

LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2011

NJSL Talking Book and Braille Center

Members Present:

Susan Kaplan, Chair; Brian Auger, Pam Price, Mary Romance, Gloria Urban, Hilda Weisburg

Absent:

Marian Bauman, Ruth Bogan, Norman Gluckman, Ann Yurcaba

NJSL Staff:

Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer, LSTA Coordinator for NJSL; Bob Keith, Natasha Peter, Sheri Shafer, Michele Stricker, Ruth Pallante

Meeting called to order by chair Susan Kaplan.

Minutes of July 6, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Statewide Strategic Plan and LSTA future funding – Kathleen Peiffer and Sheri Shafer

As agreed at joint meeting with LNRB July 6th, because quotes for Strategic Planning Project came in as too costly, LibraryLinkNJ will be given a grant to carry out project. NJSL has not yet received proposal from LibraryLinkNJ. Sheri will contact Cheryl O'Connor about proposal.

LSTA funding for FY13 is uncertain at this time. Although the program year for LSTA begins October 1st, funding has not yet been decided upon. It has passed the Senate flat funded, but it still needs to go to House. Last year, NJSL did not receive funding figures until March, with a \$357,000 cut from the previous year.

LSTA and NJSL budget information – Sheri Shafer

Sheri handed out two budget sheets. One sheet covered Grant Year 2010 LSTA funding projects through September 2011, and the other is an overall snapshot of FY2012 Statewide Projects which covers July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Statewide database statistics – Bob Keith

Bob handed out an extensive breakout of State database usage statistics for FY2009-2011, covering sessions, searches and views.

There was discussion of marketing, training and surges in usages at specific times. Ms. Urban said tutorials of what databases actually cover and how to use them is key for use in public, school and academic libraries.

Michele said that training and webinars would continue in the fall for Ebsco and RefUA.

Bob was asked to confirm with each vendor that the figures cover all users.

BTOP statistics and update – Natasha Peter

Natasha did not have handouts but gave the following statistics:

Accomplishments (figures are as of June 30):

- Since October of last year 845 computers have been delivered to 124 libraries
- Connectivity upgrades have been done for 76 of the 85 public libraries in program
- 521 out of 800 classes planned have been delivered on job seeker/computer skills
- Since March, small businesses have accessed Frost & Sullivan for 1,000 market research reports.
- Job & Careers – averaging 600 new users a month, most used is job search tools
- Resumes – averaging 1,000 a month, and since no one person can create more than 3 in a month, that is good figure.
- NJN content videos have been accessed 100 views per month. One popular video is for ex-offenders reentering workforce.
- From December 30 to September 30th the 520 job-seeker training classes have had a total attendance of 4,500.

Discussion on popularity of classes and that libraries want more. Limit is 800 now, with the last planned for February 2012. Natasha responded that she will investigate with Sheri whether more classes can be offered.

A question was asked about e-rate training similar to last year's effort. Last year the Gates Foundation paid for a consultant group to assist BTOP libraries with the e-rate process, including in-person and webinar training. Bob said there was good feedback on this program and that the libraries found this very helpful. This year E-rate Central will still be assisting libraries with their applications, but not conducting training. E-rate window dates have not yet been announced.

LSTA five-year evaluation and new plan – Bill Wilson, Himmell and Wilson Library Consultants

Mr. Wilson explained COSLINE (Chief Officers of State Libraries in the Northeast – 10 states) decided to use a single vendor to do the Evaluation of LSTA Grants to States Program. They are not evaluating other LSTA program grants.

He explained that the Grants to States Program is a population-driven formula with a base amount. The problem now is that this allocation is based on percentage of total national population, not just total population (which is bad for New Jersey because its population is dropping). Even if LSTA funds stay stable, NJ would get less.

Mr. Wilson said they are about halfway through evaluation. They visited the New Jersey State Library and spoke to staff who work on LSTA programs for an overview and broad pictures of what State Library has done and will compare against its 2007-2011 5-year LSTA Plan.

What IMLS requires – In March an evaluation has to be submitted to IMLS. It is not graded or rated, not even given approval. It is just accepted. In comparison, the Five-Year Plan due in June has to be approved by IMLS. They often go back to States for changes.

Some purposes have been revised. Under CE, staff development will be ok. Promotion (marketing) will be allowed if aligned with LSTA purposes.

Where we are:

With New Plan –

- Visit to NJSL staff
- Conducted five focus groups around state
- 10-15 individuals identified representing different libraries, leadership, interests for 20-30 minute telephone interviews.
- LSTA Advisory Council today

They have been asking what's been meaningful and useful and looking forward, what would you change.

General observations – fund reduced significantly in 2011 – by \$357,000.

Support retaining of TBBC, databases, JerseyConnect and would like some small grant programs, pilot projects.

Question emerged – where does innovation live in New Jersey Libraries? NJ has reputation of being innovator – JerseyConnect, Q&ANJ, training, etc. Concerns of whether there is money for innovation, not only State Library but through statewide cooperative or individual libraries.

Message he received from focus groups and interviews is that priorities that have been established are appropriate and the right ones. Some discussions:

TBBC – expensive program, NJ leader, innovator and among best nationally. For the library community the Kiosk program makes the local connection. Looking forward to future – TBBC is being transformed by digital access. Old model takes a lot of physical media, shipping, and staff. How will TBBC change in next five years as it becomes more digital?

QandA – mixed reaction. Some heavily support, understand it is expensive, but want to continue some kind of 24/7 service. Libraries have two pillars – databases and 24/7 access. Libraries like that they are able to say they have 24/7 access.

Databases – all agree there is no way libraries can afford databases themselves. Appropriate to spend funds on this. It was suggested a measured approach. What is being used? One expressed opinion that fewer better and concentrate on training.

JerseyConnect – mixed. More important to some than others depending upon how much it is used by a particular library. JerseyConnect is such a mix of services it causes some confusion when libraries are asked to rate it.

Other pieces – innovation – some larger events have had transformative impact in past – seniors, teens. Impact other libraries as they think of ways to deliver their services. Long term, they'd like room for support of these kinds of efforts.

There was a question on how focus groups were developed which Kathleen answered. Through our listservs, then contacting LibraryLinkNJ, consortia to get out message. Mr. Wilson thought geographic distribution was very good. All but one had more attendees than had signed up. He thought they also accomplished mix of diverse libraries.

Asked about board members, Mr. Wilson said they had not been contacted yet, but libraries' trustees would have opportunity in third evaluation piece which will be a websurvey.

There was more discussion on databases, JerseyConnect, TBBC impact, use and costs. When getting into question of costs per use, Mr. Wilson said in-depth evaluation could be conducted independently.

Mr. Wilson did note that the message from IMLS is that, when possible, to accentuate the positive. They want to take good information to Congress and Administration.

Mr. Wilson asked for those who work in public libraries, “in the past couple years, what programs have made the most impact on users or made a difference in your library”

Susan – public libraries - statewide databases

Hilda – for school libraries – also databases

Many members agreed databases

JerseyConnect – some libraries don’t realize upgraded connectivity adds value to services

Gloria – JerseyCat

Discussion on alternatives to various programs

TBBC – no one else can pick up

JerseyCat – has to be done as statewide service to accomplish ILL

Databases – could be done locally, but at much higher cost, economy of scale

There was discussion on economy of scale. Need for e-book content, DVD rentals – Netflix.

Discussion of innovation grants, pilot projects.

Mr. Wilson will attend next meeting to continue discussions as the next LSTA 5-year plan is an important one. “Where is the next big thing that will keep libraries viable.”

Old Business – none

New Business – Conflict of Interest Policy

Members were sent policy to review before meeting. A motion was made to accept Conflict of Interest Policy, motion was seconded and a vote was taken to accept Policy as written.

Next Meeting date –

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at TBBC.

Meeting was adjourned.

10/14/11

RMP