

CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on February 9, 2005

Present: Melissa Behney, Alan Benkert, David Bretthauer, Patricia Daragan, Al Hopkins (chair), Alana Meloni, Arthur Skerker, Jonas Zdanys

Others: Lynette Baisden, Sharon Brettschneider, Steve Cauffman, William Sullivan, Kendall Wiggin

Absent: Elizabeth Frechette, Anne-Marie Kaminsky, Jenifer O'Connor, Deborah Salewski

1. Call to Order

Al Hopkins called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Alan Benkert MOVED (2nd Patricia Daragan) to accept the minutes of November 3, 2004.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda of February 9, 2005 was approved. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin reported that the State Library did not get any increases in the Governor's budget, but that there was also no reduction. Ken would like to get iCONN included in the proposal that Governor Rell has to put laptops in all 9th and 10th grade English classes. The Governor has proposed to fund the Connecticut Education Network (CEN). The CEN was established to connect all schools, colleges and public libraries. Connections to colleges and schools have been progressing but not public libraries. At the last meeting of the Commission for Educational Technology a task force was established to look at the connectivity of libraries. The task force will develop guiding principles for connecting libraries and report back to the March meeting of the Commission. The Federal budget has a \$10 million increase to the Library Service and Technology Act program. Sharon Brettschneider reported that Federal funds are used to support two of the iCONN positions and two of the iCONN databases (Heritage Quest and AP Photo Archives. Federal funds also support the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

6. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys

Jonas Zdanys reported on the task forces examining the high cost of textbooks, academic libraries and approval standards. Jonas distributed a report entitled, *Statement of Principles, Academic Libraries in Connecticut*. The document describes current standards for academic libraries. He asked that the board forward him any input or responses regarding the document. The task force will meet on February 22 and then present their final statement to the Board of Governors.

7. New Business

a. Update of Z39.50 policy – CDLAB Action DOC 01-05 – Steve Cauffman

Steve Cauffman reported on z39.50 Access to reQuest. Z39.50 is an information retrieval protocol that allows two computer systems to communicate. Libraries use Z39.50 to download MARC records from or search other systems. The current policy allows only participating libraries to search reQuest using Z39.50. The staff proposes that reQuest Z39.50 profile information be made available to any library or "selected" patron that agrees to the following conditions: they will not disclose the profile information to another party; they will not download records from reQuest; and they will provide the same Z39.50 profile information for their own system to reQuest, if available. After a discussion, the conditions were changed to delete the word "selected" as a qualifier of "patrons." Alan Benkert MOVED (2nd Art Skerker) to accept the changes to the conditions and that the

Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board approve making available reQuest z39.50 profile information to any library that agrees to the conditions listed in the fact sheet, as so modified. The motion passed. Steve also distributed the definition of z39.50 and the z39.50 Code Agreement form for libraries.

8. Other Reports

a. Databases – Sharon Brettschneider

Sharon Brettschneider reported that work has begun on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the next round of Tier 1 databases. Currently these include all the InfoTrac databases, Business and Company Resource Center, the Health and Wellness Resource Center and What Do I Read Next? The current contract will expire on June 30th. The Department of Information Technology will allow us to extend the contract one more year. Gale agreed to the contract extension at level funding. The database committee is revising the old RFP document and will hold focus groups for the business and health databases. Anyone interested in attending can contact Jane Emerson in the iCONN office. Jane has met with Alberta Richtelle (UConn Health Center library) about the Health and Wellness databases.

b. Digital Library Progress Report – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan distributed a report on the migration to the new system, which began on Friday, February 4th. Bill reported that the transition went well over the weekend but that on Monday, the first full business day of operation, the system was overwhelmed by the volume and, as a result, was virtually unusable that day. Auto-Graphics added a second server that evening which made the system usable by Tuesday, and was continuing to work on making software changes to further improve performance (e.g., to eliminate the appearance of “Views” instead of actual hit counts in the search results). Another problem was that users going to reQuest were supposed to be directed to the new system but were not. The redirect was not done until Tuesday. Users’ lack of familiarity with the new (broadcast search) user interface was also an issue, as well as being unable to find the old, more familiar interface that had been preserved in the new system. HeritageQuest-only users and reQuest-only users wanted a more direct path to those databases. iCONN staff have referred single database users to the Direct Link to Databases. Bill reported that Jane Emerson presented a series of four information sessions on the new system to a total of 160+ librarians. Bill also distributed a handout showing the resource menu screens of public, school and college users as well as a draft entitled, *Imagination Rules at the Intersection of iCONN and reQuest*, planned for publication in the March issue of *Connecticut Libraries*, that provides information about how the new version of iCONN came into being, the rationale behind certain system design decisions, a description of key system features, and key development goals. The Board expressed support for the change to the new system, its search capabilities and ease of use.

Gail Hurley presented a report on the currency of the reQuest catalog as of December 31, 2004.

Sharon distributed an iCONN FAQ sheet and other informative material that could be used when speaking with legislators. Bill Sullivan will send his annual letters regarding iCONN to each legislator along with their own iCONN library card.

9. Adjourn

Patricia Daragan MOVED 2nd Alan Benkert to adjourn the meeting at 2:44 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 6, 2005 at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,
Connecticut State Library