

Central Library Advisory Council (CLAC)  
Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS)  
October 30, 2008

Present: Tim Burke, Deborah Canzano, Pat Sahr, Richard Naylor, Lenny Zapala,  
Julie Zelman, Jo-Ann Benedetti, Phil Ritter (notes)

Absent: Paul Hicok

In the absence of the Chair P. Hicok, T. Burke called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room at APLM.

1. Approval of the minutes of September 25, 2008

**ACTION: R. Naylor moved and D. Canzano seconded that the minutes of the September 25, 2008, meeting be approved as written. The motion received unanimous approval.**

2. Long Range Plan

It was reported that the UHLS Directors Association had requested at its last meeting that the CLAC develop a long range plan for access to electronic resources. After some discussion, during which several people expressed concerns about what was being requested, it was the consensus that D. Canzano, President of the Directors Association, should put this matter on the agenda of the next meeting of the Directors Association so that the directors can clarify what they are requesting.

3. Central Library Development Aid Budget for 2009

T. Burke presented a draft of the proposed 2009 budget for the Central Library Development Aid. It was noted that the figures being used reflected what was actually received in 2008. The primary concern is that a cut is expected in the grant for 2009 but that no one knows at this time what the final amount will be. It was the consensus that if the available funds are cut, then the budgeted amount for the partial support for the two Albany Public Library staff members and the amount allotted for downloadable content would absorb any necessary reduction based on a distribution to be determined at the time that the total funding cut is known. Following is the proposed budget as presented:

Reference and Information Services	
Databases/Downloadables - \$ available for allocation	\$83,877*
*(specific content to be determined)	
Reference Support – Librarian .55 FTE (ILL support)	\$23,324
Availability of the Collection	
Library Clerk 1.5 FTE (ILL support)	\$33,048
Central Book Aid (non-fiction books)	<u>\$70,070</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$210,319</b>

(Continued)

**ACTION: L. Zapala moved and P. Sahr seconded that this budget be approved as presented, subject to the availability of State funding. The motion received unanimous approval.**

4. Databases

J. Benedetti handed out copies of the updated statistics and the lowest possible quotes from the vendors for the following databases that we had agreed would be considered at this meeting:

Literary Reference Center (EBSCO) – The cost for this database increased from \$19,400 to \$24,225. After some discussion, it was the consensus that this increase and the total cost was unacceptable. Therefore, it was agreed that we would not subscribe to this database in 2009.

Book Review Index Online – full text (GALE) – The cost is \$3,350

Testing and Education Reference Center (GALE) – The cost is \$5,305

Thomson Gale Legal Forms (GALE) – The cost is \$2,195

It was noted that the cost of the above databases remained the same as in 2008.

The total cost of the above GALE databases for 2009 is \$10,850. It was agreed that we should subscribe to these databases in 2009.

Reference USA (INFO USA) – The cost for this database increased from \$27,185 to \$32,085. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the use and merit of this database, and the final consensus was that this was a very valuable database that should be continued in 2009.

**ACTION: D. Canzano moved and R. Naylor seconded that we will subscribe to the three GALE databases and Reference USA in 2009 at a total cost of \$42,935, that the remaining funds in the Databases/Downloadables line item should be allotted to downloadables with the understanding that some of any necessary cuts would come from the downloadables total. The motion received unanimous approval.**

P. Ritter re-iterated that the CLAC had already agreed that UHLS would continue to pay the \$18,000 fee for the annual subscription to OverDrive in 2009 and that UHLS could not obligate itself for the purchase of any databases during 2009 because of the pending cuts in State funding.

R. Naylor brought up the Children's Literature Database to which we had subscribed prior to 2008 and which the Youth Services Advisory Council had requested again for next year. The value of this database was debated, and the consensus was that we would leave open the option to add this database if we were able. It was agreed that J. Benedetti would obtain a new price quote for this database and re-investigate it with the Youth Services Advisory Council.

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J. Benedetti was charged with promoting the Reference USA database and with obtaining additional training from INFO USA and with asking Rob Carle to develop a training program so that we can obtain better usage of the database in 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.