

A DESCRIPTION AND COMPARISONS OF MUSEUM PASS LENDING PROGRAMS IN
NEW ENGLAND

BY

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ABSTRACT

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Museum pass lending programs provide library patrons with access to informal learning opportunities. This article provides an overview of museum pass lending programs at public libraries in New England. The current literature on the topic is limited. The sample population consisted of 24 randomly selected public libraries in New England. Data on each library's program was collected from its website. Characteristics that are compared include the number of museums and attractions that each library offers passes for and the types of museums. Distances between the library and attractions are studied for a group of town libraries with similar communities. Recommendations are given for one town library based on collected data. The literature review focuses on informal learning in museums. The findings give an idea of what a typical museum pass lending program would be like.

A Description and Comparisons of Museum Pass Lending Programs in New England

Public libraries across the country own passes for discount museum admissions or free museum admissions that they lend to patrons. Through visiting museums, patrons benefit from an experience in an informal learning setting. However, there is little literature written on museum pass lending programs. This study will be useful to library staff members because it will give them an overview of what libraries in their region are doing in regards to lending passes. Also, by referring to census data, library staff members will be able to make certain that the libraries with which they are comparing their library actually are similar demographically. In addition to helping librarians evaluate their pass lending programs, the information gained through this analysis could be beneficial to libraries that are starting museum pass-lending programs.

The sample population was randomly selected allowing libraries from multiple states serving a variety of communities to be included. This will make the results usable for many libraries. By examining the distances between libraries and museums, it causes museum pass selectors to ask if the museums are close enough realistically for patrons to travel to them.

Additionally, the available literature looks at informal learning in museum settings. Researchers have studied the impact of museum visits on both adults and children. Different types of museums including natural history and science museums have been investigated. It has been found that people gain more interest in a subject area due to visiting museums. Increased interest has been demonstrated to improve performance in an area of study. Since the literature shows that museums provide people with the opportunity to learn informally, it should hold that by allowing patrons to borrow museum passes libraries are presenting them with the chance to

participate in informal learning. The only mention of museum pass lending programs in current literature relates to new technological improvements in a program.

Libraries offer a new opportunity for informal learning when they lend museum passes to patrons. These programs could encourage children and adults to learn in informal settings if patrons borrow and use the passes. Each article and dissertation has focused on a different aspect of learning in an informal setting. The types of museums used in research include natural history, science, art, and children's museums. For example, Bamberger and Tal (2008) researched the outcome of fieldtrips to natural history museums on students in grades six through eight. After coding and reviewing the results of interviews with students after the fieldtrips, Bamberger and Tal noted that students had more in-depth learning during the visit if they had positive interactions with guides. Also, the students built on their previous knowledge whether it was gained in school or another setting (Bamberger & Tal 2008). Sperl (2002) also conducted his research, on how families and children interacted in a museum setting, in a natural history museum. His research included both children with and without learning disabilities. In the abstract of his doctoral thesis, Sperl (2002) noted that, "Key findings included significant changes in knowledge and interest from pre-exposure to post-exposure for all children." This could help to support that museums are beneficial for informal learning when combined with other available research such as the dissertation by Holmes. She conducted research on students before and after their fieldtrip to a science museum and noted in her abstract that, "A significant relationship between level of motivation and science achievement was revealed for the exhibit group on delayed posttests" (Holmes, 2003). These dissertations and articles point out possible benefits provided by museum pass lending programs. After visiting a museum, that their family had borrowed the admission pass for from a library, children could become more interested in a

topic. In turn, this could lead to increased achievement in that area. Magsamen (2011) writes that museums can be a place where children learn about the arts. Her research looks at the importance of art in the process of learning. She emphasizes that children need to be learning about the arts at home and in their communities because schools might not provide this type of education (Magsamen, 2011).

Adults also benefit from informal learning in museums. Falk and Needham (2011) found that the Science Center in Los Angeles is “having an important impact on the science literacy of greater L. A.” By providing museum passes, libraries could be giving patrons access to the informal learning that researchers have discussed throughout their articles.

Some authors feel that libraries should expand their opportunities for informal learning. Lombardo and Carroll reviewed the book *From Lending to Learning: The Development and Extension of Public Libraries*. They wrote that, “The premise of O’Beirne’s thought-provoking book is that the current role of the public library has been defined too narrowly by linking it to the printed book.” They go on to explain that O’Beirne is arguing for public meeting spaces in libraries and virtual services to support formal learning in Great Britain (Lombardo & Carroll, 2011). Perhaps museum pass lending programs would be another means to help provide opportunities for libraries to expand their role in learning.

Information was also found that related to new developments in museum pass lending. There is now a system in California that allows patrons to borrow “virtual” passes. Patrons can print passes from home so that they do not need to go to the library before their museum trip (Virtual museum-pass, 2011). This would help to make museum pass programs more efficient because patrons could check out passes on days that the library is closed and there would not be any handling of museum passes by library staff.

Method

Subjects

The subjects in this project were 24 different public libraries with museum pass lending programs. These libraries were selected using a random number table. To begin, listings of the public libraries in each of the six New England states were printed from PublicLibraries.com. This website presents listings of all of the public libraries in each state listed in alphabetical order by the name of the town where the library is located. Branch libraries and main libraries were each given their own entry. PublicLibraries.com lists library websites as well as the address of the libraries for many entries. Some repetition was noted at PublicLibraries.com. The printed listings were corrected as much as possible. In the case that there were two libraries listed with the exact same name and similar addresses only one of the two entries was assigned a number. If the name of the town and a hyphen appeared in front of the library name and a library with the same name and similar address also appeared on the list only one of the two was assigned a number. If the article “the” appeared in front of the name of a library in one entry and another library with the same name and similar address appeared in the list without the article, then a number was only assigned to one library. Despite these efforts some libraries were surely assigned two numbers. Abbreviations and the possibility that the same library could be known by multiple names made it difficult to know for certain if a library was being repeated. Bookmobiles, a few school libraries, and at least one private library were included in the list. The researcher felt it was better to allow any library to be included in this step of subject selection than to risk excluding public libraries with museum pass programs.

Branch libraries were assigned their own numbers. This was done because in many cases it was not possible for the researcher to tell main libraries from branch libraries. Also, the researcher was concerned that by removing branch libraries from consideration the subjects would include a number of town libraries that would be disproportionate to the population that those libraries serve because cities frequently have branch libraries.

Instruments

Publiclibraries.com was used to obtain a list of the public libraries in each of the six New England states. Then, a random number table was used to select the libraries for the sample population. The table can be found on page 582 of *The Basic Practice of Statistics Second Edition* by David S. Moore (2000). The websites for libraries being considered for inclusion in research were found using Publiclibraries.com. If that site did not provide the URL for a current library website, then Google was used to locate a website, Facebook page, or blog.

Data on each pass lending program was compiled in Excel spreadsheets. Statistical calculations were done using Excel or a TI-82 graphic calculator. The data for each library program was found on the respective library's website or in the case of the Roxbury (VT) Public Library its Facebook page. Data describing the community where a library is located was gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau by using the American Fact Finder website. Google Maps was used to calculate the driving distance between a library and a museum. The information about the pass lending program at the "local library" was taken from the library's brochure, which contains more current information than its website.

Procedure

The first four digits of each number were used in the random number table to select the 24 subjects in this sample population. In order to be selected, public libraries had to have a museum pass program listed on their website or Facebook page. Branch libraries were selected if a collection of passes was available at that branch library or if patrons could pick up passes belonging to the whole library system at the library branch.

As libraries were selected, the number of museums and other attractions that they owned passes for was recorded. It should be noted that libraries own passes for many institutions, not just museums. Regardless of the organization the pass was issued for, it was still counted as part of the museum pass lending program. Both discount passes and passes that would cover full admission for patrons were included in the count. If the library owns more than one pass to the same institution it was still only counted once.

After all 24 libraries had been selected, the museums were coded. The categories included Aquarium/Zoo, Art, Children, Environment/Nature/Natural History, Farm/Garden/Park, History, Other, and Science. Museums were labeled as “Other” if they equally emphasized more than one area of study on their website or if they were the only museum of a specific type found during research. If the pass gave a discount or admitted the patron to a site or program other than a museum or park, it was counted in the “Other” category. At this point, some analysis of the data was performed. The percentage that each code represented out of the total passes at each museum was calculated using Excel. The mean and median for the total number of passes was calculated based on the whole group using Excel.

Statistics for the town or city where each library was located were gathered from the American Fact Finder website, which is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. The statistics used during the analysis of library pass lending programs included “Population, 2010;” “Median Household Income;” “Mean Household Income;” “High school graduate, percent of persons age 25+, 2006-2010;” and “Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2006-2010.” The process of coding museums and searching for census data was repeated for the local town library that is part of the comparison between museum pass lending programs. Although, in place of using the material available about the program on its website, the printed brochure for the program was used because it is known to be more current.

All of the communities listed were then compared with the community of the local library. The communities that were the most like the local town library in terms of population and income levels were selected for further analysis. That smaller group included four “town” libraries. The website of each museum that those four libraries had a pass for was located using Google. Then, using the street address of each library and the street address of each museum, the distance between the library and the museums was calculated using Google Maps. Except for the distance to Boston By Foot, which was measured to their main offices since the addresses of tour starting points were not available. This should not cause a problem because the offices are not far from the sites that tours visit.

The shortest distance was always selected regardless of the travel time. The estimated time the trip would take was noted. The mean and median were found for the distance between each library and the museums it provided passes for using Excel. Also, it was noted if a museum could be traveled to by public transportation and if the museum was wheelchair accessible. This information was taken from the museums’ websites. The level of information available on public

transit and wheelchair accessibility varies by museum. Some museum websites made no mention of how to travel to their location or if the site was accessible to people in wheelchairs. Other museums listed the airports or train stations that were nearest to their locations. Some offered Google maps so that visitors could find directions from their homes. A couple of the museums had extremely detailed information listing what accessibility options were available in addition to what services were provided for people in wheelchairs. The lack of information on some museum websites made it impossible to know how many museums have public transit or accessibility features.

In the event that a museum pass gave patrons access to more than one location, the closest location to the library was used in calculating the distance between the library and museum. Distances were not calculated between libraries and state parks. This was because in Connecticut, a state park pass is given to each town or city by the state (State of Connecticut, 2002-2012). Neither library staff nor the Friends of the Library select that pass. The process was completed for the local library for which recommendations were written. The local library was then compared to the town group. At this point, the percentage of library passes per category was calculated for all of the passes combined so that the results would not be skewed as easily. The percentages were also calculated for the town group using Excel. The calculations were made to aid in the comparison of museum pass programs and determine what the typical program would be like.

Results

The numbers assigned to the library listings printed from PublicLibraries.com ranged from 1 to 1,549. A total of 58 libraries had to be randomly selected in order to find 24 libraries

that met the criteria of having a museum pass lending program listed on their website or Facebook page. This means that 41.38 percent of the libraries selected met the criteria.

Libraries were rejected from inclusion in the research for a variety of reasons. Most of the libraries that were excluded made no mention of museum passes on their websites. Websites, Facebook pages, or blogs could not be found for three of the libraries selected. Another three of the libraries selected were branch libraries in library systems where museum passes were only available at the main branch. At least one of the libraries selected, the Rumford Branch of the East Providence (RI) Library has been closed (n.d.), but not removed from the PublicLibraries.com listing. Another library appeared to be closed, but this could not be confirmed via the Internet. The Sixteen Acres Branch Library was not included in the analysis because it is part of the Springfield (MA) City Library that shares passes between all of its locations (Springfield City Library, 2011). The Forest Park Branch Library, which is also a member of the Springfield City Library, was selected for research. Using both branches would have counted the same passes twice.

The 24 public libraries selected as subjects represent five of the New England states. There is one library from Rhode Island and one from New Hampshire. There are 2 libraries from Vermont. 13 libraries were selected from Massachusetts and seven from Connecticut. The number of museums that a library owns passes for ranges from one at the Jackson Library in Jackson, New Hampshire to 28 at the Wayland Free Public Library in Wayland, Massachusetts. The median number of museums that the 24 libraries owned passes for was 11.5. The mean number of passes was 12.75.

Comparisons Among Town Libraries in New England

The four libraries selected for comparison with the local library were the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library in Berlin, Connecticut, the Granby Public Library in Granby, Connecticut, The Boyden Library in Foxborough, Massachusetts, and the East Longmeadow Public Library in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. These four libraries will be called the “town libraries.” The mean distances between the libraries and the museums that they own passes for range between 26.5 and 36.3 miles. The local library has a mean of 33.8 miles, which is within this range. The median distance between the libraries and the museums they own passes for ranges between 17.7 miles and 41.1 miles. The local library with a median of 23.45 miles also falls within this range. See Table 1 for a listing of the museums and distances for the group of town libraries. See Table 2 for a listing of passes at the local library with distances.

Table 1

Distances Between Selected Town Libraries and the Museums for Which They Own Passes

Libraries and their Museum Passes	Driving Distance in Miles Between Library and Museum	Estimated Time in Minutes to Drive Between Locations
Berlin-Peck Memorial Library		
American Clock & Watch Museum	13.6	24
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo	41.3	49
Earthplace	53.9	64
Florence Griswald Museum	35.8	45
Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art	62.3	73
Hill-Stead Museum	11.3	19
Imagine Nation Museum	11.7	24
Lutz Children's Museum	19.8	29
New Britain Museum of American Art	3.5	11
New Britain Youth Museum at Hungerford Park	1.6	5
New England Carousel Museum	11.2	21
Timexpo: The Timex Museum	19.4	26
Wadsworth Atheneum	12.8	21
The New Children's Museum	11.7	20
Mark Twain House	14.2	22
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center	58.3	71
Mystic Aquarium	57.6	66
Mystic Seaport	57.8	64
Peabody Museum of Natural History	27.1	32
Roger Williams Park Zoo	101	108
Springfield Museums	38.6	49
CT State Parks and Forests		
	Mean	
	31.6	
	Median	
	19.8	

Granby Public Library		
The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame	24	30
Historic Preservation and Museum Division	4	7
Connecticut Trolley Museum	12.8	19
Connecticut's Old State House	17.5	29
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center	15.2	29
Imagine Nation Museum	25.7	43
Lutz Children's Museum	24	36
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk	87.8	100
Mark Twain House	15	30
Mystic Aquarium	71.7	92
Mystic Seaport	71.9	90
New Britain Museum of American Art	25	39
New England Air Museum	6.6	20
Roaring Brook Nature Center	11.8	24
Salmon Brook Historical Society	0.7	1
Springfield Museums	19.4	39
Wadsworth Atheneum	17.7	29
Connecticut Parks and Forests Day Pass		
	Mean	
	26.5	
	Median	
	17.7	

The Boyden Library		
Boston By Foot	25.4	46
Boston Children's Museum	25.2	46
Children's Museum in Easton	9.7	24
Isabella Stewart Gardner	24.3	42
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum	24.2	43
Museum of Fine Arts	29.3	43
Museum of Science	27.1	48
Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration	69.4	79
Mystic Seaport	69.4	77
New England Aquarium	25.9	48
Paw Sox	16.4	35
Plimoth Plantation	42.6	53
Providence Children's Museum	22.5	32
Roger Williams Park Zoo	25.2	34
Tower Hill Botanic Garden	40.8	58
Zoo New England	21.7	35
Massachusetts Parks Pass		
	Mean	
	31.2	
	Median	
	25.3	
East Longmeadow Public Library		
Springfield Museums	5	11
Historic Deerfield	41.1	49
Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art	20.8	44
Norman Rockwell Museum	55.3	71
Berkshire Museum	59.1	71
Massachusetts State "Parks Pass"		
	Mean	
	36.3	
	Median	
	41.1	

Note. The lists of museums were taken from the libraries' websites. (Berlin-Peck Memorial

Library, 2012), (Granby Town Hall, n.d.), (The Boyden Library, n.d.), (East Longmeadow Public

Library, 2012)

Table 2

Distances Between a Local Town Library and Each Museum for Which It Owns Passes

	Distance in Miles	Driving Distance in Minutes
Local Town Library		
Connecticut Trolley Museum	15.5	32
Mystic Aquarium	50.7	75
Mystic Seaport	50.9	73
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center	40.7	70
Roger Williams Park Zoo	55.2	85
Mark Twain House	21	24
New England Air Museum	22.8	46
The New Children's Museum	24.1	27
Wadsworth Atheneum	19.2	22
New Britain Museum of American Art	33.1	37
Lutz Children's Museum	14.6	25
Springfield Museums	22.6	45
Connecticut's Old State House	19.1	21
U.S.S. Constitution Museum	83.9	94
Connecticut State Parks and Forests		
	Mean	
	33.8	
	Median	
	23.5	

Note. The list of museums was taken from a brochure. (Friends of the Tolland Public Library, n.d.)

In comparison with the full group of 24 subjects, the local library has an above average number of library passes. The local library has passes to 15 museums and other attractions while the mean number of passes for all of the libraries is 12.75. The number of passes that the local library owns is also higher than the median number of passes for the sample population, which is 11. The number of museums that the local library has passes for is near the number that two of the other town libraries have. The Boyden Library has passes to 17 museums and the Granby

Public Library passes to 18 museums, which is not much more than the local library's 15 passes. The town libraries have a mean of 15.75 passes and a median of 8.75 passes. The local library is slightly below the mean, but well above the median.

Looking at types of passes in the sample population of 24 libraries, it is difficult to make comparisons between libraries. When dealing with such small numbers of museums and other attractions, the percentage of a certain type per library can easily be swayed. Instead of comparing the means and medians of the percentages per library the number of museums and attractions that libraries own passes for has been totaled for each category and divided by the total number of museums / attractions that passes are owned for. For this reason, the number of "passes" owned by each library in the sample population was totaled. The number of passes for each code was then totaled and divided by the number of passes. This tells what percentage of passes overall is made up of each type of museum pass. The local library has a lower percentage of art passes, science passes, aquarium / zoo passes, farm / garden / park, and environment / natural history / nature than the sample population. The percentage of aquarium / zoo passes is very close to the median of the percentage of passes made up by this group in each library. The local library has a higher percentage of children's museum, history museum and other passes than the sample population. (See Table 3 for further information.) Some possible explanations for these differences could be the museums and other attractions offering passes near the library. The income level, education level, and age of community members could be other possible explanations for the differences. This would require further research to determine.

When compared with the sample of towns with similar populations, the local library has a lower percentage of art passes, science passes, aquarium /zoo passes, children passes, farm /

garden / park passes, and other passes. The local library exceeds the sample of similar towns in its percentage of history passes. (See Table 4 and Table 5 for more information.)

Table 3

Totals and Percentages of Museums / Attractions by Category for Sample Population

Total Museum Passes	Total Aquarium / Zoo Passes	Total Art Passes	Total Children Passes	Total Environment / Natural History / Nature Passes	Total Farm / Garden / Park Passes	Total History Passes	Total Other Passes	Total Science Passes
306	44	64	38	17	28	68	28	19
	% Aquarium / Zoo	% Art	% Children	% Environment / Natural History/ Nature	% Farm / Garden / Park	% History	% Other	% Science
	14.38%	20.92%	12.42%	5.56%	9.15%	22.22%	9.15%	6.21%

Table 4

Totals and Percentages of Museums / Attractions in Each Category for Town Subpopulation

Total Town Sample	Total Aquarium / Zoo	Total Art	Total Children	Total Environment / Natural History / Nature	Total Farm / Garden / Park	Number of History	Other	Total Science
63	9	8	12	2	5	17	9	1
	% Town Aquarium / Zoo	%Town Art	% Town Children	% Town Nature / Environment / Natural History	% Town Farm / Garden / Park	% Town History	% Town Other	%Town Science
	14.29%	12.70%	19.05%	3.17%	7.94%	26.98%	14.29%	1.59%

Table 5

Statistics for Distances Between Town Libraries and Museums

Mean Distance in Miles	Median Distance in Miles
30.4	24.2

Recommendations for a Town Museum Pass Lending Program

When looking at the distances between the local library and the museums that it owns passes for, one museum stands out because of its distance from the library. That is a history museum located in Boston, Massachusetts, which is 83.9 miles away from the library. That is 28.7 miles farther than the next farthest museum. However, the drive is only estimated at being nine minutes longer. In the heavy traffic that often exists between the library and Boston the trip could take much longer. The library should not renew this pass unless it is very popular or the argument could be made that the museum is like nothing else in the area. If people in the town frequently travel to Boston it would make sense for the library to purchase more museum passes in that area. However, with just one museum located in the Boston area, the pass appears to be an outlier that does not fit in with the rest of the collection. If the argument were made that the museum is unique than many other one of a kind museums in the area would have to be considered for inclusion in the museum pass lending program.

Google Maps estimates that it will take over an hour for patrons to drive to four of the other museums that the local town library provides passes for. It is not uncommon for libraries to have passes for museums that are so far away. All of the town libraries that were compared in

this study own passes to museums that are more than an hour away. One library even owns a pass for a zoo that is 101 miles away. These passes could be necessary to provide patrons with informal learning in a variety of subject areas. One pass that was over an hour away from the local library was for a zoo, which is 55.2 miles away from the library. Despite its distance it is closer to the library than any of the other zoos listed at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums website. The same was the case for the aquarium with its distance of 50.7 miles from the library. It is the closest accredited aquarium (AZA, 1997-2009). When renewing these passes, the library should question if it is more important to have passes reflecting a wide range of subjects or to have passes for museums and other attractions that are nearby. Can patrons reasonably travel to these sites? With current gasoline prices can patrons still afford the trip? Also, are passes lent to patrons for a long enough period of time for patrons to pick up the pass and return it on time?

The local town library provides passes to museums covering a range of topics, which would allow patrons to learn about many subjects in an informal setting. While none of the museums were coded as science, patrons can visit a science museum that is part of a larger museum, which was coded as other (Springfield Museums, 2012). No museums were coded in the Nature / Environment / Natural History category, but patrons could still visit a nature center by going to a nature center that has a shared pass with a children's museum (Friends of the Tolland Public Library, n.d.). However, this center is over an hour away from the library, perhaps a closer nature center should be considered.

While the local library offers a range of passes, it appears that some local museums might have been overlooked. Three museums are operated by two different organizations within less than a 10-minute walk from the library, but the library does not offer passes for them. It could be that these organizations do not offer passes for libraries, but this is worth investigating. A science

center is 18.9 miles from the library while the other museum that contains a science museum is 22.6 miles from the library. This is a small difference when choosing a science museum to visit, but it might still be worth considering getting a pass to the closer museum.

Interesting Findings during Research

It should be noted some library pass lending programs have passes to other attractions in addition to museums. Some of these attractions provide informal learning opportunities while others are more focused on the libraries' goal of providing entertainment. The Boyden Library in Foxborough, MA (n.d.) lends passes for Boston By Foot, which is a "nonprofit educational corporation," that offers a variety of walking tours through the city of Boston focusing on history and architecture (Boston By Foot, 2011). Another non-museum setting is the Wheelock Family Theatre. The Wayland Free Public Library (2007) in Wayland, MA and the Paul Pratt Memorial Library (n.d.) in Cohasset, MA offer passes to this theater. Two libraries offered passes allowing patrons to purchase discounted tickets for minor league baseball games. The Boyden Library offers this type of pass for the Pawtucket Red Sox (n.d.), while the Peabody Institute Library offers passes for the Lowell Spinners (Library Insight, 2011-2012).

Some libraries might be lacking passes for nearby museums because residents receive free admission without a pass. The Springfield City Library website notes that the Library no longer offers passes for the Springfield Museums because residents of the city can visit them for free (Springfield City Library, 2011).

In addition to pass lending programs there are other ways that library patrons can gain access to museums at a reduced cost. The Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA mentioned the Muse & Read Museum/Library Initiative on their website. The site reads, "As part of the

Pittsfield Muse & Read Museum/Library Initiative, anyone with a current receipt for a library transaction from the Berkshire Athenaeum will receive a 25 percent discount at the Museum. The Museum discount is valid through the due date on the library receipt and is for Museum admission only” (2012).

A finding that caused concern was that in one library not all patrons are permitted to borrow museum passes. This library has restricted use of museum passes to members of the Friends of the Library only. The parks pass, which the library owns is available to all cardholders (East Longmeadow Public Library, 2012). In many cases, Friends of the Library groups had purchased museum passes for libraries. The Berlin-Peck Memorial Library (2012) and the Granby Public Library (Granby Town Hall, n.d.) both have museum passes that were purchased by Friends of the Library groups. However, passes are not restricted to being used just by those groups.

Discussion

This research on museum pass lending programs supports the goal of providing information about the average program to library staff members. It will enable staff members to compare their programs to those at similar libraries or give suggestions for how to begin a program. Based on this research, the typical museum pass program includes passes to 11 or 12 different museums or other attractions. It will include more passes to history museums than any other type of museum. There will be fewer passes to museums labeled as Environmental / Natural History / Nature than any other category of museum. The category with the next lowest total of museums will be Science. The typical program would also include a pass to the state park system in its state.

When looking at town libraries instead of all libraries in New England, the typical museum pass lending program would still be likely to have passes to more history museums than any other type of museum. Science museums make up the smallest number of the town passes so the typical program would not include many science museums. This is not of concern though because some of the museums labeled as other contain science components as well as some of the museums labeled as natural history. The typical town library pass program will include 8 or 9 museums and attractions. Half of the passes in a town library would be for museums that were 24.2 miles away or further while the other half would be closer to the library.

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Appendix

Listing of Museums That Libraries Own Passes for Divided by Category

Aquarium / Zoo

Buttonwood Park Zoo

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, The

Mystic Aquarium

New England Aquarium

Roger Williams Park Zoo

Zoo New England

Art

Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center

Cahoon Museum of American Art

Cape Cod Museum of Fine Arts

Danforth Museum of Art

DeCordova Museum

Fitchburg Art Museum

Florence Griswold Museum

Fruitlands

Griffin Museum of Photography

Harvard Art Museums

Institute of Contemporary Art

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Mass MoCA

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

New Britain Museum of American Art

Norman Rockwell Museum

Peabody Essex Museum

Shelburne Museum

Smith College Museum of Art

Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum

Worcester Art Museum

Children

Amelia Park Children's Museum

Boston Children's Museum

Children's Museum, The (West Hartford, Connecticut) and Roaring Brook Nature Center

Children's Museum at Holyoke

Children's Museum in Easton

Discovery Museums (Acton, Massachusetts)

Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

Imagine Nation Museum

Lutz Children's Museum

New Britain Youth Museum at Hungerford Park

Providence Children's Museum

Stepping Stones Museum for Children

Environment / Natural History / Nature

Birds of Vermont Museum

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

Drumlin Farm: Massachusetts Audubon Society

Earthplace

Harvard Museum of Natural History

Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

Farm / Garden / Park

Boston Harbor Islands

Connecticut State Parks Pass

Davis Farmland

Garden in the Woods

Heritage Museums and Gardens (Sandwich, MA)

ParksPass (MA)

Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm

Shelburne Farms

Tower Hill Botanic Garden

Vermont State Parks

History

American Clock & Watch Museum

Bilings Farm and Museum

Cabot House Museum

Cape Ann Historical Museum

Connecticut Historical Society Museum & Library

Connecticut Trolley Museum

Connecticut's Old State House

Fall River Historical Society

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

Higgins Armory

Hill-Stead Museum

Historic Deerfield

Historic New England

Historic Preservation and Museum Division (CT)

House of Seven Gables

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum

Maritime & Irish Mossing Museum

Mark Twain House

Mystic Seaport

New England Air Museum

New England Carousel Museum

Phelps Tavern Museum

Plimoth Plantation

Salem Witch Museum

Salmon Brook Historical Society

Sandy Bay Historical Society Sewell-
Scripture Museum

Sargent House Museum

Shoreline Trolley Museum

Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal
History

Timexpo: The Timex Museum

U.S.S. Constitution Museum

Vermont State Historic Sites

Vermont's Historical Society Museum

Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum

Other

Berkshire Museum

Boston By Foot

ECHO Lake Aquarium & Science Center

Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum

Lowell Spinners (Baseball Discount)

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research
Center (History / Culture)

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of
Fame, The (Sport)

Pawtucket Red Sox (Baseball Discount)

Pilgrim Monument & Provincetown
Museum

Springfield Museums

Whaling Museum of New Bedford (History
/ Art)

Wheelock Family Theatre

Science

Connecticut Science Center

Discovery Museum and Planetarium
(Bridgeport, CT)

EcoTarium

Eli Whitney Museum & Workshop

Museum of Science (Boston, MA)

Biographical Note

Rosanna Longenbaker is enrolled in the ALA Accredited Master of Library Science program at Southern Connecticut State University. She is in the Special Libraries track. Longenbaker was a recipient of an Annual Conference Scholarship for Library School Students to attend the Association of College and Research Libraries New England Chapter 2012 conference. She was also selected to receive an H.W. Wilson Foundation Scholarship for the 2012-2013 school year. Longenbaker has her Bachelor of Arts degree in Multi-Languages (French, Spanish, German) from St. Lawrence University. She has volunteered or worked in several different museums. Most recently, she was the Research Library Intern at the Old Sturbridge Village Research Library in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. For Fall 2012, she has been selected to participate in the U.S. Department of State Internship Program. Also, she has worked for Historic New England as the Weekend Guide at Roseland Cottage in Woodstock, Connecticut and as a House Museum Guide at the Otis House in Boston, Massachusetts. Her first paid museum position was as a Museum Guide / Museum Teacher at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Longenbaker has enjoyed visiting museums since she was a small child. After graduation, she hopes to continue visiting as many museums as possible and to work as a librarian in a museum library, college library, or government setting.