



**SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services  
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 11:00 AM  
Zoom Room**

**Login:**

<https://zoom.us/j/332618665>

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Meeting ID: 332 618 665; Passcode: SCRLC

Present: Terri Ann Coronel (Ithaca College), Peter McCracken (Cornell University), Mary Ann Munroe (GST BOCES SLS), Doyin Adenuga (Houghton University), Susanna Van Sant (TC3), Mary-Carol Lindbloom (SCRLC), Claire Lovell (SCRLC).

**Welcome/Around the Table**

- Terri Ann presented at a conference about a custom form on Alma Digital, capturing metadata data and exporting into MARC records. Hopefully that will allow them to get students involved in the work.
- Terri Ann is also looking at electronic resources, and trying to analyze beyond simple usage.
- Peter attended the Core Forum in Minneapolis last week, and gave a talk about a tool he's developing to analyze usage in databases. He's seeing a lot of places (e.g. databases) that aren't working the way they should, and we know the public and users aren't telling us.
- Peter is also planning an event in January of 2026 at Cornell that could be recurring, to let librarians within 150 miles come convene with each other and to meet vendors. It would be a regional networking event, basically, for public services people who would otherwise be too busy during the middle of a semester. There could be e-resources vendors and specialized database vendors, besides all kinds of library products. Mary-Carol noted that SCRLC would be very enthusiastic to join in the planning and participation.
- Mary Ann is finishing up the required annual report for her BOCES SLS (for the state library).
- Mary Ann faced some pushback on audience access to Overdrive Sora collections. She's concerned that the student safety software in place at the districts is flagging a lot of ebook download content, leading to specific book-student records getting shared (when it should be private).
- Mary Ann also heard from NYSL that even though the state signed a 3 year contract with the vendor, NOVELny is not in the budget for the next

- year, so that may be a battle yet to come in the state budget.
- Doyin reports that things are going well at Houghton. He recently attended a meeting for NY Science Librarians in Cortland.
  - Houghton is using Niche Academy through SCRLC for student orientation, which went very well.
  - Claire has been working on large digitization projects as well as an Underground Railroad exhibit.
  - Mary-Carol has been working on planning documents and reports. SCRLC is also taking the lead on a Digital Equity Technical Assistance grant awarded to the Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition by the ConnectAll Office.

### **Notes from Last Meeting**

- We didn't discuss over email but we will generally just keep the same activities for the next year.

### **Digitization Grant Application**

- The dates were updated.
- Mary Ann asked if \$5,000 was sufficient for the grant projects as submitted. Claire summarized that it was for the large yearbook projects done by SCRLC, although a few microfilmed newspaper projects often went over by about \$100 or so.
- Mary-Carol asked if the number of external reviewers could be reduced from a minimum of 4 down to 3. Claire explained that it's hard to find external reviewers with enough available time at the end of April, when the reviewers have to read 60 to 80 single-spaced pages. Last year, our reviewers were current or former library council staff members who were familiar with library council grants.
- Susanna suggests adding, explicitly, that the reviewers have permission to and may consult with another expert (not on the committee) if it's warranted for the project.
- The group discussed potentially changing the process for grant applications. The current process, which the group decided to stick with for now, is that external reviewers look over the applications and provide recommendations for ACITS to approve or adjust before the board has a final approval.
- Committee members can add comments to the Google document.

### **Plan of Service Discussion**

- Our five year plan of service, mandated by library law, is coming up, to cover July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.
- We're going to have a Planning and Purpose Board Committee, which will head up the Design Team. Mary Ann Munroe is on the committee.
- December 6, from 1 to 3, we will have a visioning meeting to start. Everyone is welcome to participate. It's about an 18 month commitment, with all meetings over Zoom. Let Mary-Carol if you're interested.

### **Electronic Resources Discussion**

- **First Search**
  - We maintain a regional FirstSearch subscription that fewer and

fewer members can use. Six of our 18 academics aren't even allowed to join the regional subscription, although we did negotiate a discount for those six members. If we were to discontinue our regional subscription, those six members would have to pay a lot more for their own.

- o We report on the number of searches done through FirstSearch, but that probably isn't a good way to judge the value of the subscription. Our members use their FirstSearch subscription for things like cataloging, WorldCat visibility and adding other OCLC modules.
- o Mary-Carol notes that we'll be sending out an electronic resources survey
- **EBSCO**
  - o We only offer Literary Reference Center, for a little over \$35,000 per year. The usage is not great for the cost.
- **Niche**
  - o We also wish Niche Academy usage would increase.

### **Activities Review**

- Please note our activities on the website:  
<https://scrlc.org/information-technology-Services>

### **Updates**

- **Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition**
  - o We received a large grant (~\$90,000) for a project. It's unclear what impact the recent election will have on the future of digital equity funding.
- **ConnectAll Office**
  - o ConnectAll is funding a ~\$1M accessibility project, loosely based on our ARPA project: digital justice for disability justice, in which we funded accessibility audits to judge how someone can access a public computer at the library.

Minutes taken by Claire Lovell.