



**SCRLC Advisory Committee on Information Technologies and Services  
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 2:00 PM; GoToMeeting  
Notes**

**Present:** Doyin Adenuga (Houghton), Andrew Dutcher (Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES SLS), Erika Jenns (Southern Tier Library System), Matthew Kopel (National Digital Inclusion Alliance), Susanna Van Sant (TC3), Mary Kay Welgoss (Tompkins-Seneca Tioga BOCES SLS). Julia Corrice, Mary-Carol Lindbloom.

**Excused:** Suellen Christopoulos-Nutting (NY Chiropractic College), Peter McCracken (Cornell)

**Welcome & Introductions.** Andrew and Erika were welcomed as new Committee members. Peter is abroad at the moment and not able to attend this meeting.

**Review of Notes from the Last Meeting.** No changes.

**RBDB Program**

- 2017 Electronic Resources Survey Review and Discussion
- Electronic Resources: What to Keep; What to Release
- Recommendation

**The committee unanimously recommended eliminating OmniFile.**

**Discussion:**

Due to budget constrictions, the three databases being considered for elimination are OmniFile, FirstSearch, or Literary Reference Center. Why? SCRLC needs to use some additional RBDB funds for staffing costs and increased expenses. Some Councils use 100% of RBDB for staffing, and if we are to grow our digitization program and the effectiveness of the remaining electronic resources, SCRLC needs additional staff hours. Although Consumer Health Complete was included in the survey, it is funded through the Medical Information Services Program rather than RBDB, so it is not being considered for a cut this year.

Mary-Carol reviewed the 2018 RBDB budget with the Committee.

She and Danna have worked through multiple budget drafts (6) with different scenarios. The first draft cut OmniFile, but the survey response and targeted users suggested that this might not be the right one to cut. FirstSearch has been a challenge with SCRLC. Use is inconsistent; statistics are challenging. One library system accounts for most of its use, others do not use it at all. A pass through option for FirstSearch was considered

with a cost-share. We are grandfathered in under a good pricing structure that no longer exists. Seven libraries are excluded from our subscription; OCLC came back with a less expensive pass-through option for 5 of them. Julia and Mary-Carol need more time to explore other pieces of the FirstSearch subscription that aren't well-used (mainly WorldCat Discovery). Our OCLC representative indicates that if we eliminated the FirstSearch subscription, users wouldn't see local holdings in WorldCat, so there would be a loss of functionality. Susanna mentioned that libraries would need to know now and explore pricing options because subscription pricing is complicated. She also mentioned that perhaps educating members on the availability of General and Academic OneFile, which has a great amount of overlap with OmniFile could be a better option. Those two resources are freely available through NOVELny—the State Library has a three-year subscription. Susanna mentioned that this could impact BARC, as well.

Matthew asked where the money would be allocated to from cutting a database: it would be used for staffing and member grants. \$47,516 is currently used for salaries. \$86,708 would be taken out in new budget, including the 3rd librarian position (Much of the position would be paid for from the Hospital Library Services Program budget). The Personnel committee will consider this next in context of salaries and positions, then the Finance & Audit Committee, Executive Committee, followed by the full Board on May 18.

Libraries do pay a cost share: systems pay \$550, individual governing members pay \$110. If we were to eliminate both OmniFile or LRC and FirstSearch, Mary-Carol would recommend eliminating the cost share. For two databases, the cost share would need to remain. The council's mission is to *strengthen library services by promoting learning, collaboration, and innovation* to be exploring new technologies, e-resources aren't getting there. SCRLC is the only council that continues to pay for e-resources out of the budget. (CLRC does chargebacks to the member libraries).

Susanna asked if there are alternate Staffing scenarios to explore. Could we do a salary share and leave the librarian position unfilled? Mary-Carol explored this with the HLSP consultant position, but when it was costed out and responsibilities/workflow examined, it wouldn't work.

Julia suggested that given the complexity of the FirstSearch subscription, it would not be fair to the membership to cut that subscription this year without further assessment for that particular database and pricing alternatives. And, it is not known what the interest might be in the WCD component. The choice becomes between OmniFile and LRC. OmniFile has greater and broader use by members, but there is an alternative with General OneFile and Academic OneFile. LRC is more specifically used by Academics and Schools, but there is not a good, free alternative database for it (not everyone likes the Gale product, plus it is not available for free). It was suggested that SCRLC could help educate members on using General OneFile and Academic OneFile instead of OmniFile.

**RBDB Grant Update.** Julia gave an update on 2017 grants. Final reports all in, a few projects need to finish adding objects to NYH. Mary-Carol mentioned that with John Hammond retiring, NYSHN might have less of a priority at NNYLN. The bulk of the NY project was done at lower scans in the beginning than Chronicling America, but that would be the alternative if NYSHN went away. DPLA is going through some growing pains, and we are continuing with ESDN for this year, but we will need to see what happens with the new membership structure.

**Other.**

Julia mentioned that the Women's Suffrage Exhibit will now be hosted at New York Heritage instead of DP.LA.org.

Mary-Carol mentioned that promotional materials were sent to our members from the TPS grant. Mary-Carol would like to explore opportunities with VR technology for libraries if there's extra funding from RBDB. Matthew thinks that the ACITS group would be a great place to discuss this technology, especially with the technology becoming more affordable and lendable between libraries. SCRLC had an e-reader kit that was available to members when that technology first came out; perhaps something similar can be done with VR.

Notes taken by Julia