Central New York Library Resources Council

Library Resources and Services

May 3, 2012

2-3:40 p.m. CLRC training room

**Present:** Valerie Prescott (Herkimer County Community College), Mike Poulin (Colgate), Deb Lewis (OCPL), Peg Elliott (OCPL), Steve Weiter (SUNY ESF), Debby Emerson (CLRC),

*Via teleconference:* DeAnn Buss (SU)

**Excused**: Diana Wendell (M-O BOCES), Nancy Virgil-Call (Utica College), Christine Kucharski (Upstate Medical Center), Bev Choltco-Devlin (Mid-York Library System)

Debby Emerson called meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. in the absence of the Chair.

**Action Items:**

* Check the expiration dates of committee members’ terms – Debby and CLRC staff
* Check with Bev to determine Mid-York’s use of and need for NewsBank resources – Debby
* Approach WALDO and/or NewsBank rep about lower pricing - Debby
* Approach OCLC about changing FirstSearch subscription to WorldCat only – Debby
* Find out process for review or revision of state guidelines for retrospective conversion projects - Debby

**Meeting minutes of November 15, 2011:**

Deb Lewis moved to approve the minutes from November 15, 2011 as amended. (S/A).

**Agenda Items:**

* RBDB Member Grants
  + Current status
    - Debby reported that she checked the guidelines for retrospective conversion grants and the price of $1 per ubiquitous record and $10 per unique record is correct. Therefore, Syracuse University’s application cannot be funded at the requested level of $10,000. The allowable amount is $2345. Debby has alerted SU and their application has been approved at $2345.
    - Each of the grant recipients has been notified of their award and issued the usual caution about not spending the money until they receive it.
    - As in previous years, CLRC will not pay out these awards until the funds are received. Typically this is in the first quarter of the following calendar year, so funding for 2012 projects would be paid early in 2013.
  + Timeline for application process
    - At a previous meeting, Mike had indicated that the current timeline for member grant applications is challenging for academic libraries. When the call for proposals comes out early in September, the academic libraries are in a very busy time and librarians do not have time to work on applications.
    - Since RBDB money is typically not received until the next calendar year, it might make sense to move the application timeline forward so the application process occurs closer to the actual time of funding.
    - Mike suggested that application materials for 2013 RBDB member grants go out November 1, with a due date the first week of January and a decision made in early March.
      * + This would give librarians time to work on their applications after the busiest part of the library instruction season has passed.
        + Both DeAnn and Mike noted that librarians will probably want to have these done by mid-December.
        + An early January due date for applications gives ample time for review by LRS and an external panel, and Board approval, prior to the usual mid-May state deadline for the CLRC budget.
  + Review Process
    - The group agreed that review by an external panel of 2-3 people is a good idea and should continue, as long as it does not add much time or expense to the process.
      * + This helps to avoid any conflict of interest issues, as many of the LRS Committee members represent libraries that may be applying for member grants.
        + Debby noted that the external review panel for 2012 funding did not find the process onerous. The applications were sent out electronically and the committee reviewed them via conference call.
        + DeAnn agrees that we should continue the external review panel since we are looking at applications from our own institutions.
  + Peg asked, at what point are the state guidelines reviewed and/or revised? Mike noted that the amounts have not been changed in at least 15 years. Debby will make inquiries at the state level. Is there a possibility of merging retrocon and metadata applications?
* RBDB Budget
  + Debby distributed copies of the draft RBDB budget for 2013.
    - Amount is based on projected 3.3% increase in state funding
    - Total income is less than current year because of smaller NewsBank chargeback to members. OCPL will not be part of CLRC’s NewsBank subscription for 2012-2013 budget year and theirs was by far the largest chargeback amount.
    - FirstSearch and NewsBank pricing is based on quotes from the respective vendors and can be considered accurate.
    - Most other parts of budget are unchanged from last year
    - There is more money available for member projects because the Wilson resources are no longer part of CLRC’s FirstSearch package. This frees up an amount of approximately $35,000 which the committee felt would be best spent on member projects, rather than trying to identify an electronic resource that would be of value to all member libraries.
    - There is a $5000 item labeled NY3Rs projects. This is to cover half the cost of the NY3Rs annual Cooperative Projects fee of $10,000.
* Electronic Resources – WorldCat, NewsBank
  + FirstSearch WorldCat
    - 2011 FirstSearch statistics include some database titles that committee members do not recognize. It’s possible some institutions have never activated their subscriptions to these additional databases.
    - Mike Poulin suggested that WorldCat is really the only database in the package that is of value to libraries.
    - Valerie Prescott and Deb Lewis asked why each database is listed twice, once under “sub” and once under “open”. Debby will investigate.
    - Mike wondered if we could change our subscription to WorldCat only rather than the full base package. Colgate did this and saved 10-15%.
    - The committee agreed that WorldCat is a good use of regional funds, as it is useful to all member libraries.
  + NewsBank
    - There is concern that the cost of NewsBank is too high given the relatively low use. The Rochester newspaper and the New York Times are no longer part of the package, which is a significant loss. The Utica paper is now included, but not at the promised level.
    - OCPL will not be part of the CLRC subscription for the coming year. OCPL libraries account for about 60% of the use of NewsBank, but the quote from NewsBank does not reflect the same reduction in pricing.
    - Mike Poulin expressed a concern that the cost of NewsBank represents too high a portion of the total RBDB budget.
    - Steve Weiter asked if the participant cost would increase significantly. Debby indicated she had developed the budget knowing there would be a much smaller chargeback, and she does not anticipate a large increase in the cost to participants. Steve would like to see a new billing schedule for each library.
    - Peg Elliott asked if we should commit the funds for NewsBank when we do not receive RBDB funding until so late in the year.
    - Peg noted that the NOVEL databases supplied by the New York State Library could fill in for some of the NewsBank titles, but cautioned that the NOVEL resources come up for renewal every year and there is no guarantee that the same resources will be in place from one year to the next.
    - Valerie noted that some of the schools are fairly heavy users of NewsBank. Debby said one school library system has just re-joined the group subscription, after a year’s absence. It would not be desirable to remove resources that some of our members rely on.
    - Various possibilities were discussed:
      * CLRC could drop NewsBanks and encourage members to use the resources in InfoTrac and NOVEL. We would then need to plan another program to utilize the funds currently allocated for NewsBank.
      * CLRC could notify NewsBank/WALDO that the subscription will be cancelled unless they can give us a price of $50,000 or less. We then need to be prepared to walk away if necessary.
      * Tell member libraries this may be the last year we can support NewsBank, and look for an alternative resource to support.
    - Mike said NewsBank gives participants access to a large number of national newspapers and lets users limit by location. That is the strength of NewsBank and has value for academic libraries.
    - Valerie mentioned that the domestic newspapers are important for many academic libraries.
    - Debby will explore the possibility of reduced pricing with WADLO and/or NewsBank.
* Other – Mike suggested that we check on the length and expiration date of people’s terms on the committee. We also need to define the terms of the new members who joined LRS when the Automation Committee was merged with LRS. Debby and the CLRC staff will research this.
* Next Meeting – the next meeting date will be determined by Doodle poll, in approximately two months’ time

Peg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. (S/A).

Debby called the meeting to a close at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Emerson

CLRC