Central New York Library Resources Council

Library Resources and Services

May 9th, 2011

2:00 p.m

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

DeAnn Buss (Syracuse University); Nancy Virgil-Call (Utica College); Deb Lewis (OCPL)

**Excused**: Christine Kucharski (SUNY Upstate); Steve Weiter (SUNY ESF)

Beverly Choltco-Devlin called meeting to order at 2:05pm

**Action Items:**

1. Add “Communications” (e.g. CNY-LIB1) to the next agenda
2. Add “Newsbank” to the next agenda
3. Add “Cat Express” to the next agenda
4. Add “Overdrive” to the next agenda
5. Debby
   * Review RBDB funding requirements from the state with regard to committees.
   * Check the proposed changes to Newsbank. Will obituaries be included?
   * Inquire about unsubsidized but discounted prices for members to continue using Wilson products
6. Deirdre
   * Adjust the log-off settings on FirstSearch

**Minutes of March 21, 2011:**

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

**Agenda Items:**

1. Welcome the Automation Committee members
2. Compared the charges of the two committees
   * Automation committee is primarily concerned with how the RBDB funds are spent by CLRC. Much of these funds are now being spent on electronic resources.
   * Debby suggested that the two committees periodically meet together.
   * Mike pointed out that the two committees have overlap in their purpose and that there is the potential for a conflict of priorities. Beverly agreed that they could be cross purpose.
     + Beverly suggested one large committee with subcommittees to focus on things of interest like RBDB funding or technology.
   * Beverly respectfully remarked that the original charge of the Automation committee, retrospective conversion using RBDB funding, has been served, but that RBDB money is now used for much more than just retrospective conversion.
   * All present agreed that the term “automation” was outdated.
   * Deb wondered if there might still be a need for automation in the region, especially with regard to IT infrastructure issues or possibly tablet computers.
     + Peg suggested a knowledge database as an alternative to a subcommittee for these issues, but this was unsuccessful in the past.
3. Motion to recommend a vote of the Board to merge the Automation and the Library Resources and Services committees made by Mike.
   * Diana seconded this. It was unanimously passed.
   * Diana asked about a new chair or co-chair.
     + Nancy volunteered to step down as chair of the Automation committee if the two committees are merged.
   * DeAnn asked about terms. Deirdre suggested terms remain the same.
   * The charge for the newly merged committee will need amendments.
     + DeAnn suggested the new charge reflect the application of technology to services.
     + Mike recommended infrastructure be included in the charge.
     + The new charge will be discussed over email.
4. Website
   * Deirdre has sent website suggestions from the last LRS meeting to the website developer. He responded that CLRC will need a much larger library of graphics.
     + Special Projects Assistant, Claire Enkosky, will be sent out to member libraries to take photographs.
     + CLRC will also ask member libraries to send us photographs from their events.
     + The first feature story on the new website will be Sue Kowalski’s award of $10,000 from AASL’s 2011 National School Library Program of the Year. Sue Kowalski works at Pine Grove Middle School in East Syracuse, New York.
   * Deirdre has not yet received a mock-up of the new website but she will email it to the members of the committee once it is finished.
   * Deirdre would like to implement individual user accounts for the new website
     + Users would be able to self-subscribe and register to CE events, track their events, and update their employment information.
   * Chris Hawkins, CLRC’s IT person, recommended a non-relational database to be incorporated into the website design. He recommends a dot net to be developed independent of any application like Access.
     + Mike and Deb both suggested that investing in a unique option like this could lead to problems in the future if CLRC wants to change developers.
     + DeAnn questioned a non-relational database. She pointed out that dot net is proprietary and will require an ISS, which is an extra cost. She recommended MySQL and PHP which are both open source.
     + Mike recommended FileMaker as an improvement from Access. He also recommended MySQL and PHP.
5. Discussion of databases
   * Statistics
     + At the last meeting the committee asked Debby to provide statistics on CLRC’s members’ use of FirstSearch WorldCat, Wilson, and Newsbank. She passed out copies of the statistics report to the committee.
       - FirstSearch WorldCat is much more heavily used. CLRC is committed to maintaining FirstSearch.
       - Some community colleges use Wilson very heavily.
     + Additionally, Debby sent a survey out to member libraries and passed out copies of the preliminary survey results to the committee. The survey had 50 respondents and included open answers.
       - Most libraries reported that they would not be able to continue their subscription to the FirstSearch/ Wilson package without CLRC’s subsidization.
     + Fewer than half of CLRC’s member libraries use the Newsbank subscription, which is cost share. Last year’s price for Newsbank was $81,000 of which $20,000 was divided among the members. This year, Newsbank is $77,000 because they are waiving an administrator fee.
       - Newsbank was formerly offered through WALDO. WALDO is no longer working through the 3Rs.
       - 56% of Newsbank usage is OCPL. 26% is BOCES.
     + Peg pointed out that an alarming number of people who filled out the survey said they were not aware of these services.
       - Mike suggested that this could be a difference between a library director and a technical services or reference staff member.
   * Discussion
     + Beverly remarked that her system’s 43 member libraries use FirstSearch to handle ILL.
       - However, her system made a conscious decision not to give FirstSearch access to patrons because of how quickly it timed out and logged users off.
     + Mike felt that FirstSearch WorldCat is not replaceable.
     + Deb clarified that libraries must have FirstSearch for their holding records to appear on the free WorldCat.org. Without the FirstSearch subscription, these holdings will not appear in WorldCat.org.
     + CLRC’s FirstSearch price will not increase even though one of the partners has dropped out.
     + Wilson products were part of FirstSearch but will not be after July 1st, 2011. Wilson Omnifile would cost $35,000 to continue.
     + Mike remarked that Novel now supplants much of what Wilson offers.
       - Peg suggested that users may not realize that Novel has more academic journals now.
       - Diana recommended the promotion of the new Gale and Novel products.
     + Newsbank is paid through until the end of August.
   * Motion to discontinue Wilson subsidization
     + OCLC has discontinued offering Wilson Select. Whereas Wilson Select & FirstSearch databases will be offered separately effective July 1st, 2011, based on the user feedback through the surveys and an analysis of the usage statistics, the committee recommends discontinuing subsidies for the Wilson Select database beyond June 30, 2011.
       - Motion made by Peg Elliott. Seconded by Mike Poulin.
       - CLRC will facilitate the transition for members and advise members with higher usage.
   * Motion to continue FirstSearch Base package subsidization
     + We recommend the continued subsidization of the FirstSearch Base package subscription.
       - Motion made by Peg Elliott. Seconded by Mike Poulin. Unanimously agreed.

Peg made a motion to adjourn at 4:08 with an understanding that the next meeting and a special meeting about Newsbank will be scheduled via email (S/A).

**NEXT MEETING: DATE to be determined via Doodle poll.**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Enkosky

Special Projects Assistant, CLRC