

LSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL
APRIL 4, 2011
MINUTES

Attending: Doug Bean, Middletown Public Library; Kelly Broughton, Alden Library, Ohio University; Catherine Hakala-Ausperk, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library; Deborah Logan, Librarian/Media Specialist Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools; Roger Minier, Northwest Ohio Educational Technology Foundation; Kent Oliver, Stark County District Library; Cherie Pandora, retired Librarian/Media Specialist, Rocky River City Schools; Jeff Regensburger, Worthington Libraries; Jennifer Schwelik, WVIZ/PBS & WCPN/NPR ideastream; Doug Evans, Ohio Library Council; Stephen Hedges, OPLIN; John Magill and Julie Blake, OhioLINK; Cynthia Duchane, INFOhio; Beverly Cain, Jim Buchman, Missy Lodge, and Julia Ward, State Library of Ohio

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Budget updates

Missy Lodge provided the Council with an overview of the federal LSTA budget. Our FFY10 LSTA award, which we have until September 30, 2011 to expend, is \$5,762,731. This includes \$108,602 which was redistributed to states from a pool of funds that had been returned to IMLS in previous years. The federal government has not yet passed a budget for FFY11 and continues to operate on continuing resolutions, the most current of which is set to expire April 9. While the government operates on continuing resolutions, states receive partial awards based on the FFY10 appropriation level. Because Ohio funds most programs in the carryover year, the funding impasse has not impacted us yet. IMLS has indicated that if a government shut-down appears imminent they will notify the states. For FFY11, the President's request is \$265.9 for IMLS (when earmarks are discounted); the LSTA is \$213.5 million.

Concurrently with the FFY11 budget, the President has issued his budget request for FFY12. The President's budget request for IMLS is \$242.6 million which is a 9.5% cut. The LSTA request is \$193.2 million of which \$161.3 million is for the Grants to State Program. Ohio will see a decrease in LSTA funding because of our population loss in the 2010 census. Those figures have yet to be calculated.

Beverly Cain gave an update on the State Budget. The State Library submitted their budget to OBM in November 2010. Governor Kasich released the Executive Budget for SFY12-13 on March 15. The State Library received a 6.9% decrease from SFY11 which was much better than anticipated. If no further cuts are made during the budget process, we will not need to reduce staffing or services. Beverly stated that she provided testimony before the House Higher Education Subcommittee on March 31 and that it went well. Testimony in the Senate should occur shortly after May 5. Since one party controls the House, Senate, and Governor's office it is anticipated that a budget will be in place by July 1.

LSTA Updates

Libraries Connect Ohio databases: Stephen Hedges discussed the LCO databases and provided the Council with a cost sheet for the database licenses. Currently, they are in the middle of a second five year funding commitment from the State Library Board. Prior to the beginning of the second five years, an evaluation was done to assess the suite of databases. This resulted in some changes. Stephen answered questions by Council members on changes in database purchases, vendor negotiations, and the tracking of usage.

KnowItNow 24x7: Missy Lodge provided an update on the KnowItNow24x7 service, which will soon be entering its eighth year. During CY10 82,424 sessions were conducted by KnowItNow24x7 and for the first two quarters of the current grant, there have been 22,284 live chat sessions, 409 email messages and 67 instant messages. The heaviest users remain students, K-12. The current funding is \$537,614. Funding requests have decreased since Tutor.Com is no longer used and the platform is now based on open source. The contract with NEO-RLS for AfterDark coverage remains the largest budget item.

Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled: Jim Buchman gave an overview of the OLBPD which receives \$223,892 in LSTA and \$1,274,194 in state funds, through the PLF, per year. Beginning with the SFY11-12 biennium, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County closed and all operations were moved to Cleveland. The transition went smoothly. The State Library provided several smaller LSTA grants to both Cleveland and Cincinnati to assist with the transition. Additionally, during the last 12 to 18 months, the digital talking book machines have rolled out. The State Library also provided additional LSTA funds for content for the new machines.

A question was raised regarding reversing the amounts awarded to OLBPD so that the majority of the funding came from LSTA. State Library staff responded that this may be possible, but we would need to look carefully at the impact on our MOE/Match requirements.

Special Grants

At the last Advisory Council meeting the Council discussed special grants. The idea was that when the State Library identified a specific need in the library community a special grant program could be initiated. These would be one time opportunities with a simple application and a small limit of federal dollars available per request. These special grants have led many "new" libraries to apply for LSTA. We have done four special grant rounds in the last 18 months. Choose to Read Ohio is an exception because although originally a one-time opportunity, the program has become a key initiative at the State Library. We have now given two rounds of CTRO grants and have received applications for a first-time fall round. To date, aside from CTRO, there have been special grant programs for: VictorReader Stream, Growing Community, and Introducing Gaming, and staff are investigating the possibility of an AWE Early Literacy workstation program in the fall. One of the Board members remarked that he'd seen libraries names on the award list that he'd never seen before.

Someone asked how it was determined when to develop a special grant program. Missy said it varies, but it is always based on a need or request from the library community. Growing Community grew out of a similar, successful program in Colorado and the Introducing Gaming grew out of a request by small public libraries.

Other IMLS projects

Connecting to Collections

In May 2009, the State Library and the Ohio Historical Society were awarded a Connecting to Collections planning grant in the amount of \$40,000. Missy Lodge provided an update on the Connecting to Collections initiative and indicated that the project partners have applied for a Connecting to Collections Implementation grant for just under \$250,000. If the grant is not received, the partners hope to continue the momentum of the planning grant, some activities can be implemented with little or no outside resources.

Project Compass

The State Library of North Carolina and WebJunction received a Laura Bush 21st Century grant which, in the first year, was geared toward workforce recovery activities undertaken by state libraries. They have been awarded a second year of funding and are now focusing on the ten states with unemployment rates over 9.1% unemployment. The 221 eligible public libraries received a letter from the State Librarian and all were sent a follow-up email from Missy Lodge. As of April 4 there are 117 librarians signed up for one of the workshops.

LSTA Reauthorization

Missy Lodge noted that Council members received a copy of the IMLS reauthorization with italics emphasizing changes. The base allotment for each state will be \$680,000. The reauthorization is more specific than in previous years, with a strong focus on economic and community development, health care, disaster preparedness, digital literacy, and lifelong learning. IMLS wants states to leverage activities with other agencies. There is strong language on partnerships and networking and also an emphasis on working with other agencies, such as Head Start and the Workforce and Reinvestment Act. This will help address the Obama administration goals of showing results based on investments. The intent of the legislation is to tell non-librarians how libraries effect, change, and impact lives. Of particular note is the fact that C.E. is back in the LSTA language and it can be used to develop "librarian infrastructure", but not trustee training.

LSTA Five Year Evaluation 2008-2012 and LSTA Five Year Plan 2013-2018

Missy Lodge discussed the LSTA Five Year Evaluation 2008-2012. The timing of the five year evaluations has always been problematic. The evaluation is conducted using 2 years, maybe 3 years of data and it is necessary to quickly develop a Five Year Plan immediately after completing the Evaluation. With the 2013-2018 Five Year Plan, IMLS wishes to develop a new State Program Report, which will focus more on impact evaluation and will standardize reporting.

For the Five-Year Evaluation there are three sets of questions: Retrospective, Process, and Prospective. We are working on an RFP that will be released in mid-April with responses due at the end of May. A contract will be signed in July and a final report due in February.

General discussion and brainstorming for the next Plan

A brainstorming session was then held based on the following:

- What are the successes of the current Plan and what should be kept
- What should be dropped and/or de-emphasized
- What new programs/services/activities should be included

Success/what to keep

- Ohio eBook Project
- Digitization (it was noted that there needs to be a requirement and/or means to link all digitization projects)
- School automation
- Libraries Connect Ohio databases
- KnowItNow24x7
- Every Child Ready to Read

What to drop/de-emphasize

- Hardware program (it was noted that hardware itself could be de-emphasized but that in some projects hardware is used in an innovative way.)
- Resource sharing through OLS: MORE, both in theory and the technical component

New Programs/Services/Activities

- Learning opportunities through databases/software e.g. Mango, World Book Early World of Learning
- Early literacy delivered statewide, virtual early literacy delivery
- Workforce development programs, ex. statewide electronic portfolio for users
- Breakdown barriers to access, ex. single sign-on to access virtual services/databases
- Balance the following: enhance profiles of libraries as a special place, easy access and value added library resources, and pulling in new people
- Unified search of LCO databases
- Jobs and Careers—lack of jobs and workforce development, career literacy, moving from referral agency to actual assisting of users
- E-Government – train staff to help end users, moving from referral agency to actual assisting of users
- Work with middle school students and AIM to help keep students in school
- Pre-literacy programs, in collaboration with other agencies
- Health information
- Professional development including train-the-trainer and certification
- Develop virtual spaces in libraries

- Virtual tutors for e-government, online applications, ESL
- Programs for young adults 18-20+
- Assist librarians, particularly public librarians with strategic and creative planning/thinking
- Life skills training

Missy Lodge thanked the Advisory Council for their input and continued support of the LSTA program. There will be additional meetings of the Council as we move forward with the evaluation and the development of the new Five Year Plan. Those meetings will probably be conducted via phone conference, but State Library staff felt it was important to have this meeting in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.