

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on December 3, 2008**

Present: John Coleman, Sarah Gager, Eric Kelly, Irene Iwan, Diane Klare, Carol Kubala, Carolyn Marcato, Deborah Sanford, Arthur Skerker, Kendall Wiggin, Jonas Zdanys

Others: Lynette Baisden, Sharon Brettschneider, Eric Hansen, William Sullivan

Absent: Karen DeLoatch, Kate Sheehan, Carol Weinschel

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Introductions – Carol Kubala; Eric Kelly

New board members, Carol Kubala, from the Saxton B. Little Free Library in Columbia and later in the meeting, Eric Kelly, a student at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham were both introduced to the Board.

3. Approval of Minutes

After a discussion it was agreed that the sentence regarding the Board's recommendation to delay the RFP for a federated search portal by one year be removed from the October 16 minutes. The minutes for the October 16th meeting were approved as amended. 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

Kendall Wiggin reported that the American Library Association is advocating for deployment of broadband to all libraries in the country. Even in Connecticut there are a few pockets where broadband connections are not available. He also reported on the latest initiatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation regarding broadband. The State Library is currently working with the Foundation on a broadband assessment project, gathering connection and other information from public libraries in the state. Sharon Brettschneider distributed a written state library report detailing the recent happenings.

7. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys

Jonas Zdanys stated that there is some budget uncertainty in the Department of Higher Education and across all of Connecticut's colleges and universities. Institutions of Higher Education are looking for areas to address those budget uncertainties and how to cut their budgets; libraries and related resources for teaching and learning often tend to be the targets. Colleges will therefore rely on iCONN more than ever as a source of education for learning and research. Jonas suggested that the benefits of iCONN be communicated to those in charge of the budget making decisions. He also reported that there has been talk in the news about a consideration of a merger of the Department of Higher Education and the State Department of Education, as party of a larger reorganization of state government.

8. Old Business

a. CDLAB Student Member Nomination – CDLAB COC 08-06 – Arthur Skerker
Art Skerker introduced Eric Kelly, a junior at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, to the Board. The Board moved that the Connecticut Digital Library Board approve the appointment of Eric Kelly as the student representative on the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board for a two-year term beginning December 3, 2008. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. New Business

a. CDLAB Public Librarian Member Nomination – CDLAB DOC 08-07 – Arthur Skerker
The Board MOVED to approve the appointment of Carol Kubala on the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board for a two-year term beginning December 3, 2008. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Reports

a. Commission on Educational Technology – Kendall Wiggin
The Commission has adopted new mandatory minimum filtering levels. They had received many complaints from schools that the previous mandatory minimum level was too restrictive and was interfering with teaching and learning. The Commission established a new mandatory minimum filtering level for all schools and libraries that would block out only “child pornography and pornography/adult content pornography.” This would be a systemwide default that could not be overridden by local school districts, but local school districts could choose to modify the settings to make them more restrictive. Ken also reported on CT Tech 4 All, a pilot program that will place computers into the homes of low income families in Bridgeport, Waterbury, Hartford and New Haven that is being run out of the State Library. The two-year program will also provide computer training for parents. Discovery Education Science will be licensed to provide streaming videos for all middle schools (Grades 6 – 8) in the state due to funding to the Commission.

b. Database Committee – Eric Hansen
The Database Committee met on November 6 at the Middletown Library Service Center. Eric Hansen distributed the minutes of their last meeting. The Committee has three new members, Jennifer Keohane (Simsbury Public Library), Bill Miller (Ferguson Library) and Joan Temple (Shepaug Valley School, Roxbury). The members discussed database vendor bid specifications and trials of EBSCO and Grolier products. The Committee also agreed to accept the offer from Gale to make Health Reference Center Academic available at no additional cost. They also decided not to eliminate low-usage titles from General OneFile. The next database committee meetings will be held on January 6 and February 26, 2009.

c. Statewide ILS Meetings – Sharon Brettschneider
Sharon Brettschneider reported that Nora Blake, Director of MassCat will attend the December 11 meeting to discuss how they migrated from a union catalog like reQuest to an open source ILS. She also reported that the State Library put in a bond request of 2.5 million dollars to implement a statewide system.

d. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan
Bill Sullivan demonstrated the most recent usability enhancements to iCONN’s keyword search screen, including separate menu choices for HeritageQuest and Popular Magazines, as well as a search box added to the elementary and middle school classic

menus. In January, iCONN will be adding a feature that will provide directions to any holding library location from any user location in CT. Eric Kelly initiated a discussion comparing the relative merits of iCONN and Google, both with respect to user interface design and content. Gail Hurley demonstrated the ability to limit search results in reQuest by reading level, which was recently made available to library staff for evaluation purposes. Bill also reported that the bid specification document was completed and submitted to DoIT with a request for further instructions regarding process, and that we are exercising the second one-year renewal option on the current contract with Auto-Graphics. Remote access to iCONN usage stats were distributed, reflecting increased access by IP and decreased access by library card number compared with one year ago.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 4, 2009 (snow date: February 11) at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,
Connecticut State Library