LSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019
STATE LIBRARY INFORMATION CENTER
1-3 PM

Present: Allan Kleiman, Jeffrey Trzeciak, Arlen Kimmelman, Phillip Berg, Richard Kearney, Andrew Brenza, Susan Quinn, Amy Babcock-Landry, Joe Toth

NJSL Staff: Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer, Margaret Nizolek, Bob Keith, Michele Stricker

Absent: Mary Chute, Adam Szczepaniak, Peggy Cadigan

The meeting was called to order shortly after 1 pm.

The minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting were approved. [Who made first and second motion?]

Susan abstained since she was not present at the meeting.

Database statistics: They continue to decline with the exception of our business resources. It helps that Bill Loges from RefUSA does in person training in New Jersey. There is a link on the MAIN web site to all database marketing materials. Could one be set up on NJSL’s Jersey Clicks website? (Kathleen will check). It was asked if there could be a marketing push for Rosetta Stone, as it is considered a valuable resource that is under-utilized. It may be coming to a time when the State Library licenses subject-specific resources and moves away from generic resources. Allan noted that ProQuest and Ebsco advertise on NPR that they have resources available in libraries but they don’t say what those resources are. Kathleen passed out copies of Newark Public Library’s database page where they have widgets for both Ebsco resources in general as well as for Consumer Reports. Kathleen has also sent information on the marketing materials to NJSL Direct and the LLNJ list serv. As for Rosetta Stone, statistics have dropped since the new version was introduced. Certain languages only have one level of instruction, others have three and some have five. This is confusing to the librarians and the patrons. Some at the meeting mentioned that free apps do a better job in teaching new languages.

State Librarian’s report: Kathleen handed out the latest State Librarian’s report. She emphasize the Digital Public Library of America, Library Link NJ and the Library Construction Bond Act, as well as Peggy Cadigan’s Citizen Re-Entry project funded by IMLS. Margaret highlighted the many programs they are offering in-house; Michele mentioned the Experienced Directors’ Summit, UX boot camp training, Library Card Sign-Up Month and the CCCiL IMLS grant. Adam did not have an update for the Talking Book and Braille Center.
Sheri gave the budget report for both LSTA and network lines. There were no questions for her. Sheri did mention that Mary Chute was holding a small amount of LSTA funds in reserve for potential projects of statewide value.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Kathleen mentioned that Amy Babcock-Landry had served two terms on the Council so was not available to be re-appointed. Kathleen has reached out to NJLA to appoint another of their members to the group.

Kathleen told the group that the NY Times had offered all NJ public libraries in house access for a cost of $120,000 annually. At the moment only 42 NJ public libraries offer this resource. When the statewide survey of database interest was done last year, only 4 librarians indicated an interest in the NY Times; 10 were interested in the historical edition which is not what is being offered. Phillip mentioned that they do not have SIP authentication and that the interface was not very smooth. The Council did not endorse licensing this resource with LSTA funds.

Kathleen mentioned that the current Senate appropriation for IMLS was $2 million more than the previous fiscal year. This is less than the House version, so it is expected that a compromise will be reached on the final number.

Questions from the Council:

Will NJSL be doing anything statewide to inform public libraries about the upcoming Census 2020. Kathleen mentioned the work that Teri Taylor is doing at the State Library Information Center and that they would be working together to get information to the public libraries in a timely manner.

Can we get database statistics from other states to see if they are also dropping? Kathleen will ask Bob if he can broach this subject when he is at the State Data Coordinators’ meeting in December.

Can Ebsco code the type of library on the statistics they provide so that a state library staff member doesn’t have to do this? Kathleen will ask.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 from 10-12 at the Talking Book and Braille Center in conjunction with the Library Network Review Board.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:30. Motion made by Amy, seconded by Arlene. Approved by the Council.

Submitted by Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer

Deputy State Librarian for Library Support Services