

MCLS AV Committee Minutes
May 20, 2009
Los Angeles Public Library – Pio Pico Branch

In Attendance: Mary Cohen (PVP)-Chair, Rachel Bieber (TOR), Steve Fritch (RED), Bryan Griest (GDL), Alice Kuo (MON), Sandy Krause (DORA), Kelly Quinn (LBPL), Dan Rooker (DOW), Jeff Schwartz (SAM), Vivian Vellanoweth (WHI), Maggie Wang (MPK), Christina Carlisle (MCLS)

I. Call to order

Mary Cohen called to order the regular meeting of the MCLS AV Committee at 10:10 a.m. on May 20, 2009 at the Pio Pico branch of LAPL.

II. Introductions

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

It was M/S/P (Bryan Griest / Maggie Wang) to approve the minutes without changes.

IV. System News

- a) Christina Carlisle discussed the possible changes to the MCLS delivery van schedules due to the upcoming tri-system consolidation.
- b) Grant possibilities were discussed.
- c) For the next year, it is foreseen that committees in the 3 systems will maintain the status quo with the possibility of breaking up into smaller groups by region or interest rather than the previously discussed notion of the committees from the 3 systems merging into single, larger committees.
- d) Christina report MCLS administration is reviewing the need for system liaisons attending committee meetings. Bryan Griest and Rachel Bieber voiced their support of continued liaison participation.

V. Old Business

- a) **FIDM tour discussion.** The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising is open to the public by appointment. They do an Oscar exhibit once a year. The gift shop & student shop are both open to the public. The library is well-used by students. They also have a lot of hand-outs with useful information. The consensus was that this was a worthwhile tour.
- b) **An update on the AV directory project** was given. A sample directory is being reviewed by the sub-committee members and a sub-committee meeting is scheduled to follow the main AV committee meeting.

Since the web site will be used primarily by information science professionals, Christina had asked Bryan Griest and Rachel Bieber to test the data entry and search features on the AV directory page. Both reported these procedures are confusing and work needs to be done to make them user friend. Their email

comments were forwarded to Rosario Garza, who will review them and pass them onto CraftySpace (web contractor).

Other suggestions for improving the AV directory page were discussed at the meeting. Rachel Bieber suggested looking at Torrance's Power Search page as a model for a better search tool. The committee also discussed the bare minimums for AV directory searches, including: 1) the ability to ask which library(ies) has(have) X type of media/equipment and 2) which formats of media/equipment are available at X library(ies)?

Further discussion concerned the pros and cons of breaking the survey down to the branch level and procedures for getting branch information from large systems like LAPL, Orange County and County of Los Angeles library systems.

A goal was expressed that simple, online updating of the directory be possible and that they should be conducted by all libraries on an annual basis, at least. It was the consensus of the group to allow the sub-committee to decide whether to carry this project over into next year.

VI. New business

- a) **Future of committees and next year's charges.** South State and Santiago library systems do not currently have AV committees. It sounds as if committees will continue, as is, with review as time goes by and the merger of the systems takes place. Joint workshops have been held in the past by the MCLS/SLS Reference & Children's Services Committees and the AV committee may want to consider a similar joint project.

Review of AV committee charges. Suggested minor change of wording from having a "workshop and tour" to the more appropriate "workshop and/or tour."

- b) **Elections.** M/S/P (Bryan Griest / Dan Rooker) that Mary Cohen serve a second term as Chair. M/S/P (Alice Kuo / Bryan Griest) than Dan Rooker serve a second term as Co-Chair. It was the consensus of the committee to ask Sandy Krause (who was not yet present) to serve a second term as Secretary. Sandy Krause agreed to this later in the meeting.
- c) **Meeting date for FY 2009/10 (3rd Wednesdays of months):** September 16, 2009; January 20, 2010; and May 19, 2010. Workshop and/or tours: February 17 and/or March 17, 2010
- d) **Structured exchanges for 09/10:** Consensus on topic for September 16, 2009 structured exchange: How are we coping with/serving our community/users during the current economy & budget crisis?

Dan Rooker also suggested the structured exchange topic audio books and specific publishers and the services each offer. Steve Fritch (Red) agreed to lead that discussion but no date was set. M/S/P (Mary Cohen / Dan Rooker) to table further discussion of structured exchange topics until our next meeting.

- e) **Structured Exchange topic for today: Video Games:**

Mary (PVP) said they have a small amount of video games for circulation, but circulation is low. Some are stolen, so MUST have security cases. Have a little bit for several consoles (Wii, PS3 etc.) Charge \$5/week for checkout. The teen annex also has some dedicated games / consoles.

Sandy (DORA) asked as part of annual survey if there were any interest in games. Very little interest expressed. Glendora does offer CDROMs for 1 week check out (no charge). Small selection, generally educational games and programs.

Bryan (GDL) has found that it difficult to get a consensus about what type of games to buy (for what console).

Dan (DOW) suggested one problem with CDROMs having to decide whether to get PC or MAC versions – and the items are costly (2-3 times more than a DVD).

Rachel (TOR) said some libraries are using “Gamefly,” a Netflix like company for games, to get games for patrons.

Jeff (SAM) said Santa Monica PL owns Dance, Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero and hold tournaments/events once a month.

Bryan (GDL) said they also have events where the teen librarians brings in their personal system.

Sandy (DORA) said the YA department was considering doing something like this, but worried about the possibility of damaging someone’s personal property.

Whittier, Santa Monica and Palace Verdes all have gaming systems they use for events in-house.

Rachel (TOR) said they have had events where people brought in and shared their personal systems, but got very little participation (less than 20 people). Found it to be too much effort for such low turnout.

Sandy (DORA) said Glendora has offered several drop-in game days on Saturdays and has had great success (100+ participants adults and kids). They offer board games and brain teaser puzzles, nothing electronic. Also free pizza is served, which does help bring people in.

Bryan (GDL) suggested that the culture of gaming is solitary (or online) and maybe this is why turnout is low.

Dan (DOW) said staying open for games after hours, whether open or organized gaming, is difficult to organize.

Jeff (SAM) said they had a scheduled program, using networked computers, inside the library and organized by an enthusiastic staff member.

Dan (DOW) has printed huge crossword puzzles for open houses, everyone can contribute and they are very popular (they print them in-house, but they are also available though the SkyMall catalog).

Alice (MON) said donated games are given to the YA department for their events.

Dan (DOW) said there are licenses for one-time networked game events; he will provide the information via the listserv.

Rachel (TOR) said there are also some free online game sites such as "9 Dragons."

VII. Other

Christina asked for volunteers to host the next year of meetings. Dan (Downey), Maggie (Monterey Park), Rachel (Torrance), Alice (Monrovia) volunteered, but need to check on the dates for availability.

Dan (DOW) suggested the Grammy Museum as a possible tour for next year. He also thought a group might want to visit the Chino Hills Library, the only library in the area who has the ITG tower for AV materials.

VIII. Agenda Building

Christina (MCLS) and Mary (PVP – Chair) will put together the next agenda at a later time.

IX. Roundtable

GDL – Demolition as not yet begun. Have not had many changes to the budget except that openings will remain unfilled.

MON – Had their grand opening May 16. The library is the only department hiring at the moment (PT Adult and Children's librarians). Are very busy, open more hours and short staffed. The new AV collection is available, but they must charge for checkout. Decided to order the opening collection from Baker & Taylor, who also provided pre-processing. Found that B&T made many mistakes in the processing.

WHI – Experiencing increase in usage but must make cuts in the budget. The AV department will be changing hours, opening at noon while the rest of the library opens at 10am. Also increased AV check out costs to \$1/2 days for feature films, \$1/week for series and non-feature films.

RED - 30% increase in circulation. Had highest ever circulation in April for Overdrive downloadable collection. Up for grabs – 26 volume "Crossroads Café" on VHS, cataloged and processed.

TOR – Reopened Southeast Branch after remodeling and looks "glorious." El Retiro Branch is now closed (they are closing one branch at a time for remodeling). Had a great turnout when presenting Wall-E on Blu-ray - 71 attendees in the main meeting room, 21 in the overflow children's room. Trying to get a grant to purchase computer for instructional classes for our patrons.

LBPL – nothing to report

MPK – Thing the budget cut will be 2.5%, and about 5% to materials. Currently looking for a new director. There has been lots of interest in the position. Has been able to weed about 2000

items on cassette and VHS. Recently received at \$3000 donation for Chinese language materials.

DOW – Thought the budget has not been announced, are expecting minor cuts to materials and databases. Do have a hiring freeze, but are hiring a part-time systems manager.

DORA – Have been asked to make \$200,000 in cuts to the library budget. Library management is proposing a “balanced approach” including cuts in service hours, part-time staff hours, and materials budget. Specific cuts have yet to be approved by the City. Also have an ongoing hiring freeze.

SAM – Are not replacing retirees, cuts in materials budget. Have discarded at VHS and have de-interfiled non-fiction DVD's.

PVP – Due to decrease in property tax revenue and defeat of propositions, the city is facing a \$500,000-600,000 deficit. Cuts will likely be made to the hours and material budget. There is also a hiring freeze. Usage of the library is up.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.

Submitted by: Dan Rooker, Vice Chair & Sandy Krause, Secretary June 6, 2009