Adult Services Advisory Council
May 12, 2004 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Jim Hobin, Deb Shoup, Margaret Garrett, Jo-Ann Benedetti

Purpose of Group - discussion: Jo-Ann asked for an update on the history and purpose of the group. We was told that it was conceived as a place for librarians to discuss reference issues, but to also host programs pertaining to reference issues, to learn about other libraries in the community, and to review databases being considered for purchase.

Low participation rate was considered an issue. This could be due to:
- ?? The smaller libraries may have a difficult time getting to Albany and that meetings should be in various libraries.
- ?? Those who originally wanted to be involved in the group are no longer interested.
- ?? Participation increases when it is not "just a meeting" and where there is a program.

Action: Jo-Ann will continue to send notices to the "Adult Services" list, but she will also send an email to the directors and ask if they want to involve someone else from their library.

Programming – discussion: Programming is not meeting needs. Some have very low attendance. Would like visits to other types of libraries and see what is "out there". Although this has been done in the past, it has been a long time and would probably be popular. Other suggestions: "How to Deal with Difficult Patrons", "Computer Usage" (i.e. sign ups, pornography, privacy screens, etc), "E-books", "SAM" (automated computer sign up). Programming in the past has not necessarily been based on what adult services wants or needs.

Action: Currently programming has been suspended. Jo-Ann will look at potential libraries that may be of interest to the group.

Databases – discussion: Reviewed the process of selecting databases. Jo-Ann informed the group that the database review will not happen in June, as there is no time for her to prepare. All liked the idea of looking at a database together without the vendor "selling" the product.

There is a great deal of concern that the statistics are not accurate

Some libraries purchase databases on their own, and not as part of the system. It would be helpful to know what people have or what they are considering for purchase. It would also be useful to see if some of these databases could be purchased as a consortium…perhaps vendors would give a break on price if 2 or 3 libraries within a system are interested in a product.

Action: Jo-Ann will email the adult services advisory group and ask three questions:
1. Of the current subscription databases, what do you use, and what do you not use.
2. Does your library purchase any databases individually? If so, what are they and do you use them?

3. What databases would you like to try? What demos should be set up?

Concerns – discussion:
Database selection seems to be statistics-driven. Stats are difficult to access from the UHLS intranet, we need some way of getting monthly reports more easily.
1. After spending a lot of time on database selection, not all are purchased.
2. UHLS website is outdated. Many old grant programs are still on the site. Content should be updated. Suggest putting up a list of reliable websites in different subject areas so that all libraries could have a list of the "best" of what is out there, rather than depending on Google. Also could create a page on local resources, such as newspapers, churches, daycare, restaurants, etc.
3. There is no standardization in policies or borrowing
4. Programming needs to address the needs of the libraries.
5. Grants need to address the needs of the libraries.
6. Need better communication within the system.

Next Meeting: To be announced