Central New York Library Resources Council

Library Resources and Services

21 March 2011

3:00 p.m

**Present:** Beverly Choltco-Devlin (MYLS), Chair; Peg Elliott (OCPL); Mike Poulin (Colgate University); Steve Weiter (SUNY ESF); Diana Wendell (Madison-Oneida BOCES;, Déirdre Joyce (Assistant Director, CLRC), liaison; Debby Emerson (Executive Director, CLRC)

**Absent**: Christine Kucharski (SUNY Upstate)

Beverly Choltco-Devlin called meeting to order at 3:05pm

**Action Items:**

1. Website
   * Send out mock-up website for review to committee members. (CLRC staff)
   * Speak to Dan Lovell about committee suggestions (Déirdre)
2. Automation/LRS Merger
   * Invite members from Automation to the next meeting of LRS. (Debby)
   * Both committees review charges. (All)

Steve Weiter made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, (S/A).

**Agenda Items:**

* Action Items
  + Déirdre reported that all previous action items appear to have been dealt with by previous CLRC staff.
* CLRC Website Redesign
  + Debby and Déirdre reported on a meeting with Dan Lovell, the web consultant from Codemunkeys where he suggested that the LRS committee think about the essential functions of the organization and what they would want to see, using the design principle of “Form Follows Function”
  + The committee discussed the idea that the CLRC website was for two core audiences, the librarians and member libraries that it serves, and the general public. The committee felt that while member library professionals were the primary audience, the general public would continue to have interest in the job board and CNY Heritage.
  + As the website is pulled together, CLRC should think about self-promotion and the marketing of the Council and its services.
  + Debby and Déirdre discussed CLRC’s plan to re-imagine *Refermation* as a blog with a periodic round-up of events that will offer highlights and flesh out particular member news items that are brought up in the blog postings.
  + Specific discussion points included:
    - Preference not to have unmediated News & Events powered through RSS. This gets too messy and can seem irrelevant.
    - Very positive reaction to most of the METRO.org site, except for the very large flash file on the home page. Would like to see a rotating picture, but much, much smaller than the METRO site.
    - Main menu should include the following: Home, CE, Job Opportunities, Programs & Services, About
    - Not too many sub-menu items, keep it as simple as possible with robust and well-designed information pieces
    - Need a search box that actually finds what people are seeking (including forms and events).
    - Need an effective calendar on the homepage
    - CNY Heritage in a prominent spot. Debby explained that while CNY Heritage may be moving under the NY Heritage banner, CNY Heritage will continue to keep a distinctive web presence.
    - Job listings should really only include truly regional jobs (definitely not more than NY State or a good argument for something close). Other jobs pages can be linked or a tiered job page can be created.
    - Have useful contact information in a prominent spot so that interested parties can reach a real person. There was a rejection of the “contact form”; committee preferred email addresses, masked if necessary to avoid unwanted spamming.
    - This site can also be used as a work space for various committee members, perhaps requiring a log-in to the site.
    - CLRC staff should consider Wordpress training, suggestion: Polly-Alida Farrington at SUNY Albany.
* SWOT Analysis
  + Debby explained to the committee that CLRC would be doing the Vision Summit (previously scheduled for January) at some later date. The review of the SWOT Analysis was therefore tabled until the next meeting.
* Other
  + Bev asked if Bibliographic Services was planning to do another ILL workshop in the summer. Yes.
  + Bev asked about the status of Newsbank and Debby shared that the subscription arrangement was in a state of flux. Debby had taken the issue to the Automation Committee, who expressed that they did not feel they had sufficient representation to make significant decisions about the databases. Details as follows:
    - FirstSearch and Wilson are no longer bundled.
    - Wilson is offering the same package at the same price as before.
    - Route 13 agreement had one council drop out, but OCLC has agreed to allow the two remaining councils to maintain their current subscription level at no change in price (rather than having to split the added cost burden for the council that dropped out).
    - Debby asked how the committee felt about Wilson and the committee felt it would be wise to do a survey of the membership.
    - Diana expressed that she felt that Newsbank was a more useful product for her users (when compared to Wilson and even Gale)
    - Committee suggested that CLRC take a close look at the usage stats of both databases and compare them.
    - Committee suggested that a survey ask a series of ranking questions.
    - Committee suggested that statistics be easily accessible on CLRC’s website for all the databases to which its members subscribe, so statistics are easily obtainable.
  + Committee discussed the possibility of folding the Automation Committee into LRS and inviting them to the next meeting.
    - Mike made the point that the most time-consuming work of the Automation Committee had been to make decisions about the member mini-grants.
    - Now that the primary task of Automation is RBDB, the LRS Committee felt that this work could be done in an *ad hoc* or subcommittee fashion.
  + Déirdre announced that Debby would take over as the liaison to the Library Resources and Services Committee

**NEXT MEETING: 9 May 2011 at 2pm. CLRC conference room.**

Steve Weiter made a motion to adjourn at 4:57pm, (S/A).

Respectfully submitted,

Déirdre Joyce

Assistant Director