

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on April 1, 2009**

Present: John Coleman, Karen DeLoatch, Sarah Gager, Eric Kelly, Irene Iwan, Diane Klare, Carol Kubala, Deborah Sanford (on phone), Kendall Wiggin, Jonas Zdanys

Absent: Carolyn Marcato, Kate Sheehan, Carol Weinschel

Others: Sharon Brettschneider, Stephen Cauffman, Eric Hansen, Gail Hurley, William Sullivan

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Irene Iwan.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Irene turned the meeting over to Kendall Wiggin. He reported that due to Art Skerker's recent retirement a new chair was needed. He presented the following motion to the board. **MOVED:** That the Connecticut Digital Library Board approves the elections of Irene Iwan and John Coleman as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively, of the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board for one-year terms beginning April 1, 2009. (2nd S. Gager). **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 4, 2009 were approved as presented. **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 there is no budget news yet. The State Library testified before the Appropriations Subcommittee and had a generally supportive response. He also testified before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee about our public library construction program. The federal budget was finally passed and included a small increase for Connecticut. Sharon Brettschneider distributed a written report on Connecticut, a possible Book Festival, 23 things learning opportunity, photo exhibit and the public library construction grant program.

7. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys

Jonas Zdanys reported that they've recently seen an increase in the number of skills-based program enrollments at colleges and universities. They've also seen an increase in student FTEs as the economy worsens, suggesting that we may need to change how we price access to academic databases. DHE soon may be receiving an application for accreditation by a new college. Charter Oak is planning a new masters program; currently, they have no program of their own but provide students with the ability to accumulate credits from various institutions into a degree.

8. Reports

a. Commission on Educational Technology (CET) – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin reported that the CET met last week. They are one of the boards and commissions being targeted for elimination in the Governor's budget. CET is concerned about the statutory responsibilities they have and submitted testimony against the bill that would eliminate the commission. CET also heard two presentations from the Department of

Information Technology (DOIT) and the State Department of Education on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). DOIT will be applying for ARRA funds for development of broadband. At their meeting CET also changed their guidelines for sponsored participation in the Connecticut Education Network.

b. Database Committee – Eric Hansen

Eric Hansen reported that the Database Committee met twice. At the first meeting the committee heard a presentation by Stephanie Willen Brown about website usability testing. At the meeting last week the main agenda item was the review of the evaluation procedures for the current database bid.

c. Downloadable Audio – Sharon Brettschneider

Sharon Brettschneider reported the State Library has received a Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account grant through the Department of Public Utilities to provide a collection of downloadable audio books through iCONN. We did not receive all the funding we requested but enough to make a fairly significant collection available to Connecticut libraries. We are currently investigating some models that will make the program sustainable after the grant funds are gone. The collections will focus on K-12 content. The board discussed the concept and technology of downloadable audios. Carol Kubala commented that she appreciated the emphasis on sustainability. It is important not to offer a service that is then taken away.

d. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan gave an update on the database bid evaluation. The first bid was withdrawn because of the inability of all vendors to meet all the mandatory requirements. The bid was reissued and is currently undergoing evaluation. The staff reviewed the proposals for compliance with mandatory requirements and affordability before the database committee commenced a hands-on evaluation that considers content, functionality, usability and technical considerations. We anticipate completion of the evaluation phase on April 16th. Bill then demonstrated several enhancements to iCONN: The ability for the user to create and save bibliographic lists, the ability for patrons to cancel requests in ILL tracking, and the introduction of four new search indexes. Bill reviewed forthcoming enhancements that included the links to Google Books, a “Remember Me” checkbox on the ILL request form, the ability to have persistent links to records in reQuest, a Spanish language classic menu, and a kids catalog. Bill also distributed the latest search and log-in stats for iCONN, which show the highest usage month to be March, and March 2009 surpassed March 2008. ILL filled requests in March were also the highest they have ever been. Gail Hurley distributed a flyer on a new program to digitize local library historical items through Treasures of Connecticut Libraries project. Bill reported that the reQuest Serials Catalog may be updated by Auto-Graphics starting in May. He reported that he, Sharon, and Ken were invited to Bridgeport to speak with school libraries and representatives from the Diocese to introduce and promote iCONN and reQuest. Eric Kelly played a video on YouTube called “Did You Know” that described the rapid change of technology.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 3, 2009 at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Brettschneider,
Connecticut State Library