

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER**  
Minutes of the Meeting on June 6, 2007

**Present:** Melissa Behney Hal Bright, John Coleman, Patricia Daragan, Robin Dutcher, Elizabeth Frechette, Carolyn Marcato, Arthur Skerker, Carol Weinshel, Kendall Wiggin, Jonas Zdanys

**Others:** Lynette Baisden, Sharon Brettschneider, Stephen Cauffman, Lorraine Huddy, Gail Hurley, William Sullivan

**Absent:** Nicholas Eshelman, Irene Iwan, Anne-Marie Kaminsky

**1. Call to Order**

Pat Daragan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Hal Bright MOVED (2<sup>ND</sup> John Coleman) to approve the minutes of April 4, 2007 as presented. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

John Coleman MOVED (2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Frechette) to approved the agenda as presented. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**4. Public Comment**

There was none.

**5. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin**

Kendall Wiggin reported that Bill #7290 which contains several revisions of the statutes affecting libraries is on the Senate's consent calendar and he anticipates that it will pass today. The bill strengthens the confidentiality statute for public libraries; clarifies what a public library is and the services it provides; makes it mandatory that the state aid to a public library does not go to the town general fund, and addresses changes to the State Library's government document program. Ken also reported that there is no news about the budget. The legislature will probably go into special session. There is an increase in both the Governors budget and the Appropriations Committee budget for a small increase for iCONN which will be enough to fund the ongoing costs for the *Historical Hartford Courant*. We probably will not be receiving the \$1 million increase we were seeking. We will continue this request in the next fiscal year.

**6. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys**

Jonas Zdanys reported that they are working on a variety of projects to improve technology issues, resources for teachers and better learning expectations. There is progress underway for a new curriculum for high school students. The Pre-K – 16 Council is working on rearranging high school graduation expectations. Jonas stated that the same curriculum in one town should be delivered across the state for all schools and align with college expectations. Jonas also stated that there will be dramatic changes in the next 5 years at high schools which might affect the digital library. A student's senior year in high school may include dual enrollment in college courses as well as high school. In that case students would need access to the academic databases.

**7. New Business**

a. LexisNexis – CDLAB DOC 07-05 – Lorri Huddy

Lorri Huddy submitted a fact sheet on iCONN's subscription to LexisNexis Academic.

LexisNexis (LN) now charges for a minimum enrollment of 500 FTE. Twelve of our colleges have fewer FTEs so this new minimum increases the cost by \$6,511, in addition to the regular per FTE increase. The total increase this year is \$18,380 or 9%. Due to iCONN's relatively flat budget and LN new pricing policy, iCONN may not be able to sustain this subscription in the future. Lorri presented two policy options for board discussion. One would be to adopt a policy that vendors must provide financial incentives for a statewide subscription or they will not be considered. Currently iCONN pays the same rate as if every college individually subscribed. If we dropped LN we could pick up other databases of value to colleges. Second that iCONN continue with LN but drop another resource in order to absorb the higher costs. After a discussion it was decided that iCONN staff would discuss these possibilities at a future Connecticut Council of Academic Library Directors meeting.

## **8. Reports**

### **a. Commission on Educational Technology – Kendall Wiggin**

Kendall Wiggin reported that he met with the Commissioner of Education to discuss the CET and other technology issues related to education. The CET is also dealing with issues related to the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) related to the libraries and library networks. CET is developing policies on how to respond to law enforcement requests under CALEA. The new staff person for the Connecticut Education Network is working on a strategic plan for adding content related to tools for curriculum development and teaching applications. Ken also reported there is a bill to add virtual instruction capability to the network.

### **b. Database Committee – Lorri Huddy**

The committee has evaluated possible alternatives for history and science databases and has decided on the EBSCO History and Science Resource Center. The committee is now in the process of evaluating Wilson Biographies and the Gale Biography Resource Center. The current Wilson Biography subscription runs through the end of July. The committee has also evaluated adding various Gale PowerPaks in specific subject areas. They decided to add Gale LegalTrac. Although it does not offer much unique content, it is a helpful resource for those wanting to focus their search on legal resources. The AP Photo interface is being updated and will be evaluated to see if it will work with federated searching.

### **c. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan**

Bill Sullivan distributed new promotional materials - a bookmark, ballpoint pen, highlighter and tent card, all enclosed in an iCONN bag – and enumerated their individual unit costs. Multiple tent cards were being distributed to every public library and branch that week, and to every school library (public and private) in late August. He also distributed screen shots of a new children's interface to iCONN that Auto-Graphics is developing. There would be an extra cost for this new interface. Bill also distributed a sheet describing the iCONN Search Box that libraries will be able to download and add to their library homepage. There would be a \$5,000 one time fee to develop this capability. Board members expressed great interest in this, but thought that it should be offered by the vendor at no charge. The board asked Bill to communicate this to Auto-Graphics. He then distributed an *iCONN Portal Resource Menu Changes* document. The document addressed the questions and issues discussed in the survey of library media specialists. The proposal was to have a brief description of each database included on the first search screen. This would enable students to see the same portal menu screen at home and school, and would make the portal resource menu clearer and descriptive for all school levels and have iconn.org as the preferred start page instead of K-12 students having to go to a unique URL. Several Board members expressed concerns about how well this change would be received, since it would increase the size of the resource menu, and suggested instead using simple mouseover text to explain the contents

of each database. Bill also distributed the latest stats for remote access to iCONN.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on August 1, 2007 at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,  
Connecticut State Library