

SCLC AV Interest Group Meeting
January 20, 2010
Torrance Public Library

In Attendance: Mary Cohen (PVP)-Chair, Erik Adams (PVP), Rachel Bieber (TOR), Laura Brownell (BUR), Denise Dobbs (SMAR), Heather Firchow (ALT), Steve Fritch (RED), Bryan Griest (GDL), Alice Kuo (MON), Sandy Krause (DORA), Martha Philippof (CMM), Dan Rooker (DOW), Jeff Schwartz (SAM), Vivian Vellanoweth (WHI), Mara Wallace (POM), Maggie Wang (MPK), Christina Carlisle (MCLS), Mary Menzel (Center for the Book)

I. Call to order

Mary Cohen called to order the regular meeting of the SCLC AV Interest Group at 10:05 a.m. on January 20 at the Torrance Public Library.

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Agenda

It was M/S/P (Bryan Griest / Rachel Bieber) to approve the agenda with one change; minutes to be approved are from September 16, 2009.

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting

It was M/S/P (Laura Brownell / Alice Kuo) to approve the minutes.

V. Reports

a) System News – Christina (SCLC) – Old e-mail / website addresses are no longer working so be sure to use the new address socallibraries.org. Pam Alger retired and the position has been filled by Tanya Novak. Have made an agreement to work with InfoPeople to share Webex account. AV Directory is now accessible on the SCLC website and a “Fines and Fees” directory will come online soon. These are both “view only” so send any updates/changes to Christina.

VI. Old Business

a) Update on possible libraries tour, Grammy Museum March 17, 2010 (Dan Rooker) Grammy tour is set to begin at 9:30 or 10am before the museum opens. Dan will request the 10am time. There will be no charge for the tour, but parking cannot be validated. Christina and Dan will work out travel tips and e-mail them soon.

b) Progress on Downloadables workshop at BUR-Buena Vista Branch on April 14, 2010 from 10am – 1pm
Workshop date confirmed.

Bryan (GDL) has not heard back from Steve Potash despite repeated attempts at contacting him. Though he originally expressed interest in Overdrive participating, he is not confirmed at this time. Rachel (TOR) said that Jane Herb is now working with Overdrive and may be helpful

Alice (MON) has confirmed with Jane Herb from Baker & Taylor
Laura (BUR) Steve Roaks from Recorded Books has confirmed.

Michele Cobb from BBC Audiobooks America expressed interest in participating, but wanted to talk about how the books were recorded. The group agreed that this was not really relevant to the discussion and should be declined.

Laura (BUR), Mary (PVP), Alice (MON), Erik (PVP) volunteered to be on the sub-committee to plan the workshop. Will meet in late February to go over budget, plan, and work on publicity. Christina (SCLC) may be asking for more volunteers to assist.

VII. New business

- a) Structured Exchange: All AV formats. Share your experiences with different AV formats (CD, MP3, DVD, BlueRay, etc.) and your strategies for ordering the materials – which vendors/standing order plans do you prefer and why?

GDL, PVP and ALT are phasing out Playaways. Only two libraries who said they have BlueRay DVDs, Pales Verdes and Beverly Hills. Jeff (SAM) said he feels like people will jump ahead to downloadable video.

Mary (PVP) asked how many libraries still have CDs. Alice (MON) said their CD collection is new, started with the new library. Heather (ALT) said Altadena is beginning to purchase MP3 audio books, and they circulate well. They have a standing order with Recorded Books for one regular audio book on CD and one MP3. The physical size is much smaller and they are interfiled with other audio books on CD. Mary (PVP) said they still have lots of tape formats, but they are doing much weeding. Rachel (TOR) has done considerable weeding of this format. Withdrew items with over 250 circs, duplicate copies, and bought a collection of History Channel DVDs to fill in. Sandy (DORA) said most of feature films on VHS were withdrawn, but still have many in non-fiction because don't have funds to replace all subjects. Dan (DOW) withdrew all tapes at once (VHS and books on cassette). Also bought a lot of non-fiction DVDs to replace. Heather (ALT) said Altadena Library focuses on purchase of feature films rather than non-fiction DVDs.

Rachel (TOR) subscribes to Recorded Books 36/quarter. Heather (ALT) added that RB has great packaging for kids CD + Book combos and they offer free replacements. Dan (DOW) said they lowered their standing order with Books on Tape to 2/month, but said it is worth the high price to get free replacements forever, no questions asked, as long as you purchased the item from them. Sandy (DORA) said she cancelled all SO plans with Recorded books and BBC and is ordering almost exclusively through Midwest Tape. The packaging is sturdy and often materials are 1/2 – 1/3 of the cost of RB and BOT. Laura (BUR) said Audio Editions also has low prices. Dan (DOW) said in order to build an MP3 collection he has committed to a 4/month SO plan with Tantor audio, it is really inexpensive and has steadily built the collection in this way at a cost of \$50-\$60/month. Rachel (TOR) has BBC multi-voice SO 12 / 6 months includes radio plays and classics for a cost of about \$900/year / 24 titles. Laura (BUR) purchased some LA Theater Works in their end of the year sale. Erik (PVP) was told by the BBC rep that they were increasing MP3 offerings, offer free replacements. Rachel (TOR) has a collection of The Great Courses (TGC), also offers free replacements. Bryan (GDL) really likes TGC as well, but found that they now charge for replacements. Can be expensive, but often have sales for up to 70% off – also have DVDs. Steve (RED) said Modern Scholar is a similar product from Recorded Books.

Steve (RED) has discovered that Recorded Books are now printing, “Not for sale to libraries” on retail editions of their books on CD and he passed around a sample.

This statement is printed on the box and each disc. Some discussion followed about responding to the company and asking why they were targeting libraries. Dan (DOW) said he sometimes purchases retail versions and does in-house processing to save money.

Rachel (TOR) brought up the similar issue of some studio DVDs being produced in “rental” and “retail” versions. Brodart is limiting their library customers to purchasing “rental” versions, though Midwest Tape is offering the choice. Discussion followed about the differences between the two versions and problem of cataloging something that cannot be replaced a few months later. It was suggested that we don’t purchase “rental” versions as a protest of this practice. Sandy (DORA) suggested that since her library does not charge for DVD check outs, the rule didn’t apply. Laura (Burbank) said she relies on the income from DVD rentals to support the collection and must purchase retail versions.

VIII. Other

None

IX. Agenda Building for Next Meeting, 5/19/10, Downey City Library

Downey has been confirmed as the location of our next meeting and it will also be time to elect new officers. Christina (SCLS) said staffing shortages are making it difficult for all the committees’ members to attend meetings.

Structured exchange topic: New world of e-book readers (Kindle, Sony e-reader, Plastic Logic, others). How are we using them and how might they be incorporated into our services?

X. Roundtable

SMAR – Offering workshops about selling on Ebay, organization, emotional well being, beginning computer classes. Lots of weeding taking place.

BUR – Major shifting is happening, reshaping the inside of the library and possibly moving AV collection. The library has been offered the building across the street for use, but unsure if it is workable. Program attendance has increased 500% thanks to the publicity department. Have had very successful author events. Anime Festival at the end of January. Up for grabs - some new HD DVDs donated by Warner Brothers, they were given multiple copies of each title. Gloria O’Donohoe (BUR, SAB), who loves coming to our meetings, was unable to attend because she is recovering from major heart surgery. She hopes to make it to the next meeting.

CMM – Have a big renovation project at the Central Library. Major weeding happening, withdrawing all VHS and all audio repair books (subscribed to Chilton’s Online). Held a successful college fair in September. March 4, will have a documentary film program featuring, *Luchadores: Fighting for a Dream* with director, Hector Robles.

PVP (Erik) – Have big shifting project underway, withdrawing duplicate books on cassette. Recently sent an e-mail through iii database announcing beginning computer classes and received an overwhelming response.

MPK – Hired a new City Librarian after a one year vacancy. They are considering starting a Playaway collection. Entry level computer classes are offered in several languages.

DOW – Had a library anniversary which was well attended. Budget remains flat for the year, but there are many new developments and businesses opening soon (Fresh & Easy, Portos Bakery, Tesla Plant, Johnny's Drive-In). In the AV department, currently only audio books are being purchased. Collection Development policy for DVDs is being re-written to focus on book tie-ins, and using MetaCritic and Video Librarian for reviews.

TOR – Working on their last (in a series) of branch remodeling projects, and have stayed on schedule. Next they will begin making restrooms ADA compliant. A Library Services Manager has retired; Rachel is shifting into a Senior Reference position.

POM – Library is closed on Mondays. The City has a mid-year deficit and it is unknown how budget issues will affect the library, which is already facing staffing shortages. Just finished Big Read program, "Call of the Wild" and will soon have "Mysterious California" program in a box (thanks to California Center for the Book).

SAM – For the past two years, the library has been asked to submit budget cuts, but have not had to make them, unknown if the same will be true this year. Have begun posting messages to the library homepage using Twitter. Six librarians are posting and have found it to be a fast and easy way to post information.

MON – Celebrating one year anniversary of new library in May. Fountains and playground are also completed. Spending freeze has just ended.

DORA – Waiting to see if mid-year cuts are needed this year (have had to make mid-year cuts in the past two years). Have been offering a series of health programs, the attendance so far is not very high. Bookmark contest is underway; the winning entries are printed and given away during the Summer Reading Program.

GDL – Management re-organization still underway, several staff people have retired or resigned. Bryan will be taking over teaching the beginning computer class, so may not be able to attend AV committee meetings in the future. They are very short staffed at the moment and may be remodeling soon.

RED – Have seen increases in program attendance. "Paws to Read" program and "Mysterious California" were popular. Were awarded the "Big Read" grant, April is "POetry Month." North Branch is opening in July though staffing details have not been worked out.

ALT – Programs include 4-part writing program, "Southern California Stories." New building is possible if the money can be raised. Reference took over managing the paging staff. Received over 75 applications for a vacant page position.

PVP (Mary) – Getting ready for the 80th anniversary celebration/fundraiser on Feb. 6, to be held on the library rooftop. Have been conservative with the budget. Part time librarian position will be posted soon.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.

Submitted by: Sandy Krause, Secretary February 11, 2010