

Justin Sanchez, Greenburgh Public Library, won Video Trust's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Media Librarianship.

Here is his nomination:

I am thrilled to nominate Justin Sanchez for the Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Media Librarianship award. As a Librarian at Greenburgh Public Library (GPL), Justin has implemented several programs and procedures that support GPL's commitment to being a source for learning, literacy, discovery and delight that enriches lives and strengthens our community while innovating programming, collaborating with community members, preserving media collections, and ensuring that digital information remains accessible and usable over time.

Justin constantly seeks new and engaging ways to connect with the community. His efforts have led to the implementation of two very popular services. Justin created a high-quality hybrid programming model that combines in-person and virtual events, allowing GPL to reach a wider audience and adapt to changing circumstances. Recorded hybrid programs are available on the library's website, ensuring they remain accessible and usable over time. With the support of the Friends of the Greenburgh Library, he has also greatly enhanced our patrons' access to digital media by enacting a service that loans premium subscriptions to streaming platforms through streaming devices.

Devices preloaded with subscriptions to services such as Apple TV, Britbox, Disney+, Netflix & Acorn TV, and Peacock are of enormous value to the community; however, with contracts, pulled titles and price hikes, streaming services cannot be relied upon to provide limitless content. Justin recognized the ongoing need for diverse access to media content and diverse access to all our patrons by ensuring that the library continues supporting physical media by circulating DVD players, Blu-ray players, and external CD/DVD drives. Furthermore, Justin has spearheaded efforts to increase access and equity to content by digitizing a significant portion of the library's historical newspapers, books, and maps, making them accessible online and ensuring they remain available for future generations. And speaking of future generations, Justin's latest initiative, a VHS conversion service that allows users to convert analog media (VHS videocassettes) to digital files, demonstrates his commitment to preserving analog media for posterity.

Justin Sanchez's dedication to providing innovative media library services, fostering collaboration with community groups and local historians, preserving media collections, digitizing historical materials, and implementing a successful hybrid programming model embodies the spirit of the Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Media Librarianship Award. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.