Sailor Advisory Committee

Poe Room, EPFL, Central / SLRC
February 17, 2011
10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Attendees – Michael Gannon, Craig Abresch (by videoconference), Jim DeArmey, Lee O'Brien, Irene Padilla, Stuart Ragland, Ann Smith, Greg Talley (by phone), Mike Walsh

Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 10:22 a.m.

Introduction of New Members – Michael Gannon introduced Lee O'Brien, Cecil County Public Library, and announced that Lucy Holman, University of Baltimore Langsdale Library, will be joining the committee.

Minutes – The minutes of the December 16, 2010 meeting were approved.

MARINA Report (Ann Smith) – A conference call took place between Sirsi Dynix, Polaris, Carroll County and, Prince George's County to discuss progress and ongoing workflow issues. Both vendors were able to offer information and staff had the opportunity to ask questions. The conversation was very beneficial. Recent testing with Polaris has been successful. The next step is to bring in other Polaris libraries – Baltimore, Howard and Talbot counties. A system upgrade was planned for February but that may be delayed. A release date for the full upgrade is not set.

Sailor Network Report (Mike Walsh) – Mike reviewed recent progress in the ongoing development of the Sailor network. Irene asked about Network Maryland and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) grant. Mike recommended that counties collaborate and take an active role in seeking funding from this source rather than waiting or funding to be distributed by the State.

Sailor Network Managers Group (Stuart Ragland) – The planned meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Budget Update (Ann Smith) – Ann reviewed the second quarter budget report. It showed a level of expenditures that would be expected at this point in the year. The Sailor databases aren't paid until last quarter of the year so that expenditure is anticipated but not yet reflected in the report. Flat funding from the State is expected through 2019. The City will be going through the budget process is in March. A reduction of 6% to 10% is anticipated.

Sailor Project Quarterly Report (Stuart Ragland) – The new Sailor website went live for users on December 22 which occurred in the quarter covered by this report. The next report will indicate a full quarter of activity on the new Sailor site.

Heritage Quest numbers showed a small decrease but are still strong. EBSCO databases use and downloads increased substantially in the second quarter. This indicates that people have discovered them and are using them. Some of this can be attributed to marketing, some to the increase in demand generated at this time in the academic year. Automobile reference center statistics were unexpectedly strong.

Activity for the Maryland Lottery has decreased due to the fact that another provider is now hosting some of that information. It is expected that the number will hold steady or decrease in future reports.

Director's Requests (Michael Gannon) - No directors request received.

Other Business -

Irene asked if the third quarter Sailor report would be available in time for the MAPLA meeting in April. The group would be interested to know what is being used and what sites are being hosted.

Anne Smith will work with MAPLA concerning statistics that give values of SLRC services. John Damond will come to MAPLA to present this and to show the members of the group how it was done in case they want to do something similar. It was suggested that a mini workshop for IT people or others would be beneficial and that the ability to present these statistics easily on a website would be helpful.

Meeting minutes are needed more quickly than they have been available recently. The goal has been set to have the minutes ready one week after the meeting.

Lee O'Brien pointed out that smaller libraries are often unable to maintain the in-house IT expertise that larger libraries have available. She recommended that we explore ways for Sailor or other larger organizations to host services for smaller systems and pointed out that there could be efficiencies in cost and staffing on both sides by doing this. After discussion, the group recommended that this topic be referred to MAPLA for further discussion.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.