



# South Central Regional Library Council

**SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services  
Monday, October 4, 2021 10:00 AM  
Zoom Room  
Notes**

**Present:** Doyin Adenuga (Houghton), Elizabeth Hicks (Northeast College of Health Sciences), Erika Jenns (STLS), Susanna Van Sant\_(TC3), Peter McCracken (Cornell), Mary Ann Munroe (GST), Claire Lovell, Mary-Carol Lindbloom

#### Welcome and Introductions

- Matthew Kopel has had to step away from the committee.

#### RBDB Update

- Reminder: the RBDB program year is no longer January to December; it's now July through June. The Board approved the digitization grant applications.
- The State Library has a technical amendment under consideration to add RBDB funds to our operating budget (so there'd be no RBDB budget per se). It'd grant us more flexibility and require less time-intensive reporting. Governor Hochul has until December to sign off on it.

#### [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Program](#)

- ARPA is a federal program from IMLS channeled to us from the NYSL. Like all of the ESLN councils, SCRLC is receiving three kinds of funding: one for school library systems, one for public library systems and digital inclusion, and one for museum / library partnerships. Each of these funding streams needs to be spent a certain way. SCRLC will submit one application that covers the three streams.
- We have guidelines but we have not yet seen the actual application form. The application will be released this month and will be due in November. Then the State Library will review and approve applications by early January. Expenses then have to be encumbered and expended by June 30, 2022. Our final report to NYSL is due by July 31, 2022.
- We will basically serve as a pass through for the school library funds and most of the public library funds, except for around \$80,000.
- Mary Ann noted that the guidelines for school library systems are frustrating, because of the timeline for expenditure and lack of professional development support. Most of the systems will buy Rosen's synchronous-access social and emotional learning (SEL) textbooks on Sora. They may try to pursue a group purchase across the region. Susanna suggests the schools look for one-time electronic datafiles like National Geographic.
- For the museum partnership stream, SCRLC has created an application form. We set a cap of \$12,000 per application, which is what our typical RBDB grant applications use as a cap for partnership projects. These applications will be due October 22, 2021. We'd like ACITS to meet briefly to vet whatever applications we receive.

- Museum partnerships must include a museum and the museum must be Regents-chartered. Digitization is not enough on its own; there must also be two outputs, such as an exhibit, bookmarks, and/or a program.
- The digital inclusion program is the largest pot of money: about \$308,000. Most of this is being sub-awarded to the public library systems but some is meant for regional, cooperative projects. All sub-awarded projects may to address at least three of five stated digital inclusion areas.
  - SCRLC sent out a telehealth survey for our public library members in order to gauge the need for telehealth support and health information literacy in our region. We've had 18 responses. (Note as of 10/12, 34.)
  - SCRLC is also considering an accessibility audit, to address the intersection of digital inclusion and disability justice. Mary Ann suggests a survey to test the water for this.
  - Other councils are exploring digital literacy vans equipped with laptops, which run \$180,000 to \$220,000.

#### Objectives for 2021-2022

- Work Plan Objectives
  - Some of our SMART goals and objectives were worked on during the July board retreat.
  - Elizabeth notes that during the retreat, the breakout rooms tended to close just as the group got momentum on the goals and objectives.
  - We'll send out objectives for ACITS members
- Our 2020-2021 goals were:
  - Review/Develop Plan of Service Elements.
  - Investigate the 360 immersive experience projects (TC3, ESIE/ESLN).
  - Review ACITS and RBDB processes, recommending changes.
  - Monitor virtual reference services.
  - 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.
  - Support regional technology conferences and learning experiences.
- 360 Immersive Experiences
  - Should we continue to pursue this?
  - Gregg of TC3 has offered 360 immersive experience help and hosting via his GoPro cameras and kuula.com account. Doyin at Houghton College has worked with Gregg to do this, but ran into limitations with the kuula subscription.
  - SCRLC has a GoPro to lend out to members, too.
- Virtual Reference Services
  - Most of our members work directly with WNYLRC now, as they handle the Ask Us 24/7 service.
  - Virtual reference is one of very few electronic services that saw an increase in 2020, i.e., use of electronic resources within SCRLC and NOVELny were down.
  - Ask Us 24/7 requires at least 10 hours per week as a commitment for participation from a library system, which makes it hard for school library systems to participate.
- Learning Experiences
  - Mary Ann asked if SCRLC's professional development events will be all virtual from now on. Mary-Carol said that for now, yes. Mary Ann notes

that it's really hard to find large enough spaces and staffing subs, so virtual (especially recorded) is preferable. Elizabeth agrees.

- Mary-Carol reminds everyone to sign up for our Annual Meeting on October 22. It's virtual!

#### Around the Table

- Susanna reports that only 1,000 students have some degree of campus involvement this semester, so the TC3 campus is pretty quiet.
- Cornell has switched to Folio, an open access management system. It was a big investment in time and resources, but it will be a better solution and a great opportunity for libraries in general. It's built from the ground up with lots of input from librarians. One challenge is knowing how many other libraries are using it, so Peter is considering a study of that.
- Northeast College of Health Sciences (formerly New York Chiropractic) has had a lot of retirements, so they're seeking a lot of new staff around the college.
- Houghton College has been running a survey to assess their services and resources. They're analyzing it now. The college also has a new president from Tennessee.
- STLS has a lot happening, including a two-day event to address social justice and diversity initiatives, called Gather and Grow. The keynote is author Stacy Lee.
- GST has a media literacy professor from St Louis visiting. It will dovetail well with the new rollout of computer standards. In the spring, five of SCRLC's BOCES will host the author of Fact or Fiction. She'll spend a week at each of the participating BOCES.

Notes taken by Claire.