



# South Central Regional Library Council

**SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services**  
**Monday, May 15, 2023 9:00 AM**  
**Zoom Room**

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Doyin Adenuga (Houghton), Erika Jenn (STLS), Susanna Van Sant (TC3); Mary-Carol Lindbloom, Claire Lovell,

**Excused:** Peter McCracken, Mary-Ann Munroe

- [January 17, 2023 minutes](#). No changes.
- **Budget update**
  - There is flat funding in State Aid for next year; however, all of our costs will be increasing, so it is basically a cut in funding.
  - We had \$48,000 worth of digitization grants, and only \$20,000 planned for next year; there are funds left from this year's round that we could use (as we did last year). All grants could be covered in their entirety.
- **Outside Review Panel**
  - Erika was recused from the discussion.
  - Susanna and Doyin thought the suggested caveats for some of the grants were all reasonable.
- **NOVELny**
  - NOVELny is going away as of June 30, 2024 after 23 years—it is difficult to end something that has been used and is valued.
  - SED has not yet issued a formal message.
  - Lauren Moore suggests advocating aggressively for an increase in library aid, which has not happened.
  - Any future home could be locked into having to advocate on a yearly basis—sustainable funding is a major barrier.
  - The department would not disavow the service if it became a priority and funding were found, it could remain a state library service.
  - SCRLC needs to consider our own electronic resource offerings very carefully for 2024-25 with the absence of NOVELny resources.
  - TC3 uses Opposing Viewpoints quite a bit.
  - SCRLC used to offer an Encyclopedia Britannica Online pass

through option, which around 8 academics used: this may need to come back and even expanded to include other pass throughs.

- **Literary Reference Center**
  - Around \$40,000.
  - LRC statistics are still not ideal, but it's used by school and academics and there's no free comparable resource.
  
- **Consumer Health Complete**
  - Around \$20,000
  - SCRLC proposes to cut CHC because it doesn't offer anything special beyond what MedlinePlus.gov avails for free. It also includes around 50 languages.
  - Without renewing, it would expire in July.
  - Those present agreed.
  
- **Niche Academy**
  - SCRLC is looking at a regional subscription for Niche Academy, which we piloted with ARPA funds last year. It would be \$8,000.
  - We can pay for Niche with MISP, as long as we build health/medical modules (MISP can only be used for health/medical resources and ILL). Prior to CHC, MISP was primarily used to strengthen hospital resources plus ILL. We will try to use Niche Academy to create health modules. Fewer academics are using MISP for inter-library loans—it is challenging to expend MISP funds.
  - TC3 had looked at Niche Academy, but they determined it would be too difficult to effectively market and determined that it was not worth it, but might take another look if we had a regional subscription.
  - Erika asks how we'll evaluate success. Mary-Carol suggested seeing multi-type use by a few libraries would be good. STLS may use Niche for trustee training. Christine Brown (SCRLC) may find it useful for health information resources.
  
- **Activities, 2022-2023:**
  - Investigate the Empire State Immersive Experience (ESIE); recommend participation for at least 1-2 SCRLC members.
    - We did advertise the platform to our members and offer our GoPro camera for borrowing. So far, no takers.
  - Recommend grant projects foci, update application form; review related processes and recommend changes as needed.
    - Done!
  - 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.
    - SCRLC will try to find a speaker, once Jessica comes back in July and start an ET SIG.

- Review the New York Heritage Digital Collections' websites collaboratively with the Digitization Advisory Committee.
    - We'll do this at our next meeting.
  - Support regional technology conferences and learning experiences.
    - Since we developed this list of roles, we've started working with STDEC (Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition).
    - Is there anything we're missing?
    - Erika suggests the OWL Library System's Summer Small Library Symposium. It's a mini-conference on July 7.
    - STLS offers a spring CE day for their members on June 9.
  - We'll meet one more time in June to make plans for next year.
- **Updates**
    - ARPA
      - We sent in the final report.
    - Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition
      - We've been working closely with the ConnectALL Office (CAO). They are interested in our ARPA DJ4DJ project to bring the idea statewide. Without accessibility at locations, there can't be true digital equity.
      - Kelly Povero of Watkins Glen and Mary-Carol are going to present at STLS's CE day.
      - CAO wants us to help administer a survey, perform focus groups, and perform assessment—all by July 1. We expect to contract with our former Design 4 Learning coordinator, Arden Kirkland.
  - **CE**
    - EDUCAUSE--Horizon Report May 18
      - Geared toward higher ed but with implications for all types.
    - Other Ideas
      - Please send them our way!
  - **Around the Table**
    - TC3 is starting finals week. Most summer sessions are online only with exceptions for science labs. There are lots of projects planned for the summer!
    - Houghton students graduated last weekend. The library has moved some collections. Doyin presented a poster about library projects that was well-received.
    - STLS has been focused on the June 9th Day of Learning and some security upgrades.

Minutes taken by Claire.