

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
November 19, 2012,
at the Department of Administration,
Conference Room B - Second Floor,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Kristen Chin, Regina Connor, Ed Garcia, Bart Hollingsworth, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Mark McKenney, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Ruth Sullivan, Carol Terry, Joan Retsinas, Tom Viall

Members absent: Ken Findlay, Mary Ann Slocomb, Phyllis Lynch

Attending for OLIS: Howard Boksenbaum, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor

Reporting: Donna DiMichele

Chair Tom Viall called the meeting to order at 4:15

Materials Distributed:

OLIS Monthly Report for November 2012

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 15, 2012, MEETING

Postponed until the December meeting.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR:

Board membership

Tom Viall reported that Ruth Sullivan has submitted a letter of resignation from the Board. Ruth serves as designee of the Commissioner for Higher Education, who is an Ex Officio member. Tom read the letter in which Ruth explained that the state's dissolution of the Board of Higher Education rendered her role null effective December 2012. Tom thanked Ruth for her six years of service. Howard Boksenbaum will approach the chair of the new state education board about representation of Higher Education on the LiBRI.

Tom and Howard met with Monica Dzialo and found her willing to be nominated to join the Board representing "Users of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped." Monica would replace Regina Connor.

Standards review

Tom participated in the second meeting of the Standards Review Committee.

Honoring Debbie Cullerton

Tom suggested and the Board, by consensus, directed that he and Howard prepare a letter from the LiBRI to recently retired OLIS staff and secretary to the Board, Debbie Cullerton, and send it to Debbie, framed, on behalf of the entire Board.

Chief Library Officer's pending absence

Howard will be absent on medical leave from December 17, 2012, to February 4, 2013. During this time, Board members who call OLIS should use the 574-9300 phone line to leave messages.

Legislative action

In the last piece of the Chair's report, Tom noted that now that the election is concluded the Board should begin to discuss budget and legislation with legislators so that when the General Assembly begins its session in January, the legislators are aware of issues important to RI libraries.

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT

Public Library annual reports

Howard Boksenbaum, Chief Library Officer, reported that grant-in-aid applications from all but four municipalities are complete. New Shoreham, West Greenwich, Jamestown, and Central Falls remain outstanding. East Providence is also on hold as a result of the city's non-standard fiscal year of the city (November to October).

Budget

There was nothing to report on the status of FY2013 and 2014 budgets for OLIS, state resource sharing grants or public library construction.

OLIS move

OLIS space continues to be reconfigured in DoA. All but three OLIS staff have been relocated to temporary quarters on west side of the 4th floor. Howard, Kelley Lima and Alicia Waters have yet to be moved. The Frank Iacono Library is likely to be reduced to the space of Howard's current office. Because that is so much smaller a space for the library, OLIS has begun a discussion with the University of Rhode Island Libraries regarding relocating the bulk of the collection to the Carothers Library on the Kingston Campus with OLIS retaining a small satellite collection in the DoA.

Cornucopia of RI

Howard and Alicia Waters attended the Cornucopia of Rhode Island annual Conference program, where Howard gave the welcoming remarks. Senator Reed also attended.

OSL news

Champlin Foundations awarded a grant of \$914,401 to Ocean State Libraries (OSL) for OSL projects and equipment as well as technology items for the member libraries.

\$300,000 of the grant is earmarked for downloadable materials in the OSL E-Zone from Overdrive Corp. OSL is planning to run a trial of “Buy It Now” from Overdrive, which offers library users the option of buying an ebook located in the E-Zone but not readily available. OSL will receive 6% of each sale.

Protecting the Past

Donna DiMichele reported on Protecting the Past – RI: The New England Archivists accepted a session proposal from the project. The session will demonstrate the collaboration between RI Emergency Management and OLIS in creating a vigorous plan for emergency response. Training continues with a tabletop exercise planned for January and additional programs TBA. West Warwick Public Library was identified as an outstanding model of a library that received training and created a viable action plan for disaster response and recovery.

AskRI

Karen Mellor reported on AskRI.org: Statistics on the database usage drives decision making and shows that the program is well used. Karen is refining data collection so that a cogent set of statistics, constant and measurable, is produced. The AskRI website is experiencing a huge increase in website visits. Howard noted that the statistics represent a nexus of movement from reference in person to phone reference to online information seeking.

The report of the Chief Library Officer was unanimously accepted

Motion: Joan Retsinas
Second: Rose Ellen Reynolds

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Standards Review Committee

Tom reported on behalf of Brigitte Hopkins, chair of the Standards Review Committee. The second meeting of the Standards Committee was held on November 1 at the West Warwick Public Library. The Committee has begun the development of a work plan and a schedule for completing the work of the Committee. Its next meeting will convene on Wednesday, November 28, at 2:00 at the Cranston Public Library.

B. Legislative Committee

Committee Chair Rose Ellen Reynolds reported that Representative Deborah Ruggiero has expressed interested in working with the LiBRI on comprehensive library legislation, perhaps in cooperation with the Karla Harry Commission on Libraries.

C. 21st Century Committee

Committee Chair Bart Hollingsworth reported that the committee’s survey to collect information about the state of 21st century skills in RI library community was sent to

almost 500 people and had a return rate of 25%. A draft report based on results from the survey was distributed prior to the meeting.

“21st century skills” is a somewhat abstract concept and the responses reflect the abstraction. Preliminary analysis indicates that 40% of respondents are comfortable saying they are “digitally literate” but that there is not much available training for digital literacy in the field. Renee Hobbs, director of the Harrington School and acting head of the URIS-GSLIS, has written to Bart about some grant opportunities to increase training in the state. This is an example of the way the survey is leading to opportunities.

Mark McKenney commented that OLIS has the opportunity to be a catalyst and model best practices statewide. Ruth Sullivan said that she sees opportunities for Ocean State Libraries and HELIN to collaborate to promote the 21 Century Skills training.

Howard noted that the Committee’s findings will help OLIS define the scope of 21st Century Skills needs in the state. Bart said 112 of the respondents want to “continue the conversation,” which will help OLIS shape the agenda for 21st Century Skills.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Other business

Cranston Public Library did not receive the grant they had applied for under the IMLS Learning Lab for Teens program; however, Ed Garcia reported that he will continue to seek a space and funds to develop a branch that will concentrate on fulfilling the objectives outlined in the grant application.

The DLT computer installations in public libraries continue and were highlighted in the Providence Business news.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2012

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.