



SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services
Friday, September 6, 2019 11:00 AM
Zoom Room
Notes

Present: Doyin Adenuga (Houghton C), Suellen Christopoulos-Nutting (NYCC), Erika Jenns (STLS), Matthew Kopel (Cornell), Peter McCracken (Cornell); Mary-Carol Lindbloom (SCRLC); Excused: Susanna Van Zant (TC3), Mary Kay Welgoss (TST School Library System), Julia Corrice (SCRLC).

Introductions were made.

Notes from last meeting:

- Dolphin Cove - Board was excited and thought it would be a great thing to do, should we find the funds to make it happen.
- Peter - Thought the write-up about the Dolphin Cove was great.
- M-C - Western NY is very excited about the idea and might implement it.

Review of agreed-upon activities for 2019-2020:

- No comments.

RBDB 2019 Program:

- Received all of our funding in July 2019 (even though RBDB is calendar year).
- Grant recipients had been given 90% of their funds up front in January.
- Ask Us 24/7 is also funded through RBDB.
 - The number of questions answered by librarians this year plummeted to 1,026 (had been 2,508). Ratio of "asked to answered" should be 50:50ish.
 - Questions asked by students and others increased to 3,936 (up from 3,570)
 - Newest members: Houghton College joined this past year; Corning Community College joined at the end of the fiscal year
 - OCLC OCLC is dissolving QuestionPoint and sold its backup reference service to Springshare - it will become part of LibAnswers. A few SCRLC libraries had left to AskUs for LibAnswers --maybe some will come back after the move
 - More training will need to be done with this change
 - Improvements have been made to LibGuides
- BARC services are also funded through RBDB
 - Libraries are loving the service through TC3 but due diligence requires sending the service out for bid every 4 years - RFP coming out soon
 - Volume: STLS is the largest user, followed by Four County
 - 1,822 requests (364 were Four County, 1,426 for STLS; only 32 were from other libraries/school library systems in SCRLC)
- Staffing is also coming out of RBDB funds
 - Digitization is exploding
 - Need funds to support staff to do this

- Now counting intellectual objects for New York Heritage rather than pages - e.g. a 300-page diary = 1 object, rather than 300 separate objects
- Electronic resources are also funded out of RBDB
 - Many academic libraries are still using the EBSCO Discovery Service, throwing off statistics as a result
 - Julia looked at libraries that have EBSCO discovery service vs those that don't - noticed that EBSCO resources are not getting the high use that the statistics suggest
 - e.g. Consumer Health Complete is only around 3,000 searches
 - At board retreat the question was asked: what if we funded resources that support our initiatives, e.g., Ethnic NewsWatch. Not everyone in our community can make use of all the electronic resources we currently offer and this would be available to all.
 - Suellen - in favor of running a trial to see if it's used
 - M-C - we would have to give something up, if we decided to move to a new product
 - Erika - if we did a trial, how would we get the word out?
 - M-C - We would promote to members and rely on them to get the word out. We'd use SurveyMonkey to assess.
 - M-C - trial would probably last a month or so
 - Doyin - when would we offer the trial - we need to be considerate of timing - when will people need it/be interested in searching/using it?
 - Erika - concern that use might be inflated because we'll actually be promoting this new trial resource, whereas we aren't doing enough to promote what we already have
 - M-C - at the same time, we could be promoting the use of existing databases
 - Maybe it's good for everybody to take a look at what databases we have now - how are they showing up?
 - M-C - what if we promote and trial in Oct/Nov?
 - Suellen - if we gave everyone a heads up, they would have time to prepare to use it. We need to make it clear in our announcement that this is only a trial.
- RBDB grant
 - Most recipients have submitted their reports

RBDB 2020:

- We'll have time for another discussion about the budget closer to Dec/Jan
- We're using more of the budget to fund staff than in the past, e.g., around 40%
- Another substantial chunk goes to electronic resources
- It would be hard to take away FirstSearch - OCLC was afraid we'd leave last year, and they renegotiated better pricing for Cornell, Ithaca, Elmira, Cayuga, and Wells.
- Cayuga hasn't yet transitioned - they're on a different timeline
- BARC \$8,000 - but SCRLC doesn't pay all of that - it's a cost share, primarily with the public library systems.
 - Public library systems have members who are direct members of SCRLC, so the system gets all 50 of that library's quota, in addition to the 200 that the system already gets
- Also paying for Skillshare, Springshare, TechTalk, etc.
- Some funds go to Continuing Education, as it pertains to information technology
- And, the grants to members

RBDB 2020 Grants:

- There were some changes made to the application (DPLA needs to be removed)
- We want to get this out soon
- What areas should we focus on funding next year (in the past, we've done women's suffrage)
 - Suellen - Presidential elections
 - M-C - Newspapers-- only one Steuben County listing in NYS Historic Newspapers, for instance.
 - We need to encourage newspaper projects
 - M-C - Grants can be used for things beyond digitization, e.g. Derby Museum - 360 VR experience for the museum. A VR project might not be appropriate for all, but could be for some. <https://www.derbymuseums.org/spaces/museum-art-gallery-virtual-reality-tour>
 - We are working against the clock with smaller institutions - materials are deteriorating and individuals hold all of the knowledge but are aging--there is some urgency
 - M-C - So...are there specific subjects/items we'd like to encourage, e.g. oral histories/videos/etc.
 - Suellen - needs a server
 - Peter - oral history idea is neat
 - M-C - Julia did a presentation at the history center on oral histories
 - Suellen: Presidential elections could be useful
 - Matthew - Perhaps instead of a specific project type, what if we encouraged projects that touched issues of diversity, inclusion, etc?
 - M-C - working on an immigrant exhibit with other councils
 - Suellen - it might be a better use of funds to ask the SCRLC community what they need, what do they have time for
 - M-C - we currently assess needs within our field visits (45 last year).
 - With the historical organization community - we already know their needs because we talk to them regularly, so we can forgo a formal assessment for now and focus on the preservation assessment and the needs assessments that will be done as part of the new plan of service (due March 2021).
 - M-C - what do you think about the \$8,000 and \$12,000 limitations? (no changes)
 - M-C - is the 20% in-kind contribution a barrier (was added last year)?
 - Erika - did anyone struggle with it last year?
 - M-C – no--it helped recipients to see that the grant requires work
 - Peter - if this application has been used in the past without complaint or issue, it should be good to move forward with it
 - M-C - Re: criteria we need to change the women's suffrage piece
 - Doyin - should we also include interest in oral history on the criteria? (yes)

Digitization Report:

- DAC committee has been working on a preservation needs assessment survey
 - It's almost complete and should be released in a month or so.
- DPLA - Metro dropped the Empire State Digital Network, our pipeline to DPLA
 - Is it possible to continue in a decentralized way? Julia is leading the investigation.
 - She attended a meeting about this over the summer

- Some of the larger academics have expressed interest and could have funding available if ESLN were to continue with DPLA
 - M-C - it feels siloed to not be contributing to a national repository
- Bullet Aid Grant
 - Barbara Lifton - M-C & Julia submitted a bullet aid application for \$15,000 to Assemblywoman Lifton in May. M-C learned of it through FLLS instead of NYLA.
 - All \$15,000 of the ask was funded and will be used for a book scanner, updated portable scanners to lend, and possibly a digital camera that does 360

Trends:

- Library of the Future
- Does anyone have a favorite report? Where do we all go to get a sense of what's happening/what's next?
 - Some of us feel like we aren't doing as much as we should be in this area
 - Peter uses National Information Standards Organization
 - M-C is excited to see the VR experience at Cornell on Sept. 16 - meant to help identify implicit biases
 - Matthew - felt his answer was totally subjective--working towards open access resources ends up being of perennial interest. Whether it would be microgrants to offset APC costs, or helping smaller institutions jump start an IR, or even seed grants for OERs. While there are little trends that pop up, lasting open materials can have a major impact
 - Peter - <https://www.ceoaction.com/events/mobile-tour/> for the Sept. 16 program.

Around the Table:

- Doyin - migration projects to WMS, went well, live now & adding some finishing touches to data clean ups - works well for them & students
 - Also, got an award to attend the DLF conference - awarded by CLIR (Council for Library & Information Resources) - in October in Tampa
- Suellen - implementing EDS, taking a lot of time
- Peter - focus has been on work towards FOLIO - involved in electronic resources development & implementation, shift to EDS and EBSCO products for managing electronic resources
- M-C - for those moving to EDS, is there a way for you to know how much specific resources are being used?
 - Peter - we should be able to but haven't made the shift yet
 - Suellen - EBSCO reports are not the best, that's a great question, implementation takes awhile (several months)
- M-C - Annual Meeting is Oct. 4th, and first board meeting are coming up much more quickly than usual - feeling overwhelmed
- Erika - Nothing to report from STLS - staff have been in and out a lot - everyone is catching up
- M-C - Annual Meeting is open to everyone - and topic will be strategic planning and how to include DEI in strategic planning process
- Matthew - finished his Creative Commons certification, we're working on specialized statements for culturally sensitive materials
 - In case it hasn't circ'd: <https://www.ims.gov/grants/available/accelerating-promising-practices-small-libraries>
- M-C - Next meeting in Nov. to review RBDB budget and grant applications.

Notes taken by Erika.