

WPLC Board Meeting
Minutes
April 16, 2008
South Central Library System

Present: Lin Swartz-Truesdell (KCLS), Stef Morrill (SCLS), Mike Sheehan (NWLS), Mark Arend (Winnefox), Mellanie Mercier (WCFLS), David Weinhold (ESLS), Steve Platteter (MWFLS), Krista Ross (SWLS), Inese Christman (WVLS), Noreen Fish (WRLS), John Thompson (IFLS), Ruth Ann Montgomery (ALS), Mark Merrifield (NLS), Peggy Shaffer (LLS) and Linda Miller, Project Manager.

1. Reports from the WPLC Partners

SCLS allowed patrons to select technical titles for inclusion in the NetLibrary collection. In three months, the \$5,000 budget was spent.

2. Budget

A year to date budget report was distributed.

3. OverDrive

A review of the usage statistics shows that patrons continue to actively use the digital library services. Circulation was up 87% over first quarter of 2007. New patron registrations were up 27% over first quarter of 2007. The audio book collection increased by almost 1,000 titles since the end of the first quarter of 2007.

Northstar Economics contacted Linda Miller and requested statistics for OverDrive and NetLibrary use for the economic impact study.

Menomonee Falls Public Library was trained in April to go live on May 1st.

The support wiki has been updated. Partners were encouraged to link to the site and to encourage member libraries to do the same. The information is provided to assist both library staff and patrons.

David Weinhold moved to accept the contract renewal from OverDrive (Digital Library Reserve) for a three year period. Mark Merrifield seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Linda Miller shared information on the new format which OverDrive has announced that it will offer beginning in Summer 2008. The new collection will offer titles in a digital rights-free format, which will be compatible with more MP3 players, including iPods. OverDrive is working with publishers to encourage them to join the project. Some titles may duplicate those in the current collection. Board members asked that the Selection Committee review the selections after the collection is available.

Reviews of the digital audio resources are now available at no additional cost through OverDrive. The reviews are provided by AudioFile. Marathon County currently uses the service. The Board agreed to add this service.

OverDrive is developing a bookmobile to visit customer sites to showcase the resources available. The Wisconsin State Fair and Central Wisconsin Fair were identified as good possibilities to host the bookmobile. Information will be collected.

SCLS is sending a staff member to OverDrive's annual conference, Digipalooza. There was discussion of whether to include this expense in future WPLC budgets.

4. NetLibrary

Kathy Schneider reported via e-mail that the Selection Committee did not find any value to pursuing NetLibrary audio unless there is significant added content which is not available through OverDrive. She also stated that the question of e-books through OverDrive is more difficult and is mostly a financial question. David Weinhold continues to be interested in developing a collection of e-books from OverDrive and encouraged the Selection Committee to evaluate the collection against that available from NetLibrary. He reported that ESLS continues to have new patrons registering for the NetLibrary service. Mellanie Mercier reported that WCFLS continues to see use of the NetLibrary collection and is considering purchasing additional titles.

5. New Technology Gadgets

Stef Morrill reported that SCLS has ordered the gadgets for the new technology collection but is waiting for the Kindle. A loan period of three weeks for the collection was set. Two collections will be available for circulation beginning June 1st. Reservations will be made via a form which will be available May 1st.

Plans are to use funds from the Research and Development budget line in 2009 to continue to develop the collection.

6. Annual Meeting Schedule

The bylaws state that "one meeting per year shall be designated as an annual meeting, at which several representatives from each Partner shall be encouraged to attend. In addition to other business, this meeting shall be used to evaluate the activities and progress of WPLC to date and to consider the future of the Consortium." The decision of whether to implement a Chair for WPLC could also be decided at that meeting. The bylaws state that if a Chair and Recording Secretary are to be chosen, they are to be elected at the first meeting of the calendar year.

Members agreed that they like the idea of gathering a larger group to discuss WPLC and its projects. The

possibility of doing so through a program at WLA was raised and embraced. A meeting for the 2008 WLA conference will be pursued. The purpose of the meeting will be to showcase WLA projects.

David Weinhold proposed that a committee be appointed to study the idea later this year of a Chair and Recording Secretary.

7. Project Proposals/New Projects

No new projects were suggested.

8. Next Meeting

The Budget Committee of Phyllis Davis, Stef Morrill, David Weinhold, Kathy Schneider, and Linda Miller will meet to draft a budget for presentation at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the WPLC board will be on Thursday, July 10, 2008, 10:00 AM at the SCLS office.