Libraries and Veterans

What every library should know about veterans in your community.

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12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

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Infopeople *helping libraries think differently*

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Agenda

- Why talk about veterans and libraries?
- What is a veteran?
- Today's challenges
- Organizations
- What every librarian should know
- What libraries are doing now
- What libraries can do next

Why talk about veterans and libraries?

- "Aren't veterans being helped by other organizations?"

- "Why should libraries be responsible for helping veterans?"

- This is about what libraries already do:

  - Learning about the community we serve,
  - Connecting community with information,
  - Building relationships.

Poll #1

Are you a veteran or are you related to someone who is a veteran or in the military?

Also, please type your additional responses into the chat box.

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Who are our U.S. veterans?

- Branches of military service and types of separation
- Assumptions/biases
- Unique cultural backgrounds
- Recently separated or older veterans
- Talking / not talking about the past
- Veteran Community:
  - Spouses and children
  - Parents and caregivers
  - Organizations

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Poll #2

What percentage of the nation's veterans live in California?

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Today's challenges for veterans and the veteran community

- Intimidating paperwork
  - Lost your DD-214?
- Media misconceptions
- Information overflow:
  - *Resources are* ***abundant*** *but not necessarily* ***organized***

New battlefield medicine yields more survivors
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Veterans of previous wars are living longer

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Organizations

- Department of Veteran Affairs – V.A.
  - ☐ Federal, State, County
  - ☐ VBA vs. VHA
  - ☐ Death and Burial Services
- CVSO vs. VSO
- National Archives

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Alternate Access Points: Other Organizations (VSOs)

- Networks of knowledge, service, training
  - Get to know them,
  - Try to keep in touch,
  - Collaborate.
- Congressionally chartered organizations
- One-on-one counseling

https://www.nrd.gov/
http://veterans.house.gov/citizens/resources

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Poll #3

If I am a veteran and I make $50k per year and have health insurance, can I still seek healthcare at the V.A.?

(What are "Priority Groups"?)

https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/assets/documents/publications/IB-10-441_enrollment_priority_groups.pdf

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What every librarian should know

- Crisis lines
  - Cheat sheet
  - Magnets, flyers, brochures
- Who is your veteran community and your CVSO
- V.A. & VSO locations
  - Shuttle services
  - Directions
- Keep track of FAQS

Are there military families in your community?

Poll #4

What do you think should be added to the list of "What every librarian should know" about serving veterans and the veteran community?

Please type your responses into the chat box.

What are libraries doing now?

- Online resources
  Shasta Public Libraries
- Programming
  Kern County Library
- Collections
  San Diego Public Library

See also:
- Escondido Public Library Veteran Services
- Chula Vista Public Library Veterans Wing
- California Center for the Book

Building relationships and collaborations

Poll #5

What are your ideas for raising awareness or improving services, programming, and collections for veterans at your library?

Please type your responses into the chat box.

Remember our strengths as librarians:

- *Organizing information,*

- *Helping people access information,*

- *Providing a venue for people to meet each other,*

- *Providing a sense of a safe place,*

- *Helping people in the community and the organizations in the community connect with each other.*

Q&A

- Let's review your questions!

- More questions?
  Join the discussion on LinkedIn

References available at
Librarians Serving Veterans on Wordpress

Thank You!

- More information, more discussion, more connections:
  Librarians Serving Veterans on LinkedIn

- If you are unable to access LinkedIn, resources discussed today will be listed at the following URL:
  http://librariansservingveterans.wordpress.com/references-and-resources/

- Contact Kristen at mulvihill.librarian@gmail.com

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