

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on February 6, 2008**

Present: Hal Bright, John Coleman, Karen DeLoatch, Sarah Gager, Irene Iwan, Diane Klare, Carolyn Marcato, Deborah Sanford, Kate Sheehan, Arthur Skerker, Carol Weinschel, Kendall Wiggin, Jonas Zdanys.

Others: Sharon Brettschneider, Steve Cauffman, Gail Hurley, William Sullivan.

Absent: Robin Dutcher.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 by Acting-Chair, Kendall Wiggin.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair – CDLAB DOC 08-01 - Kendall Wiggin

Deborah Sanford MOVED (2nd Diane Klare) “that the Connecticut Digital Library Board approve the elections of Arthur Skerker and Irene Iwan as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively, of the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board for a one-year term beginning February 6, 2008.” VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was turned over to Art Skerker to Chair.

3. Approval of Minutes

Hal Bright MOVED (2nd Deborah Sanford) that the minutes of the December 5, 2007 CDLAB meeting be approved as amended. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Approval of Agenda

Sarah Gager MOVED (2nd Carolyn Marcato) that the agenda be approved. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin presented the State Library Report. He first reported that the Governor was delivering her budget today. The State Library budget was level-funded but there was a \$50,000 proposed reduction to the funding of CLC from the CSL budget. He was hoping to get more for iCONN, but it did not happen this time.

The Legislative session started today and the bills were pouring in. There are none of interest yet. CLA has a new lobbyist, Bob Shea, who is replacing Barry Williams. Kendall reported that he spoke with him about support for libraries. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for next Thursday night at 5:00 p.m. The CLA Legislative Breakfast will be held on March 5th at the Legislative Office Building at 8:00 a.m.

The federal budget sustained a reduction this year. The newest budget of the President however has us back to being fully funded, so we will have to see. Art added that the funding for educational technology was zeroed out again as well as a reduction in the infrastructure budget.

7. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys

Jonas Zdanys presented the Department of Higher Education Report, first reviewing the report from the last CDLAB meeting regarding nanotechnology. In late January, Jonas was invited to the Association of American Colleges and University (AACU) conference in Washington, DC. He participated in a panel discussion by Connecticut educators who have been working together to create a statewide Nanotechnology curriculum, which will be available to all colleges and universities in Connecticut. He also mentioned that the Nanotechnology Curriculum Committee, which includes faculty members from 15 Connecticut institutions, is now also working to develop a version of the curriculum for the high school level. Connecticut was invited to the AACU meeting because this was the first successful effort in the country to bring colleges and universities together to work collaboratively on science and technology education statewide. He mentioned that iCONN's resources were described during the AACU panel meeting as an essential vehicle to enrich the curriculum and to provide widely available learning and research resources. That fact was well received by AACU audience participants.

Jonas distributed a news release about the appointment of Michael Meotti as Commissioner of Higher Education. Mr. Meotti will start his position March 1. Jonas told the Board that he had made Commissioner Meotti aware of iCONN and that he was very supportive of it. It was suggested that we invite Mr. Meotti to a CDLAB meeting.

8. Reports

a. Commission on Educational Technology – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin presented the Commission on Educational Technology (CET) report. The Commission oversees the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) which is run by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). The CET hopes to have money in the FY2009 budget for a full-time executive director. The Bond Commission approved the final payment for the installation of fiber lines.. There is an issue that as the State builds new schools and libraries, these institutions need to notify DoIT in sufficient time to be connected and they need to put a funding plan in place. There is a concern over the number of school buildings that may still not be connected at all or not connected at the optimum level. CET plans to bring a budget proposal to the legislature in the future as to what types of connections there should be and will be conducting a survey with input from an advisory group to the Commission. Content is another issue they are trying to deal with. Language was put in the budget to establish a new fund which comes from taxes on cable companies and others. It is expected to generate \$2.5 million annually for educational technology. DPUC is determining the best use of this money. By statute the CET has responsibility for oversight in this area and wants to be able to funnel half of the money to the Commission to help with the content piece. The CT Distance Learning Consortium was able to make its online courses available to school districts by January 2008. We need to make sure that resources such as iCONN are accessible to students when taking these courses. Ken also reported that CEN has not received last year's E-Rate funds yet. A network advisory committee will look at connectivity issues. For public libraries, there will a change from frame relay to DSL for some to cut down on expenses. There may be pressure to extend the network to municipal governments which could jeopardize the e-rate application. Art Skerker indicated that while the CEN pipe is big, the growing demand for video streaming and other Web 2.0 applications could put quite a strain on the network. DSL is no longer adequate.

b. reQuest Serials Catalog Survey Results – CDLAB DOC – 08-02 - Gail Hurley

Gail Hurley reported on the results of a survey that was distributed online to libraries regarding the reQuest Serials Catalog. The purpose was to get a sense of whether or

not the catalog is being used and how it is being used. Specific feedback was asked as to what the impact would be if the Serials Catalog were integrated into the Main Catalog as well as what the impact would be if the Serials Catalog went away. There was a strong turnout of responses to the survey (363) and the general consensus was that the catalog was indeed being used and considered useful by libraries. The majority preferred a separate reQuest Serials Catalog and felt they would be negatively impacted if the catalog were to go away altogether. The major issue facing the Serials Catalog is that it is more than 2 years out of date. OCLC has not provided a file of Union List of Serials records to libraries since December 2005. CSL staff has continued to update records on OCLC but has not received a file in return to load into reQuest. Gail will be participating in a virtual users group meeting Feb. 7 where we hope to have an update from OCLC on this issue. Steve added that the volume of ILL in the reQuest Serials Catalog is very low (approximately 3%). Ken thinks OCLC should be able to tell libraries what they should do in the absence of an updated union catalog.

c. Database Committee – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan reported on the activities of the Database Committee. He demonstrated iCONN's InfoAnytime link, which automatically affiliates users with iCONN (but without customized knowledge of locally licensed databases). Usage of InfoAnytime in iCONN has been low and Sharon reported that InfoAnytime usage statewide is low. The State pays \$150,000 per year for this service. CLC is looking at alternate vendors for the service. Kate Sheehan reported that Danbury Library has Instant Messaging (IM) chat on their Web pages with the use of embedded widgets.

Bill reported that he is exploring the feasibility of using Google's search appliance in lieu of iCONN's current federated search engine. The problem is that the search appliance needs to be able to crawl and index whatever content it is searching, and currently this is not possible with licensed content except on a very limited basis through such services as Google Scholar. This is not a problem with reQuest because we own the records. Kate Sheehan indicated that Danbury Library has implemented Google's search appliance on its website, but that it was not an easy implementation. Kate added that it searches their catalog and Web site but it has been problematic.

Bill reported that CCALD has begun trials of three alternatives (Thompson West, EBSCO and Wilson) to LexisNexis Academic. There will be presentations by vendors on Friday, February 8 at the University of Hartford. The trials will last until April 1st and are available only to library staff.

Bill demonstrated federated searching of Gale's Virtual Reference Library (to be renamed "e-Reference Books") which the Committee is testing. Auto-Graphics is also working with Accuweather to implement federated searching for AP Photo. Hopefully we will see something in the next month. LexisNexis is the only other database that cannot be included in federated searching.

Gale is working on developing a page of subject-specific subsets (called Power Packs) of General OneFile, such as Legal Trac.

Bill also announced the availability of Biography Resource Center for African Americans, a subset of Biography Resource Center, for the month of February in recognition of Black History Month.

Stephanie Willen Brown, Carol Abatelli and Steve Cauffman will present a session called "Live Web Usability Lab" at the CLA conference on April 29 at 4:00 PM and at the next CASL conference on 11/3/08. During the presentation, attendees will be able to see a live usability test using iCONN as an example.

The panel presentation entitled "Collaborations for Student Success: How teachers and librarians can use iCONN resources to assist in teaching CMT/CAPT objectives and improve student literacy" that was presented at the joint CASL/CECA conference in 2007 will be offered as a session at the CABA conference in November if we can find substitutes for some of the presenters.

d. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan

Bill distributed the job description for the Electronic Resources Coordinator which we hope will be authorized for posting soon. The responsibility for reporting iCONN usage statistics has been given to Steve Cauffman, and responsibility for the E-Journal Finder has been given to Gail Hurley, who also has responsibility for the Serials Catalog that finds print journals.

We are in the process of contracting with the Donahue Group for a full-time Outreach Consultant, hopefully starting on February 19. The consultant will work directly with public and school libraries across the state to ensure that: library staff understands the benefits and features of iCONN; iCONN is optimally represented on library websites for visibility and ease of access; there is adequate physical signage and promotional materials within libraries; and to review ways that libraries can help increase traffic to iCONN.

Bill presented an iCONN update to the State Library Board and, as part of that update, showed them the strengths of iCONN over Google, Yahoo, MSN, etc., such as: quality content, live help, e-journal finder, kid-safe, ad-free, and privacy assurance. Hal suggested that we send this information as a PDF to libraries to use to promote iCONN over Google.

Bill distributed the remote access statistics for iCONN. There is no significant increase in logins from a year ago to now, but there has been an increase in the percentage of total logins that are successful, and usage continues to increase.

Hal Bright MOVED (2nd Irene Iwan) that the meeting be adjourned. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY. Meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hurley
Connecticut State Library

Handouts:

- CDLAB DOC 08-01 Fact Sheet for Agenda Item Requiring Board Action
- Motivation and Development of a Shared Statewide Curriculum in Nanotechnology for Connecticut

- News Release – Michael Meotti Named Commissioner of Higher Education
- CDLAB DOC 08-02 reQuest Serials Catalog Survey Results
- Job Description – Electronic Resources Coordinator - iCONN
- Remote Access to iCONN Stats