

Florida Library Network Council
Minutes
July 24, 2002
Tallahassee, Florida

The following council members were in attendance: Barratt Wilkins (State Librarian); Mary Brown (Florida Library Network Council); John Callahan (Florida Library Network Council); Danny Hales (Florida Library Network Council); Richard Madaus (Florida Library Network Council and Virtual Library Steering Committee); Betty Johnson, (Florida Library Network Council); Tom Sloan (Florida Library Network Council and Virtual Library Steering Committee); Jim Corey (Virtual Library Steering Committee); Judi Ring (Assistant State Librarian); Diane Solomon (Virtual Library Steering Committee); Joe Stines (Florida Library Network Council and Virtual Library Steering Committee); and Sandra Ulm (Florida Library Network Council. State Library staff in attendance were: Loretta Flowers, Mark Flynn and Jennifer Wombly.

Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes

Barratt Wilkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 am
The Minutes of the Florida Library Network Council for Feb. 22nd were approved with one correction: State Library staff who served on the Virtual Library Steering Committee will be noted.

STATE UPDATE

Barratt Wilkins provided the Council with an update on Federal and State issues that have potential impact on deployment of the Florida Virtual Library Plan. They included: Reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act, the transition of the Department of State from a Cabinet level position to an Agency of the Governor, the Agency's move to Zero Based Budgeting as required by the Legislature, and library related legislative issues.

REVIEW/ADOPTION OF FLORIDA VIRTUAL LIBRARY PLAN

The Council reviewed comments that had been collected relating to the Florida Virtual Library Plan. On May 24th the Florida Virtual Library Plan was distributed to the Florida Library community with an invitation to provide comment to the State Librarian. The majority of comments received were very positive and reflected support for the program comparable to earlier comment collected through focus groups during the plan's development. Comments requesting additional information or clarification of the planning process had been responded to adequately by the State Librarian. After review of all comments the Council took up adoption of the Florida Virtual Library Plan.

Action: Richard Madaus moved adoption of the Florida Virtual Library Plan by Council. The motion was seconded by Danny Hales. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Fiscal Agent. Barratt Wilkins announced that the State Library will seek a contract with an appropriate agency to act as Fiscal Agent for the Florida Virtual Library Plan. The decision will be based upon the most cost effective approach and quality of services offered. The contract will state that administration of the plan is provided by the Division of Library and Information Services with oversight from the Florida Library Network Council. The Fiscal Agent will not be involved in administrative issues relating to plan implementation.

Plan Coordinator The Division will develop a position description for the Plan Coordinator and a support position. The timeframe for hiring administrative position will be after October, 2002.

Communication Plan The Council formed a working group charged with developing a communication plan and calendar for informing the library community and other stakeholders about the plan and ongoing developments as implementation goes forward. The working group will be headed up by Judy Ring and includes Richard Madaus, Joe Stines and Betty Johnson.

Review of Plans for Implementation:

- A. Statewide Licensed Databases Mark Flynn gave a report on progress of the E-Resource Committee in evaluating vendor proposals for a multi-year license for database access for public libraries and public academic libraries. Currently the committee has established trials for reviewing the database content proposed from four vendors. A meeting of the committee will be held on July 31st at which the committee will make recommendations for content. Pat McClintock, consultant for the project, will conduct final negotiations based upon the Committee's recommendations. It is hoped that negotiations can be completed by mid-August.
- B. Portal The Council formed a Portal working group for the purpose of exploring issues relating to development of a Florida Library Portal with accompanying search engine capability. The working group will make recommendations to the Council regarding portal functionality, searching capability, how it should relate to other Web portal developments state-wide, and development of a plan and process for possible procurement of portal software. Volunteers for this working group include staff from CCLA, FCLA, and others as needed. Loretta Flowers will assign a State Library staff liaison to work with the group.

- C. Virtual Union Catalog The Council took up consideration of a Proposal by the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. to pilot a statewide union catalog. The Council voted unanimously to accept the OCLC proposal. A working group was established to provide oversight and guidance for this project. The working group will also make recommendations regarding libraries to involve in the evaluation component of the pilot project. Council members volunteering for this working group include Diane Solomon, Joe Stines, Richard Madaus, Jim Corey, and Betty Johnson. A State Library staff member will be appointed by Loretta Flowiers to work with the group.
- D. Virtual Reference The Council took up consideration of a motion to move Virtual Reference ahead of other Plan activities as reflected in the Plan's timeline. This motion is in response to an LSTA grant that seeks to establish a state pilot project to establish a vRef network among 23 community college libraries and nine libraries in the Tampa Bay area. The grant seeks to demonstrate the cost effective deployment of virtual reference, develop guidelines for state-wide virtual reference collaboration, and demonstrate collaboration among different types of library organizations. It is the intent of the grant to put in place standards and guidelines for vRef that would assure scalability to a state-wide program as described in the Florida Virtual Library Plan. There was strong support for moving this project forward. However, the Council postponed a vote endorsing the project until members could read the proposal. The proposal was distributed and a conference call will be scheduled in two weeks for the purpose of seeking a Council recommendation for endorsing the project.

Note: Subsequent to this meeting, the conference call was changed to an e-mail ballot.

- E. InterLibrary Loan System The Council will take this issue up at a later date as called for in the Plan timeline.
- F. Local Digital Content The Council moved to establish a working group for developing guidelines for state funded Imaging programs. The purpose of the guidelines will be to assure that digital library collections are accessible through the Florida Virtual Library when implemented. The working group will also develop guidelines for consideration of local content to be funded for digitization.

Minutes approved by FLNC November 1, 2002