

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on June 3, 2009**

Present: Carolyn Marcato, John Coleman, Irene Iwan, Diane Klare, Carol Kubala, Kendall Wiggin.

Absent: Karen DeLoatch, Eric Kelly, Sarah Gager, Deborah Sanford, Kate Sheehan, Carol Weinschel

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Chair Irene Iwan.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 1, 2009 were approved as presented. VOTED unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Sharon Brettschneider moved that her Downloadable Audio Progress report be moved up to 7a on the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended. VOTED unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin reported that in her latest proposal the Governor wiped out 46% of the State Library's budget. We were able to keep a little funding for Connecticut. Other than that, funding was eliminated for iCONN, reQuest, Connecticut grants, state aid grants, the Connecticut Library Consortium and the Connecticut Education Network. These are pretty deep cuts for us. If we lose the money and the programs are cut, then we are also in danger of losing federal funding. The Commission on Educational Technology has informed the Governor that they would have to turn off the networks if these cuts go into effect. The President of Charter Oak will deliver a letter to the Governor explaining that their on-line collections depend on iCONN and their accreditation status. They build their programs due to iCONN's programs and would need \$100,000 to pick up the pieces. Ken also stated that \$1.6 million dollars was taken from already allocated bond funds. The State Library has at least 14 staff members who will be retiring, which is actually giving quite a bit of savings to the state. We are unable to replace the retiree positions. There was a discussion for the board to send a letter to the Governor articulating their budget concerns and expressing the benefit of iCONN to the educational community. Irene agreed to draft a letter as chairperson. Ken cited an OCLC publication, *Online Catalogs: What Users and Librarians Want: An OCLC Report*. The report can be obtained by going to OCLC's site.

6. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys

Jonas Zdanys has retired from state service. We do not have a replacement from the Department of Higher Education at this time.

7. Reports

a. Downloadable Audiobooks – Sharon Brettschneider

The State Library has received a P.E.G.P.E.T.I A. grant through the Department of Public Utilities to provide a collection of downloadable audio books through iCONN. Sharon Brettschneider stated that this grant will add content to iCONN. We are working with Auto-

Graphics and Ingram on authentication through iCONN. Ingram will not charge an annual access fee for the first year. Sharon will work with the database committee to choose the titles but the focus of the collection will on books for K-12.

b. Commission on Educational Technology – Kendall Wiggin

The Commission is working with the Governor's Office to apply for some stimulus money so that they can push the fiber network. Ken stated that the CET website shows good content for what can be done in the schools with proper funding. At the same time the Governor's budget would eliminate the commission and suspend funding for the network. The CEN provides free internet for schools and public libraries.

c. Database Committee – Eric Hansen

Eric Hansen reported that the Database Committee met on May 21. Representatives from Gale were invited to the meeting to discuss numerous improvements to Gale's offerings recommended by the Committee. Gary Ross from Gale recommended that the appropriate Gale product managers be invited to address these recommendations at the next Committee meeting. Stacey Knibloe demonstrated Power Search 2, Gale's new search engine. Eric discussed a handout listing a number of training opportunities in new Gale resources for the summer. Eric and Sharon thanked Steve Cauffman for putting together the survey monkey analysis of the bid evaluation. Sharon complimented the iCONN staff on a very thorough evaluation process.

d. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan stated that Gale was awarded the latest bid. Gale scored the highest on the hands-on evaluation and was by far the least expensive. The Gale Bid also represents a substantial savings over the current year, which will help keep iCONN costs within the proposed budget without jeopardizing other existing databases. There are also a number of other advantages to having the databases provided by a single vendor. In addition to Gale's cost savings, we were able to get *What Do I Read Next?* back. We will also be able to extend access to *Biography Resource Center* to academic libraries; and we will be adding 50 e-reference books (to be selected by the Database Committee). Gale's *History* (U.S. and World) and *Science Resource Centers* will replace the corresponding EBSCO titles, but that also means that we will lose access to *Consumer Reports*, the *Consumer Reports Buying Guide*, *Scientific American* and *Ranger Rick*, which EBSCO has exclusive rights to.

Bill indicated that the selection of Gale as the sole provider of nearly all Tier I content will enable us to take a major step beyond federated searching as Gale has agreed to build and host a master index of all iCONN content, which in turn would be searched using Gale's PowerSearch 2 search engine. This should improve search response time as well as the relevancy of search results. Further, in order to address usability concerns, we plan to replace the current landing page (that features a single, federated search widget) with one that features two separate search widgets: one optimized for finding articles (Gale's PowerSearch) and one optimized for finding books and DVD's (A-G's Agent, iCONN's current search interface). The master index will be implemented on July 1, to be followed by the new landing page and search widgets on August 1, budget permitting. Bill distributed the April *iCONN Times*; iCONN's remote access monthly usage stats and a document entitled *Cost Benefit: What iCONN Saves the State's Libraries and Municipalities* detailing what the cost it would be libraries to individually license iCONN content if the state were to de-fund iCONN. The Board recommended that this document be prominently linked from the main iCONN search page. Gale will design and print co-branded 4 page promotional color brochures and bookmarks.

9. Adjourn

Irene Iwan MOVED (2nd Carol Kubala) to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be held on August 5, 2009 at the Middletown Library Service Center. VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden
Connecticut State Library