



**STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER**

**OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

**MARCH 15, 2022, 10:00 A.M.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

*Note: Due to technical difficulties, the recording for note-taking did not begin until Section VI. FY 2022 SLRC Annual Plan Update. The note-taker left employment with EPFL after this meeting, and no notes for the first section were able to be recovered.*

**CHAIRPERSON:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Morgan Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, NOVEMBER 16, 2021, MEETING**

**IV. SAILOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) REPORT**

**V. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**VI. FY 2022 SLRC ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE**

**March Update**

Liz Sundermann-Zinger suggested that her deputy chiefs can report on their respective areas as they are doing an excellent job and also suggested to keep this format moving forward.

**Awareness**

Action steps:

**1. All Maryland libraries are aware of SLRC resources and services.**

**a. Digital Maryland Collections (Michael Johnson gave report)**

Added a brand-new collection of oral histories, the Calvert Library Oral History Collection, comprised of interviews from residents with memories of the area including some public officials. Digital MD has been trying to expand different kinds of content in the last year and half. A lot of focus has been placed on oral histories. Work continues on existing collections such as the African-American funeral programs and photographs from the Maryland Department collection. Digital Resources, in collaboration with DC Public Library, also did outreach and press for the Black Lives Matter Memorial Fence in DC. There were press releases on Agence Free Press, ARD German Television, and WBAL.

**b. State Publications Depository and Distribution Program**

Regular communication continues with partners. There were 1,476 born digital documents added to the repository and 1,622 titles were distributed to repository partners.

**c. Information Services**

The Information Services Department met with PG County Memorial Library System to provide guidance and resources about telephone and virtual reference services and developing relationships and choosing products for virtual reference vendors. Participation in a panel discussion for the UMN iSchool Serving Information Needs course is planned for April 2022.

**d. The Special Collection Outreach (Genive Purchase gave report)**

SPC staff presented a virtual program entitled “The Shoulders We Stand On: Fighters for Women’s Suffrage in Maryland” in Baltimore County. This program promoted and highlighted items from the “Year of the Woman” exhibit on display in the Annex.

SPC staff also presented a virtual program entitled “Can I Use That?” which promoted resources from our collection and educated the public on making fair use claims to encourage access and use of historic items in creative projects.

SLRC staff have completed the revision and update of staff training and public programming catalogs to reflect currently available offerings. These catalogs can now be typeset for upload and distribution.

**e. Marina Reimplementation (Paula Mitchell gave report)**

Marina reimplementation is complete. Updated System Profiles and OCLC Refresher Training was provided by Relais. Teams from OCLC and TLC are working together to support FRED’s ILS Migration to Carl-X. And TLC is working on development to further interoperability between Relais and Caril-X.

**f. Statewide Delivery Study**

The Statewide Delivery Study has begun. Vendor that was selected is J. Huber and Associated, LLC. A project plan has been developed and is underway. Internal data on functionality and efficiency is being collected. The next step is to gather data around the state. A survey will be distributed at the next Marina meeting. Anticipated project completion is August/September 2022.

**2. Through SLRC, Maryland libraries have access to digital resources and technology to achieve digital equity statewide.**

**g. Digital Maryland Outreach and Project Discussions (Michael Johnson gave report)**

In conversation and helping out different partners with their materials. Working with the Maryland State Archives, Maryland Writers Project, Blacks of the Chesapeake, among others.

**h. SAILOR Database Project**

RFPs were received and reviewed in January and contract negotiations are underway. The renewals that have been finalized are Mango Languages and ProQuest HeritageQuest. There is also verbally agreed upon contract language with a third vendor and we are awaiting submission of a fresh contract version. Internal implementation meetings have been scheduled and hopefully can be started in April.

**3. Develop hybrid training and programming expanding access to Maryland library staff and their customers.**

**i. Staff Development and Training (Vivian Fisher gave report)**

Virtual public programs continue to be held that include: Anne Frank: Her Life, Her Diary and Beyond; Every Reader Their Book: Diverse Children's Materials; Introduction to Finding Grants, People for Change Coalition; Harlem Renaissance: The Soul of America; Digital Photography, Editing, Sharing and Storage; Intro to Word, Part 1 and 2; Beginning Genealogical Research.

SLRC Blackboard Webinars for librarians included: Bibliotherapy in Reader's Advisory for Teens; Children's Illustration: A Brief Introduction to the Art and History; Legal Resources; Critical Race Theory; and Maryland Readers Advisory.

For the Library Associate Institute Training, there were two programs: Improving Library Service to Patrons with Mental Health Issues: Fall Session; and Professional Ethics – Privacy and Copyright: Winter Session.

**4. Focus SLRC Conferences on the needs and developing trends supporting the Maryland library community.**

**j. Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference (Paula Mitchell gave report)**

The Conference was held virtually on January 25 and 26, 2022. There were 376 registered attendees and most sessions had over 100 participants in person and live. There were also sessions for paraprofessionals and presentations on a wide variety of timely topics.

**k. "Mini" SLRC Conference for LATI participants**

A "mini" SLRC Conference was hosted for the winter cohort of LATI participants on March 2, 2022. John Jewitt and team presented an Intro to SLRC Services and a virtual tour.

**l. General Spring SLRC Conference**

The spring SLRC Conference is scheduled for May 25 and 26, 2022 and will be split into a 2-day session – one virtual and one in-person. Hoping to have a homecoming celebration, a virtual keynote and closing speaker, and in-person SLRC tours. Highlight is on information literacy and intellectual freedom.

Tamar Sarnoff of MSL had a question regarding the delivery study: Will it be managed financially through SLRC? MSL had set aside funds. If these funds are not used, they can use it for something else. Darcell will follow up on this. Per Irene Padilla, a grant was approved to conduct this study but a completed application is needed. Her office cannot reimburse anything until the documentation is filled out and signed off on. Irene Padilla's office will be happy to provide the funding then.

Irene Padilla asked if the delivery study will include various members of the library community and if so, at what point do you expect them to start working with you?

Per Paula, John Huber prepared a project methodology. He would like to contact and gather information from MD libraries contributing to Marina delivery in any capacity – from staff that work ILL and anyone in a leadership position. He expects a five-phase project. Phase 1 and 2 is basic data of the current state of delivery. Phase 3 and 4 will be taking the data and having interviews with individuals and cohort meetings.

Irene Padilla mentioned that what she envisioned was having people sit at a table to help define some of the areas so there will be representation from each region and various counties during the planning. She advised that the more buy-in there is from people, the better it will go. She mentioned that she would like to hear more about this and if this could be included in the grant request. Paula replied that this can be done. Darcell mentioned that groups and stakeholders have been identified in the RFP who will be invited to join the conversation regarding the desired outcomes. Darcell is re-sharing the RFP with Irene Padilla.

Cecil County director thanked the team for continuing SLRC's work. Michael Johnson turned over to Mike Fried for updates regarding Sailor. Mike spoke on the anchoring position of the following tenets: Operational Excellence, Service Expansion, Advancing Equity and Community Engagement.

Some practical updates – Network management: Monitoring utilization, up times, numbers are generally where we usually are. Doing some large updates of order routers; engaged a new E-Rate consultant (Funds for Learning) to help with maximizing federal reimbursement; hired a new Head of Customer Support, Shane Williams, to help rebuild the Pratt and Sailor's support infrastructure and provide good customer service. Working with MSL and Howard County regarding building more feedback loops around the Sailor tech community and talking about new procurements, shared arrangements, and expanding services.

On training: Working with Carla Moore and the state broadband office on how Sailor can provide some advocacy. We can help guide them and unlock some more funding and bigger investments into Sailor.

Liz Sundermann-Zinger next spoke and gave a preview of FY23 Plan Draft which will be available in May.

Organizational effectiveness – SLRC deputy chiefs will ramp up their work directly with their staff to ensure that SLRC representation is present in various statewide communities. Will work closely with MSLA to ensure there is no overlap in training and other statewide offerings and that they complement each other instead. Will continue to have meetings with other representatives – regionals, State Archives, and other library partners. With more people involved, there will also be more awareness.

A new virtual training will be created about what SLRC is and does and will be distributed to all the networks. Liz will continue to facilitate the Statewide Digital Equity and Access Community of Practice, evaluate and consolidate digital training platforms. Will look at our own internal reference services and how they are handled and on which platforms. For training resources, will examine the existing SLRC conference and see how it can be revitalized. Liz has also spoken to Irene about creating an onboarding service for anyone who is new to staff to have an opportunity to learn what SLRC is and what resources are available to them. Chair Miller gave positive feedback on these reports.

## **VII. MEMBER UPDATES**

**Laura Hicks (?) from MSDE** reported on: Maintaining monthly meetings with school library supervisors. One main topic is “materials challenges.” There is a lot of talking and “performance art” happening at Board of Education meetings but not necessarily formal challenges. The few challenges were analyzed and overruled. Biggest concern other than public perception is there is a threat to pull materials off the shelves while being evaluated. As school librarians, they want to make sure they have a positive perception in the state and that materials aren’t pulled off the shelves while they are challenged.

Staff shortage was also an important topic talked about. There is a shortage of teachers, substitutes, and school librarians in general in the state. Many counties have open positions that have not been filled and there is a big concern that there are not enough educators in the pipeline to become school librarians. Lags in the pipeline may be due to legislation looking to criminalize teaching divisive topics. People may begin to think that teaching and librarianship may not be worth it because of such legislation.

Waiting for approval to release annual survey of school library media centers and library media system-level offices. Working on the MD K-12 digital library and at the pricing phase. They have received RFQs back from six vendors that are being reviewed by school library media supervisors and doing price comparisons. Hoping to be done within the month. Still meeting with school library media supervisors monthly to discuss concerns with colleagues. Thankful for the support they receive.

**Public Libraries:** MLA DLA conference is coming up. At legislative level of the state, per capita increase for both public libraries and SLRC is progressing well and has strong unanimous support. Collective bargaining legislation has come to the fore for all public libraries. Working closely with lobbyists on this bill.

**Tonya Aikens of Howard County** brought up book-banning and censorship. Be in contact with and use resources from the National Coalition Against Censorship. Put together resources for authors, librarians, teachers and students. Ramp up programs to organize students. Need to work together to fight censorship.

Gave update on Howard County. Glenwood Branch has been recently renovated with interactive spaces including a makerspace and a wifi-enabled outdoor patio. Looking to work with rec centers and parks to leverage multi-service centers and get resources to where they need to be. Working with an organization, Luminous, that welcomes new immigrants especially from the Afghan population to get them enrolled in school and connected to library services and various other resources. Expecting new immigrants from Ukraine soon.

**Michael Gannon of PGCMLS** reported on the opening of the new Hyattsville Branch at the end of the month. Will have the first structured parking garage, vegetative roof, lactation room, and a large outdoor terrace overlooking the “flying saucer” from the original building that the community wanted to keep. It is also now a nice reading garden and public art installation space. Talked about some difficulty and press

around customer who refused to wear a mask. Library system has kept its mask mandate even if the county has lifted it.

**Elizabeth Hulett of the Regional Libraries** reported on the regional organization legislative bill which has been finalized and will be set for next year's legislative session. Lavale (?) will be having their grand opening in September. Waiting on legislation that is happening this fiscal year to get into the governor's budget.

**Irene Padilla and Tamar Sarnoff from MD State Library Agency:** Irene talked about the state library board meeting approving the statute to replace the current 23202. Governing board information should be in one place and easier to locate. Can move on to thinking about transition and how to go from the current board structure to the new one. If it passes, should take effect in October.

Did a lot of analysis of proposed 2023 budget and went into some detail about that. Budget hearings went well. However, despite support from Annapolis and even with the projected increase for public libraries, eight jurisdictions will receive less funding. Six library systems (Alleghany, Baltimore City, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Somerset) are scheduled to receive less funding due to decreases in population. While two library systems will receive decreased funding due to increased county wealth. Unfortunately, this is all happening when we are trying to find ways to sustain our digital equity programs. This may be a difficult year for that.

Twenty-four counties fully support going fine-free but we are feeling the loss of revenue. MAPLA has submitted a request to the governor for supplemental 2023 funding. We are waiting to see if we will be included. Congress just passed the federal government budget for FY22. Unsure as of now how much our funding will be. We did not prevail in the AAP lawsuit. The annual conference is coming up in DC and MSLA will be in a panel to talk about how we use our funds. Moving right along with capital grants. Gave updates on various projects and renovations in the various library systems around the state.

Capitol hearings were cancelled as there was a favorable recommendation on the budget. We have asked for an additional \$3 million for construction projects and expanded prevailing wage requirements to be fully funded. Have started the 2024 grant cycle that all can apply for.

Tamar Sarnoff spoke on the legislative lib guide, working on a materials challenge guide, and on the strategic plan. Spoke on tuition reimbursement as part of retention and promotion. Ended on the Summer Reading program. Have had a hard time establishing a stable relationship with the Orioles community so they have established new relationships with the State Fair and the National Aquarium. Will start their grant cycle soon.

**David Newman spoke for academic libraries:** Andrew Pace was hired as USMAI's new executive director who came from OCLC.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

(None)

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. M. Gannon motioned for adjournment. The motion was seconded by T. Aikens. The group voted and agreed to adjourn. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Reyes

SLRC Office

DRAFT