

Consultant Service

Questions:

One of the “activities” in the new RRLC Plan of Service is to help libraries share “expertise” with each other.

The example often mentioned is “specialty cataloging”, e.g. music cataloging. Library A needs music materials cataloged but doesn’t have a music cataloger. Library B has a music cataloger who might be “loaned” to Library A, if all parties were agreed. Alternatively, the music cataloger from Library B might be interested in “moonlighting” after hours to pick up a few extra dollars.

Have you ever had the need for a specialized skill – such as in the music cataloger example – and not known how to fill it? If so, please explain more.

Explain the work that needs to be done in these ways:

- Short or long term?
- Short time frame or on-going
- Supervised or unsupervised (note: supervised work may not qualify as a “consultancy”)
- At your library or anywhere?
- Certain set hours or open ended (note: set hours may not qualify as a “consultancy”)

Do you generally have funds to pay for this or could you so budget?

RRLC is considering acting as pass-through agent because it is often easier for a library to pay RRLC than an independent consultant. Would this help your library or do you think you could contract directly with a person?

Do you already know of consultants? If not, what role do you see RRLC taking?

What kind of assurances would you like from RRLC that the consultant you are hiring has the skills/knowledge you desire?

Do you have staff that you think have skills that other libraries could use and would you object to that staff member “moonlighting” as an RRLC consultant?

What would you be looking for in such a service that we haven’t already covered in our discussions?