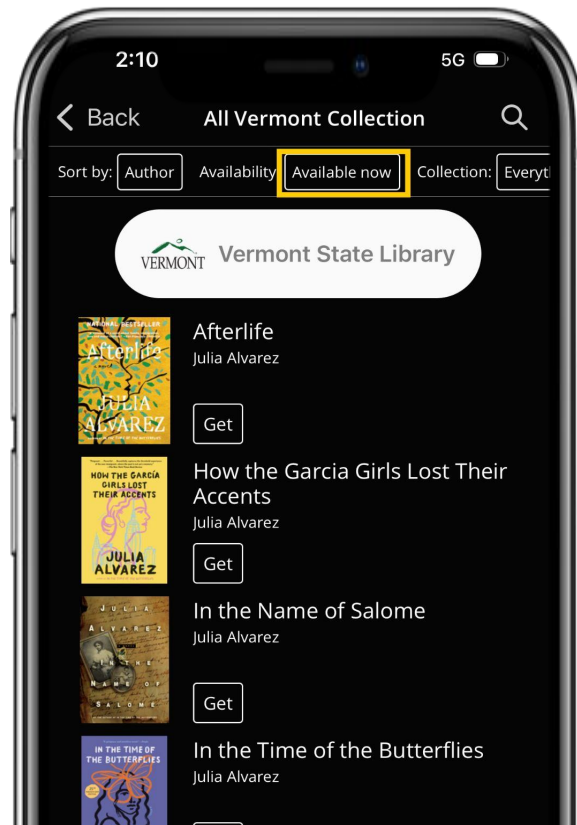
Further increase discovery by integrating **NoveList** to provide users with reading recommendations
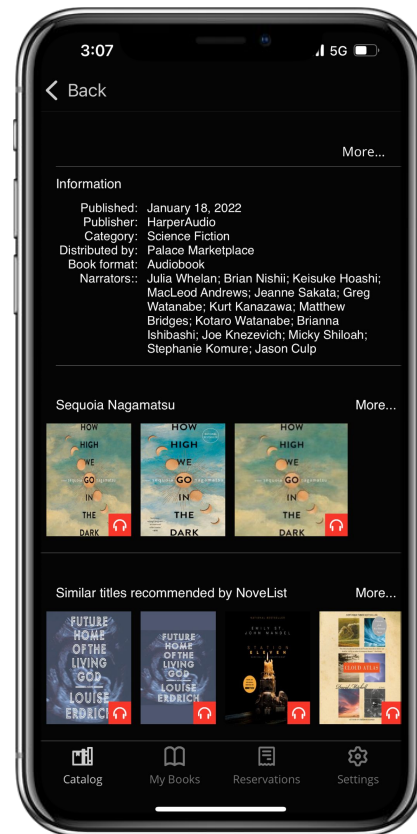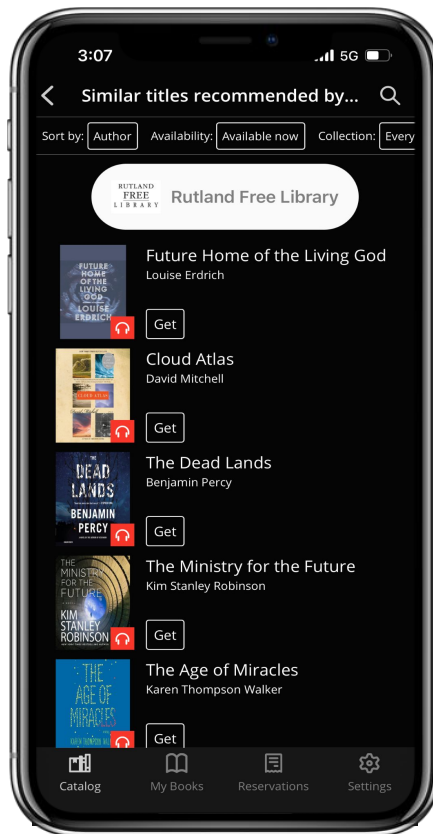
Integrating content from your collection

By using Palace, your patrons have access to the statewide shared collection of content. Did you know that you can also integrate your library's own content to expand your offerings even more?

Content integrations available:

- **OverDrive & OverDrive Advantage**
- **Individual library Baker & Taylor, BiblioBoard, and Palace Marketplace collections**
- **CloudLibrary**
- **ProQuest**
- **NoveList**

New Content Integrations

UNLIMITED LISTENS

- Unlimited, simultaneous-use audiobook subscription

- Currently ~3K titles and growing

- Inspirational, Westerns, Fiction, Clean Romance, Children's, Spanish, & Classics

- Special introductory pricing for Palace customers

Blackstone UNLIMITED

- **Blackstone Unlimited** customers can now have their collections made available in Palace

- Over 6600 "always available" adult and children's audiobook titles

- To learn more, contact your Blackstone rep or reach out to: libraryservices@blackstoneaudio.com

Analytics Update

Checkouts By Audience
By Format
*audience metadata value of title not of user

Audience	Book Checkouts	Audio Checkouts
Unknown	21	
empty	16	
Adult	193	125
Adults Only	1	
Children	56	22
Young Adult	16	7

Checkouts By Audience
By License Type
*audience metadata value of title not of user

Audience	Open Access Checkouts	Licensed Checkouts
Unknown	21	
empty	16	
Adult	52	266
Adults Only		1
Children		78
Young Adult		23

Circulation By Distributor
By Format

■ Audio ■ Book

Distributor: Torrossa Test, Palace Marketplace, Palace Bookshelf, OneAudio, OAPEN, FULCRUM, Bibliotheca, BiblioBoard, Axis 360
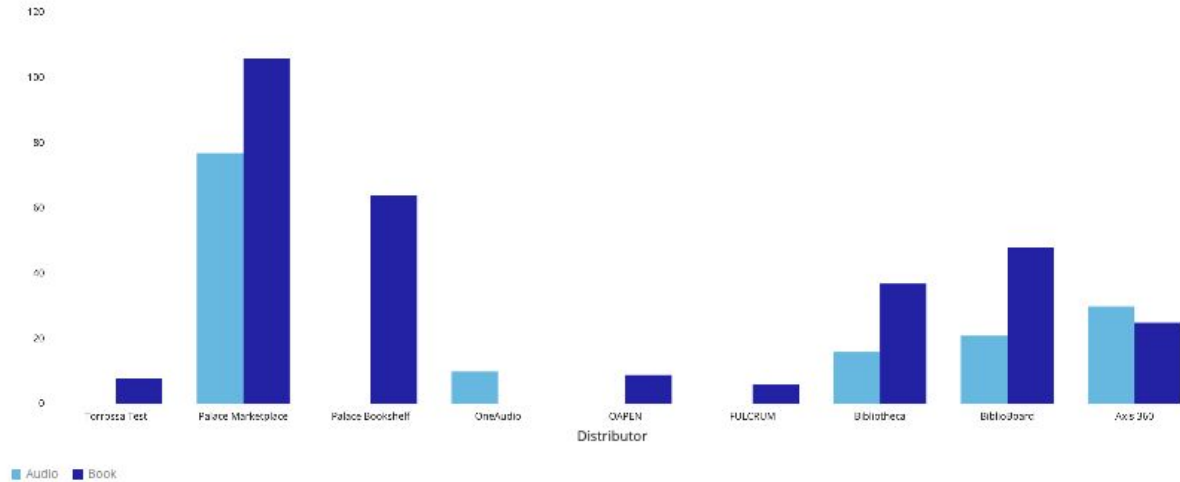
Top Circulating Ebooks

Top 10 titles by checkout are:
- Laura with 13
- Sacred Economics with 8
- Lessons in Chemistry with 6
- The Nearly Complete Works of Donald Harington Volume 1 with 5
- Son of Elsewhere with 5

Top Circulating Audiobooks

Top 10 titles by checkout are:
- Flash Boys with 7
- The Song of Achilles with 5
- The Art of Thinking Clearly with 4
- Dream Hoarders with 4
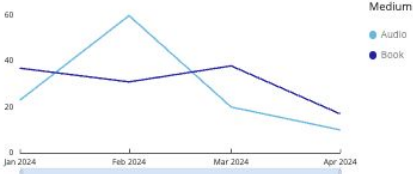- Peter Pan with 4

New Features: Analytics Update

Monthly Circulation Events
By Format

Month	Format	Hold Count	Check Out Count
☐ Jan 2024	Audio	3	23
	Book	5	37
	Subtotal	8	60
☐ Feb 2024	Audio	6	60
	Book		31
	Subtotal	6	91
☐ Mar 2024	Audio	3	20
	Book		38
	Subtotal	3	58
☐ Apr 2024	Audio		10
	Book		17
	Subtotal		27

Monthly Checkouts
By Format

Medium
- ● Audio
- ● Book

Monthly Holds
By Format

Medium
- ● Audio
- ● Book
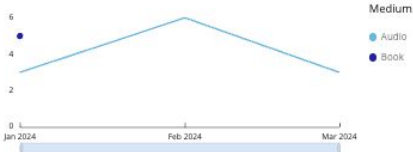
Checkouts By Distributor

OAPEN 6 (3%)
Palace Bookshelf 13 (6%)
OneAudio 24 (10%)
BiblioBoard 24 (10%)
Palace Marketplace 154 (65%)

Distributor
- ● Palace Marketplace
- ● BiblioBoard
- ● OneAudio
- ● Palace Bookshelf
- ● Bibliotheca
- ● OAPEN
- ● Torrossa Test
- ● Axis 360
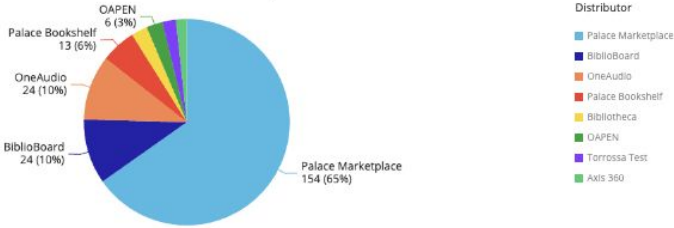
Group By: distributor
Size: event_type (Count)

Checkouts By Genre

empty 20 (8%)
Literary Fiction, Classics 14 (6%)
Literary Fiction 12 (5%)
Christianity 10 (4%)
Historical Fiction 9 (4%)
Literary Criticism 6 (3%)
Humorous Fiction 5 (2%)
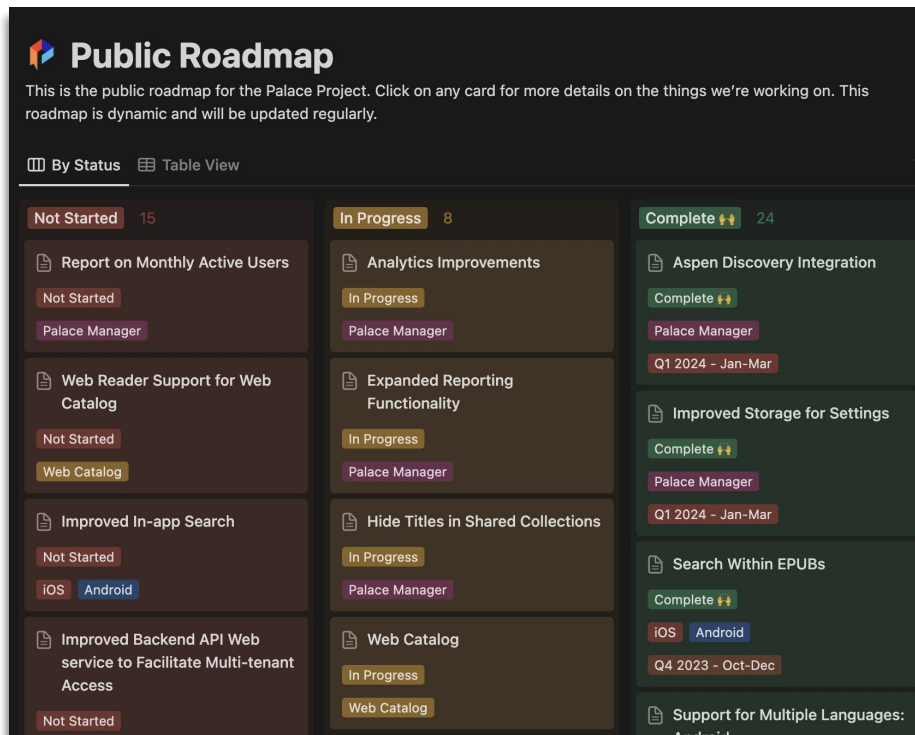Business, Christianity, Self-Help 3 (1%)
Other 110 (46%)
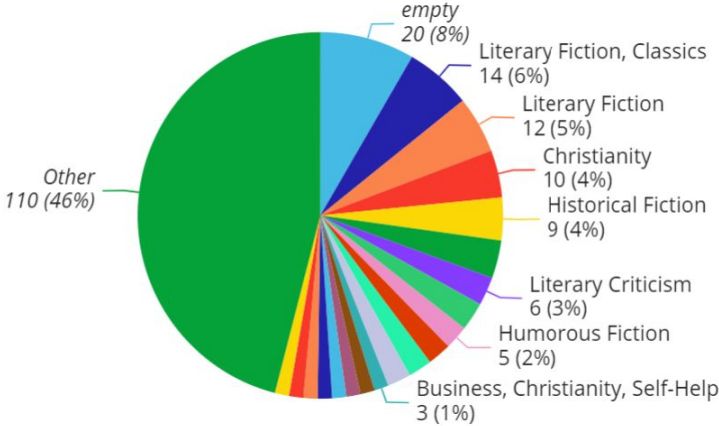
Group By: genre
Size: event_type (Count)

Roadmap & What's Next

Things to be on the lookout for:

- New analytics dashboard & expanded reporting

- Feature request & voting system

- Standalone web catalog

- Additional content & discovery integrations

- UI/UX improvements
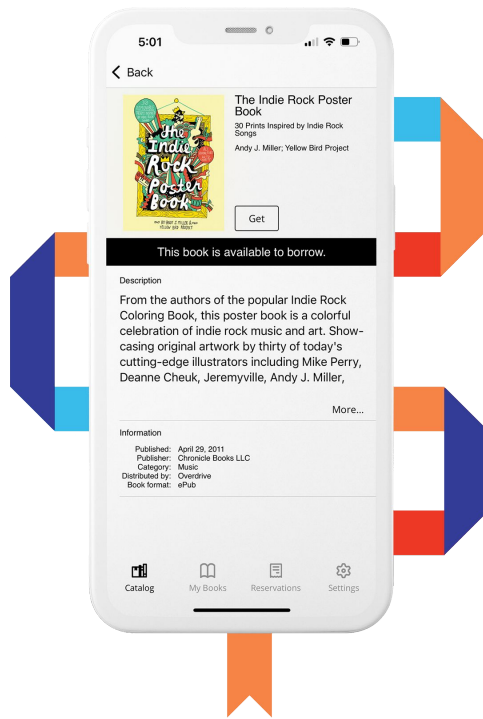
Promoting Palace: New Talking Points

Multiple Content Sources. One Simple App.

Access more of your library's ebooks and audiobooks in one place

Unique Content and Innovative Partnerships

Options for community-provided and other library-driven content

Designed for Discovery

Palace prioritizes available and relevant titles to increase discovery

Accessibility and Ease-of-Use

Streamlined, user-centered design with a focus on accessibility

Promotion and Outreach

- Front Porch Forum ad to go out this week
- Palace Library Resources page
- Physical & digital collateral available
- Training videos in English and Spanish
- Sharing custom lists & enabling lanes
- We love your ideas - what are the best ways we may support outreach to your community?

Browse. Download. Read.

The **Palace** Project   **thepalaceproject.org**

Library Resources Page
Your Go-To Space for…

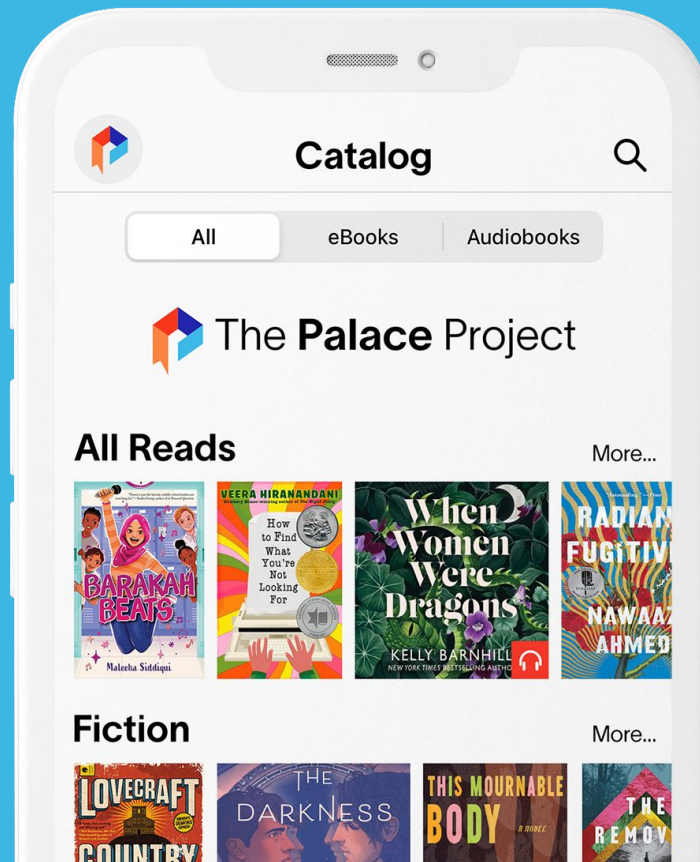- Digital assets & logos

- Recorded trainings

- Getting Started guides

- Promotional materials

- Press release templates

- External resource links

The Palace Project

Download The Palace Project App Today!

Available on:

- Apple iOS phones and tablets running iOS 15+
- Android phones and tablets running Android 7.0+

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Resources

Palace Website:
https://thepalaceproject.org/

Palace Resources:
https://thepalaceproject.org/library-resources/

Palace Marketplace:
https://marketplace.thepalaceproject.org/

Palace Wiki:
http://wiki.thepalaceproject.org/

John Wilkin's Essay:
https://lyrasisnow.org/lyrasis-in-a-landscape-of-radical-interdependence/

YouTube Channel:
https://bit.ly/palaceprojectyoutube

Community Hub:
https://palace.lyrasis.org/

Public Roadmap:
https://lyrasis.notion.site/

Headed to ALA?

The Palace team will be hosting a [panel](#) on eBook licensing:

Not by the Ebook: Increased Access and Alternative Licensing
Sunday, Jun 30, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 10 AM

Join representatives from publishers, distributors and libraries for a lively discussion on the impacts of licensing on libraries and how they can work together to adopt budget-friendly solutions.

Thank you!

Questions?