

Adult Services Advisory Council
November 16, 2004 Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Jo-Ann Benedetti (UHLS), Debbie Canzano (COHS), Suzanne Fischer (VOOR), Jim Hobin (APLM) , Deb Shoup (EGRN), Mary Trev Thomas (BETH)

Databases:

Jo-Ann discussed the final decision made by the Central Library Advisory Committee on October 7, 2004. The Committee decided on purchasing the following databases at the following estimated costs:

Ebsco Masterfile Premier	\$ 33,475
Reference USA	\$ 28,240
Books in Print	\$ 20,711
Learning Express (Learn-a-Test)	\$ 15,000
Children's Lit Comprehensive DB	\$ 5,500
Times Union	\$ 1,500

Total	104,456
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Jo-Ann discussed consortial purchasing of Literature Resource Center, Biography Resource Center (both from Gale) and Ancestry Plus (Proquest). There is no break on consortial pricing for 6 libraries...each library should contact the vendor on its own and try to arrange for the best price.

The group was then asked for their opinion on the timing of the database evaluations as well as the process. All had favorable opinions about the process. Many believed that having people focusing on just one area of expertise and presenting to the group was an excellent idea and one they would consider doing again. The time frame was also good, and it was thought that the end of summer is a good time to evaluate the databases.

LSTA Update

2004: Jo-Ann updated the group on the LSTA NOVEL grant awarded CDLC which will provide NOVEL database training within the system. Polly Farrington developed a survey which is available in the *Latest Edition* as well as online at www.uhls.org/intranet/databases/survey.cfm By filling out this survey, we can best determine what our training needs are...who needs individual training and who needs group training. Discussion followed on the underutilization of the databases and how best to present the databases on the webpage to make them more user-friendly to the patron.

Jim Hobin then passed out info on Serials Solution which may be a good option for UHLS. This will enable patrons to quickly find the periodicals they need by coordinating the UHLS collection and the NOVEL databases. For example, if someone needs a 1998 issue of the New Yorker, they can quickly see which library may own it and which

database would offer it electronically, saving the patron time and frustration. Jo-Ann said that she had talked with Joe Thornton about this and he was not only familiar with the product, but had implemented it at Skidmore. We will look into whether or not this product will work for the System.

2005: Jo-Ann explained the eBook grant and the process involved in selecting the topic for the grant. There was discussion about eBooks and the new format and many thought this would be a great service to provide. There was also discussion about the need for a technology center and many would like to see Upper Hudson have a state-of-the-art training facility. It was thought that private donors may be interested in providing funds for this, especially because we are supposedly the center for nanotechnology industries.

Programming 2005

It was decided that we should continue to plan programming for the upcoming year. Jo-Ann said it is difficult to plan a year in advance, as deadlines come up. She used the program on repairing media as an example...because it was planned a year in advance, it turned out this program was scheduled the day before LSTA was due. Many said they liked the advanced planning, and asked that we plan 6 months out instead of 12.

Suggested programs were:

Local history and genealogy at the NY State Library
Library services supporting families of the incarcerated
Legal resources & clinics at Albany College of Law
Jobs and Careers
Small Business Development Center – tour

The group did not feel it necessary to invite database vendors to demonstrate their products.

New Business

Jo-Ann was contacted by the NYS Department of Health about what public libraries are doing to provide consumer health information to their patrons. They are excited that librarians are doing this and would like a public librarian to attend some of their meetings. The group agreed that we should work in whatever way we can to provide consumer health information and specifically, we should look at joint opportunities with NYSDOH, Albany Med and other area institutions.

Next meeting date

Jo-Ann will poll the group via email to find a standing meeting date for this group...probably the 3rd week of the month.