



State Library of Ohio

**LSTA Advisory Council
Minutes
June 8, 2009**

Attendance: Doug Bean, Middletown Public Library; Belinda Boon, KSU-SLIS; Kelly Broughton, Ohio University; Jo Budler, State Library; Doug Evans, OLC; Terri Fredricka, INFOhio; Kathy Frederick, Shaker Heights CSD; Stephen Hedges, OPLIN; Glen Horton, SWON Libraries; Missy Lodge, State Library; Roger Minier, NWOET; Cheri Pandora, Rocky River HS; Arlene Radden, Holmes Cty. Library; Jeff Regensburger, Worthington Libraries; Jennifer Schwelik, Beachwood HS; Lois Szudy, Otterbein College; Mike Wantz, Perry Cty. District Library; Julia Ward, State Library

Call to Order: Missy Lodge called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Budget Update: Missy Lodge provided an overview and update of the federal budget. As a reminder for our federal LSTA budget we have two years to encumber and expend the funds. We use the majority of our funds in the carryover year. Our LSTA FFY08 budget is \$5,543,747 and those funds all have to be encumbered by Sept. 30, 2009. Our LSTA FFY09 budget is \$5,762,731 and those funds have to be expended by Sept. 30, 2010. The president has introduced his 2010 budget with a request for IMLS of \$265,556,000. Of that amount \$213,240,000 would go to the library side and 80% of that (\$172,357,000) would be for the State Library agencies.

LSTA is up for reauthorization next year. ALA has indicated that they will seek a state base of \$680,000 with a population apportionment on top of the base. They also hope to have the legislation allow for the funding of Continuing Education. The memo from the IMLS State Programs office disallowing C.E. for librarians has hit the states very hard. There is also discussion that construction funds be allocated again, either as part of LSTA or as a separate program. If construction were a part of LSTA it would need to be additional funds, not out of the current state allocation.

Jo Budler gave an update on the state budget. The State Library received a 10% cut in the House version of the budget and an additional 5% cut in the Senate version. The conference committee will begin its deliberations this week. OPLIN and the Library for the Blind will be funded out of the Public Library Fund; however, 5 million in GRF will be added to the PLF, thus there will be no net loss. The Regional Library Systems were particularly hard hit, sustaining a 25% cut in the Senate version of the budget. A question was raised if LSTA funds could be diverted to assist the RLS. Jo Budler responded that no, we could not divert funds; however, the RLS were working on an LSTA grant which, if awarded, would help with the immediate funding crisis.

IMLS Visit: Ohio's IMLS State Program Officer, Michele Farrell, visited for a week in September 2008. She spent a day at the State Library and three and a half days on the road. We visited 9 public libraries, 4 school libraries, and 3 other types of institutions. She wanted to visit SEO, BPH in Cleveland and the MRDD facility in Holmes County so that focused our trip toward the east and northeast. Two things impressed her: our form that we use to verify first quarter financial requirements and the amount of interest and involvement by the State Library Board.

WebJunction Ohio: Missy Lodge mentioned that Ohio is now a WebJunction partner site. We have moved all of our LSTA information onto WebJunction Ohio. LSTA was a focus in the February "Crossroads" (WebJunction's e-newsletter) as was Ohio so we had a big push to make sure everything was moved over by that date. Jo Budler mentioned the courses that are available on WebJunction for staff from all types of libraries. Members of the Advisory Council offered suggestions on ways to evaluate whether or not librarians found the WebJunction courses useful and effective.

Connecting to Collections Planning Grant: Missy Lodge discussed the Connecting to Collections Planning grant which was awarded to the State Library and our partner, the Ohio Historical Society in February 2009. The grant runs from May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2011. In November 2006 IMLS launched a call to action, entitled "Connecting to Collections". This program is a multi-faceted, multi-year initiative intended to raise public awareness of the importance of collections care for now and for future generations.

Connecting to Collections Planning grants are up to \$40,000 to allow collaborative planning partnerships among libraries, museums, archives and other relevant statewide organizations to address the recommendations of the Heritage Health Index. These planning grants were a major discussion point at the 2007 IMLS state conference.

As part of the Ohio award we will develop a statewide strategy for addressing preservation needs including:

- Conduct a needs assessment survey
- Create a combined directory of cultural heritage institutions
- Have regional meetings and a summit (summer 2010)
- Develop an Ohio Cultural Heritage Strategic Plan
- Statewide media campaign

Jo Budler then discussed a possible IMLS National Leadership grant for digitization. OLC is currently working with the Metros and OHS on a possible digitization grant application. Ms. Budler asked if the Advisory Council thought it advisable to pursue an idea which had been presented prior to the meeting for regional hubs and which would include Regional Library Systems, OhioLINK and OHIONET as partners. Ms. Budler emphasized that along with access through digitization the application could focus on preservation of the material. This application would dovetail with the Connecting to Collections Planning grant.

The Advisory Council discussed the pros and cons of outsourcing digitization, having a regional digitization lab and/or traveling centers. It was also mentioned to focus the application on genealogical information. The Advisory Council members indicated that they favor pursuit of this grant application. Roger Minier and Kelly Broughton volunteered to be on a planning team for the proposal.

Update on Current Projects

Libraries Connect Ohio Databases: In 2008 the State Library Board and the LSTA Advisory Council made another 5 year commitment to support the LCO databases. At that time a new RFP process was employed to make sure that the databases being purchased were the best suited to the needs of Ohioans. The LCO databases were funded at \$1,467,414 for July 08 – June 09 and will be funded at \$1,368,304 for July 09 – June 10. Reductions in funding for this year are a result of reductions in funding for the partners which led to dropping Ebsco Consumer Health Complete and the fact that the NewsBank Newspapers collection will be limited to four of the five largest Ohio dailies.

KnowItNow: In 2008 the State Library Board and the LSTA Advisory Council agreed to continue support of KIN beyond the original three year LSTA commitment. At that time, Cleveland Public Library became the sole administering agency for the project and CPL subcontracts with NEO-RLS to provide AfterDark services. KIN was funded at \$548,631 for July 08- June 09 will be funded at \$554,366 for July 09 – June 10. During the last year CPL has worked very closely with LNet (Oregon's statewide virtual reference service) and moved to an Open source platform. (Openfire/Spark) This has allowed the service to finally be accessible to the visually impaired, allows the use of instant messaging. Additionally KIN is partnering with OhioLINK.

Statewide Resource Sharing: There has been some progress with NCIP; however, the major problem continues to be that the codes are closed to each other. The State Library issued an RFP for statewide resource sharing but due to concerns over possible legal action, withdrew the RFP. An LSTA grant has been awarded to OHIONET; they have revised the RFP and will soon be awarding a contract to Equinox. Seven states are participating in the project; the State Library will pay for the development and the other states will be paying for the connectors. Beachwood HS is one of the INFOhio pilot schools for SWRS. Jennifer Schwelik asked if there was any way transport costs could be covered, at least on a regional basis. Many schools cannot afford to provide transport and the salary of a clerical person.

Open Source ILS: An open source ILS is being tested at SEO. Approximately ¼ of SEO holdings have been put into the open source ILS so libraries can test using a real site. It is anticipated the site will be open to libraries July 1. Additionally, Eric Maynard from Holmes Cty. District Library is doing a cross-walk between the open source ILS (PINES) and the SEO catalog. Libraries will be surveyed to assess their impressions of the open source ILS.

Library Leadership Ohio: The State Library will be administering LLO in 2010. Much of it will be supported with LSTA funds. Although IMLS continues to have concerns about use of LSTA for C.E. we've been working through our program officer as well as with Becky Schreiber and John Shannon to make sure the program aligns with LSTA goals. Applications will be available in January 2010. Terri Fredricka reminded State Library staff that alums of the program are very supportive of it and many would be willing to contribute funds for its continued viability.

Upcoming/Potential LSTA Funded Projects

Technology Petting Zoo: This project would be an outgrowth of TechConnects and similar to a program done in California. Scheduled dates are May 11 and 12, 2010 at the State Library with one day being TechConnects and the other being the Technology Petting Zoo. The Petting Zoo would give librarians a change to see and try out new technologies as well as learn of new ways to use them. There was a discussion about the possibility of doing some of the sessions via videoconference. Roger Minier indicated that the EdTechs might be able to provide some support and guidance in this area.

Statewide Library Card: The idea of a statewide library card arose in the OLC Futures Initiative. However, it is hard to define what a statewide library card is and what does it do for the customer. With so many disparate ILS, a statewide card becomes more problematic. Roger Minier stated that the schools are looking to develop a single authentication card for K-12.

DAISY Victor Reader Stream: Bill Morris demonstrated the Victor Reader Stream digital talking machine. Jo Budler said that these readers are being used by many in the blind community as a precursor of the talking book machines which will soon be distributed by NLS. She asked the Council's opinion regarding a special LSTA program to get these readers into libraries. The NLS books can be loaded onto the reader and Eric Duffy, National Federation for the Blind, will be testing whether or not books from the State Library's eBook project can be downloaded. The machines cost about \$350 but we would hope to get a special discount rate for a set timeframe for those participating in the grant program. Belinda Boon suggested that the readers be listed as an acceptable purchase during the disability grant round as would any player that could download NLS material.

ARRA Community Computing Center grants: The State Library submitted a request for funding on the Ohio.gov/Recovery site for \$19 million dollars. These funds would be used for databases, training, direct support for public libraries and a competitive grant program. The proposal has made it to the second round.

The State Library is also monitoring the NTIA site for the announcement of the ARRA funds for Broadband. In April the State Library did a survey of public libraries to see if they would be interested in applying for funds for public access computers and we received approximately 80 positive responses. State Libraries meet via conference call with ALA Washington on a biweekly basis and the next day ALA has a conference call with library associations. At this time we anticipate the guidelines being released toward the end of June with a 60 day window to apply. CIPA guidelines will not apply.

Innovative Technology Discussion
Future Grant Programs/Targeted Grant Programs
Choose to Read Ohio
Teen Services

These two agenda items flowed together. The question regarding Innovative Technology arose at the minigrant review teams and centered on the continued funding of laptop labs. Missy Lodge asked for input from the Council as to whether we need a definition or better guidance for innovative technology and what would that be?

Council members felt that we should not try to define innovative technology. Instead the emphasis should be removed from the technology and equipment and placed on the program and what the technology could accomplish.

Suggestions were made for changing the category title of “innovative technology”. These included: “innovative patron support”, innovative applications of technology”, and “innovative environments”.

Cheri Pandora asked if there were programs or projects the State Library would like to emphasize. Missy Lodge noted special grants for the Choose to Read Ohio program and an emphasis on teen services. Jo Budler noted the excellent project done by Middletown Public Library to assist teens who are preparing for college.

Council members suggested revising some of the grant documents to help both applicants and reviewers. These would include:

- Providing more emphasis on the needs assessment so that applicants would start with the customer need and then match technology to meet that need.
- Provide applicants with guidance for needs assessment. For example, the number of surveys required for a viable sample, characteristics of a good survey, etc.
- Provide more assistance in the development of the evaluation section.
- Detailed information on what can qualify as match.

Following the discussion Missy Lodge indicated she will be working to revise the minigrant application materials based on the Council’s suggestions. The minigrant RFP will be released in August 2009.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.