

**CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER
Minutes of the Meeting on August 6, 2008**

Present: John Coleman, Karen DeLoatch, Sarah Gager, Irene Iwan, Deborah Sanford, Kate Sheehan, Arthur Skerker, Kendall Wiggin

Others: Lynette Baisden, Steve Cauffman, Gail Hurley, William Sullivan

Absent: Hal Bright, Diane Klare, Carolyn Marcato, Carol Weinshel, Jonas Zdanys

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

There was not a quorum present as this point of the meeting, so the approval of the minutes of April 2, 2008 were put hold on hold.

3. Approval of Agenda

There was not a quorum present at this point of the meeting so the approval of the agenda was put on hold.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. State Library Report – Kendall Wiggin

Ken submitted a written State Library Report to the Board. iCONN and reQuest received a 5% budget reduction by order of the Governor. All budget lines received this 5% reduction other than grants to municipalities (State Aid and Connecticut). The iCONN vendors were contacted about the cut to the budget and they were able to provide discounts on the databases that we are currently using. The Governor has also incorporated a hiring freeze. Our State Data Coordinator has retired from the State Library but since the position is federally funded, we should be able to refill it.

Ken submitted a grant to Department of Public Utility Control's Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) to extend downloadable books throughout the state. He is asking for \$170,000. The grant will pay for set-up and access for one year. Karen Kaplan also applied for a grant on behalf of the CEN for streaming video. 50% of this grant funding will go toward educational technology initiatives and the other 50% will go to schools. The fund is intended to promote and improve public, educational and governmental access programming in Connecticut.

6. Department of Higher Education Report – Jonas Zdanys

There was no report given.

7. Old Business

a. CDLAB Vacancy – Student Member – Arthur Skerker

Arthur Skerker reported that a student from Coginchaug High School will fill the student, school or college vacancy.

b. Thinkfinity.org – Arthur Skerker

Thinkfinity is sponsored by Verizon and provides an abundance of resources from the

National Councils of Teachers of English, Mathematics and other educational partners. The resources are grade level specific. Thinkfinity will pay and provide all the support to have lessons keyed to Connecticut standards. One stop shopping would be provided using iCONN's search box.

c. Virtual Meetings / voting – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin stated that the CDLAB meetings can be held by virtual participation. The Board should be able to phone into the meeting by conference call or by other means. The public must be able to meet in a designated place and have the ability to comment during the meeting. The Secretary of the State has a site that lists the schedules and agendas of agency meetings. Bill Sullivan commented that the scheduled winter meeting dates could be held virtually rather than driving to the meeting location.

8. Reports

a. Commission on Educational Technology – Kendall Wiggin

Kendall Wiggin reported that the CET has not met this summer but will have a meeting in September. They have been working on the budget and also looking to fill the director vacancy. The Connecticut History Online (CHO) project has been moving along. The Hartford Public Library will begin entering images into CHO. The State Library is working with Library Connections to bring in some additional library collections from public libraries. We have also been holding training sessions on metadata and scanning digital objects. The Connecticut Humanities Council is currently developing a new Encyclopedia of Connecticut History Online (ECHO). These two projects are being coordinated with CHO being responsible for the digital management and ECHO being responsible for the intellectual pieces or essays.

b. Database Committee – Eric Hansen

Eric Hansen distributed the iCONN Database Committee minutes to the Board. The Committee welcomed new member, Elizabeth Frechette. Two members, Jessica Kilham and Jorge Cervera, are no longer on the committee. With the 5% budget cut to iCONN's budget, the Committee's plan was to cut AP Images which costs \$63,000, however, concessions from all the iCONN database vendors made it possible to keep the database. EBSCO has added three new free databases, GreenFILE, Teacher Reference Center and Library Information Science Technical Abstracts (LISTA). They also added titles for schools and public libraries. The new school grade specific classic menus have been introduced with separate interfaces. The "Quick Search" capability will reduce the target searches to three major vendors, bundle them into one and have the results returned in order of relevance.

c. reQuest Frequency Report – CDLAB Doc 08-03 – Gail Hurley

Gail Hurley prepared and distributed her annual 2007/2008 reQuest frequency report to the board. The report gives a comparison of the frequency (daily, weekly, monthly or other) of updates by libraries in FY07 and FY08 and also shows how often the library submissions are done. There was a 6% drop in the number of libraries that did monthly updates and a 7% increase of libraries in the "other frequency" category. The board discussed the policy of Auto-Graphics removing the holdings of libraries whose collections were more than two years out of date.

d. Digital Library Progress – William Sullivan

Due to budget reductions we will be losing *What Do I Read Next?*. Bill Sullivan demonstrated forthcoming changes in iCONN – new classic menu pages for elementary,

middle and high schools, and a streamlined search capability. The iCONN staff had a very informative conference call with Marshall Breeding, Director for Innovative Technologies and Research at Vanderbilt University, to discuss the Request for Information responses, the state of library automation vendors, trends and possible strategies. One of the conclusions drawn from this discussion was that a statewide integrated library system may provide more functionality and a more seamless environment for the patron than reQuest in its current form or as a virtual distributed catalog. An open source solution would likely give us more flexibility for making changes. Sharon Brettschneider has set up meetings on November 14th and 22nd with the four network consortia and "stand-alone" public libraries to discuss possibilities of cooperation for development of an open source solution to the statewide catalog/interlibrary loan system and networked and individual ILS systems. The suggestions from these meetings and the discussions with Marshal Breeding will inform the development of RFPs for the next generation of our statewide catalog and federated search portal. Usability will be a strong component of both RFPs. Bill distributed the iCONN Database Expense History, the July '08 *iCONN Times*, iCONN Searches and Views FY 2008 (July 07 and June 08), Costs Per View FY 2008, and Kids InfoBits bookmarks. Bill also demonstrated the direct links to individual journals.

In other business, Gail Hurley demonstrated the Open Access Journals available through the iCONN E-Journal Finder.

9. Adjourn

Irene Iwan MOVED (2nd Karen DeLoatch) to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on October 16, 2008 at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Baisden,
Connecticut State Library