



**SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services  
Thursday, December 4, 2025 2:00 PM; Zoom  
Minutes**

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

**Notes from Last Meeting (attached).** No changes; they included a good discussion of the electronic resources per the membership survey results.

**Catalyst and/or Digitization Grants**

- When we looked at funded projects in the last decade, they were overwhelming digitization grants, so a few years ago we renamed the grant application {just} Digitization Grants.
- When we put out a survey for our Plan of Service a few months ago, we asked what other services we might offer, and gave a few ideas, including small innovation grants. A number of respondents marked that they would like innovation grants.
- CLRC offers “Catalyst Grants” of up to \$2,000, so there’s a precedent we can follow.
- We also have a Digitization Advisory Committee. Mary-Carol wondered if we should consider merging these two committees or otherwise having them vet the Digitization Grant Application in the future and have ACITS work with “Catalyst Grants.”
- Mary Ann asked if we have the staff resources to offer a new style of grant, which Mary-Carol confirmed we do—if CLRC can, we should be able to.
- Mary-Carol described our pre-pandemic idea of a Dolphin Cove that the Board approved. It was like Shark Tank but collaborative, and the pitches would have been in-person. In the post-pandemic world, the approach doesn’t feel relevant.

**Digitization Grant Application**

- Mary-Carol updated the dates throughout.
- Claire shared the three notes from the grant reviewers from last year:
  - a. The rubric line asking about a relationship to the plan of service doesn't work well, because it often just comes down to grant writing skill. Could we either remove this or be more explicit about what we're hoping to see?
    - Mary-Carol suggested possibly referring to the council's briefer strategic directions section within the Plan of Service, though she hopes applicants would look at the PoS, since it is not that long of a document
  - b. Maybe newspapers should be handled totally differently?
    - While it is difficult to compare newspaper projects to other digitization projects, the only solution we can think of is to create a separate pot of money, and we don't want to do that because we

don't know what proportion of grant requests will be newspaper and non-newspaper from year to year.

- c. In the rubric, rather than "innovation," what about using "unique"?
  - Mary-Carol notes that we've recently reworked our mission to avoid using the word "innovation." Perhaps we could use "creativity" in the rubric?
  - Claire noted a few case studies where this word, innovation, was an awkward choice to judge projects by: yearbooks, HistoryForge, and the notebooks of inventor Ted Case. The reviewers had suggested using "unique" rather than "innovative."
  - Doyin likes the word creative for this and suggested both "creative and unique." Kendyl agreed. Mary Ann also agreed, and suggested retooling the general instructions to explain the interest in "wide and weird" materials.
- Mary-Carol and Claire will rework the application with these points in mind.

### **Plan of Service Discussion**

- "Elements" are now called "Goals," with objectives and outcomes under each goal. Some instructions for goals changed how technology topics would be addressed, which could affect the purview of ACITS.
- Re: technology, the current PoS refers largely to digitization in the different goals, rather than broad information technology services. The new PoS refers to Shared Electronic Collections (4.5) and Supporting Technology (4.6), as well as Coordinated Services for Members (4.18), which could include things like e-resources pass-through and virtual reference.
- Mary-Carol had asked ChatGPT for brainstorming ideas around the role of ACITS and the PoS, and it suggested that we develop a regional technology and vision roadmap.
- A small task group is needed to work with Mary-Carol, mostly in the month of January, to go over this and what objectives we might need for the PoS.
- Mary Ann suggests that instead, Mary-Carol send it out to the entire ACITS group for review, not just a smaller group.
- We'll set the deadline as **January 20, 2026**.
- Because Baker and Taylor is dissolving as a company, our platform for submitting the PoS (for the last 20 years) is also going away. A new platform hasn't been identified yet. Lauren Cardinal said we might even submit the PoS in a Google document so that is how we plan to put it together.
- A couple of library councils post their PoS for their membership to review and comment (thirty days). We've never done that before, but it seems respectful and appropriate to try in our region.
- Everything for the current PoS (2021-2026) is on our website under About > Council Documents.

### **Electronic Resources Discussion**

- In our recent survey, we saw that a lot of members had misunderstandings about e-resources from SCRLC. This is our perennial discussion: they are low use and high cost, so should we maintain them?
- Getting rid of our regional OCLC FirstSearch subscription would present a financial hardship for many of our members.
- After our last meeting, Terri Ann had found that their figures (at Ithaca College) were much higher than our reported figures.
- Should we consider replacing Literary Reference Source? Mary-Carol really liked Omnifile but it was unaffordable, and EBSCO has offered us a trial of a similar resource: Masterfile. It's general but more affordable than Omnifile.

- Business Insider has offered us a regional trial, although we have not heard any member ask for such a subscription.
- Mary Ann notes that it may depend on what happens with NOVELny. If Opposing Viewpoints goes away SCRLC may want to consider replacing it if NOVELny dropped it. Community colleges also use it extensively.

### Activities Review

- Under the Roles of the ACITS committee, we should remove “(e.g. LSTA)” since we have not had access to LSTA funds in many years.
- ACITS could help with Continuing Education planning, i.e., suggesting or offering topics; Claire and Mary-Carol can incorporate into the broader educational planning that SCRLC does.
- Should we have an Emerging Technologies Learning Circle? We could take up the Horizon Report findings or AI ethics in that sort of group.
- Please take a look at the Activities and Roles of ACITS and give feedback back to Mary-Carol **by January 20**.

### Updates

- **Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition**
  - STDEC did receive the Technical Assistance Grant, which allowed for the hiring of five consultants:
    - One project manager
    - Three regional consultants, based around the three public library systems.
    - One “urban” consultant for Binghamton, Elmira/Corning and Ithaca
  - They are getting started with their work.
- **Horizon Report –anyone still following?**
  - This would be a good kind of thing for a Learning Circle on Emerging Technologies to read and discuss together, as would be a recent Chronicle on Higher Education webinar about AI.
  - Claire suggests we see how the upcoming Learning Circle about web accessibility goes, and how attendance is.
- **Other**
  - Doyin presented at a meeting in October of the Upstate NY Science Librarians. Next year it will most likely be October 16, possibly hosted by Houghton.
  - Kendyl is looking forward to the web accessibility learning circle, because she’s launching into helping STLS members on the topic.

Minutes taken by Claire.