

Library Council of Washington

September 25, 2014



2522 Kwina Rd
Bellingham, WA 98226

Present: Nancy Bunker, Nono Burling, Kyle Cox, Patricia Cutright, Trish Henry, Marci Howells, Priscilla Ice, Jeff Martin, Valerie McBeth, Elizabeth Mills, Pam Nyberg Kiesner, Christine Peck, Rand Simmons, Maura Walsh

Not attending: Jane Blume, Allyson Carlyle, Jim Loter, Cynthia Lucas, Valerie Wonder

Guests: Dr. Justin Guillory, President of NWIC and Dave Oreiro, NWIC Vice President for Campus Development.

Meeting

Chair Valerie McBeth called the meeting to order and introduced Justin Guillory, the President of the Northwest Indian College. He welcomed us and gave us a brief history of the college and an introduction to the library collections.

The 5/13/14 meeting notes were approved as written. The agenda was reviewed and no changes were needed.

State Librarian Report

Rand Simmons reviewed the current shortfall in State Library's operating budget. Currently we rely on the Heritage Fund, which is financed through income from auditor filing fees and corporations filing fees. Due to the lower than expected performance of the housing market, there is going to be a shortfall in our operating budget for the next biennium. The Secretary of State says solving this is her top priority. She will request funds from the Legislature, called a backfill, to make up the difference.

There are two possible longer term strategies to resolve the budget funding. One would return the Library to the State General Fund. This would fill the gap and be a more stable source of funding. But it is also more liable to cuts, as we have had in the past. The second solution would leave the library in the Heritage Fund and backfill from the General Fund. This should be better protected from cuts or fluctuations. The Secretary of State will select an option soon.

Regardless of the source, our best option would be to get the library budget included in the Governor's proposed budget. This doesn't guarantee funding, but it strengthens our case. We are also requesting continued funding of the IT Academy.

We are developing a contingency plan based on various scenarios. If 25% of the budget is cut (our projected shortfall), it would leave only 50% of current funds for expenditures. (Our building lease takes the remaining 25%.) Basically we would need to close entire program areas currently offered by our State Library. This option is not palatable. We would have a brain drain of librarian staff. Services would be drastically reduced. Collections would be endangered. Future federal funds would be imperiled.

The library is releasing a customer satisfaction survey soon. The purpose is to determine which services are most valued by our customers. In addition to asking precise questions about our services, there are also free comment areas where you can add what you like. Personal stories are always effective tools.

There is a new Facebook page for the Friends of the Washington State Library. The library is also finalizing updated fact sheets showing the impact of library services around the state.

The IT Academy will request \$1.5 million in funds. There was a meeting with Microsoft last week to clarify the plans.

If there are significant cuts the results will be dire and will most likely

- Impact the MOE negatively, and consequently LSTA funding.
- Cause a brain drain of librarians.
- Restrict or curtail many current programs and services.
- Result in library closures.

Jeff Martin explained in detail the steps after a shortfall in MOE.

Specific questions posed by various council members about details in all of the above were asked and answered.

2015 LSTA Workplan

Jeff Martin reported there are 20 projects, mostly ongoing, but highlighted three new ones:

1. Washington digital newspapers
Some concern was expressed about whether the digitized newspapers adequately covered the whole historical period; 1880-90 may be underrepresented. Jeff Martin said he could clarify with project director.
2. Community and Technical College Open Education Resources
Just initiated 1st contract. We have 100 thousand reserved for this year and next. It is being organized through Tacoma Community College Library.
3. All Aboard for Kindergarten
Diane Hutchins from the State Library and Mary Ellen Braks from Spokane County are heading up the project. Librarians are being trained now, we anticipate a 2 year transition between programs.

Answers to member's questions:

- **Webjunction** has changed its model and we have a new contract without Lynda.com. It is cost effective per person/course. It doesn't duplicate IT Academy.
- **WAYfinder** is going out of existence, it no longer has statewide access. It may be in operation in some areas of the state and they may have extended under the same conditions as the older contract. Jeff Martin will check on status.

- **Database licensing** had two responses to an RFP for conducting a needs assessment of this project, but only one was viable. We are currently in the contracting process.
- **Ask WA** is currently being shifted from the current level of subsidy to being sustained by the user libraries. The state library will continue to support the coordinator for the program
- **Washington Rural Heritage** is now being handled by one employee, we can't hire another. Work is progressing nicely. State is well represented with about 100 sites. All of the grants are to small communities.

Tour

We toured the new Lummi Library, admiring the architecture and interior design. We saw the Vine Deloria, Junior Collection which houses the author's personal library.

Nomination Committee

Nancy Bunker, Marci Howells, and Priscilla Ice volunteered to form the nominations committee. They will review applicants for new member positions and also make nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the Council.

IMLS site visit: July 15-18, 2014

Jeff Martin reported on the successful IMLS site visit last summer.

IMLS suggests that we create two policies: one for conflict of interest and the other for complaints. These are being developed and the conflict of interest draft was reviewed by the members and some suggestions were made. We will review again in November.

- Washington State will be featured on the national IMLS site with information about Ask WA and a children's project (either Early Learning or Summer Reading) from NOLS.
- The Senior Program Officer from IMLS was impressed by the Drupal site from Kalama
- Also with the custom-built book mobile /media center at the Nisqually Indian Tribe.

Speaker

Dave Oreiro, Vice President for Campus Development at Northwest Indian College, talked about the college. There are students from 100 tribes at six different campuses around the northwest. He chatted about banned books and the importance of libraries, information access and librarians.

Other business

- Our next meeting will be in Tacoma at the Tacoma School District offices on 11/04/14.
- The following meeting will be in Olympia due to the legislature being in session.
- We will wait for the new members to schedule dates for meetings.
- We discussed a long list of possible sites for our upcoming meetings.

Action items

Nominating committee will report at next meeting

We will review the new policies as suggested by IMLS