

Minutes of the MARINet Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 18, 2005
Marin County Civic Center, Room 410B

Board Members Present: Sara Loyster, Chair
Frances Gordon
David Dodd
Cathy Blumberg
Anji Brenner
Carol Starr
Sara Loyster
Deborah Mazzolini

Board Members Absent: Mary Richardson

Also Present: Deb Moehrke, MARINet System Administrator

- I. **Public Comment Period:** No public present
- II. **Introduction of Guests:** No guests present
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the July 21, 2005 meeting were approved with clarifications (Mazzolini/Blumberg)
- IV. **Additions to the Agenda:** No additions to agenda were put forward.
- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **Standing Items on the Agenda**
 1. **Reports from Committee Liaisons :** Bibliographic Standards and Public Services have met since the last Board of Directors meeting.
Bibliographic Standards: Deb Moehrke reported for Mary Richardson. The Bib Standards Committee discussed their approach to meeting the two goals set for the committee by the Board. They decided to focus on the OCLC goal first. Two taskforces were formed, one to examine the workload implications and a second to analyze the details of inputting the records, including the use of single network or multiple, individual library, symbols.
Public Services: Anji Brenner reporting. The Public Services committee produced a detailed report on the pros and cons of the EBSCO and Gale periodical databases. The impact on the public was considered as part of the overall analysis. The vote of the committee was evenly split between the two databases. It was a thorough evaluation, as well as a good experience for the committee. The committee has formed two taskforces, one to develop ideas for the promotion of eBooks and the second to look at the promotion of and access to Spanish language materials.
 2. **System Administrator's Report**

The written report was distributed with the Board's packet. Deb discussed in further detail the Innovative Spanish interface and the approach to the language translation of the catalog. III has a Spanish language standard that the MARINet Spanish Interface Taskforce has expressed concerns about. To have the entire catalog translated by an outside agent would be expensive. The Board of Directors asked Deb to contact other III libraries that are using a Spanish interface, such as San Francisco, and find out if they use the III translations and/or to what extent they have made adaptations to them. The Board decided to go with the III translation and to ask the taskforce to look at this version and present concrete examples of their concerns.

The Sinking Fund is doing well with a \$462,103 balance, which does not include this year's contribution and interest.

Deb, Debbie, and Anji met to discuss proceeding on and RFP for a WEB design consultant to work on a Children's interface to the catalog and to be available in the future for other aspects of WEB design. A question as to the role of the Mod Squad relative to design and the consultant is something that will need further clarification.

3. Erate Erate and the Teleconnect fund were discussed at the recent NBC meeting. As a reminder, libraries need to file their 470 form by early January in order to apply for Erate for the next fiscal year. It has not been finally determined, but it may be necessary for a library to submit an Erate application in order to receive the California Teleconnect Fund discount. Also, libraries intending to apply for Erate must have a Technology Plan on file with the State Library.

4. Stable funding group: Those libraries participating in the stable funding group discussions will hold their next meeting after the election in November.

B. State and Federal Property Designation

The Board decided, after discussion, to leave the patron application form as is, keeping the checkbox designating whether a person resides on federal or state property. The State does not reimburse libraries for transactions for patrons living on federal or state property.

C. OCLC

Staff of several MARINet libraries attended the OCLC training workshop given for public services staff. The California Catalog is a useful search tool and will change the way interlibrary loans are done. Deb met with the Bibliographic Standards taskforce looking into the benefits of a single MARINet symbol or separate symbols for each library. The taskforce sent a recommendation to the Board recommending the use of a single symbol. Another taskforce is analyzing the workload issues. Deb agrees that a single symbol would simplify the holdings maintenance but is concerned that the California Catalog is designed around individual library's holdings. The California State Library is funding a FirstSearch subscription to WorldCat for this fiscal year. The ability to load holdings to the WorldCat database at no cost represents a change in OCLC policy. However, each library is then required to maintain their holdings going forward. The State is not funding ongoing holdings maintenance. After a discussion of the issues, the Board decided to hold a study session along with members of the Bib Standards committee and ILL staff from each library. TO DO: Send Deb questions to have covered in an OCLC study session by September 15.

D. Periodicals Database

The issue of price, which was not an evaluation consideration for the Public Services Committee, was brought to the Board's attention by Deb. She noted that Gale was higher. The vote on the Gale and EBSCO databases by the Public Services Committee was fifty percent for Gale and 50% for EBSCO. Chair Loyster asked each Board member for their opinion. Mary Richardson, Sausalito Library, asked Deb to relay to the Board that her preference was staying with EBSCO and that she hoped that there would be consensus of the Board on the issue. Frances Gordon, Larkspur Library, preferred EBSCO, stating that both

databases were basically equal, but the one year EBSCO contract was more attractive than the three year Gale agreement. Cathy Blumberg and Anji Brenner, Mill Valley Library, said overall Gale was preferred, clarifying that the Reference staff liked Gale and the Young Adult librarian liked EBSCO. Deborah Mazzolini, Belvedere-Tiburon Library, said given that the vote from the Public Services Committee was 50/50, that Deb's opinion as our administrator should tip the balance. Also, MARINet has used EBSCO for more than 10 years with no problems, no major cost increases, and the database has been well maintained. In her opinion, there was no compelling reason to switch. Deb Moehrke stated at that time her preference was to stay with EBSCO. David Dodd, San Rafael Library, stated that his staff's vote was for EBSCO. He brought up the possibility of purchasing both databases. He also cited the ongoing development of both Gale and EBSCO, and that MARINet's opinion of either database could be changed with each new release. He also questioned the way that Gale handled its pricing structure, making a dramatic drop in price from their first bid. Carol Starr, Marin County, stated that her staff was overwhelmingly for Gale. She also discussed the importance to her of a Board consensus. She thought David Dodd's idea of purchasing both databases was interesting. Sara Loyster, San Anselmo Library, said that she preferred EBSCO as a company and would support Deb's decision as the tie breaker as the committee's vote was 50/50. She also stated that there was not a consensus of the Board, five in favor of staying with EBSCO and two for moving to Gale. In her opinion, purchasing both databases is financially impossible.

As the Joint Powers Agreement allows for the County plus one, the Mill Valley Library on this issue, to carry a non-financial decision, Gale was chosen as the database.

VI. New Business

A. Establishing core services

Establishing a MARINet core services policy is a goal for this fiscal year for the Board of Directors. Anji Brenner and Deborah Mazzolini volunteered to draft a policy for the Board's consideration.

B. Adding services beyond the core services

This is also a goal for the Board of Directors this year. Anji and Debbie will also draft a policy on this for the Board's consideration.

C. Planning for the September meeting with committee chairs

Board liaisons should remind committee chairs of the meeting, as well as what they need to bring to the meeting. It was also noted that chairs should be reminded that corrections to minutes can only be made at a meeting by vote of the committee.

VII. Announcements

Frances Gordon asked for names of library building consultants to assist in a study for a future new building.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15. The next meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2005, 9:30 AM, Marin County Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted
Deborah Mazzolini