

Central Library Advisory Council (CLAC)
Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS)
September 25, 2008

Present: Paul Hicok, Tim Burke, Deborah Canzano, Pat Sahr, Richard Naylor,
Lenny Zapala, Julie Zelman, Phil Ritter (notes)

Absent: Jo-Ann Benedetti

Chair P. Hicok called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room at APLM.

1. Approval of the minutes of September 26, 2007

There being no corrections or additions, P. Hicok declared the minutes of the September 26, 2007, meeting approved as written.

2. Databases

P. Ritter reviewed all the statistics and other information that had been gathered and prepared by J. Benedetti. She was attending a Fit for Life grant training program in New York City and could not be at this meeting. The statistics of usage of the current databases included all the data available from UHLS and from the vendors. Several people referred to the unreliability of these statistics, but it was also noted that this was the only concrete evidence of usage that we had and that all other information was anecdotal. It was further reported that both the Adult Services and Youth Services Advisory Councils wanted to keep all of the current databases and that Youth Services would like to add the Children's Literature Comprehensive Database that we had subscribed to previously.

There was a great deal of discussion of the various databases and debate regarding the value of each. There was also a consensus that we should focus on providing online databases that were of primary interest to our customers and not necessarily those that only librarians may be interested in using. P. Ritter reported that UHLS was willing to continue funding for online databases but that he would prefer to pay for only the OverDrive annual subscription, considering that the System faces a further reduction of funding from the State. Since the Central Library also faces such a reduction in funding, it was the consensus that we should reduce the expenditures for databases in some way. After much discussion, a consensus was reached that the following databases should be dropped and that we would not consider them any further:

Novelist (EBSCO)

Home Improvement Resource Center (EBSCO)

Chilton Auto Repair Manuals (GALE)

(Continued)

No consensus was reached on the following databases, and it was agreed that we would discuss them further at the next meeting:

Literary Reference Center (EBSCO)
Book Review Index Online – full text (GALE)
Testing and Education Reference Center (GALE)
Thomson Gale Legal Forms (GALE)
Reference USA (INFO USA)

It was the consensus that UHLS would continue to pay the \$18,000 fee for the annual subscription to OverDrive in 2009, that the Central Library would pay for all databases that we choose to purchase in 2009, and that whatever amount is left over in the Central Library budget would be spent for OverDrive content.

T. Burke agreed that he would prepare a proposed 2009 Central Library Development Aid budget for discussion at the next meeting.

For the next meeting, UHLS was charged with obtaining more statistics from both UHLS and the vendors, with obtaining some kind of explanation of what these statistics are actually counting, with obtaining the lowest possible quote from the vendors for purchasing the databases that we agreed to consider at the next meeting, and with providing the OverDrive statistics for this year.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room at APLM on Thursday, October 30, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.