

**Upper Hudson Library System
Director's Association Meeting
June 3, 2006
Meeting Summary**

Attending: Jeff Cannell (APLM); Judith Wines (ALTM); Jeanne Biggins (BETH); Julie Zelman (BRUN); Darlene Miller (CAST); Deborah Canzano (COHS); Debbie Shoup (EGRN); Barbara Nichols Randall (GUIL); Carol Gaillard (HOOF); Lenny Zapala (MEND); Pat Sahr (NASS); Sharon Hodges (PTRB); Margie Morris (POES); Judy Felsten (RCSC); Rebecca Lubin (RVLL); Jane Minotti (SNLK); Paul Hicok (TROY); Phil Ritter (UHLS); Gail Sacco (VOOR); Ginger Hewitt (WVLT); Elaine Albrecht (WSTR)

Next Step: Each library to send resource sharing policy with the System

Needs/Issues

- Need a System Strategic Plan
- System needs to set policies on how to make decision and move forward
- Self-regulation (e.g. can we remove a library from the system?)
- Stop slipping into previous discussions
- Need to know what “hat” we are wearing when
- Clarify the role of the director's association
- Formalize the resource sharing policies and procedures
 - Clearly define resource sharing
 - Start with database
- Establish “levels” of resource sharing
- Does gender play a role in how we reach or not reach a consensus
- We serve different populations and there are no system policies on resource sharing
- Rules differ by each library and we don't know what those rules are for each library

Challenges

- Reaching Consensus
- Sometimes we focus on our dissimilarities
- Decreasing funding
- Time
- Director's meeting attendance fluctuations
- Balance the needs of the association with those of individual libraries
 - Librarianship
 - Role of staff and trustees
 - Advocacy to the trustees
- Sharing allows for less local support for smaller libraries
- Too many voices
- Size of the system has negative impact

Strengths of the System

- Patrons get the items they need
- Smaller libraries continued existence
- Courier system
- Pooled collections
- Grant opportunities
- Community catalog
- Access to technical assistance
- Group buying (movie licenses, software)
- Continuing education
- Advocacy
- Database
- Late Fee policies
- Opportunities for marketing and PR
- Access to group knowledge
- System staff does the “scut” work
- Peer contacts
- Trustees issues/sharing
- Public building

Notes by Denise Harlowe, Facilitator