

ASCLA/SLAS

Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 17, 2010

4:00-5:30, Boston Exhibition & Convention Center, Room 255

Present: Shirley Biladeau, Brian Greene, Holly Henley, Ann Joslin, Maribeth Krupczak, Susan Pannebacker, Kathleen Peiffer, Gina Persichini, Peggy Rudd, Suzy Szasz Palmer

1. Call to order & introductions

- The meeting was called to order and introductions were made

2. (Guest) Larra Clark, Office of Research & Statistics (ORS), ALA (lclark@ala.org)

- Reported on the Gates Foundation grant – 3 years, renewed for another 3, though at the time of the meeting only fully funded for current FY (through 9/10). Will be going to COSLA meeting with additional information. The “spend down” on the grant begins immediately.
- Talked about Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study. Paper report sent to all state libraries; also available online.
- Has been funded since 1994 by various organizations.
- Talked about why the survey is valuable to state and local libraries.
- Office has also done “issue briefs” which are updates that include more current data available online. She distributed the following publications from the PL Funding & Technology Access Study:
 - Job-seeking in U.S. Public Libraries
 - This report can be prepared for each state fairly easily, as shown in the example distributed from New Jersey. The state library needs to do the work, but the data is pulled from the national study.
 - Supporting Learners in U.S. Public Libraries
 - Internet Connectivity in U.S. Public Libraries
 - U.S. Public Libraries and E-Government Services
- There has been good news coverage in Governing (magazine), as well as on major media outlets (print, radio, TV).
- ALA also uses this information for its own advocacy work
- ORS is doing a phased release of the data, rather than all at once.
 - Fall is better time of year for media coverage, but gave the state libraries all the raw files earlier so they can use as needed.
 - They can provide more individualized reports for all states except Michigan and New Hampshire; California and Alabama are pending – not sure they have enough data turned in.
- Also distributed the ALA publication, A Perfect Storm Brewing: Budget cuts threaten public library services at time of increased demand.
 - First look at national data showing effects of budget cuts.
 - Actively trying to push this information out to those involved in the budget debates – every member of Congress will receive a copy immediately after

Midwinter. It is also available online, and could be useful for people to distribute to those involved with budgets at the state level.

- ALA office has membership advocacy group
 - Recommending op-ed pieces
 - Working to create a template, possibly done in up to four geographic areas
 - Have also done 10 site visits; Arizona and Tennessee currently underway and will be reported out.
 - Challenge in some libraries is to explain that technology is integral to what public libraries do, but it's not ALL that they do!
 - Recognize there's some "survey fatigue" out there, but need to continue these projects.
- Perfect Storm can be updated for individual state libraries if they request the raw data from the ALA office.e
- Some small libraries have had trouble completing the survey (survey fatigue), but it's important to do in order to receive Gates grant funds, and useful for other funders. State libraries may need to provide assistance.
- Investigating incorporating this data into existing surveys. Some discussion has taken place with IMLS. May go back to COSLA and ask them to endorse this in going forward with IMLS. There's a Library Stats group that advises IMLS – includes reps from COSLA and other groups.
- Larra noted that from the fall, highest response rate ever, with ID and TX especially high. Nationally, response rate was 72%

3. Approval of minutes from Annual 2009

- Brian moved to adopt the minutes as submitted. Maribeth seconded. The minutes were approved.

4. State Library Discussion Groups

- A few years ago, these became disconnected from SLAS
 - LSTA dg
 - Smaller today than in the past
 - LSTA funds still very important
 - States are getting extra money – should have award packets
 - LSTA coordinators meeting will be in DC in February
 - General Consultants dg
 - Big conversation was about databases – quotes are coming in much lower than in past years; more vendors are calling libraries; PA got a really good deal; NY and TX got open records request from EBSCO; In ID, every vendor (including the winning one) requested all the quotes; they're all looking at each other for content.
 - Maribeth sat in on the ICAN dg that talked about this discussion of databases.
 - How do state consultants stay in touch? Apparently some/many not aware of SLAS-L. Need to keep putting this information out there, including passing it along through COSLA. Not all communication needs to go from state librarian to state librarian. Kathi volunteered

- to ask Norma to post a reminder to the directors via COSLA to encourage their state library staff to join the list.
- Youth Services dg [Susan Pannebaker came late and reported]
 - NJ, MA & NY are going online with summer reading programs; online may make statistics more accurate.
 - Trying to keep youth services staff in many states, e.g, MA is shrinking theirs (they had 5 across the state, now probably 1 or 2)
- Institutional/Prison Libraries dg
 - No report/comments made.

5. Committees

- Need reps from ASCLA to SLAS
 - Peggy >> Legislative; good news from LSTA – going for \$272.5 million (much more than in the past)
 - Talked about “Jobs for Main Street” bill - \$650 million set aside for states – NOT ongoing funding. That’s the unfortunate part of the stimulus money, but state librarians could still use because they’ve had so many layoffs. Money will be distributed through IMLS – 50/50 based on population and unemployment rate. Need based, though not clear how it will be distributed. CANNOT be used to substitute for local funding of existing jobs.
 - \$100 million for national licenses for databases, through IMLS – workforce development and student use after school/tutoring. Not clear how this will work and if IMLS is well staffed and structured to deal with this. But the point is to have nationwide licenses. Most states can buy off their General Services contracts. Could contract be negotiated at the federal level and then states could choose? But the main value of a nationwide contract would lie in the promotion possibilities.
 - Also talked about reorganizing LSTA. No fear of it going away, but Museum and Library Services Act has not been reauthorized and there’s no feeling it will be soon – there’s just too much else going on in DC. There are some changes in LSTA that state librarians wanted, e.g., to spend on basic library development work not just on continuing education; now there is language to change this, but it’s waiting in the reauthorization bill; no one is too concerned.
 - Talked about the UN World Intellectual Property Organization’s problem working with publishers and authors, especially in the international community, to reformat materials for blind or physically handicapped. Obama administration has taken this on as a cause célèbre. Now, only 5% of published material is made available to the blind/physically handicapped.
 - Talked about Preserving America’s Historical Record (PAHR) to support archives and cultural record. Would like to see it come to states with the same formula as LSTA. Has more sponsors than ever before, looks more likely to pass, but hard to say since it does involve more money.

- Peggy also sits on the Library Statistics Working Group, which has started releasing issue briefs.
- ? about Jobs for Main St bill
 - Bill is in Senate. Libraries are working to get the \$650 million into the bill, arguing that use of libraries is going up while funding has been going down; much of the increased usage is actually among those out of jobs, looking for work. Arguing that libraries are first responders in the community to help people look for jobs.
- ? about nationwide contract
 - Would be for ALL types of libraries
- Suzy >> web; she noted problem with updating information on the web; contact at ALA isn't responsive; trouble getting old information off and new information in)
- Membership promotion – new brochures
- ASLCA Awards – someone from Delaware, but not present [Annie Norman?]
- Publications
 - Shirley reported that the committee met and has some ideas for ASCLA publications: Assessment; libraries as learning organizations; library advisory groups; trends and technologies.

6. Annual meeting 2010, DC

- Co-sponsoring programs
 - Multicultural issues [don't have exact title]
 - Regional library cooperation/fundraising
 - Kathi had proposed a program based on the book Groundswell by Forrester Research. She was thinking about a preconference. ASCLA said that was too expensive. Maybe COSLA will help fund, if not at annual maybe next Midwinter. Another thought is to partner with LITA.
 - Kathi will get out more information on both these programs.
- ? about planning cycle for programs at future ALAs – Kathi will let us know.

7. Adjourn

- Gina entered a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mary Beth seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Suzy Szasz Palmer (secretary)
 4/5/10
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