

WRLSWEB Network Advisory Committee Meeting

February 5, 2009

Sparta Free Library

Minutes

Members present: Patti Bergland, Karen Bernau, Jill Bjornstad, Cindy Brown, Karen Carr, Bridget Christenson, Deb Dagnon, Jim Eliason, Laurie Erickson, Trina Erickson, Muriel Gunderson, Meredith Houge, Peggy Klein, Carol Krett, Deb Lambert, Chris McArdle Rojo, Kris McNamer, David Polodna, Jeanne Rice, Karyn Schmidt, Lynette Vlasak, Mary Waarvik, Rita Wachuta-Breckel

Guests: Kristen Anderson, Charles Clemence, Randy Dagnon, Noreen Fish, Myrna Paulson, Marcia Sarnowski, Lisa Ann Widner

The meeting was convened by Polodna at 10:08 am.

- I. **Greetings and Introductions/Roll Call.** Roll call was taken as indicated above.
- II. **Approval of minutes from December 4 meeting.** *Motion by Karyn Schmidt, seconded by Laurie Erickson, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2008 meeting as presented.* It was noted that item IX of the agenda referred to the December 2008 meeting when it should have referred to the February 2009 meeting. *The original motion was revised by the mover and second to accept the minutes with the correction. Carried.*
- III. **WRLS Regional Intranet -- Status Report:** Polodna reported that as staff looked into the technical issues relating to implementing a regional Intranet, it was concluded that this was not an ideal time, and that there are ways within the WRLS web page to address many of the desires which would have been offered by an Intranet. Furthermore, the result can be more timely. So while the Intranet is not removed from future consideration, it will not be pursued at this time.
- IV. **WRLS/SWLS Technology Merger -- Status Report:** Polodna informed the group that the discussion of merging technology has ended. It was not clear that the advantages to WRLSWEB would justify the effort and expense. The director of Southwest Wisconsin Library System has been notified accordingly. While no new action has taken place in regard to the ILS search, the committee assignments are still intact and it is expected that the investigation will get underway again in 2009. Deb Dagnon indicated that with the passage of time, another vendor or two might now be interesting to us. The upcoming ALA conference would be an opportunity to become familiar with some vendor products. Jeanne Rice indicated she was attending the conference and would devote some time to investigating integrated library systems.
- V. **Revised WRLSWEB Pricing Structure:** Another copy of the illustrative SWLS pricing structure as applied to WRLSWEB was included in the packet. Polodna asked for comments on the interest in pursuing a new structure, perhaps similar to the SWLS model. Some felt that the acquisition of a new ILS could alter the factors relating to a fee structure so it might be best to wait until we have the new ILS. Others felt it was time to make a change, and no change was in stone so, if necessary, adjustments could be made as needed in the future. The point was made that the formula used should not discourage desired activities, for instance, the SWLS formula appears to penalize a library like Hillsboro because they have a unique collection and do a lot of lending. The concept of a lending credit was proposed though no method of implementing it was offered. WRLS staff will experiment with the formula to see if there is a way to achieve greater fairness,

and will try to have a revision ready for the April NAC meeting.

VI. WRLSWEB Transactions for 2008: Polodna distributed a chart showing the lending and borrowing experiences of all the libraries using WRLSWEB in 2008, including a column showing the percentage of borrowing to lending. Discussion followed about the significance of imbalances for libraries that either lend much more than they borrow or borrow much more than they lend. Polodna indicated that there were factors which can affect the balance, and no library should become distraught over an imbalance. Rather, the chart is just one piece of information that can help a library analyze the effectiveness of its policies and practices.

VII. Cooperative Collection Development & Regionally Accessible Databases: Polodna introduced the agenda item by saying that with the expansion of WRLSWEB, users are not concerned about where an item is owned as long as it is available, and this suggests that it might be time to look into a cooperative collection development scheme for the WRLS region. The idea would not be that any library would be compelled to buy something it didn't wish to own, but rather that each library would acknowledge its unique interests and focus on those when buying materials, freeing other libraries from needing to acquire the same materials if they don't share that interest. The scheme would still recognize each library's need to purchase in order to address the needs of its own community, but could mean that one particular library need not own, for example, every season of a popular television series as long as each season was owned within the region. As part of the broad concept of regional collection development, Polodna stated that WRLS has concluded that 1) it is time we demonstrate the importance and value of subscription databases, and 2) the only effective way to do this and assure universal access is for the system to find funding to purchase databases centrally and not expect each library to, initially at least, build these costs into their own budget. Responses to these concepts was solicited. There seemed to be general support for the idea but many questions about specifically how it would be implemented. Library autonomy was presented as something that needed to be preserved in any scheme. It was suggested that the resource grants could be used to help fund the databases, but Polodna stated that he had other ideas for funding he would investigate first. To proceed, there will be a need for libraries to identify their strengths and interests, and to decide which databases are most desirable.

VIII. Additional Issues or Concerns: Jim Eliason asked what impact HR1 would likely have on libraries; no one knew for certain.

A question was raised about how soon the online form for the annual report would be ready and how to get a copy of the paper form. Karyn Schmidt emailed the link to the PDF for the paper form during the meeting.

Karen Carr alerted the others to improper UpStart orders, and encouraged everyone to check their orders carefully to be sure they received what they requested.

Mary Waarvik asked if a new problem had arisen to slow down Horizon response time. Others echoed that they were seeing some slow times but that they were erratic. Deb Dagnon advised everyone to call David Goldfein at the moment they were experiencing slow response.

IX. Topic for Next Meeting: None.

X. Next Meeting: April 2, 2009 at the Sparta Free Library, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Polodna