



Office of the Secretary of State

Washington State Library

Library Council of Washington

March 10, 2015
Central Library
Tumwater WA

Present: Pam Nyberg Kiesner, Chair; Christine Peck, Vice Chair; Jane Blume, Kyle Cox, Patricia Cutright, Laura Dushkes, Trish Henry, Jim Loter, Valerie McBeth, Allyson Carlyle, Lorena O'English, Elizabeth Partridge, Susan Whitford, Rand Simmons, Jeff Martin, Maura Walsh

Not attending: Marcie Howells

Guests: Greg Lane, Anna Nash

Meeting

Greg Lane welcomed the council and expressed his positive impressions of what the library is, has, and offers. He acknowledged the major budget challenges facing the library and stated that the more communication we have, the better.

We are partners in preserving libraries. The Secretary is pursuing more stable funding and there are various options. The biggest misperception is that the state library is only bricks and mortar. Hearing local stories is most valuable. The long term goal is to include the library in the heritage center plans, combining library and archives in new building. This would be more efficient, have better storage, and could provide better high -quality services.

State Librarian Report

Simmons explained that the \$2.4 million biennial is 27% of the budget. We want to retune the library, making it more visible to Legislature so they see it as something they want to fund. We don't have many palatable options at present. He explained what those options might look like in the long run. It seems that with further cuts our maintenance of effort (MOE) would be effected and we could soon lose up to half of our federal funding. The recent survey allows us to identify our essential collections. Simmons highlighted

- State publications
 - Mandated by law.
 - Go into storage or archives?
 - Invaluable to historians
- Newspaper collection – one of the highest circulating
- Federal collection – administrator for Alaska as well as Washington
 - Mandate to maintain
 - More costly to give away than to maintain

He then discussed different options we are taking presently and what we anticipate as potential actions for the near future, including different parts of our general collection as well as the effects on the different branches (WTBBL and institutional). The Secretary of State plans the eventual merger of the library, archives and the Legacy Project. Until there is a budget, we can plan and strategize, but it is all a provisional exercise. There was general discussion of our ability to effect or influence change and best ways to communicate with the parties involved, and who they are. Lane stated that our priorities are having the least amount of impact on people, while maintaining collections and services and maximizing our federal match.

Super circular changes

Walsh summarized the changes to the super circular from the Office of Management and Budget that effects all federal grant monies. For us the biggest changes may be in the assessment required before awarding grants to sub-recipients and the changes we needed to make to continuing education (CE) grants. These are restructured as professional development (PD) grants. The sub-recipient can no longer be an individual, it must be the intuition or entity that has the library.

LSTA funded positions

Martin discussed our responsibility distributing LSTA funds in Washington. He explained the intricacies of which programs and projects were supported with LSTA funding and how. He explained the IMLS guidance and the evolution of our programs and services to support all library communities in the state.

Conflict of interest

Martin reviewed the conflict of interest policy and it was decided to amend it so that it includes relatives of the first degree as required by federal regulation. Council decided to incorporate it as a policy. It was decided to table adoption of the policy until it was updated and vetted.

Dates were set for our upcoming meetings:

May 27th in Vancouver Community Library

September 10th in Brooks Library at Central Washington University

November 23rd TBD (Seattle area)

Tour

Sean Lanksbury, Special Collections Librarian, gave a tour of the Washington State Library to council members that included the Central Library's main collection and a special peek into our vault. He graciously answered all questions and explained how everyone can access our collections.

Training and CE

Anna Nash, a Library Associate at from the Institutional Library Services at Washington State Library. She works at the Monroe facility. She explained that there are 11 facilities and 11 staff so they are perpetually short-staffed. They try to make it clear that they are not a part of the prison itself, they are just a library that happens to operate in a prison. She also explained that they are completely separate from the law libraries required by federal statute. Here are some of the unique challenges she highlighted:

- No internet or databases.
- Many different populations: e.g. ethnicity, age, education, culture.
- Department of Corrections policies like no nudity, no foreign languages.
- Library self restricts materials that promote violence or racial inequality.
- Limited budget, so they rely heavily on donated materials.
- Sometimes access to the library is restricted by the facility.

Info sharing

- Simmons provided everyone with a new WSL poster featuring Sen. Habib. This is also available for download through [WTBBL](#).
- Simmons is presenting at the [Building Bridges](#) Washington State Higher Education Technology Conference.
- Cutright invited everyone to the [library gala](#) at CWU.
- The [Everett Herald article](#) on the symphony at the prison.