LEANWI

COLAND Meeting Report
For LEAN WI Partner Directors

November 11, 2019

This report summarizes the presentations, discussions, and actions taken during the November 8, 2019 meeting of the Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND), held at the Wisconsin State Law Library in Madison, WI. It tracks closely with the order of the meeting agenda for ease of reference. At the time of writing, a draft of the minutes for the November meeting is not yet available to share.

Report of the Chair

Martha Van Pelt (Chair) proposed a resolution to commend and thank Kathy Pletcher for her significant and multiple contributions to the Wisconsin Library Community; the Council so resolved.

The Council was reminded of the imminent retirement of John DeBacher. Several DPI staff and various Council members recognized Mr. DeBacher, offering testimonials his impact on them and the Wisconsin Library Community generally. Kurt Kiefer noted that the resource Mr. DeBacher represents, hosting a wealth of historic and practical knowledge, will be missed.

DPI sought a sense of direction from the Council for planning and practices regarding start and end times. General sentiment was for the Council to continue letting DPI manage planning and practices as appropriate per meeting.

Current Issues Presentation

[link to slides]   [link to reference list]

DPI was asked to help public (and other) libraries collect more data to help inform business decisions in respect to the collection of fines or eliminating fines.

In respect to demonstrating the value of libraries, the Future Ready Librarians framework was introduced. Mr. Kiefer noted that DPI is invested in the framework.

In respect to addressing licensing dilemmas with publishers and equitable access to changing media formats, the Council was apprised of the Macmillan embargo on eContent sales of new titles and the practical response adopted by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC): [Macmillan Changes – Info for Patrons] and [WPLC Purchasing and the Macmillan Embargo] .

It was further noted that:
- WPLC is 2nd largest purchasing consortium of OverDrive .
- By request of the American Library Association (ALA), the United States Congress has initiated an inquiry into eContent publishers.
- ALA is working directly with authors.
- Public libraries can work with WPLC and DPI to help collect data on eContent AND print materials AND other materials expenditures for specific vendors to better understand any positions of leverage which may be useful in vendor negotiations.

DPI will be working on reframing some of the Wisconsin eContent statistics comparatives which considered with subtext are positive, though they may at first appear negative in the initial presentation.

PLSR Update

Ben Miller gave a verbal status report regarding internal staffing considerations, Internal staff meetings, and noted that DPI has been presenting the PLSR to other various stakeholder bodies since the initial presentation at the previous COLAND meeting.

It was noted that the LSTA Advisory Committee endorsed the LSTA budget plan for 2020

DPI Updates / COSLA / Legislative Updates

Mr. Kiefer blended the DPI and Legislative Updates since they aligned.

COSLA and ALA are advocating for at least $1 per capita funding for IMLS (roughly double that of current levels) but are working on messaging which doesn't create an implicit "now we're done lifting funding" mentality if this new goal is hit. The idea being that it would be easier to continue advocating for additional funding elevations beyond this goal, if ever meaningful.

IMLS funding is "stuck" behind a pending continuing resolution in congress, delayed as congress focuses on other high-profile issues.

Mr. Kiefer highlighted progress with the Measures that Matter initiative and noted the Measures that Matter Action Plan being followed.

I asked if there were updates to share regarding the TEACH Infrastructure Grants.

- It was noted that there are plans for an Imminent announcement of the new status of that grant.
- Also noted was the upcoming Public Library System Directors meeting which will have (had) this on the agenda.
- To frame changes of impact, it was noted that the TEACH Grants program formerly included $1.5 million for training and $7.5 million for infrastructure ($9 million total) but that the new budget has $3 million for infrastructure only.

Introduction of DPI Staff

Shannon Schultz, Cindy Fesemyer, and Michael Dennison, of the Public Library Development Team were introduced to the COLAND members.

Mr. Dennison was asked to share one big thing he would love to see in respect to annual reports that would make things better. He responded that he'd love to see automated harvesting of allowable facets of ILS data from public Library Systems (as already done with Schools and Student Information Systems).

Ms. Schultz noted that there is a public library ceasing operations at the end of 2019. Discussion referenced anecdotes of libraries claiming they'd need to close but managing to find a way to stay open, though it was indicated that this library will be closing "for sure".

Washington County tried to encourage townships to work toward joining nearby libraries. Libraries were not part of original efforts and resisted. Library stakeholders contacted the County and will be researching and exploring data to identify the reason for Washington Co residents patronage of other counties' libraries. They will be working to develop a proposal informed by that data within a one-year timeframe.

Community Engagement Presentation

[**link to slides**]   [**link to reference list**]

Cindy Fesemyer described community engagement as "… *leaving your library, engaging your community, weaving yourself into the fabric of your community, and working with others to get involved in positive actions and projects.*"

Ms. Fesemyer's presentation introduced the Council to Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC), an ALA led initiative involving the training of five staff from each of ten libraries with a curriculum based on Harwood Institute's Turning Outward approach. Ms. Fesemyer indicated that Wisconsin will be modeling LTC with a new Wisconsin Libraries Transforming Communities project. This project will be looking for two types of applicants: "Librarians to look outward" to directly experience and benefit from utility of the training and "coaches" to directly experience the training with librarians who may then form an initial leadership/coaching resource pool for future training. The initial target size for the librarian pool is about twenty, with a goal to receive and accept at least one applicant per Public Library System.

I asked if it was intended for the "coaches" applicants to be inclusive of Public Library System Staff. Ms. Fesemyer's response indicated that was what DPI was hoping for as Library System service models align with the "train the trainer" concept intended. DPI is still refining that and talking about it, but the concept was discussed in terms of "by default that makes sense, as long as it also makes sense within the context of the training curriculum and content."

DPI will be presenting more information in December 2019 and making the applications available.

Data and analytics were again referenced, being meaningful to this context as well; specifically, the idea of training prospective community engagement leaders in the use of available data and data analytics resources to help inform the engagement process. I pointed out the similar concepts and connection between the ideas of data analytics described and the work involved in the development of the 2016 WPLC Analytics Workgroup Recommendation.

Future Meetings

I volunteered to present the Council with several library venues in the northern half of the State which have the capacity to host a COLAND meeting for consideration for one of the unscheduled mid 2020 blocks or any number of the unscheduled 2021 blocks.

Other venues of interest are also being investigated for the unscheduled 2020 blocks including tribal and academic libraries.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Rural Library Data Report, Delivery, and WLA were carried forward from previous future meeting topics. An update on Cyber Security in Wisconsin was suggested. A question about the usage of mobile apps led to some clarification discussion and refined questions: What apps are there? What usage/utilization statistics for Public Libraries are available? I suggested a pointed investigation of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten app may be worthwhile and establish a template for investigating other library service-related apps.

Announcements

Bryan McCormick announced that the Hedberg Public Library (Janesville) is establishing a new [express branch at the Janesville mall](). This effort was enabled by a rent-free tenancy offer from the Mall.

I mentioned that former WVLS ILS Administrator, [Kyle Schulz](), accepted a position with the U.W. Madison Memorial Library and that WVLS was in the process of filling the open position.

Svetha Hetzler announced that the Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation has created a part time Executive Director position and is [seeking qualified applicants]().

Respectfully submitted by:

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