

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD  
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER  
Minutes of the Meeting on December 5, 2007**

**Present:** Melissa Behney, Hal Bright, John Coleman, Patricia Daragan (chair), Robin Dutcher, Nicholas Eshelman, Elizabeth Frechette, Irene Iwan, Anne-Marie Kaminsky, Diane Klare, Carolyn Marcato, Deborah Sanford, Kate Sheehan, Arthur Skerker, Carol Weinschel,

**Others:** Lynette Baisden, Sharon Brettschneider, Steve Cauffman, Lorraine Huddy, Chris Melchiorre (UConn), William Sullivan

**Absent:** Kendall Wiggin, Jonas Zdanys

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Introductions**

The Board, which included new members to be voted in later in the meeting, introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Nicholas Eshelman MOVED (2<sup>nd</sup> Hal Bright) to approve the minutes of October 3, 2007. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Melissa Behney MOVED (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Marie Kaminsky) to approve the agenda of December 5, 2007. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. Public Comment**

There was none.

**6. State Library Report – Sharon Brettschneider for Kendall Wiggin**

Sharon Brettschneider distributed the latest State Library report to the Board. The state bond package has been approved with funding increased from \$3.5 million to \$8.5 million dollars. We had hoped for an increase to \$10 million. The maximum grant for construction for public libraries has been increased to \$1 million dollars. \$5 million dollars has been set aside for public library construction projects in distressed communities with \$3.5 million available for non-distressed municipalities.

**7. Department of Higher Education – Jonas Zdanys**

A written report from Jonas Zdanys was distributed to the Board. Dr. Zdanys reported on various prospective expansions of service that may be required for the academic databases due to increased emphasis on and expansion of AP courses; broadening of dual enrollments of high school students, in credit course work, in our state's public and independent colleges; the creation of a virtual high school in Connecticut; and expansion of offerings in math and science, and especially in nanotechnology, and the resulting creation of shared curriculums and on-line course content delivery. He also reported other pressures that iCONN's academic databases may face. One is Connecticut's participation in "Making Opportunity Affordable," which is a national commitment to increase the production of college degrees in the country. That commitment is linked to the effort to reduce gaps in achievement among racial and socio-economic groups. The DHE also projects a decline in high school graduates and "college-ready" students.

When these two issues are coupled, it will mean an increase in emphasis on enrolling and educating “non-traditional” students and, perhaps, students who will enroll in various on-line courses and programs. The commitment to reduce the gap may also require certain developmental educational resources. This could have an impact on the kinds of services and access to iCONN that we have to plan for. Further, we are seeing more out-of-state institutions wanting to come to Connecticut, such as Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Wheelock College, and ITT Educational Services, Western Governors University, Grand Canyon University, and the University of Phoenix, and some have inquired about access to iCONN. We also have the prospect of establishing three new colleges in Connecticut within the next year. All of this could result in increased demands for iCONN’s academic databases and iCONN generally. Dr. Zdanys stated that he will keep the Board up-to-date on these and other issues. He thanked his colleagues who are completing their terms of service today for work done with commitment to the highest standards and deepest traditions of academic life. He commended Pat Daragan for her remarkable, judicious, and dedicated service.

## **8. Old Business**

### **a. Nominations Committee – CDLAB DOC 07-07 – Hal Bright**

The Board has five positions that will be vacant after the December 2007 meeting. The Nominations Committee of Melissa Behney, Elizabeth Frechette, Hal Bright, Bill Sullivan and Nicholas Eshelman brought recommendations to fill these positions to the board for approval. Hal Bright MOVED (2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Frechette) that the Connecticut Digital Library Board approve the appointments of Diane Klare and Deborah Sanford in the category of Academic Librarians; Kate Sheehan in the category of Librarian, Other; Karen DeLoatch in the category of Teacher, School or College; and Sarah Gager in the category of Business/Community Library User for terms beginning in January 2008. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **9. Old Business**

### **a. Public Awareness Survey Presentation – Chris Melchiorre, Project Coordinator, Center for Survey Research and Analysis ,UConn**

The State Library commissioned the Center for Survey Research and Analysis (CSRA) at UConn to conduct a survey to better understand perceptions of iCONN in the public view. Chris Melchiorre gave a Power Point presentation on the results of the survey and distributed copies of the survey to the Board. The survey found that iCONN awareness and use has remained relatively stable since 2005, and there is significant potential to increase use of iCONN through greater awareness, and suggests ways to achieve this. There was some discussion about what impact the absence of cellphone users had on the survey results. The survey can be found at:

[http://www.iconn.org/documents/iCONNMarketSurvey\\_FinalReport2007.pdf](http://www.iconn.org/documents/iCONNMarketSurvey_FinalReport2007.pdf)

### **b Legislative Process & Funding for iCONN – CDLAB DOC 07-08 – Sharon Brettschneider**

Sharon Brettschneider distributed a fact sheet explaining Connecticut’s budgetary process from our request to the Governor through legislative approval. Connecticut operates on a biennial budget cycle. We are currently in the first year of a biennial budget. We usually are allowed to request limited budget changes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year which now will be for the 2008/09 fiscal year. We are also usually asked submit a budget reduction. The legislative session will start in February for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the biennial cycle. iCONN is part of the State Library budget. CLA has set their legislative agenda for the year and will be asking for an increase of \$1 million, an increase in InfoAnytime,

in the Ccard program, and support for public library construction. There will be a legislative breakfast reception on March 5, 2008 at the 8 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building.

## **10. Reports**

a. Commission on Education Technology – Kendall Wiggin

There was no report.

b. Database Committee – Lorri Huddy

Lorri Huddy reported that she and K-12 representatives conducted a panel presentation at the annual CEMA conference on iCONN that was well-attended. She also reported that the InfoAnytime “Ask a Librarian” service is now linked from iCONN. The E-Journal Finder, which will be coming soon, will make it easy to find out if iCONN has a particular magazine or journal. Lorri reported that she is assisting the Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors in their desire to evaluate alternatives to LexisNexis for college libraries, and is currently in the process of getting proposals and setting up trials of databases from various competing vendors.

c. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan reported on efforts to work with SDE to ensure that iCONN is referenced in SDE’s CAPT Science Curriculum Embedded Tasks. iCONN is now referenced at the high school level, and SDE has agreed to work with us to incorporate references to iCONN in the lower grades. Verizon’s Thinkfinity (formerly, Marco Polo) is in the process of aligning its 55,000 vetted (by Thinkfinity’s Content Partners) and freely accessible K-12 resources to CT standards, which will substantially increase the value of this resource. Pursuant to a contact made by Art Skerker, we are working with Verizon to make this resource easily accessible through iCONN. Bill demonstrated the mouseovers that provide brief descriptions of each database and that will be visible to all users on December 17, and the link from iCONN to InfoAnytime that was activated on November 29. The downloadable iCONN search box has had positive feedback with 2,214 visits to the page as of December 5, 2007. Bill distributed the Remote Access statistics for iCONN. He also reported that the reQuest ILL system became compliant with the ISO international standard on December 3. It provides expanded reasons when requests can’t be fulfilled, allows for interoperability with other ISO-compliant ILL systems, and is compatible with the two leading ILL management systems in Connecticut, Clio and Illiad.

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2008 at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,  
Connecticut State Library