

Central Library Advisory Council (CLAC)
Albany Public Library (APLM)
October 7, 2004

Present: Paul Hicok, Jeff Cannell, Deborah Canzano, Jane Minotti, Jo-Ann Benedetti,
Phil Ritter (notes)

Absent: Barbara Nichols Randall, Barbara Kubli, Lenny Zapala

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m.

J. Minotti was welcomed as the representative of the medium libraries in Rensselaer County.

J. Benedetti reviewed the work that went into reviewing potential databases for 2005. Both the Adult Services and Youth Services Advisory Councils had input into the process, and many attended the meeting on September 20 where the recommendations were formulated. It was noted that we should anticipate less funding in 2005 than we had during 2004, and the selections were made with this in mind.

It was recommended to the CLAC that, because of budget considerations, we should drop our subscriptions to World Book Online and Oxford Reference Online. After much discussion and review of the data provided by J. Benedetti, D. Canzano moved and J. Minotti seconded that the CLAC subscribe to the following databases in 2005 at the following estimated annual costs:

Ebsco Masterfile Premier - \$33,475
Reference USA - \$28,270
Books in Print - \$20,711
Learning Express (Learn-A-Test) - \$15,000
Children's Literature Comprehensive DB - \$5,500
Times Union - \$1,500

Total - \$104,456

This motion received unanimous approval.

After some discussion, it was agreed that UHLS would pay for Learning Express and Children's Literature Comprehensive DB for a total of \$20,500, and that Albany Public Library would pay for the other databases for a total of \$83,956.

P. Ritter furthered noted that Dear Reader.com (formerly Chapter-A-Day) also needed to be included in the budget for UHLS (the cost in 2004 was \$1,175) since it was renewed in July 2004 for another year to expire on August 1, 2005. A decision will need to be made next year regarding whether we continue to subscribe to it or not. Therefore, UHLS will budget up to \$22,000 for online databases in 2005.

J. Cannell said that he was under the impression that the Times Union was available in another database to which we already subscribe. J. Benedetti was not aware of this, but she will investigate the matter. If the Times Union is not available somewhere else, the \$1,500 that was approved will remain in the budget.

J. Benedetti suggested that we might want to pursue multi-year contracts for the databases that we had selected in order to obtain a lower price, and it was agreed that she could do that as long as there was a clause included that would allow us to cancel the contract if funding was reduced.

J. Benedetti agreed to investigate and negotiate consortia pricing for other databases that UHLS member libraries may decide to purchase. She will contact the member libraries in order to find out which databases they want to purchase in this matter.

J. Benedetti also raised the issue of the proposed LSTA grant for ebooks. She noted that in addition to the \$28,000 start-up costs, there would be an ongoing charge of \$1,000 per month for maintenance of the system. We can probably include the first year of these costs in the LSTA grant, but there would have to be a provision for maintaining the system after the grant expired. The consensus was that we should consider spreading the ongoing operating costs among all the UHLS member libraries and factor it into the existing UHLAN charges for automation. This matter will have to be discussed further by all the member libraries if the grant is funded.

The next meeting of CLAC will be scheduled at a later date to be during April/May 2005 at APLM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.