

Council on Library and Network Development

January 12, 2018
Conference Call

COLAND met on Friday, January 12 for what was planned to be—and of necessity became—a very short virtual call in meeting. Virtual meetings are a convenient way of gathering the geographically disparate membership together when the weather or other factors make it difficult to otherwise convene a quorum but unfortunately the technology isn't always reliable. The phone connection dropped several times during this meeting necessitating delays as members tried to log back on & the proceedings stalled when roll was taken 3 times to ensure the original quorum was maintained.

As part of the PLSR update, it was noted that a series of focus groups have been coordinated by Madison-based Russell Consulting & Jeff Russell provided an overview of the focus group process itself & gave a report on the three focus group sessions that were recently held throughout the state: in the Northeast on January 9th, the Northwest on January 10th and in the South Central part of the state on January 11th. This combination of locations ensured participation by representatives from all 16 Wisconsin library systems. A series of open ended questions were presented, with responses still being compiled given how recently the group sessions were held.

Two areas that consistently arose during the focus sessions involved equity of services & retention of local control. Despite the anticipated changes to the roles of public library systems, it was recognized that there is not a single formula for delivery of services because of the differences in the service priorities of individual library systems. Much attention was given to exploring these differences, in an effort to ensure that equitable library services are provided across the state.

Once the final results of the focus groups have been tabulated, Russell Consulting will develop a survey that will be distributed to public libraries and library systems between February 12th & 26th. That timeline is consistent with completion of the final Steering Committee recommendations report which is due to the State Superintendent on April 2, 2018.

Part of the DLT report summarized the November 30, 2017 meeting of the LSTA Advisory Committee, which took action to approve five projects involving federal grants to Wisconsin libraries amounting to between \$350,000 - 400,000 in 2017, funds that must be expended by September 30, 2018. These grants were for projects involving: Digitization Kits at \$60,000; Using Library Data Effectively \$75,000; Community Engagement Needs Assessment \$75,000; School Libraries and Public Youth Librarians cooperation called Connect and Create! \$50,000; and Continuing Education on Serving Older Adults at \$100,000.

In addition, the Advisory Committee broke into discussion groups to consider the broad areas for possible 2018 LSTA projects. The possibilities include the following topics: Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources; Library Leadership Development; Outcome Measurement Grants; and Support & Youth and Inclusive Services Grants and Support.

DLT staff also reported that under terms of the DPI Workforce and Libraries initiative, a DPI team met with Department of Workforce Development leadership on what is to be a series of ongoing discussions to create new strategic opportunities for partnership. One possibility that was discussed at this initial meeting was application for a federal library grant to further explore this concept of greater interaction between libraries & the DWD.

The DPI's Teacher Education, Professional Development and Licensing team has been reviewing proposals for changes to school library media preparation programs at the undergraduate level as drafted by the Institutions of Higher Education. To date, none of the suggested changes to the Library Media Specialist curriculum have been finalized and approved by DPI but consideration continues to be given as changes are proposed.

The next COLAND meeting is on March 9, tentatively scheduled at the Port Washington High School.

Submitted by Doug Lay