

READsquared Meet Up Highlights

Join other librarians throughout South Dakota for a READsquared Meet Up via Zoom on Thursday, June 4 at 3MT/4CT.

- [READsquared Webinar](#) recording May 2020

Welcome: I am Laura Kelly, Children & Youth Services Coordinator for the SDSL for almost two years now. June 11th is my anniversary date. I would like to welcome you to the READsquared Meet Up!

Introduction to READsquared: <https://library.sd.gov/LIB/CYS/readsquared/index.aspx>
I hope you had the opportunity to attend a webinar training and or view a recording to learn about READsquared. The recordings are on the webpage along with marketing materials and the registration link. I have invited a few librarians who have previously had experience with READsquared to share ideas and suggestions for using the software for summer reading.

Siouxland Libraries: Stephanie Bents, Amanda Bremmon, Alysia Boysen

- Siouxland Libraries has used the software for 5 years. We use it for our winter and summer reading programs and our year-round 1000 books program.
- We started with basic sites as staff learned how to use the software and help customers use it. We added fancier graphics and layouts and features as we learned new ways of doing things. Amanda recommends making a style that you like and then copying it from year to year.
- Consistency helps! Staff and the public is better able to use the software if they have used it in the past.
- We tried to get away from a print log, and we found that the software was not a substitute for this. We still use a print log for all our programs. We give customers the option of using the software or the print logs. We use the software to draw for prizes, contact customers, and track usage.
- READsquared has tutorials and trainings on their Control Room Help page. We recommend using these.
- You can also create custom content pages that highlight other services or provide additional information to your users. We have pages that show grand prize options and programming opportunities.
- For our adult program this year we are focused on challenges/missions rather than points. Some of these encourage customers to use services they may not be familiar with; such as downloading an ebook, signing up for Book Butler to get a staff recommendation, and joining our Siouxland Reads group on Facebook.
- We are happy to help with any questions. Please contact abremmon@siouxfalls.org or sbents@siouxfalls.org.

Website: <https://siouxlandlib.readsquared.com>

Beresford Public Library: Sasha libone@bmtc.net Annie punkyannie@hotmail.com

We have been having some struggle with READsquared. We did think that we wanted to do bingo sheets for pre-school, but it was hard to incorporate and just did not mesh with the prizes etc. so we went back to minutes after we worked on it for over a week. Sasha would really like some type of online manual to read when she questions how something works.

Edith B Siegreist Vermillion Public Library: Rachelle Landon rachelle.langdon@vermillionpubliclibrary.org

I pretty much just copied the example programs that were there, and then adjusted them to make more sense to me. Changing number of program points to correspond with our preferred minutes, changing age-ranges to match our usual age groups, etc.

- I kept it very simple to avoid overwhelming both our patrons and myself! I've kept the mini-games and the badges, but otherwise have not yet attempted to make any Missions or Prize-Drawings.
- I have our Events listed but am not having attendance to those Events be applied to points or prizes. I figure I can incorporate those extra features next year. I also think we are going to save up all prizes (earned by getting badges) for the end of the program, instead of giving them out every week. This'll not only be easier on the circulation staff, but also means fewer opportunities for unnecessary physical contact.
- I have three videos on our Summer Reading Program page: (<https://vermillionpubliclibrary.org/summer-reading-program/>) that are for patrons to look at. So far, I've had 90 patrons registered (not including my coworkers, who I forced to register so I could use them as guinea pigs!).
- I would suggest testing the mini games out on mobile devices as well as computers. Not all are especially compatible with iPhones (not sure about Android devices)

Piedmont Valley Library: Megan Eggers

Promotional Materials: I have put together a quick half sheet of instructions for patrons just signing up with ReadSquared to help them get started. There wasn't much available from the company, but what I put together will at least get everyone started. The generic PDF is on the SD Libraries Facebook page for use and I have an editable publisher version available by request. Laura has further placed both formats on the South Dakota State Library website at the URL below for easy access.

Marketing for your library: <https://library.sd.gov/LIB/CYS/readsquared/marketing.aspx>

Missions: I wanted to quickly point out that public domain images from Google can be used as badge images on missions. This might allow everyone to personalize their missions over the course of the summer. For instance, I was able to put a rainbow musical note in for a mission on the Noble Duke of York and an illuminated letter on an adult illuminated quote challenge (both from the CSLP Covid-19 manual update). Might be a fun way to reward participants for completing challenges in the app. It is also important to note that, when adding activities in the missions, it is vital to either add

activities first or save and close the mission before coming back to add the activities. Otherwise, the website starts randomly deleting earlier details (date, description, badge image) from the mission. The challenges I used to create our missions are available at the URL below and based on the Covid-19 update from the CSLP website.

http://www.piedmontlibrary.net/uploads/1/3/3/8/13387396/imagine_your_story_week_one_challenges_pdf.pdf.

Our simple patron user interface can be found at the link below if you need ideas.

<https://piedmontlibrary.readsquared.com/>

If you need help setting up the basics or have any questions or concerns, my email is piedmont.library@hotmail.com. I also have a professional Zoom account if we need to go over anything in person to get you all set up.

Watertown Regional Library: Sarah Overvaag sovervaag@watertownsd.us

Our programs are divided into categories and subcategories:

Children's

Birth-Kindergarten (prizes earned through minutes reading)

1-2nd grade (prizes earned through minutes reading)

3-4th grade (prizes earned through minutes reading)

Young Adult

5-8th grade (prizes earned through minutes reading)

9-12th grade (prizes earned by the books read)

Adult

All patrons out of school (prizes earned by the books read)

We have found these age divisions allow us to ease our middle grade patrons into earning prizes like the adults.

We have always offered a wide variety of books for kids to choose as prizes during summer reading. Since we can't invite them in to browse the book carts, we used the READsquared Prize Catalog to list them. I entered books by their titles, as there is no way to scan ISBNs or to enter author's names. I also uploaded a picture of the cover of each book to give the kids a better idea of what they were looking at. The Prize Store allows you to categorize your items, but you have to scroll through the whole catalog to see everything. My categories are: Picture Books, Board Books, Early Readers, Easy Nonfiction, Chapter Books, Middle Grade Nonfiction and Grab Bag Prizes (toys.) Our prizes range from 60-240 points, with kids earning 1 point for every minute read. They receive a badge every 120 minutes prompting them to visit the prize store. You do have to make sure the prize store is set up on the patron's dashboard so they can get into it to shop. After they choose their prizes, they appear in the prize queue and we are able to pull them up by last name.

We are also offering online programming in the form of Discord for young adults and adults, and online story time for kids. The kids' online story time appears as seasons, a season being 1 week of the program with a common theme for the 3 video sessions.

Since curbside service has been working well for us, we added take home kits for DIY fly fishing lures, crochet and knitting for adults and weekly take-home craft kits for kids.

<https://www.watertownsd.us/941/Program-Registration>

Closing Remarks: This year the South Dakota State Library challenges South Dakota libraries to reach 100,000 summer reading participants! The past few years the summer reading participation number have been close to 100,000 but we have not yet reached this milestone. Join Take a book selfie of yourself and share on social media with #SDSummerReading2020! Join us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!

Summer Reading Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDSummerReading2020>
(Added questions about live programming, recorded programming and remote activities.)

Alternative Summer Programming for 2020 – Report Statistics

<https://library.sd.gov/CAL/2020/SDSummerReading2020.aspx>

- Looking for an easy program to share with your teens that they can do at home or outside this summer? The **CSLP Teen Video Challenge** is back for 2020! A summary is below; go to <https://www.cslnreads.org/programs/teen-program/2020-teen-video-challenge/> for all the details, including the submission form and contest rules. Please share on your social media (using #ImagineYourStory), website, and with interested teens in your community! Videos will be accepted June 1 through August 7, 2020.
- Since CSLP has announced that [Carmen Agra Deedy](#) is the 2020 National Summer Reading Champion, she has agreed to offer live stories on Facebook! Be sure to share out the information on her live stories, "Fridays at Noon (ET) in June." Here's a YouTube video announcing the stories: <https://youtu.be/f2vSVolk92Y> Reminder: her [PSA](#) is also up at www.cslnreads.org! Please feel free to use the [graphic](#) to share the information with your libraries.
- **Cathay Lancaster, Youth Services Coordinator, Library of Michigan**
CSLP Reading logs libraries can edit the pdf's to include a reading suggestion list or their events/activities. Access them here: <https://bit.ly/LMlogs2020>.
- **State Fair Sept. 3-7, Huron Honoring reading** they offer free youth gate admission passes to supplement current reading programs.
Registration: <https://www.sdstatefair.com/special-events/all/read-win>
- This entire month Alissa Adams, SDSL School Library Technology Coordinator is focusing solely on **resources and programming and library materials for supporting inclusion and diversity**.
<https://schoolibrarysdsl.blogspot.com/2020/06/diverse-books-for-all-kids.html>
- **Anti-Racism Reading and Resources** list is on the CYA Wiki: Youth Traumatic Events page: Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Adrienne Butler
https://wiki.cya.oklibshare.org/images/7/7c/Anti_Racism_Reading_Lists_and_Resources.pdf
- ALA has released excerpts from the **Library Lovers coloring book**. You can download them for free here. <https://www.alastore.ala.org/swsi>

Please complete this **two-question survey** for DOE. Thank you for your time!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/READSquaredMeetUp>