

Adult Services Advisory Council
June 25, 2004 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Ginny LeJeune, Joe Nash, Margaret Garrett, Mary Trev Thomas, Katie Quinn, Pat Sahr, Barbara Kubli, Jane Minotti, Barbara Goetschius, Deb Shoup, Jo-Ann Benedetti, D Hobin,

Introduction: D. Hobin was introduced to the group

Databases:

Process / Time line

- **Discussion.** Although the time to look at dbs was originally scheduled for June, Rachel's departure and Jo-Ann's arrival has necessitated changing the schedule. Jo-Ann described the current time line. Databases need to be recommended before the Central Library Committee meets in October.
- **Action:** None

Statistics:

- **Discussion:** Joe Thornton described the current database statistics and acknowledged the need for something more user-friendly. Joe described a new way of counting statistics from our web site called RPA – remote patron authentication. This enables the libraries to enter their library name and retrieve stats from all databases on one page. The disadvantage is that the numbers will be much lower since this way of counting stats counts only logins. Also, this only counts stats on databases accessed through the UHLS webpage. Some believe there is an easier way to count stats and are concerned that if they do not have accurate stats, they cannot properly advocate for the databases in their community. B. Kubli believes there is a way to efficiently count stats – she heard about it at a meeting that UHLS sponsored 2 years ago.
- **Action:** Jo-Ann will do the following:
 - Try to authenticate in different databases from outside UHLS to see the problem
 - Ask database vendors if they can separate stats out based on bar-codes
 - E-mail the new link to UHLS' new RPA statistics page
 - Contact Sandra Nelson about what software she described 2 years ago.

Databases to Review

- **Discussion:** Reviewed a list of 42 databases. It was suggested we contact the "big 4" vendors (EBSCO, Gale, Wilson, and Proquest) to see if they can make up a package of the databases librarians seem to want:

a biography db, a literature db, a genealogy db, and a periodical and newspaper index.

Also decided that it would be hard for librarians to review all of the suggested dbs in a 1-month period of time. It would be effective if perhaps we created groups of 1 small, 1 med-sized and 1 large library to report on the databases in each subject area at the end of the trial period. Reviewed current databases. Price per login was discussed. It was thought that perhaps *World Book* and the *Times-Union* should be seriously re-considered. There was also discussion about replacing World Book with Groliers, but the group was reminded that perhaps the children's librarians may want to select the encyclopedia.

- **Action:** Jo-Ann will contact the 4 major database vendors and try to get a trial of a literature, a biography, a periodical and a genealogy database, in addition to the following:

GenealogyLibrary.com
Jewish Data

The following groups were created:

Biography DBs:

D. – EGRN
Jane – SNLK
Katie – APLM

Genealogy DBs:

Barbara – STEP
Debbie – EGRN
Mary Trev – BETH

Literature DBs:

Pat – NASS
Margaret – GUIL
Suzanne – VOOR

News/Periodicals:

Ginny – ALTM
Staff – BETH
Barbara – RCSC

Set up date to review and make recommendations:

- **Action:** database trials to be set up Aug 20 – Sept 20; Meeting to make recommendations Sept 20

LSTA grant:

- **Discussion:** LSTA now has a 2-year grant cycle. We can submit a total of 2 proposals in technology, special services, or service improvement. Jo-Ann handed out descriptions of each of these categories. The

summer will be busy with database evaluations as well as summer reading, vacations, etc. We need to be able to communicate our ideas to each other concerning these grants since the Directors Association will have to choose which ones to support at their September meeting. Suggest we communicate often and freely about our ideas.

- **Action:** Jo-Ann will set up a BLOG (web log) for adult services to use as a communication tool.

Legal Aid Training:

- **Discussion:** Legal Aid has contacted various libraries in the system to offer training in using a free legal referral database. Do we want this? Suggested we have them do two trainings, one in Albany County, one in Rensselaer County.
- **Action:** EGRN and BETH will take the lead on this and set up this training in their respective libraries in the fall (after databases have been settled...perhaps October?). Jo-Ann will contact Legal Aid.

Next meeting: Sept 20 @ 9:30am