



Committee on Information Technology (CITE)

Friday, July 25, 2008

RRLC Office

Attendance: Shirley Bower, Mary Carlin, Ted Ciambor, Charles Cowling [for Mary Jo Orzech] , Chris Harris, Kathy Miller, Jennifer Morris, Julia Sollenberger, Patty Uttaro, Stanley Wilder

Unable to attend: Debby Emerson, Sonja Landes, Betsy Morris, Mary Jo Orzech, Adam Traub, Steve Weiter

The meeting began at 10:05. Committee members introduced themselves.

Kathy reviewed the uncertain funding situation for RRLC Aid this year and next. RRLC has only received part of its aid and has not yet received 2008 RBDB funding. [Note: a message received after the meeting from NYS indicated it is “on its way”.] There is some discussion of mid-year cuts, but it is uncertain as to whether that would affect RRLC. The state is reporting that next year also will be “difficult”.

Kathy reviewed the status of 2008 RBDB projects, as per the attachment.

- Funding for the training grant and the “electronic resources” [i.e. access to the Democrat and Chronicle] remains unchanged.
- Funding for “regional catalogs” was reduced as World Cat use has remained steady [i.e. not increased] and only 10 SUs (not the 14 budgeted for) are needed. Kathy reminded the Committee that RRLC is “grandfathered” in WorldCat SU access. We can increase the number of SU’s but we cannot reduce the number.
- There were savings in the ULS application as OCLC costs have been eliminated and Nylink fees reduced.
- With the funding from Regional Cats and ULS, RRLC was able to shift funding to support a second year and an upgrade CONTENTdm.

RRLC also has received a small LSTA grant which is being used for training. This is year one of a two year grant.

RRLC has not yet heard on its IMLS eXtensible Catalog 2 grant. The reviewers were meeting last week. A Task Force has developed a survey to help ascertain the interest in the region in XC2 and the ability of libraries to implement it – whether as stand alone or with RRLC.

RRLC is participating with the other NY3Rs in a shared CONTENTdm server. The server will harvest from the CONTENTdm servers at the other NY3Rs, and eventually from other CONTENTdm sites.

NYS has proposed a New York State Digital Library which includes NOVEL but is broader than that. Because of the state’s financial situation, funding for this is unlikely in the near future. Shirley Bower serves on the statewide NOVEL Steering Committee.

Kathy then reviewed sources of funding for regional projects for 2009, including RBDB (if fully funded: \$220,742) and the RRLC Technology Fund (\$87,154). Since there is uncertainty about state funding both for this year and next, it may be necessary to use the “Technology Fund” for basic services. RRLC expects to know more on the state funding situation by October.

2009 RBDB Projects

The Council is proposing 5 projects:

- Training: \$76,223
- Regional Catalog \$32,406
- Electronic Resources: \$32,600
- Union List of Serials: \$5,150
- CONTENTdm: \$14,966

The Committee reviewed each of these.

Training proposal: no changes recommended

Regional Catalog: continue with 10 SUs for World Cat. Do not “set aside” funding for School Cat. School Cat is currently paid for through 2008/09 and money is ready to be encumbered for 2009/2010. By 2010/2011, another solution to the school need should be in place. Chris Harris updated the Committee on the development work being done at GV BOCES SLS for a union catalog with ILL functioning using Drupal modules. There is also the possibility of adding school holdings to World Cat if regional solutions do not materialize. The Committee approved the proposal as submitted.

Electronic Resources: The Committee reviewed the cost share proposal from the Shared Database Committee and approved it. The Committee approved the RBDB proposal as submitted.

Union List of Serials: The Committee discussed the continued need for this service. After extensive discussion and review of recent statistics, it was determined that RRLC should query ILL librarians as to their continued need for this service (along the lines of “What would you do without it?”). If, as anticipated, this is not needed any longer, the funds for the contractual aspect (\$3,600) can be reallocated to other parts of RBDB. [Nylink expenses still would be covered within another grant – probably Regional Catalogs].

CONTENTdm: The Committee agreed this is a solid proposal. [See note below for possibly moving to “unlimited” access sooner if funds permit.]

Stanley Wilder updated the Committee on XC progress. A production version of XC is expected in summer 09.

The Committee discussed options for the remaining RBDB funds (\$59,397) and use of the Technology Fund. They recommended two paths, depending on the situation as it develops.

Path A: If the XC2 IMLS grant is not funded, RBDB 09 and Technology Funds should be used to implement XC2.

Path B: If XC2 is funded by IMLS, then RBDB 09 and Tech Funds should be used as follows, in priority order:

- a) Funds to ensure some type of union catalog with ILL for the school libraries, possibly the development of the Drupal module underway at GV BOCES. It will be important that the GV BOCES module work in relationship to XC2.
- b) Funds to supplement XC2 to ensure it can be implemented
- c) Funds to assist libraries with digitization, related to the CONTENTdm project. This could be related to a “history” site for the region (Finger Lakes/Genesee Valley Heritage). It can also create a bridge to instructional use of these materials especially for the NYS 4-7 grade curriculum. The site might serve as

a means to bring together those curricula that have been or are being developed in the region. School librarians could be part of the process that would get these resources out to teachers. (Patty Uttaro mentioned MCLS "Many Roads to Freedom"; Stanley mentioned work done by UR Rare Books Department.)

d) Member grants; the committee felt that some seed money for libraries may result in some interesting projects being proposed.

It was suggested by the Committee that consideration also be given to moving CONTENTdm to the "unlimited" level sooner than 2009/2010, particularly since there is strong interest in this project and there already are many digitized files in the region. (Patty mentioned the over 400,000 that have been done by RPL/MCLS.)

The Committee also discussed methods to get more training to libraries and expressed an interest in the OPAL service. Kathy noted that Debby Emerson is already investigating this as a regional option for creating and having access to webinars.

RFP RBDB 09

Kathy stated that if there are to be Member Grants, the RFP needs to be approved and ready to go to members in early September. As we are uncertain at this point [waiting to learn about IMLS XC2 grant] whether there will be member grants, it was decided that the Committee could review the RFP at a later date, should it become needed.

The Committee having completed its tasks, adjourned at 11:45.