

CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on November 3, 2004

Present: Melissa Behney, Alan Benkert, David Bretthauer, Patricia Daragan, Elizabeth Frechette, Al Hopkins (chair), Anne-Marie Kaminsky, Alana Meloni, Jenifer O'Connor, Deborah Salewski, Kendall Wiggin

Others: Lynette Baisden, Sharon Brettschneider, Gail Hurley, William Sullivan

Absent: Arthur Skerker, Jonas Zdanys

1. Call to Order

Al Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Introduction – Gail Hurley

Al Hopkins introduced Gail Hurley to the board. Gail had previously been on the staff of iCONN. Due to state layoffs in early 2002 she was transferred to another department in the State Library. She has now returned to her former position with iCONN as the statewide library catalog coordinator.

3. Approval of Minutes

Anne-Marie Kaminsky reported that she was not present at the September 1, 2004 meeting. The revised minutes were approved. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Approval of Agenda

David Bretthauer MOVED (2nd Alan Benkert) to approve the agenda as presented. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin distributed a written State Library Report to the board. Ken also stated that the State Library is working on its budget and has submitted a request to the Office of Public Management (OPM) for additional funding. The Connecticut Task Force will present the findings of a Connecticut Cost Study on December 3 at the Legislative Office Building. The study examined the costs of circulating items to non-residents. As a result of the study we will be able to tell OPM how much more money is needed to adequately reimburse libraries for the service. The State Library is working with Miranda Graphics on an early reading public relations initiative titled *Connecticut Libraries: It's Never Too Early*. In addition to Gail Hurley, Kris Aberly has also joined the Division of Library Development. Kris Aberly will be the new continuing education coordinator. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded the State Library with a grant for sustaining public access computing in public libraries. The grant will pay for replacement computers for libraries serving the poorest communities, technical training and subsidized technical support. Kendall further reported that he is working on getting federal funding for digitization for American History projects. There is a committee working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on trying to make it a state grant based program. Kendall gave a brief review of the status of the Connecticut Education Network.

7. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys

No report was given.

8. New Business

a. Nominations Committee – CDLAB Action DOC 04-05

Alan Benkert reported that Melissa Behney had filled the mid-term vacancy of Librarian, Other. Her term ran from March 3, 2004 to December 31, 2004. Alan Benkert MOVED (2nd Patricia Daragan) that the Connecticut Digital Library Board approves the reappointment of Melissa Behney to the

Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board for a second term beginning in January 2005.

9. Other Reports

a. Durham Fair – CDLAB DOC 04-06 for discussion - William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan thanked Board members Patricia Daragan, Alana Meloni, and Elizabeth Frechette, and State Library staff members Sharon Brettschneider, Steve Cauffman, Jane Emerson and Mary Louise Jensen for helping to staff the iCONN booth at the Durham Fair. Bill estimated that there were about 1,500 people that stopped by the booth. Bill also commented that our presence at the Fair made it possible to discuss iCONN directly with the public and to get their reaction to it. Bill submitted a written report on iCONN at the Durham Fair that gave an overview of the exhibit and the public response. Bill stated that the primary reason for exhibiting at the Fair was to increase public awareness of iCONN and what it has to offer. This reason was validated by the fact that the vast majority of people who stopped by the booth professed no knowledge of iCONN but appreciated learning about it.

b. Public Awareness – Sharon Brettschneider

Sharon Brettschneider opened the floor to discussion regarding public awareness. Bill stated that being at the Durham Fair was worthwhile and they plan to have a booth at the Fair again next year. Staffing the booth could be one of the jobs for an iCONN Outreach Coordinator. The Board discussed different organizations that should be informed of iCONN including the home school community. Alan Benkert stressed the need for ease of use (a simple interface – “iCONN Lite”). The notion that “convenience trumps quality every time” was cited from a recent OCLC presentation. Kendall Wiggin indicated there is also the “generational” issue. In that regard, Al Hopkins mentioned the need to include iCONN in the curriculum for the next generation of teachers. Other suggestions for outreach included the RESC curriculum councils, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) technology committee, and district-wide curriculum development coordinators. Alan Benkert suggested hiring a PR person to advise us on how to publicize iCONN. It was also suggested that we create and distribute an iCONN search toolbar (incorporating a simple search box) that any municipality or organization could download from iCONN and locate on their home page.

c. Digital Library Progress Report/New Contract – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan distributed the latest *iCONN Times*. Bill indicated that Gail Hurley officially resumed her duties as statewide library catalog coordinator on October 15 and that her priorities will be: making the catalog more complete by acquiring records from more libraries, especially those with unique collections; making the catalog more current by improving the frequency of updating; and making the catalog more accurate by identifying and resolving any data quality issues. Bill indicated that the contract has been signed by Auto-Graphics and DoIT and is currently being reviewed by our Attorney General's office. It is a three-year contract that also provides the option for three one-year extensions. It provides for full price protection for its duration. Bill distributed an iCONN/reQuest – New System handout that described the new functions that have already been implemented in the current production system, as a result of the new development work that began in the Spring, as well as those new functions that will be available when the new system goes live, and those new functions that will be available later this year and over the next two years. Bill also distributed an iCONN Portal Acceptance Test checklist that libraries who will be participating in the acceptance test will use to guide their testing. Bill indicated that testing would start in the next couple of days and extended an invitation to Board members to participate. iCONN was exhibited at the annual conference of the Connecticut Educators Computer Association (CECA) on October 29, where we experienced the heaviest traffic we have seen in recent years, and will be exhibited at the annual conference of the Connecticut Educational Media Association (CEMA) on November 8. Also at CECA, Jane Emerson gave an update on iCONN databases and Betty Goyette gave an overview of the recently expanded *iCONN Learning Activities*, illustrating how iCONN can be used to address real learning tasks in a wide range of curriculum areas and academic levels.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m. The next meeting will be on January 5th at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,
Connecticut State Library