South Central Regional Library Council

SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services
Monday, April 29, 2024 9:00 AM, Zoom
Minutes

Present: Peter McCracken (Cornell), Erika Jenns (STLS), Doyin Adenuga (Houghton), Claire Lovell, Mary-Carol Lindbloom.

- **Around the Table**
    - Peter at Cornell: Peter is creating a tool that would allow libraries to have access to all the resources that they should have access to (e.g. database work with each other). He presented at the UKSG conference in Glasgow recently and will do a similar presentation in Minneapolis in November. With a bit of work, you can increase access to students without spending additional money.
    - Erika at STLS: Wrapping up last year's SCRLC digitization grant and applying for another one. Preparing for a big CE day on June 14th.
    - Doyin at Houghton: It's been busy in the library. He's been weeding and is looking for a way to recycle the books. Doyin received a prestigious scholarship for webinars and events in Washington and Baltimore. He's been using ChatGPT and learning how to apply it. Doyin has been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, after eight years at Houghton.
    - Mary-Carol: The state really liked our digital equity grant funded by ARPA, where we explored improvements on physical accessibility to increase access to public computers. Mary-Carol will travel to the American Astronomical Society conference to talk about our eclipse project this past spring.

- **Electronic Resources**
    - **NOVELny** has been spared for now because the legislature found $3,000,000 to fund it. A task force is looking into resources, although they have an NDA and we won't get any details before an official announcement. It sounds like we may need to advocate for this funding year after year.
    - **EBSCO Statistics: Literary Reference Center**
      We pay in the mid-30s for this, and we have very low results: about 3,000 searches over an entire year. But it's the main thing the schools use us for. Doyin suggests making <2 minute videos to promote the Literary Reference Source for librarians to send out.
    - **Niche Academy:** We've been paying for this out of our MISP funding (medical information) so we're creating wellness material. Our only members using it are Houghton & STLS, but they're using it well. We want to expand usage.

- **2023-2024 Activities**
  - Investigate the Empire State Immersive Experience (ESIE); recommend participation for at least 1-2 SCRLC members; possibly encourage involvement with directed grant opportunities.
    - None of the grant applications referenced ESIE.
    - It seems like our members don't have enough time to engage in this.
  - Recommend grant projects foci, update application form; review related processes and recommend changes as needed.
    - We did this in the past year.
  - Identify and review emerging technologies and innovations; investigate components for implementation, either regionally, statewide, or within SCRLC's office. This could include an ET roundtable, SIG, or even a focus group.
    - This prompted us to remember to turn on the AI Companion in Zoom to summarize the meeting.
    - Peter noted that he had ChatGPT generate a section of a paper about immigration into Canada. He also had it generate a list of recommendations for sites and restaurants to visit in Istanbul, for a trip he's planning.
    - Erika has used ChatGPT to generate a sample policy and showed to STLS members how to do it. Peter notes that it's really helpful as a place to start for documents and projects. Doyin agrees; it's good to pull together a lot of known information quickly.
    - We are moving toward the term "learning circle" rather than SIG.
    - Mary-Carol suggests we could start doing an article discussion about technology topics. Claire, Doyin and Peter suggest once or twice a year.
  - Support regional technology conferences and learning experiences, e.g., NYSCATE as a conference, AI as a CE topic (e.g., how to help students understand it), etc.
    - Mary-Carol recently attended a San Jose State University Library 2.0 AI mini-conference. She asked if we should consider offering this locally. Doyin suggested talking about it at the annual meeting. Our 2024 meeting is planned, but we could do AI in 2025 or plan another day of learning.
      - Mary-Carol notes that we're trying to be mindful of things we offer in person. There needs to be a good reason to do something in person rather than online.
- **2024-2025 Activities**

  - Keep the same activities.
  - We will continue this via email.

- **Membership**
  - Robin Fordyce resigned from the Northeast College of Health Sciences, so she's no longer available for the committee. Mary-Carol suggests sending out an advertisement for more members for all committees, including ACITS.

- Updates
  - Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition
    - We meet once a month and just adopted some fledging by-laws. We're working on our strategic plans.
    - The ConnectAll Office leans on us as the regional office. We don't know what the timeline for statewide digital equity projects will be but there is a public state plan.
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- **2024-2045 Outside Review Panel - Digitization Grant**
  - Erika is recused

Minutes taken by Claire.