

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER**

Minutes of the Meeting on June 7, 2006

Present: Hal Bright, John Coleman, Patricia Daragan (Chair), Robin Dutcher, Elizabeth Frechette, Carolyn Marcato, Deborah Salewski, Arthur Skerker, Kendall Wiggin

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

Absent: Nicholas Eshelman, Irene Iwan, Anne-Marie Kaminsky, Melissa Behney, Jonas Zdanys

1. Call to Order

Patricia Daragan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Frechette MOVED (2ND Hal Bright) to approve the minutes of April 5, 2006. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin reported that the library budget included an additional increase of \$300,000 in funding for ConnectiCard. Ken thanked the library community for getting the word out to legislators about the need for more money. The 2005 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Partnership Award presentation was held on April 25th in the Memorial Hall at the State Library. Governor M. Jodi Rell presented the outstanding public library school partnership award to the E. C. Scranton Memorial Library and the Madison Public Schools as well as the Awards of Merit to Canton Public Library and the Canton Public Schools; Cora J. Belden Library and the Rocky Hill Public School; the Cora Belden Library and the Rocky Hill Public Schools; Lucy Robbins Welles Library and the Newington Schools; the Ivoryton Library Association, Essex Public Library, Essex Elementary School and the Essex Elementary School PTO; and the Simsbury Public Library and the Simsbury Public Schools. The award ceremony was a nice chance to see the collaboration between schools and libraries. The State Library Board approved the LSTA grant awards to libraries at their May meeting. The State Library will be beginning work to evaluate the last five years of LSTA and do the long-range plan for the next five years. Ken was not present at the last meeting of the Commission for Educational Technology but he was voted in as vice chair. Ken reported that most of the public libraries should already be connected to the Connecticut Education Network with a DSL or T1 line. Some will have a fiber connection. Legislation was approved that would allow the state to apply for e-rate on behalf of schools and libraries without having to get individual letters of agency. The ConnectiCar service will have a new vendor for the private portion beginning July 1st. The contract was awarded to Service Warehousing and Logistics.

6. Department of Higher Education – Jonas Zdanys

There was no report.

7. Reports

a. Database Committee – Sharon Brettschneider

Sharon Brettschneider stated that the Database Committee will be meeting next week to decide how to reallocate the cost savings resulting from the recent bid. The winning contract for these databases was given to Thompson Gale but did not include their History Resource Center (which they had been providing for no charge) because it was not included in their bid response. The committee is

currently evaluating databases in history and science, particularly for the K-12 market. Lorri Huddy has set up trials for these databases. The databases should be up and running by July 1.

b. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan reported that iCONN staff had met with Maria Miranda of Miranda Creative on May 23 to discuss public awareness ideas for iCONN. Miranda Creative strongly advised that in order for public awareness initiatives to succeed in bringing more users to iCONN, we first had to identify and remove any access barriers that prevent first-time users from entering the site after arriving at the barcode login screen. Miranda Creative feels that the current barcode login screen is not sufficiently welcoming or visually attractive, and also the requirement to enter a library card number is problematic because it is causing us to lose users at the front door. There was discussion about enabling temporary access for first time users and then paving the way for them to get a library card. Bill will also explore with Auto-Graphics to discuss the capability of setting up this temporary access. Bill also discussed the possibility of using a geo-locator authentication service that uses IP address to automatically verify that the user is in Connecticut. Thomson Gale has experience using this form of authentication and Bill is hoping to persuade other database vendors to go along with it. Miranda Creative will update the look of the logo and how the website is presented visually. Bill discussed with the Board the kinds of media advertising that Miranda thinks will yield the best public awareness results: NPR radio ads (especially); online ads on ctnow.com; and using our status as a state agency to obtain inexpensive advertising space in such state-supported venues as Metro North trains, CT Transit buses; state agency vans (magnetic signs), including C-Car vans, etc. Miranda will also document what web stats need to be collected in order to measure the effectiveness of our public awareness initiatives. To increase awareness of iCONN among K-12 teachers, we have arranged to place half-page ads in all teachers' union member newsletters throughout FY2007.

8. New Business

a. School Participation Fees in reQuest – Gail Hurley

Gail Hurley distributed a fact sheet on the pricing structure for reQuest participation to the Board. The cost of each library to participate in reQuest is \$300 per year. Gail conducted a survey of school libraries regarding participation in reQuest in order to determine if there should be a pricing change. The survey found that there was a small amount of negative response regarding the pricing, but that there needs to be more information on what a reQuest membership entails as well as the benefits to the libraries. Gail Hurley MOVED (2nd Carolyn Marcato) that the Connecticut Digital Library Board approves keeping the pricing of reQuest participation at \$300 per library for FY2007/2008. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Student Comments on iCONN – CDLAB Doc. 06-07 – Robin Dutcher and William Sullivan

Bill Sullivan distributed a fact sheet from Robin Dutcher and other students at Middletown High School that listed areas where iCONN could be improved, and responses from iCONN staff. The Board discussed the ideas and thanked Robin for all the comments and the time that she put into it.

c. Demo of “Remember My Card Number” – Stephen Cauffman

Steve Cauffman stated that the “Remember My Library Card Number” option has been designed and will be installed later this month. When users log in they can have a cookie sent to their computer so that they do not have to retype their card number. When they return to the site a new message will ask the user to confirm “if this is your library card number ending with the last 4 numbers. The Board agreed that this is a great development saving users from having to type the difficult 14 digit number.

d. Demo of “Borrow/Buy/Suggest” – Stephen Cauffman

Steve Cauffman demoed the borrow/buy/suggest option. In order to take advantage of the suggest option, a user would have to put in their name and email address. The suggested information will then be emailed to the user's home library based on their library card number.

e. Demo of new Summary Results Screen – Gail Hurley

Gail Hurley demoed the new summary results screen. Instead of having to click on the "number" of results besides each database name, you can see the first 20 results from each of the databases displayed automatically below the results box. In addition, there are options to combine (deduplicate) these results by title, author, or date.

9. Adjourn

Hal Bright MOVED (2nd Deborah Salewski) to adjourn the meeting at 3:21 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 2, 2006 at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,
Connecticut State Library