

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on October 16, 2008**

Present: Karen DeLoatch, John Coleman, Sarah Gager, Irene Iwan, Diane Klare, Deborah Sanford, Arthur Skerker, Kendall Wiggin

Others: Lynette Baisden, Sharon Brettschneider, Steve Cauffman, Eric Hansen, Gail Hurley, William Sullivan

Absent: Carolyn Marcato, Kate Sheehan, Carol Weinschel, Jonas Zdanys

Guest: Dr. Christine Thatcher (for Jonas Zdanys)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Introduction – Eric Kelly

Eric Kelly, nominated for student member on the Board, was not present at the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 6, 2008 were approved as presented. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin

Sharon Brettschneider reported that the State Library, as well as other state agencies, sustained a 5% budget cut. Aid to municipalities, state aid, and c-card were not cut. iCONN was able cope with the 5% reduction because most of the database vendors reduced their prices. The Governor has asked us to submit a 10% budget cut plan for the next biennial budget. We will not know what the federal budget will be until further into January. Kendall Wiggin provided an update on E-Rate and LSTA funding.

7. Department of Higher Education Report – Dr. Christine Thatcher (for Jonas Zdanys)

Dr. Christine Thatcher reported for Jonas Zdanys. Dr. Thatcher stated there may be some prospective expansion of service to the academic databases due to an increased emphasis of AP courses, virtual high school, math, science and nano technology and the creating of shared curriculums. Commissioners Michael Meotti and Mark McQuillan will head the PK-20 Council. Dr. Thatcher stated that the PK-20 Council will create collaboration across early childhood education providers, K-12 school districts, higher education institutions, and workforce training programs to initiate new, or improve existing programs and policies that create an education pipeline in Connecticut. This will have an impact on teacher training, professional development and the creation of pathways from high school to college. These changes will require added or different resources for teaching and learning, including on-line resources. The training will increase jobs and the need for more on-line resources.

8. Old Business

a. CDLAB Student Member Nomination – CDLAB COC 08-04 – Arthur Skerker

Art Skerker asked that the member nomination discussion be tabled because Eric Kelly was not present at the meeting.

9. Reports

a. Commission on Educational Technology (CET) – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin reported that the Connecticut Educational Network is working on improving their filtering for schools. A special meeting will be held next week to decide the minimum level of filtering. The CET is pursuing a grant from the Department of Public Utility Control with the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account for video on demand for schools. He also reported that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will pilot a program in 9 states to upgrade bandwidth conductivity. Gates will work with ALA for the need in broadband at a national level.

b. Database Committee – Eric Hansen

The database committee met on September 24 at the Middletown Library Service Center. Eric reviewed some of the ways the committee discussed promoting iCONN and distributed the minutes of their last meeting. The committee discussed streamlining the presentation of search results lists and relevancy ranking. The school library media specialists would like to have an encyclopedia for children. Eric will look into the possibilities. The committee approved adding Cengage Gale's ReadSpeaker (text-to-speech converter trial) to Kids InfoBits and the Discovering Collection - there is no added cost. School representatives will survey students to see which magazines they would like linked to the iCONN classic menu. Auto-Graphics will set it up. LibraryThing is being explored as a replacement for *What Do I Read Next?*, which was discontinued due to budget reductions.

c. Statewide ILS Meetings – CDLAB DOC 08-05 – Sharon Brettschneider

Sharon Brettschneider distributed the draft Statewide Integrated Library System vision statement to the Board. She reported that she and the iCONN staff are exploring the possibilities for a statewide open source Integrated Library System to replace the current union catalog, reQuest. After reviewing responses to a Request for Information and some initial conversations with the networks on their development plans, the State Library and networks held meetings with libraries with standalone systems in August to discuss the possibilities of cooperation for development of an open source solution to the statewide catalog/interlibrary loan system and networked and individual ILS systems. The discussions at these meetings were very positive. Many libraries share the same financial and technical support concerns along with a need for improved functionality and usability. Most of the participants welcomed the idea of a statewide initiative to tackle these issues.

As a follow-up we have convened a group of network staff, networked libraries, stand-alone libraries and the State Library to see if we can agree on a course of development. There are many issues that will need to be tackled - governance, political and financial.

d. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan demonstrated planned usability enhancements. The log-in screen will increase the visibility and clarify of the log-in process. On the keyword search screen, buttons will be added for HeritageQuest (our most heavily used database) and popular magazines (separate pages customized for public libraries, elementary, middle and high schools). iCONN is in the process of planning a new bid to replace all resources in Tier

1 and public/school resources in Tier 2 levels. A package bid would have the potential to allow us to either reduce the cost of our current offerings or offer more for the same cost, depending upon our FY2010 budget situation. It would also allow us to further simply how iCONN presents itself to users by reducing the number of user interfaces and providing a single result list sorted by relevance. Bill distributed the latest Remote Access to iCONN-Monthly Stats report, which shows that for the second consecutive month, remote access to iCONN using the "Try This!" button increased significantly, remote access using library card number declined, total remote access declined, and total usage (onsite and remote) based on page view stats was increasing overall.

Art Skerker commented that the K-12 filtration in the public schools has been shown to be restrictive. Teachers had previously accessed the Internet through YouTube or TeacherTube may no longer have access. This manner of access is not acceptable in all school districts. The CET will be meeting to address these concerns. At our next meeting, Art will have an update. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is looking beyond just literacy and is looking at educational technology and informational literacy. The 2012 edition of NAEP is scheduled to assess technological literacy.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on December 3, 2008 at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,
Connecticut State Library