

Council on Library and Network Development

July 10, 2015

UW Madison Law School Library

In his update on the prison literacy project, Department of Corrections librarian Tom Mahoney reported that the volume of donated material has been overwhelming (“we’re victims of our own success” he said) causing active solicitation of donated material to be suspended. He hopes to see the current backlog reduced sufficiently by September to permit For one thing, Tom stated his conviction that “An inmate reading a book is an inmate not causing trouble,” he emphasized. Books as well as other library & information services available to inmates remain dated. As an example, he pointed out that whatever computers are accessible to inmates are running Windows XP, although he hopes to eventually introduce Chromebooks & cloud based apps into the prison system.

As part of the legacy of the Visioning (i.e., system redesign) Work Group, a steering committee has been formed to, among other aspects of potential system restructuring, oversee selection of members & their progress in implementing various work groups based on initial recommendations from the recently completed Visioning process.

Steering Committee members were appointed to oversee various workgroups & solicitation of work group members will begin in the near future.

To help ensure continuity of leadership, members of the COLAND Visioning Work Group & the LEAN Study Group are among those appointed to the Steering Committee, along with others representing all segments of the Wisconsin library community, including COLAND members, LEAN Study participants, system directors, & several library directors & other library personnel from libraries ranging in size from Milwaukee to Wild Rose.

Related discussion centered on the actual & potential restructuring of several systems including the following:

- Jefferson County is withdrawing from the Mid Wisconsin Federated Library System, leaving Mid Wisconsin a 2 county system that could possibly merge with South Central.
- The Arrowhead Library System in Janesville may also merge with another system.
- Lakeshores & Kenosha County systems are considering merging as well.

In the agenda item “Update on COLAND appointments for Terms Ending July 1, 2014 & 2015,” it was noted that several vacancies exist & discussion centered on quorum issues & the need to appoint members willing to consistently attend meetings, as well as those whose selection results in a broad representation from the state library community, both criteria John DeBacher will bring up at the August SRLAAW meeting to encourage participation by members of that organization. Doug Lay, whose term expired in July, has been reappointed.

Future COLAND meeting venues are currently to be determined.