



**SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and  
Services  
Tuesday, October 31 2023 11:00 AM  
Zoom**

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

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Meeting ID: 332 618 665; Passcode: SCRLC

**Minutes**

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

**Welcome & Around the Table**

- Terri Ann Coronel is the Electronic Services Librarian at Ithaca College and is joining ACITS. She notes that there's more energy in the building, like pre-pandemic times. She's busy looking at resource renewals and options.
- Mary Ann Munroe is the SLS Coordinator at GST BOCES, serving 22 school districts. Her biggest priority is how to replace NOVELNY; they have no money for replacing it.
- Peter McCracken is the e-resources librarian at Cornell. Open access is a big issue with Cornell right now. He's working on linking between databases, and checking that their e-resources are working as they should despite the complexity of Cornell's many subscriptions.
- Erika Jenns is the engagement consultant at the Southern Tier Library System. She's working on their OverDrive model to better serve holds in that platform. She's also discussing replacements for NOVELNY with central library development aid. She's excited to work on Niche Academy.
- Doyin Adenuga is the electronic resources librarian at Houghton University. He's working on an assessment of the library and its resources, which includes a student survey, which is out right now. The response rate is good compared to their last assessment, three years ago.
- Claire Lovell is the digital services librarian for SCRLC. She's working on a presentation for NYLA about the Disability Justice 4 Digital Justice project funded by ARPA last year. She's also working on some SCRLC-grant-funded projects: Seneca Falls Library canal material and

Chenango Forks yearbooks.

[Notes from Last Meeting](#). They were sent in May; no changes.

## Electronic Resources

- **EBSCO**
  - **Consumer Health Complete**
    - We canceled this because of low use. There's a freely available resource, MedlinePlus.gov, that has more features and is better supported.
  - **Literary Reference Center**
    - We still have low use for this, but there's no free resource to replace it with.
- **FirstSearch & WorldCat Discovery**
  - We got confirmation and clarification from OCLC that libraries in our regional subscription list also get WorldCat Discovery through our FirstSearch subscription. Institutions like NYS Fire Academy have been paying OCLC for an additional OCLC service, thinking that's how their materials show up on WorldCat- but our firstSearch subscription is enough to get on WorldCat.
  - Some of our members aren't eligible for our regional FS subscription because they already had subscriptions. Our regional subscription allowed us to negotiate for lower rates for those other members, like Cornell, SUNY Cayuga, and Ithaca College.
  - For those reasons, we don't want to drop FirstSearch.
- **NOVELny**
  - NOVELNY is no longer going to be supported by the state library as of summer 2024.
  - Mary Ann reported that the superintendents from around the state suggest that they could pay for half of the NOVELNY for 2023-2024 if the publics and colleges pay the other half. The publics and colleges haven't been talked to about this, though. The conversations have been siloed.
  - Mary Ann noted, if we manage to pay for the bill once, the state library is all the less likely to ever pick it back up.
  - Mary Ann mentioned that at a statewide meeting with ConnectAll the ConnectAll Office staff was surprised to hear pushback about the lack of NOVELNY funding.
  - Mary Ann notes that Britannica and Gale Opposing Viewpoints will be lost for her member districts. Gale alone will be \$180,000 for GST BOCES, which is \$80,000 more than the other databases Mary Ann talked to.
  - Mary-Carol would like to see ESLN negotiate for Gale Opposing Viewpoints and Academic OneFile if it comes to that, and we're not moving fast enough to beat everyone's budget season. Mary-Carol will share an update after NYLA, in case there's any news.
- **Niche Academy**
  - We're paying for this platform out of the Medical Information Services Program (MISP), so we at SCRLC have to produce some kind of health information module in Niche, otherwise it won't be

fundable via MISP. It's about \$8,000, money from our budget that had gone to Consumer Health Complete in years past., which was over \$19,000.

- o Erika is using Niche for trustee training, and Niche lets her track their progression and will generate a certificate about that. She's also making a public-facing site. She's worked with Niche staff to get training. She's excited to integrate it with their LibGuides. Some of the material has already been created on Niche, like guides for Peterson's JobPrep and the Libby app, and they're useful to share. ACITS members were invited to try out Niche.

### **Next Round of Digitization/IT Grants**

- There will be another round of grants next year.
- We'd like to move the grants to have the board approve the grant application at their meeting on December 1.
- We're doing field visits now, and we've heard that some members need a long window of time for grant application approval (e.g. by their state departments), so we'd like to offer a longer timeframe for those members. The application would open in December and still be due in the normal mid-March period.
- The external review committee last year suggested that the project narrative be split into 10-15 questions so that it's easier to check that all questions were answered.
- Doyin asked what range of money we have to offer, but we won't be sure until closer to the end of the fiscal year.
- We still have money set aside in our cash reserve for the Dolphin Cove grant program we intended to hold in 2020 (like Shark Tank but friendly and collaborative) that was thwarted by the pandemic. That money may move over to the regular budget this year so we can finally offer it.

### **Activities, 2023-2024**

We haven't set these yet. We reviewed last year's to see what should be kept and what should be added:

- Investigate the Empire State Immersive Experience (ESIE); recommend participation for at least 1-2 SCRLC members.
  - o We haven't gotten much interest in ESIE from our members. We might have to encourage this with directed grant opportunities.
- Recommend grant projects foci, update application form; review related processes and recommend changes as needed.
  - o Peter notes we'd rather see what people are working on rather than guiding them in a particular direction. We don't want to discourage special projects by over-highlighting yearbooks or newspapers, for example.
- 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.
- Review the New York Heritage Digital Collections' websites collaboratively with the Digitization Advisory Committee.
  - o Claire does this as part of her job.

- Support regional technology conferences and learning experiences.
  - This reminded Claire of a recent email that NYSCATE is looking for presenters at their Southern Tier regional conference in March. Mary Ann notes that it will be held at Corning High School. Academic librarians and public librarians could do any number of presentations that would fit. [See the form here.](#)
  - Mary Ann suggested public librarians could talk about programs held out of school hours; the teachers who attend are looking for ways to get their students involved in all kinds of ways.
  - Doyin suggested AI as a topic, and to help students understand it, if anyone is comfortable discussing it. Mary-Carol attended the SLA-New England program on AI and Library Services. She will email the link to Yale's policy.

### **CE Suggestions**

- Peter is looking at a series of webinars to help smaller libraries understand what their options are for things like ezproxy, letting patrons and students authenticate for resources off-campus. This could apply for students in public schools, he suggests, and Mary Ann confirms. This is related to a very recent Marshall Breeding survey. Peter is part of a group forming to discuss this further.

### **Updates**

- **ARPA**
  - We got our final 10% in the current fiscal year.
- **Digital Services**
  - Claire is still working through very large digitization projects.
- **Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition**
  - There are some meetings coming up that Mary-Carol will share out.
  - November 15: the ST8, Southern Tier 8 in Binghamton, on broadband.
  - November 8 and November 29, the ConnectAll Office will have informational sessions on the Digital Equity Plan they released.

### **New Committee Members**

- We could still use new members, i.e., we lack museum representation.

Minutes taken by Claire.