

**Meeting Minutes, June 9, 2008 10:00 am
Statewide Database Advisory Committee
Oregon State Library, Salem, OR**

Members present: Faye Chadwell (chair), Mary Finnegan, Tony Greiner, Aaron Munter, Wylie Ackerman, Karen Clay, Greg Doyle, Karl Paulson, Kate McGann, Linda Weight, Victoria Ertelt

Members absent: Mary McClintock, Julie Quaid

Staff present: Jim Scheppke, MaryKay Dahlgreen, Darci Hanning, Mary Mayberry

Introductions: Current members introduced themselves. Karl Paulson is new to the SDLAC, as a school library representative. MK introduced Kate McGann who was attending the meeting because she oversees databases for the State Library and was interested in the NewsBank discussion.

The minutes for the April 14, 2008 meeting and the May 22, 2008 teleconference were approved with no changes.

New Business

Quote from Newsbank:

Greg said what he knew about Newsbank he already sent in an email; no quote from them for a while. MaryKay said Samantha and Dede, sales representatives from Newsbank, asked John Northcutt not to provide quotes. They want to deal with us as a state, rather than individually with different libraries.

Updated quote for public libraries and K-12 is \$91,000 for next year (the sum of \$54,000 plus \$37,000). The \$54,000 is the amount previously budgeted for Newsbank, and the \$37,000 is the amount of an emergency fund available one time only. Currently Newsbank service is extended through July 2008 at the current cost.

Newsbank has exclusive rights to *The Oregonian* for public libraries and K-12 with competitors who are serving similar markets.

There was discussion about the possibility of LexisNexis providing *The Oregonian* to public and K-12 libraries. Currently *The Oregonian* is available to academic libraries through a LexisNexis Academic package. LexisNexis is primarily a corporate/legal/law vendor and still expensive (\$1.89 per FTE) for academics. It doesn't provide products to public libraries.

Survey Results about Newsbank/Oregonian:

Darci provided a spreadsheet of survey results. The results show 51.43% of respondents would not be willing to pay for *The Oregonian*, 22.86% said they would be willing to pay to get *The Oregonian*, and 25.71% were unsure. Comment was made that the academic respondents may not be aware that *The Oregonian* is available through LexisNexis

packages they may already have, in which case the “no” majority might be even larger. Karl noted that a slight majority on survey said no, not at any price. Of the yes responses, most answers said they would fund \$50 or \$100. Many libraries find it a low priority. It was noted that if a library’s usage is low they could pay by the article directly.

Reports from committee members on constituent calls:

The response from at least three committee members is that their constituent libraries report not being able to afford NewsBank’s services on their own. It was pointed out that budgets are set for the next fiscal year for many libraries. Concern was expressed for small libraries being cut off.

Among the possible solutions discussed were approaching the newspaper publisher directly about providing database access or asking Oregon Digital Library Consortium to organize a license for public libraries. A question was raised as to competitive procurement and the scope of the contract. MaryKay said the State Library could do an emergency contract and DAS could declare NewsBank a sole source contractor for future years. A committee member asked if LSTA funding can be used for a “statewide database” if it’s not actually statewide which resulted in a discussion of the legality of OSL only subsidizing some libraries, but not all.

Jim referred to the ORS which indicates what libraries will be provided this service, all types.

Recommendation to OSL Board:

Faye said that the Committee has two options:

Option One is to walk away from the contract renewal with NewsBank under the current terms, OR

Option two is to negotiate a deal for a quasi-statewide database that excludes academic libraries.

Discussion ensued as to whether the \$91,000 available this year could be used with matching funds or if all libraries have to be subsidized in full. Another option raised is to walk away from the Newsbank contract but make the funds available to small libraries to purchase *The Oregonian* on their own. Tony suggested maybe negotiating a contract that would fund cost per use with a ceiling for when the money runs out. It was clarified that the \$54,000 will be reallocated by the OSL Board on the advice of the LSTA Advisory Council. One member said that Newsbank is not negotiating in good faith, that they gave us very little notice of this price increase, that we’ll be in the same situation next year, and that this is not how we want to do business.

RECOMMENDATION TO OSL BOARD:

Tony Greiner moved that we decline negotiations for the next fiscal year under the current terms. Linda Weight seconded. There was no further discussion. All members voted in favor. Faye asked that all members discuss this decision with their constituents.

Continuing Business

OLA/WLA Showcase Report:

It was agreed that the showcase went well. There was quite a bit of traffic and lots of interest. A number of people signed up to be reviewers of proposals. Faye asked everyone to talk to constituents who might want to be reviewers, we need three per category.

Action item: Get the current list from Faye and post to wiki. They need to be chosen no later than September.

General Periodicals RFP process check:

Scoring process and criteria need to be created and included in RFP. Darci is working to develop an electronic process for scoring. There was some discussion of how proposals were scored in the past. The committee should become familiar with the RFP. MK reminds group that we're still in the research phase so it's OK to get clarification from vendors. There was also discussion of the role of the reviewers and the role of the SDLAC, staff will get clarification on roles and process from DAS Procurement.

Choosing a new committee chair:

Linda Weight nominated Mary Finnegan, Tony Greiner seconded. The Committee unanimously elected Mary Finnegan.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be August 11, 2008, 10 am until 2 pm, at the State Library or via phone. Darci will poll members about days/times in September and October.

Meeting adjourned 12:25 pm.