

Council on Library and Network Development

January 13, 2017
Conference Call

Following are summaries of the more public interest topics discussed during the January 13 COLAND meeting:

In his report on the status of the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) Project, PLSR Committee vice chair & COLAND member Bryan McCormick reported that following what was basically a holiday hiatus, a meeting of the PLSR Workgroup is scheduled for January 20. Despite the holiday lull, the committee had been successful in convening a meeting with the directors of the various resource libraries to continue the process of reexamining the future role of system resource libraries. The resource library group will be meeting again in February or March.

PLSR is sponsored by the State Superintendent & a project status report to Tony Evers is scheduled to be delivered on Monday, January 23.

Kurt Kiefer of the DPI noted that several of the PLSR Committee topics were beginning to coalesce into smaller but related groups. There are currently 9 PLSR workgroups corresponding to major system services. Efficiencies can conceivably be gained by managing several of these previously separate activities as a single, combined activity. Examples include the realization that ILL, an ILS (Integrated Library System) & delivery services need not continue to be considered separate functions. Likewise, CE (Continuing Education) & consulting are 2 previously separate system services that are fundamentally similar & which could be more effectively managed together.

The topic of the system redesign project in general will be the focus of the March COLAND meeting, which will include PLSR steering committee members who will form 4 to 5 topic groups with COLAND members to further explore system consolidation possibilities.

Approval of new content guidelines for the Library Media Specialist (1902) license was announced. They can be found at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/tepd/PLSLibraryMediaSpecialist-CG-Nov-2016.pdf>.

Staff from DPI & WiLS reported on the progress in forming a Wisconsin School Digital Library Consortium modeled after the existing Wisconsin Digital Public Library Consortium, with the intent of creating & sharing collections of ebooks & audiobooks as well as leveraging the combined negotiating power & economies of scale inherent in centralized purchasing for multiple school districts. Districts willing to participate are currently being sought, with initial implementation of the program scheduled for fall of 2017. Districts can choose to participate in 1, 2 or all of 3 shared collections, one each for grades K through 4; another for grades 5 through 8; and a 3rd for grades 9 through 12. Some concern was expressed that since the program's funding will come from the Common School Fund, less will be available to fund other services more traditionally associated with the CSF. Cost of consortium membership is targeted not to exceed \$2.00 per student enrolled.

Among the reports of the COLAND Goals Committees, the contribution to workforce development on the part of libraries was emphasized as a relevant library service to highlight for members of the legislature, and a summary will be prepared for possible distribution to them.

The next scheduled COLAND meeting is on March 10 at the Janesville PL

Submitted by Doug Lay