

MINUTES

IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES

Date: February 25, 2003
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: State Library of Iowa
East 12th and Grand
Des Moines, Iowa

Present: Dale Ross, Pam Bradley, Monica Gohlinghorst, Berta Van Ekeren

Visitors: Emily Navarre

Staff: Mary Wegner, Barbara Corson, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Judy Jones, Gerry Rowland, Linda Robertson, Carol Simmons, Katherine Von Wald, Annette Wetteland

Ross called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Wegner introduced staff.

1.0 Set Agenda

Agenda was set with one addition to 6.0 A 1, certification of community college nomination for trustee from North Central Library Service Area.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Bradley moved to approve the minutes as recorded, Gohlinghorst seconded, motion carried.

3.0 Financial Report

Cox reported that the federal and state budgets are on target with 50 percent of the federal and 53 percent of state funds being spent to date in the fiscal year. Van Ekeren asked where the biggest cuts were made. Cox and Wegner explained that major cuts were made in three areas: acquisition of materials, which have been reduced 70 percent over the last two years; in personnel, with two positions being eliminated at the beginning of FY03; and in the elimination of state money for the purchase of statewide databases and the cancellation of the Electric Library subscription. Bradley asked about the medical library's collections and Wegner said materials there were deeply cut but not eliminated.

Cox shared a handout on EBSCOhost participation. 95.3 percent of the state's population has access to the database through their local libraries.

4.0 Communications

A. Special Reports

1. Law Library Materials – Linda Robertson

Robertson shared a brief history of several valuable books owned by the law library. In February 2003, thanks to the knowledge of rare book contractor Phil Pirages, the most valuable single item in the Law Library collection, the 1490s volume titled STATHAM'S ABRIDGEMENT, was sold to a collector in San Francisco for \$45,000--the full appraisal value. The book, leather bound, printed on parchment in "law French" and hand annotated in Normandy French, the language of English law for several centuries after being introduced into England by William the Conqueror, was uncataloged and shelved with other English law materials in the library. The Law Library will receive the full amount--minus the 25% commission--to help support the law collection and other projects.

Ross commented on the condition of other books Robertson showed the Commission and wondered if there was any possibility of providing a climate-controlled room for their storage. Robertson and Wegner said they would investigate the possibility of such a room in the state library.

Robertson noted that the Law Library has recently added a new Westlaw informational database, and has notified attorneys working in state government about this additional resource.

2. Center for the Book/All Iowa Reads – Katherine Von Wald

Von Wald reported on the ICN session February 4. There were 27 ICN sites, 16 of which were in public libraries. More than 100 people attended to discuss the All Iowa Reads book selection for 2003, “Peace Like a River.” Christie Vilsack and Dale Ross led the discussion. The session was taped and the State Library has four copies to loan. The Center for the Book has asked local libraries to list their “Peace Like a River” programs on the All Iowa Reads section of the State Library’s web site. Von Wald plans to have links from the Iowa Center for the Book web site, which is being developed, to other sites that have listings of Iowa authors. Ross asked if the book for next year had been chosen and Von Wald said the All Iowa Reads committee will develop criteria for next year’s book in May and announce their selection at the Iowa Library Association conference in October.

B. Commission Reports

Ross reported that the CBS affiliate in Des Moines, KCCI-TV, had done a two minute report on HealthInfoIowa from the state medical library, at 10 p.m. Monday, February 24. Wegner and Corson were both featured.

Ross reported on the January ALA Mid-winter Conference in Philadelphia, which both he and Wegner attended.

C. Library Service Areas Report – Emily Navarre

Navarre gave an overview of the Southeastern Library Service Area. She said that inadequate funding is a major concern, and that one of the biggest needs in her region is computer training for librarians. She also noted, however, that several libraries have web pages, including the smallest library. She said that many librarians are expected to work at minimum wage with small budgets, provide a wide range of information, and teach the public how to use computers and the Internet. Navarre would like to have county funding formulas changed to more equitably pay for services provided. She would also like to see more librarians skilled in technology.

D. State Librarian=s Report

Wegner reported on the Gates Foundation grants. Several “Before Your Computer Arrives” workshops have been conducted. Computers will be installed starting this spring. Libraries will receive purchase orders to buy computers approximately eight weeks before Gates staff install them and train staff. Ross asked if this would help Iowa with high-speed Internet access and Rowland said nearly 70 percent will have it after the computers are installed. Several State Library and Library Service Area staff members will receive additional training from the Gates Foundation in April.

New editions of the trustee handbooks were sent to each library and board president. Dixon also sent a copy to the League of Cities, which links to the online version from its web site. Cox reported that there has been an overwhelming response for more handbooks. Two thousand were originally ordered and more may need to be printed.

Wegner said she was proud to announce that Rowland had finished compiling all the statistical information from the first annual school library survey. Iowa is the first state to undertake this type of survey. Wetteland wrote an article about the survey in the State Library’s newsletter and will investigate submitting articles to professional journals.

The Commission packet included a copy of a paycheck insert that went out to all state employees informing them of the availability of EBSCOhost resources. 250 new library cards were issued in the month following this publicity.

The National Library of Medicine will hold a press conference at the State Library on March 10 to announce a new information prescription program.

Technical Services and Information Services staff have moved from the west to the east wing of the building. The wooden information desk has been moved from ground floor to third floor.

Two positions in state documents have been filled. State Library staffer Margaret Noon was promoted to one of these positions and Karen Kemnitz, formerly with the library in the Department of Human Services, accepted the other position. Kemnitz’ first day will be February 28.

Wetteland is developing an ad to be placed in the RAGBRAI rider's manual which will highlight public libraries along the route and let riders know that they will be open and offering email service.

Wegner described the financial situation with RoweCom. The company, which operates as a journal broker, took orders and money from libraries for journal subscriptions, then failed to provide the materials. At least twenty-six Iowa libraries have been affected by RoweCom's default.

5.0 Public Comment

None

6.0 Action Items

A. Appointment of Trustees for Northeast and Southwest Iowa Library Service Areas
Bradley moved to appoint Tom McGlaughlin to the Northeast Iowa Library Service Area board. Van Ekeren seconded the motion, motion carried. Van Ekeren moved to appoint Lillian Nichols to the Southwest Iowa Library Service Area board. Gohlinghorst seconded the motion, motion carried. Gohlinghorst moved to accept the nomination for a community college trustee, Jeffery Pilz, to the North Central Library Service Area board. Bradley seconded, motion carried.

B. Bylaws Review
Ross appointed Van Ekeren and Gohlinghorst to the Bylaws Subcommittee at the December Commission meeting. Van Ekeren moved to accept the bylaws as they stand. Bradley seconded, motion carried. The bylaws will reflect this motion.

C. Appointment of Subcommittee to Evaluate State Librarian
Ross asked Bradley to serve with him on the subcommittee to evaluate the state librarian. Bradley accepted. Ross will ask Commissioner Eldon Huston to serve as well.

7.0 Discussion Items

A. Legislative Strategies
1. State Librarian Presentation to Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Wegner met with the Appropriations Subcommittee in early February to talk about State Library services and programs; Library Service Areas; the Enrich Iowa programs including Direct State Aid, Open Access, and Access Plus; and the Library Infrastructure program.
2. HF 58 (Reinstates school librarian requirement)
Ross explained the importance of having certified school librarians. House File 58 is an attempt to reinstate the requirement that each school have a certified librarian. The bill is currently in subcommittee. Ross asked commission members to contact their representatives and senators in an effort to get the bill on the floor for debate.

3. Iowa Library Association Legislative Day – March 12, 2003
The Iowa Library Association's Legislative Day is March 12 with a briefing at 2:30 p.m. in room 310 of the State Library, followed by a reception at the law library in the Capitol at 4 p.m. The reception will include demonstrations of EBSCO by Kristin Steingreaber, Media Specialist at Southern Prairie AEA 15.

B. State Libraries and State Legislatures – Trends and Strategies
The Commission discussed funding challenges facing state libraries around the country.

8.0 Adjournment

Gohlinghorst moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Bradley seconded, motion Carried.

NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2003