

THE STATE LIBRARY



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

Library Council of Washington

September 17, 2008

Denny Ashby Library & Pataha Flour Mill
Pomeroy, WA

LCW PRESENT

Benita Brown, School Libraries
M. Kate Burton, School Libraries
Tim Fuhrman, Academic 2-Year
Lillian Heytvelt, Rural Libraries

Deborah L. Reck, Disadvantaged
Chris Skaugset, Public Libraries Under 100,000
Rayette Sterling, Cultural Diversity
Bruce Ziegman, Public Libraries Over 100,000

WSL PRESENT

Rand Simmons, Library Development
Program Manager
Jeff Martin, LSTA Administrator
Anne Yarbrough, Grants/Contracts Specialist

SPECIAL GUESTS

Kristie Kirkpatrick, Director, Whitman County
Rural Library District
Janet Lyon, Director, Columbia County Rural
Library District

Tour of Denny Ashby Library

Council met at the Denny Ashby Library for a short tour led by Lillian. Since the library was too small to accommodate a Council meeting, Council then traveled to the meeting location at the Pataha Flour Mill.

Welcome and Introductions

Chris, Vice-Chair, welcomed Council and special guest, Janet Lyon, Director of the Columbia County Rural Library District.

Approval of the May 21, 2008 Meeting Notes

Benita moved and Deborah seconded that the May 21, 2008 meeting notes be approved as written. The minutes were approved.

Review Meeting Agenda

The agenda was reviewed; no changes were made.

State Librarian's Report

Jan was unable to attend the meeting so Rand provided the update to Council on her behalf:

- Letters About Literature
The Letters About Literature is a nationwide contest that encourages young readers to write a personal letter to their favorite author, living or dead, describing how his/her work shaped their perspective on the world or themselves. State judges select the top letter writers in Washington at three age levels, who then advance to the national competition. Last year, one of the state's regional

winners, McKenzie Dent, went on to be a national winner. For this year's contest, applications from readers in grades 4-12 must be postmarked by December 6, 2008.

- Washington Reads
 - The newest Washington Reads poster features Seattle Seahawks Cornerback, Marcus Trufant, and his daughter, Karmyn.
 - The Medical Director for Reach Out and Read Washington State, Jill Sells, MD, is working with the State Librarian to distribute these posters to medical waiting rooms and young patients.
- Heritage Center
 - Architectural planning meetings continue.
- WTBBL
 - The transition is complete; WTTBL is now a program of the Washington State Library.
 - The new director, Danielle King, has been well received by the blind community.
- Governor's freeze and its affect on WSL

The freeze affects new hires or replacing positions; personal service contracts; new equipment and software purchases; and out of state travel.

The State Library's federal funding doesn't protect us from the freeze. As a result, some vacant positions are being filled, but not all; new personal service contracts over \$500 are not being approved; equipment purchases already in process will go through, but there will be no additional purchases; and out of state travel is being approved on a case by case basis, i.e., Rand and Jeff's attendance at the IMLS training in Washington DC has been approved because all travel costs will either be paid directly or reimbursed by IMLS.

- Summit Meeting on Rural and Small Libraries

Jan directed Council to the "White Paper on the Future Agenda for Rural and Small Libraries in the US" in the agenda packet. Jan recently participated in the Summit Meeting on Rural and Small Libraries at Clarion University.

Assignment: Rand will send out the link to white paper.

Report on Public Library Director's Meeting

Bruce provided an update on two of the topics discussed at the last Public Library Director's Meeting:

- Public Library Standards for the State of Washington

Theresa Percy and Dave Van Kleeck, from Port Townsend Public Library, proposed the development of Public Library Standards for Washington State. Overall, the library directors were interested but had a number of questions and concerns:

 - Would these be mandatory or voluntary?
 - Would there be any funding to achieve them?
 - Would there be different levels?
 - Would these be Standards? Guidelines? Benchmarks?
 - While seeing the value, they were concerned about the negative results such as being seen as 'overfunded' or "underfunded" in comparison—could back fire.
 - Workload issue: it takes time to develop standards.

- What would the role of the State Library be?
- Washington State Portal
The “Online Information Portal of Library Resources” was the highest ranked 2009 LSTA Idea. Bruce wrote a report on it to his constituents, but none of them responded; then he took the idea to the Library Directors meeting for discussion.
 - We need to be very careful about projects that require ongoing LSTA funding, i.e., SDL.
 - There are staffing issues.
 - Should we be supporting new cutting edge projects of filling in gaps? (This is a gap.)
 - If and when we go to the legislature, would a statewide port appeal to them? This is probably not the year to do that.
 - Discussion will continue until the first of the year when we have a full Council; new members may have a different philosophy.

2009 Workplan

Jeff provided Council with a spread sheet showing the expenditures and projections of LSTA projects from 2000 through 2009; and referred them to the hand out packet for a list of all 2008 grants issued.

Jeff then provided an overview of the revised 2009 workplan budget. After all continuing activities/projects were funded, approximately \$620,500 remained for four new projects:

- Online Information Portal of Library Resources (\$30,000, primarily for advisory committee)
- Library as Instructional Leader: Transforming Pedagogy and Curriculum with Information Literacy (budget to be determined)
- Connecting the Dots — Early Learning Systems and Public Libraries (budget to be determined)
- Targeted Competitive Grants, a combination for several grant proposals (budget to be determined)

Special Guest

Kristie Kirkpatrick, Director, Whitman County Rural Library District, arrived at the meeting. Chris introduced Kristie; round table introduction followed. Kristie and Janet Lyon are attending this meeting as part of a later panel discussion on rural libraries.

Filling the Special Libraries Position Chris announced that the nominations committee (Chris, Lillian, and Benita) recommended Annanaomi Sams, Hanford Technical Library, Pacific NW National Laboratory, for the Special Libraries vacancy. After a brief discussion, Tim moved and Kate seconded that the committees recommendation be accepted. The vote was unanimous to appoint Annanaomi.

Since the second Special Libraries position is open for 2009, Jeff contacted all the applicants for the current vacancy and asked if they wanted their applications considered for that position as well; they all agreed they would. The current committee will review those and any new Special Libraries applications received and make their recommendation at the November meeting.

New Nominations Committee for 2009 Vacancies

A second committee was formed to consider applications for the four remaining 2009 vacancies: Academic (1 position); Technology (2 positions), and Disadvantaged (1 position). They will also make their recommendation at the November meeting.

Assignment: Kate, Debbie, and Rayette volunteered for the second nominations committee.

Library Council Continuing Education: Rural Library Issues and Opportunities

Rand facilitated a panel discussion on issues and opportunities of rural libraries. The panel consisted of Lillian, Janet, and Kristie.

- Difficulties
 - Cover large geographic area
 - Limited budget; applying for grants becomes especially important
 - Stagnant population and minimal growth
 - Limited hours due to budget and staffing
 - Community is politically conservative; need to understand the people you serve and communicate accordingly
 - Capital projects are hard
 - Changing technology makes it difficult to have qualified staff
 - Supervision is difficult
 - Without Gates and LSTA grant funds, couldn't keep up with other libraries in the state
 - Director often needs to cover many duties such as front desk, accountant, grant writer, custodian, grounds keeper, etc.
 - Need to really know the community
 - It's a challenge to keep things moving forward, but not so fast as to upset the community
 - Independence of outlying communities; they don't want the main branch telling them what to do
 - When Janet became the director this last year, there were few written policies, no programs, daytime hours only, and the library never kept stats. She spent the 1st 6 months writing policy; then began adding programs such as pre-school, toddler, young adults, knitting group, etc.; opened the library 2 evenings a week.
- Opportunities
 - Can really become the hub of the community, i.e., yoga classes and knitting groups in the library
 - Strong focus on education and community service
 - Very little bureaucracy
 - Get to know the customers very well and develop personal relationship with them
 - Can provide personal service to customers such as dropping books off to a sick patron
 - Wonderful Friends of the Library (Denny Ashby has 400 members)

Rand asked what the Council and the Washington State Library could do to help. Janet and Kristie responded that they appreciate:

- The simplicity of LSTA grants reports and applications, especially after applying for other grant sources
- LCW listening to rural libraries
- Everything the State Library provides such as SDL databases, IT help, grants, consulting services, etc.

Rand added that WSL uses variance funds to provide full scholarships for a limited number of small library directors each year to attend Association of Rural & Small

Libraries (ARSL). Full scholarships are limited to one per individual; CE grants can be used for other years.

Change the Date for the November Meeting

Rand and Jeff will be in WA DC for the IMLS training the week of the originally schedule Council date. Anne led Council in a discussion of other possible dates. It was decided to meet on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Information Sharing and Unfinished Business

Council was referred to Senator Maria Cantwell's letter to the FCC supporting a simplified E-Rate application process, disbursement process, and methodology used for calculating the poverty level for library outlets and branches. Schools have a different view then public libraries on this subject.

Council was also referred to the other information in the handout package, including the Library Development Summary Report; the latest IMLS Primary Source Newsletters; and the *Colorado White Paper – Statewide ILS Based on Open Source Software*.

Wrap Up

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 6, 2008 at WTBBL in Seattle, WA

Items for Next Agenda

- Recommendation for 2009 appointments
- Election of Officers
- Review of 2010 Ideas Process

Respectfully submitted by Anne Yarbrough