

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
February 05, 2018
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room C,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: David Allard, John Bucci, Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Davis-Maxell, Joan Ress Reeves

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Karen Andrews, Jason Bloom, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor

Guests: Dr. Walter Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

None

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the December 18, 2017 meeting

Moved by: Dr. Hopper

Seconded by: Ms. Reynolds

The meeting minutes were approved with non-substantive changes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the January 08, 2018 meeting

Moved by: Ms. Reynolds

Seconded by: Ms. Drnach

The meeting minutes were approved without change.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Library Board of Rhode Island Appointments

Mr. Viall thanked eligible LBRI members for their willingness to consider reappointment, and everyone for their suggestions for future board members. Recommendations have been submitted to the RI Department of Administration for consideration by the Governor, who appoints members to the Board with the advice and consent of the Senate. Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) Representation on LBRI, Phyllis Lynch, was unable to continue to serve as LBRI designee from RIDE due to scheduling conflicts.

David Allard has been appointed by the RI Education Commissioner, Dr. Ken Wagner, to represent RIDE. Mr. Allard participates in the Children’s Cabinet, and has worked with OLIS on several initiatives, including the OLIS Summer Reading Program and RI Reads, the Campaign for 3rd Grade Reading.

B. Cranston Public Library, Design Merit Award

Mr. Viall congratulated Mr. Garcia on the Design Merit Award presented to Cranston Public Library in December by the RI Chapter of American Institute of Architects. Cranston received the award for the redesign of its Children’s Room.

C. Rhode Island Library Day

RI celebrates Library Day on Saturday, April 14. To raise library awareness, many public libraries will host events and encourage the return of overdue materials by offering late fee amnesty.

D. Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) Annual Meeting

COLA will hold their annual meeting on April 10, at the RI State House. The reception begins at 5 pm, and the meeting at 5:30 pm. Jim Neal, President of the American Library Association, will be the speaker. More information is on the COLA website (<http://colari.org/>).

E. National Library Legislative Day

National Library Legislative Day will be held in Washington, DC on May 7-8. Registration for the event is open, and Mr. Viall will attend.

F. LBRI Annual Report

Mr. Viall extended his appreciation to Ms. Mellor for compiling the LBRI annual report; a recap of the board’s efforts for the past fiscal year. It is posted on the OLIS website with the archived LBRI meeting minutes, and will be filed with the RI Secretary of State; the report will be distributed to the board.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. OLIS Staffing

Andrew Egan, supervisor of the Talking Books Library (TBL), is retiring from state service on February 9. Mr. Egan has worked in TBL since 2000, and in a variety of other capacities in his 38-year tenure with OLIS. Ms. Mellor extended her best wishes to him for his retirement.

The position vacated by Mr. Egan is federally funded, and will be filled as soon as possible. Along with TBL responsibilities, the position will be expanded to include responsibilities in the broader area of accessibility of library resources, services, and facilities. OLIS Library Program Specialist Alicia Waters has been working part-time in TBL since the retirement of another TBL librarian in 2016. Ms. Waters will oversee the

daily operations of TBL until the position is filled. To ensure that seamless service is provided to TBL patrons, another OLIS staff member has been assigned to TBL on a part-time basis.

B. Continuing Education, Copyright Bootcamp

In support of the Governor's Open Textbook Initiative, and in partnership with the RI Office of Innovation, OLIS is offering an intensive two-day workshop on copyright at Bryant University, on February 21-22.

The workshop was developed by the Open Textbook Initiative Taskforce, a group of academic librarians that is supporting the development of open educational resources in academic institutions. The workshop will address issues about copyright and fair use of materials. Space is limited to 35 attendees. The speaker for the event is Kyle K. Courtney, Copyright Advisor for Harvard University, and founder of Fair Use Week.

C. Interlibrary (ILL) Delivery Contract

The ILL delivery vendor procurement process is underway and on schedule; there should be no interruptions in OLIS Library of Rhode Island (LORI) delivery service. Concurrently, OLIS is collecting data on the use of interstate delivery with Massachusetts to assist the HELIN academic library consortium in assessing the value of that service, which utilizes the OLIS delivery vendor in conjunction with LORI delivery, but is funded by HELIN.

D. Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Resource Sharing Group

A subgroup of the LORI Resource Sharing Workgroup is reviewing e-resources in all types of libraries. Part of the review will analyze which subscriptions are purchased to determine if cost savings can be realized through group purchasing, and to minimize duplication of effort. The group is also examining how libraries can share and/or gain expertise on vendor contract negotiations.

E. Studio Rhode Grants

The Studio Rhode grant application period ended on February 2. Funding for the grants is provided by the Carnegie Foundation through the RI Office of Innovation. Grants up to \$10,000 will be awarded to four libraries for projects focused on digital learning, digital creation spaces, and libraries as community centers. Grant recipients will be announced by the next LBRI meeting and posted on the OLIS website.

F. Rhode Island Library Legislative Day and Library Day

RI Library Legislative Day is Tuesday, April 10, at the State House, and will precede COLA's annual meeting at 5:00 PM. Various libraries and library organizations will exhibit at the State House on April 10 to promote the value of libraries.

RI Library Day is April 14. The goal of Library Day is to raise awareness of libraries, and to encourage legislators and other stakeholders to visit their local libraries to observe the

variety of services offered. All RI public libraries will again offer late fee amnesty to patrons as an incentive to return overdue materials.

The Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) sponsors Library Day and Library Legislative Day; both events take place during National Library Week (April 8-14).

G. Federal Budget

Ms. Mellor reported on the status of federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding. There is currently no federal budget, and the government is operating under a Continuing Resolution, which expires February 8, 2018; as a result, the 2018 IMLS Grants to States have not been awarded.

Chiefs were advised that if a federal budget is not enacted, states may apply for partial grants under extenuating circumstances. OLIS will not need to do this currently as the office budgeted to use funds from the FY17 federal grant through the end of state FY18.

H. Rhode Island State Budget

The Governor presented the state budget in January. OLIS was funded at its current service level for FY2019. The revised budget for 2018 includes a small reduction in funding for OLIS, but this reduction is a result of less than anticipated costs for personnel and interlibrary delivery and was expected; no reduction of services will result.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Mr. Garcia reported that RI state legislators, Representative Regunberg and Senator DiPalma, introduced bills, H7422 and S2008 respectively, in response to the FCC's repeal of Net Neutrality rules. The bills will prohibit state agencies, quasi-state agencies, and municipalities entering service agreements with internet service providers that do not follow the principle of Net Neutrality. Libraries and schools are specifically mentioned in Rep. Regunberg's legislation.

An event at the State House last week announced the introduction of Rep. Regunberg's Net Neutrality Act of 2018. RILA, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Young Democrats Party are promoting the legislation. RILA is discussing the creation of materials for distribution to library groups to support this legislation.

Mr. Garcia recommended that the LBRI draft an opinion on the bills, and Mr. Viall requested that LBRI members review the legislation prior to drafting an opinion. The board will discuss and finalize their decision at the March meeting

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Dr. Hopper

Dr. Hopper reported on the Consortium of Rhode Island & Academic Research Libraries (CRIARL) meeting held February 2. The consortium includes academic, historical society and special libraries, and meets three times annually.

CRIARL's Government Documents Committee, which includes librarians working at RI academic and research libraries, is the only committee that focuses on government documents in RI; it serves as the de facto reporting body to the Connecticut State Library, which is the multi-state regional depository library that supports RI. There is no easy way to locate government depository libraries in RI. Ms. Mellor offered to have OLIS publish a directory of such libraries on its website.

CRIARL also discussed the value of an MLS as a professional credential. The University of Pittsburgh placed their MLS program on hiatus for a year to examine the future of the program, and some other universities around the country are also evaluating their MLS programs, or closing programs entirely. The group discussed whether degree programs adequately prepare graduates for employment, and if employers should require an MLS degree. The group consensus was that MLS-degreed graduates, while well-schooled in library and information theory and values, may not be adequately prepared to work in libraries unless they are already in the library workforce.

Ms. Mellor stated that the University of RI (URI) has been updating their MLS graduate program curriculum and its focus. URI's MLS program will be reviewed for accreditation by the American Library Association in Spring 2018.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LBRI Strategy for Support of School Libraries

Mr. Viall reported that while the library community believes that school libraries must be staffed by MLS-degreed librarians, this belief is not always supported by school administrators.

Ms. Drnach reported on a 2017 study by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association about state requirements for school librarians. The information noted that some states require professionally trained librarians, and others do not. A review of other states' educational plans reflects inconsistent job titles for school librarians. Ms. Drnach's research showed no national consistency in the requirement for school librarians, the language that references them, and the criteria for determining their qualifications.

Ms. Mellor noted that nationally there is no consistent titling of, or requirements for, librarians in schools, that individual state economies often impact hiring practices, and that in some places, including RI, there is a deficit of available MLS-degreed applicants.

Mr. Viall stated that he anticipated representation from RIDE at the LBRI, and that his request of RIDE would be that they take an active role in fielding complaints from the community about both the staffing of and availability of school library services.

B. Net Neutrality

Mr. Garcia recommended that the LBRI send a letter of thanks to Attorney General Kilmartin for joining the lawsuit against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) over their decision to suspend Net Neutrality rules.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2018, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Garcia

Seconded by: Ms. Reynolds

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.