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Maine Library Commission Minutes, March 5, 2012

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Maine State Library Commission

****MINUTES – March 5, 2012****

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM.

Attendance: Joyce Rumery, Art Turley, Charlie Campo, Molly Larson, Dick Thompson, Liz Doucette, Debe Averill, Inese Gruber, Karen Baldacci, Barbara McDade, Sara Campbell, Linda Lord

- Introductions were made – J.Ritter officially introduced as Director of Reader and Information Services.
- Minutes from the January 9, 2012 meeting were approved.

State Librarian Report:

- Commented that the \$100,000 Appropriation for delivery services passed as a result of significant outreach by the library community
- Quasi-State Agency Legislation – committee hearing in January. Determined that primary cultural agencies are not defined as such because the Governor appoints Commission members
- 501(c)3 Application for Friends of MSL moving forward
- Letter to Senator Snowe thanking for service will be drafted, shared with Commission and sent to the Senator
- Briefly discussed numerous changes within Cultural Agencies and thus, CAC – J.R. retiring this spring from State Museum, Erik Jorgenson leaving Maine Humanities Council.

ARRC Funding/Results:

- Briefly reiterated that purpose of ARRC conversation was to assess fairness of resources.
- ARRC Directors and State Librarian to present draft of metrics to be analyzed by next Commission Meeting.

Maine InfoNet:

- State Librarian briefly summarized MOU being discussed by primary parties involved associated with Maine InfoNet. Specifically, a “Memo of Participation” being crafted by MINERVA Board.
- Significant Conversation ensued about the future of a unified/consolidated catalog, and the importance of the Commission’s role (via participation or updates) regarding the future of an integrated catalog. The major components/questions of a lengthy discussion on this important subject are captured through these high-level themes:
 - What is MSL doing/What will it do? What is MSL (and Commission’s) role?
 - How many libraries are not being served through Maine InfoNet?

- What is III doing – how will they be a part of integration in the future?
- Milestones and measurements are critical. What are the benchmarks and timeframes associated – who is held accountable?
- Discussing and a proposal to present a ‘Map’ like architecture to help educate interested parties about the complexities of the systems and relationships involved, and from this architecture, informed decisions/milestones can be made and discussed.
- Motion made and subsequently approved to form a subcommittee comprised of Commission members, small library (e.g. small and not represented in Maine InfoNet) representation, and Maine InfoNet representation to discuss future steps.

NOTE: Following the Commission Meeting the Maine InfoNet Board met on Thursday, March 7 for their regularly scheduled Board Meeting. At that meeting they appointed a TBD “Small/Not-Represented” Library Director to serve on the Maine InfoNet Board – filling an open At Large Seat.

Strategic Plan Update:

- Format of the Strategic Plan ‘update’ Document was commencing and Commission Members agreed to have an updated plan document emailed and mailed to them post meeting. A full Strategic Plan update will be given at the next Commission Meeting.

Consultant Reports:

- Reported that work is being done to establish a joint Public Library Forum and School Library forum on the same day. Survey will be conducted to find out timing.

Other Business:

- Letter to libraries regarding the “definition” of a Public Library was completed and mailed – positive feedback thus far.
- Discussion on Digital Commons took place – primarily used by Academic Libraries, this digital resource is significant. MSL, BPL, PPL pursuing opportunities to use as a model for public libraries in the State, with MSL’s emphasis being on Government Documents. Meeting with Digital Commons on March 21.
- Commission made motion and it was subsequently approved to endorse the idea of pursuing the Digital Commons platform for MSL use.

Motion made to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ritter
MSL, Director of Reader and Information Services