

STATE LIBRARY COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 15, 2008 – Conference Call

Present:

Council Members:

Steve Benetz
Wendy Breeden
Jeff Donnelly
Doris Lewis
Carolyn McClendon

Staff:

Judi Ring
Loretta Flowers
Jennifer Womble

Introductions

Introductions were made and a quorum was announced.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2008 meeting was made, and they were approved unanimously with one modification. The minutes were modified to include the names of the five states participating in the Persistent Digital Archives and Library System project.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 25, 2009 during the joint council meeting of the Florida Arts Council, the Florida Folklife Council, the Florida Historical Commission, and the State Historical Records Advisory Board. Due to budget cuts, the Division is unable to support the participation of the State Library Council as it has in the past. However, members are invited to Tallahassee and can participate via conference call. Further information on this meeting will be provided at a later date.

Division Update

SFY08-09 Budget Reductions

The Division is currently continuing to operate on a 4% funding holdback in General Revenue.

The Senate and House have been in budget committee meetings to discuss the SFY08-09 budget and preparations for further state revenue reductions. Examples of possible cuts being considered are 5% salary reductions for all state employees and two-week furloughs without pay for all nonessential employees.

To address the state's financial interests, a Special Session is expected to convene in early 2009 to deal with reductions for the current state fiscal year. Reductions may include recommendations by the Division that were intended for the next state fiscal year. These include the elimination of the Source Document Microfilming Services Program from Records Management Services, which includes the loss of four full-time positions; a reduction in State Aid to Libraries by \$2,893,916; and the closing of the Legislative Library and consolidation of the Legislative Library with the State Library, which includes the loss of two full-time positions.

The Division continues to emphasize the maintenance of effort needed to receive Library Services and Technology Act funding from the federal government to support public libraries. If State Aid

funding falls below the required MOE, public libraries will lose valuable funding and the Division will be unable to fund 27 of its positions.

Legislation

Under the new state administration, the Division is now overseen by two policy and two appropriations committees in both the House and the Senate. A brief synopsis of each committee was given, which included an overview of each committee's members.

SB324 Public Library Internet Safety Education – This legislation encourages public libraries to implement an Internet safety education program for children and adults, and amends section 257.192, *Florida Statutes*, Program Grants.

This legislation, which is similar to legislation put forth last year, awards extra credit, or 10 percent of the total points available in the Division's Library Services and Technology Act grant application program, to public libraries that are in compliance and report to the Division annually the number of users that complete an Internet safety education program.

HB31 Early Voting – This legislation authorizes supervisors of elections to establish early voting hours for each county during early voting periods, but does not include wording to expand the number of voting sites, which public libraries support due to the demand on them during early voting.

Old Business

Sunset Review

The Division recently met for the second time with members of the Joint Sunset Review Committee and staff from the Governor's Office, House, Senate, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to answer questions and to provide an overview of the Division and its program and services; that meeting went well.

The Sunset Review Committee is currently still in the data gathering mode and the Department does not expect any further requests for information until after the 2009 Regular Session.

PeDALS

The Division has received the Persistent Digital Archives and Library System program equipment and software and plans to begin testing the system in January.

Medical Database Collaboration

The Gale Corporation has offered to pilot a project with the Division to integrate the health information databases that are available for Florida's consumers into their health information resources. The Division will begin to pull together information in the new year to collaborate with Gale on this project.

Gates Foundation Grants Project

The Gates Foundation is withdrawing Florida from their Increasing Internet Connectivity in Public Libraries grant project. Data collection, which was coordinated by Division staff, indicated that Florida did not have as great a “need” as the Gates Foundation had anticipated. Less than 20% of Florida’s libraries are without broadband Internet access. Participation in this project requires that at least 40% of a state’s libraries must be without broadband Internet access.

New Business

Electronic Records Management

Records Management staff in the Division have begun working on an electronic records management survey to be sent to state agencies according to recommendations from an Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability report on electronic records management. The survey results will be used, along with other research, to produce a statewide strategic plan for electronic records management (another recommendation from OPPAGA). Soon the Division will draft a timeline for the project; research surveys from other states, countries, and the private sector; review and analyze the surveys; review rule 1B-26.003, Electronic Recordkeeping and draft possible survey questions based on the rule; draft a letter to be sent to stakeholders; and research other strategic plans on electronic records management.

Economic Stimulus

The Department is working with the Governor’s Office to provide information on Florida’s need for economic stimulus dollars. The Division is forwarding information on the importance of public libraries and the push for library construction dollars and additional federal funding for libraries to the Governor’s Washington Office, as well as to the Secretary of State.

Members recapped what is happening in libraries, archives, or records centers in their areas.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.