



## **Notes: Committee on Information Technology (CITE)**

December 9, 2011

Attendance: Shirley Bower, Mary Carlin, Sara Greenleaf, Corey Ha, Kathy Miller, Betsy Morris, Mary Jo Orzech, Laura Osterhout, Julia Sollenberger

Unable to attend: Mike Bell, Ted Ciambor, Chris Harris, Heather Lagoy, Patty Uttaro

### **Plan of Service 2011-2016 Review**

The Committee reviewed each element in the draft Plan of Service. One “correction” noted: Item 4.8 Direct Access is currently in place, so there should be “x” in the columns for 2011/2013. The element statement should indicate that there is an intent to allow additional categories of library users to participate in this program in the latter part of this PoS.

The Committee agreed that the continuing education program is the most valuable service RRLC provides. Other valuable services are advocacy and bringing libraries together.

Areas that might be explored: informing libraries of grant opportunities; training in basic technology for library employees (those that might not normally attend RRLC programs); westside training sessions.

### **Automation Projects/Activities Update**

Kathy reviewed the status of RRLC automation projects: continuing education, WorldCat access; New York Heritage; historical newspaper digitization, and member grants. Funding for the 2011 RBDB projects has not yet been received, but is expected (the amount expected is still uncertain).

Committee members shared information on technology changes occurring in their libraries/systems. Some of the common themes: digital media labs (fab labs!); digital scholarship; digital/institutional repositories; discovery platforms; e-book platforms; data mining.

### **2012 funding & priorities**

A draft RBDB 2012 proposed budget was reviewed. The amount of funding is anticipated to be less again in 2012: total of \$ \$166,682. Recommended projects to continue: Continuing Education, WorldCat access, New York Heritage digitization. Approximately \$16,000 would be available for newspaper digitization and/or member grants.

Kathy and Laura proposed that the CE project (\$92,036) be reduced approximately \$10,000 and that money be set aside for “incubator projects” that the Council would undertake – seed money for projects developed by RRLC groups that would be of interest to the membership. Committee members agreed, as long as the quality of the RRLC CE Program was not compromised. The Committee also discussed “member projects” – should they continue as there is only a small amount of funding that is available? Kathy noted that RRLC would like to see some funding continue for the newspaper digitization as that is very popular and useful to all types of libraries. After discussion, the Committee agreed to the following:

- Reduce the CE budget by approximately \$10,000, as long as the quality of the RRLC CE Program is not compromised;
- Of the approximate \$16,000 available for member grants/newspaper, provide approximately \$3,000 for newspaper digitization and \$13,000 for member grants.

## LSTA

Kathy outlined some possible proposal ideas for LSTA 2012 funding that will be available next year. The amount is approximately \$16,000. In the past, RRLC has used all of that for continuing education. There is the possibility of joining with other systems to do a cooperative project, related to e-books, shared repositories, coordinated collections using GIST GDM, or possibly a project that would extend the ability of NY Heritage to harvest content from non-ContentDM sites. Discussions with other systems are only preliminary at this point. It was suggested that LSTA money might be used for RRLC CE programming, in place of the RBDB training money, thus freeing up more money for "member projects". RRLC will explore this possibility, however, the funding streams and timing of each of these programs differs significantly, as does the timeframe for receipt of funds (if there is any funding at all), and would likely have a negative impact on RRLC's budget.

## **Next steps**

The Committee reviewed the draft RPF for RBDB 2012. They agreed that item 3 under General Information on page 3 (which gave priority to projects adding content to NY Heritage) should be deleted. Other than that, the RFP was approved.

The proposals of CITE will be submitted to the Advisory Committee of Library Directors and the Board of Trustees in January 2012.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.