

**SCLC AV Interest Group Meeting
September 16, 2009
Monrovia Public Library**

In Attendance: Mary Cohen (PVP)-Chair, Rachel Bieber (TOR), Laura Brownell (BUR), Heather Firchow (ALT), Steve Fritch (RED), Bryan Griest (GDL), Esther Harris (AZU), Alice Kuo (MON), Sandy Krause (DORA), Mohsen Rahnamaie (THO), Dan Rooker (DOW), Karen Schatz (OXN), Jeff Schwartz (SAM), Catriona Shafer (SMD), Karilyn Steward (CAB), Vivian Vellanoweth (WHI), Christina Carlisle (MCLS), Mary Menzel (Center for the Book), Gloria O'Donohue (BUR, SAB)

I. Call to order

Mary Cohen called to order the regular meeting of the SCLC AV Interest Group at 10:05 a.m. on September 16, 2009 at the Monrovia Public Library.

II. Introductions

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

It was M/S/P (Bryan Griest / Dan Rooker) to approve the minutes.

IV. Reports

- a) System News – Christina (SCLC) e-mailed the report before the meeting, and discussed SCLC developments.

V. Old Business

- a) **Structured exchanges topics for 1/20 & 5/19** – After some discussion the following topics were chosen:

- 1/20 – Discuss your experiences with different AV formats (CD, MP3, DVD, BlueRay, etc.) and your strategies for ordering these materials – which vendors/standing order plans do you prefer and why?

- 5/19 – Discuss the new world of e-book readers (Kindle, Sony e-reader, Plastic Logic, others). How are we using them, how might they be incorporated into our services?

- b) **Report on AV directory project.**

Christina (SCLC) e-mailed the AV Directory as an Excel spreadsheet prior to the meeting. She stated that the SCLC website was not yet ready to accommodate this resource so she suggested converting it to a Google Doc in order to allow access for member libraries to view and update. Rachel (TOR) said due to the firewall used in some cities (including hers), some people would not be able to access Google Docs unless they use a personal e-mail address.

Christina (SCLC) asked if everyone should have administrative access to make changes/corrections. After some discussion it was decided that updates/corrections should be sent to Christina who would edit the spreadsheets, all others will only be able to view the document.

Dan (DOW) and Rachel (TOR) added they would be happy to assist anyone with access trouble due to firewall issues.

VI. New business

- a) **AV Tour possible dates, 2/17 or 3/17.** The Grammy Museum was discussed as a possible tour idea. Dan (DOW) mentioned that the teens in Downey's Summer Reading Program went at the end of the program and that there is a fee for entry. Christina commented that it may be a challenge to find parking near the museum. Dan agreed to contact the museum, find out the cost, and explore the possibility of getting in for free.

Rachel (TOR) reported that she has made contact with someone from the Braille Institute who is able to organize a tour and that it would be wise to schedule a date soon and call periodically with reminders if we choose this option.

Dan withdrew his suggestion to visit the Chino Hills Library to see the ITG disc storage tower in action, because there will likely be a demonstration at CLA in October.

Mary (Chair, PVP) asked for Rachel and Dan to e-mail information to the group with their findings so members can vote for their tour preference.

- b) **Other Projects, i.e. workshop.** The group discussed ideas for workshops and the possibility of teaming up with another interest group. Unfortunately none of the other committees proposed workshops fit well with the AV group. Karen (OXN) suggested having some company reps speak about the future of downloadable books, players, and products for libraries. Alice (MON) said Jane from Baker & Taylor is very knowledgeable about the future of downloadable books. Others suggested asking someone from Overdrive or Sony to talk about their new partnership. There was some discussion about whether this topic would be enough for a whole workshop, and the willingness of participants to come to watch sales pitches. Heather (ALT) suggested including a panel of librarians to speak about their experiences with these services. Dan (DOW) stated that there is a lot of value in being able to give direct feedback to vendors. Steve (RED) said we could invite someone from the County system to be on the panel since they subscribe to several of these products. The vendors would also have an incentive to send representatives because they can reach so many libraries at once.

It was decided that inquiries would be made and findings would be discussed at the next meeting, at which time a committee would be formed.

Laura (BUR) will look into hosting at the Buena Vista Branch on April 14, 2010 and will contact Steve Roaks from Recorded Books/NetLibrary.

Alice (MON) will contact Jane from Baker & Taylor.

Bryan (GDL) will contact Steve Potash from Overdrive.

- c) **Structured Exchange:** How are we coping with/serving our community/users during the current economy & budget crisis?

Mary (PVP) could lose upwards of \$500,000 in property taxes and taking major cuts to materials budget, though usage is way up.

Laura (BUR) AV collection is supported entirely by the rental collection, and it is working pretty well. Rentals are down, so they are considering making more items rentals. Items remain rentals for about 9 months before being moved into the free collection. Circulation of books on CD and music are both up and overall AV circulation is up by 44%.

Bryan (GDL) CD collection is funded by the Friends. The DVD budget was cut by half. Most branches are ending the rental program because it is no longer making any money. This may be the result of the Pasadena Libraries making all of their DVDs collections free.

Heather (ALT) Also has a Friends rental collection for DVDs (\$1/3 days and \$2/7 days). A video game rental collection is also funded by the Friends. Has found that the Xbox games are easily destroyed, the wii games circulate well, and PS3 games don't circulate well. Limit of 2 at a time and cost \$2/week to check out.

Steve (RED) Library has made an effort to solicit newer donations for the collection though a poster/bookmark campaign. This has lead to an increase in donations. Offered to e-mail the posters/bookmarks to the group.

Sandy (DORA) Glendora is also asking for new donations, but has found that it is tricky to explain to some patrons that donations may be added to the collection, while others are sold in the bookstore to raise money for library programs. We have also installed a donation box for monetary contributions. Not much is collected in this way, but it has helped bring public awareness to the major cuts in the materials budget.

Rachel (TOR) found that people are donating previously viewed Blockbuster DVDs because they are often cheaper to buy then to rent. The materials budget for the current FY is still unknown, though she did place a large *Films for the Humanities* order at the end of last FY.

Several people mentioned that they are spending more time looking through "Friends" donations for materials to add to library collections.

Dan (DOW) said Downey is in good shape financially due to the city's long history of conservative spending and saving during the flush years. The budget has remained flat, though it did have to absorb salary increases. During the current FY, has been instructed not to buy any new AV materials other than books on CD. Currently the only new materials are coming from donations, which are good as new after using the buffing machine. Downey has an "entertainment" DVD collection; items check out for \$1.50/week (\$ goes into general fund). To prevent theft and save on costs for security cases/strips, will soon be moving the entire DVD and CD collection behind the circulation desk. Discs will be kept in cabinets while cases remain on the shelves.

Jeff (SAM) said all DVD and AV are free to check out and are in high demand. A decision has recently been made to increase the number of standing order copies and to focus on popular new releases for DVD and CDs. Also just added *Job Now*, a

new module of *BrainFuse*, it is similar to the tutoring product and allows patrons to send in resumes and make appointments for assistance.

VII. Other

Dan (DOW) noticed there is no column on the AV directory for MP3 CD collections. Christina (SCLC) said she would look into it.

VIII. Agenda Building

Christina (SCLC) and Mary (PVP – Chair) will put together the next agenda at a later time. Next meeting 1/20/10 in Torrance.

IX. Roundtable

Center for the Book – In addition to the Book Club in a Box program, they now have 5-6 book to film titles. The books are on loan, but the library may keep the DVD.

BUR – Positions are frozen and there have been many cuts as well as a discussion about possible furloughs and eliminating bonuses. The city webpage has been updated, and the library webpage will follow. Annual Anime Festival is coming up, usually have 200+ teens. Have seen an increase in library usage and also an increase in theft. Began using the grey Kwik Cases, but they are being broken and DVDs stolen, so had to switch to the black Kwik Cases.

MON – Since the Library Division manager retired, the Community Services Director is directly in charge of the library (the library has always been a division of Community Services). The new DVD collection has been set up to be self supporting; the charge is \$2/3 day check out. Unfortunately, about 20-30 items have already been stolen from this new collection.

AZU – The library director has retired and they have 30 applicants for the position. Have plans to remodel the inside of the library. They do have wifi in the library, began a Facebook page, and will be hosting a teen anime event.

GDL – Are currently going through a management restructuring process. Have started closing for entire holiday weekends (3 days), but it is still unclear how the staff time will be charged (may have to use vacation time, or make up the hours on other days).

CAB – Have now been in the new library for one year. The budget has not been cut, the city is doing fine. Began a new Tuesday night movie program to accommodate an influx of families after kids' programs downtown. Has seen an increase in DVD donations.

WHI – Have had a large cut this year. Due to loss of personnel hours, the AV department opens later than the rest of the library. All new releases have been moved behind the counter, this has significantly cut down on theft problems.

RED – All employees have had to take a 6% pay cut. Ground breaking on the North Branch took place, plans to open September 2010. Have migrated ILS to Dynex Symphony but it is still a work in progress. Reported that using Amazon.com to purchase AV has helped stretch the budget (free shipping if you purchase over a particular amount).

DORA – Reported a problem with patrons taking large amounts of AV materials and not returning, though very little problem with stealing from the shelves. No longer have limits on the number of items patrons can check out. Asked how others dealt with “long overdue” patrons and most libraries responded that they use collection agencies.

DOW – Library will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on October 3rd with a modest celebration. Downey currently does not offer wifi. Took a poll on how many libraries did NOT have wifi, and only OXN reported that some of their branches did not have it.

SAM – Has a hiring freeze and managed to dodge a 25% cut. Staff has been asked to take bonuses in the form of extra days off. Just began offering MyiLibrary downloadable books from Ingram.

THO – Holding a One City, One Book program in collaboration with a neighboring library. Website has been redesigned.

OXN – Has had some slight budget cuts. No budget for programs, so are now supported by the Friends. Have had programs to assist job hunters and for training staff in dealing with patrons going through tough times. Carol Summers retired as well as some other librarians, and they are hiring. Began offering MyiLibrary downloadable audiobooks, and people seem to like it. The collection is shared so patrons often need to place holds. Added that the Center for the Book is a great resource.

ALT – Have had some cuts overall, but not too bad. On call hours have been cut, so scheduling is tight and the library has been very busy. Will be having author Kazu Kibuishi speak the first week of October.

TOR – Have a community blog and a Facebook page. Link project is funded by the Boomer Grant. Remodeling is coming along, and will have wifi when they reopen. The AV department is being dismantled in the reorganization. Library manager is retiring. Will have a zombie program in October featuring *Breathers* author S.G. Browne.

SMD – Continue to meet challenges with humor and hard work.

PVP – Have balanced the budget. Employees will have to use some vacation time for holidays. Have a “soft” hiring freeze, so essential positions will be filled. Loss of property tax revenue is big, but overall they are okay for now.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.

Submitted by: Sandy Krause, Secretary September 24, 2009