

ARC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2008
Anna Maria College

Present:

Gwen Arthur, Clark University; Margret Branschofsky, Tufts Veterinary; Jim Douglas, Nichols College; Bob Foley; Fitchburg State; Jacqueline Heath-Foster, Atlantic Union College; Don Hochstetler, Worcester State College; Jim Hogan, Holy Cross; Barbara Ingrassia, UMass Medical; Penny Johnson, Worcester Public Library; Tracey Leger-Hornby, WPI; Louise Motta, Salter College; Carolyn Noah, CMRLS; Linda Oldach, Mt. Wachusett; Ruth Pyne, Anna Maria College; Dawn Thistle, Assumption College.

1. Call to Order

Jim Douglas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. New WPI director Tracey Leger-Hornby was welcomed to the group; and members all introduced themselves.

Minutes of June 11, 2008 meeting were approved.

2. Advisory Group and Interest Group Reports

Collection Management IG
No report.

Communications Advisory Group
Jim Douglas reported that there is an ARC orientation /introduction on the ARC website to which we can refer new staff. He thanked Natasha Collins of the CMRLS office for her assistance in working on the website.

Governance Advisory Group
Bob Foley reported that Linda Oldach is a new member of the Governance Committee and that there is a need for ARC to review its strategic plan (see under "Old Business."

Professional Development Advisory Group
Tracey Leger-Hornby reported that there was no Professional Development Advisory Group news to report.

Reference and Information Literacy
Tracey Leger-Hornby reported for Christine Drew that Callie Curran has left WPI. The committee's June 12 program was on the "Library's Role in the FY Experience." Also, the Committee's blog now has minutes of their February program. Their next program will be on October 17 at WPI at 2:30 to 4:30 on "Classroom Engagement Strategies."

Customer Services
Jim Douglas reported that there will be a September 25th program at Quinsigamond College on best practices using software applications.

Archives and Special Collections

Gwen Arthur reported for Mott Linn that the next Archives and Special Collections IG meeting will be at Assumption College in either late September or early October, exact date still to be determined.

3. Old Business

Review of Strategic plan

Led by Bob Foley, the Steering Committee reviewed the strategic plan and its drafted one-year update by Bob, Jim Hogan, and Linda Oldach (of Governance) which has to be submitted to MBLC by December 1, 2008. Substantial discussion followed, as Bob explained the rationale for the proposed changes; and Steering Committee members asked questions or suggested changes.

Highlights of draft plan and relevant discussion included:

Goal One:

A2: We need to sure to have new and/or ongoing initiatives and projects- like the planned Wiki here and the blog in B3--reflect an updated action date of 2010 or ongoing, as appropriate

B1: Noted was the Professional Development Committee's newly assigned responsibility for web-based access to ARC programming

C2: Development of procedures to contact new ARC hires is included.

C2: Annual reports should be due in spring 2010 so that Communications Committee can report on procedures for new staff hires

D1: Mentoring program for new directors AND INTERIM DIRECTORS (added) is to be handled by Steering Committee

Goal Two:

A1: Dawn suggested that we add collaboration with COWC to ARC's information literacy initiative (A1)

B3: "Ask the Expert" blog: Carolyn suggested a pilot project to see what interest there is in it. Tracey (WPI) and Dawn (Assumption) volunteered to work on the pilot

Goal Three:

A2: It was noted that it is important to have statistics for the ARC website, and Carolyn advised that collecting stats can be done

C1&2: Recommendation from the Collections Interest Group is that JSTOR collections be managed by each individual institution

C3: There should be ongoing efforts to work collaboratively with other consortia or organizations like Waldo (NY-based) to expand cost-effective access to resources

C 4: The Archival Interest Group is to investigate and report on current best practices for archival management.

In discussion of above goals, it was decided that ARC will invite a WALDO representative to talk to us about their organization.

It was also suggested that we request a demonstration of Resources for College Libraries (to be scheduled) as it would be useful to compare it to OCLC's collections assessment product.

Bob will revise the plan based on today's discussion; and the revised document will be distributed with changes to the Steering Committee before we vote to approve it.

Annual meeting location

Possible locations were discussed including the MA Military Museum, Goddard Library at Clark, and the Tufts Veterinary School Library. Military Museum was first choice, and Penelope will check with director there to see if we can use that space. Gwen volunteered Goddard Library for the 2010 annual meeting.

4. New Business

Income tax rollback initiative: Carolyn reported on the serious negative impact that the proposed income tax rollback would have on libraries across the state if it passes. She reported that libraries are working to promote awareness of this proposal and encouraged all of us to do so as well.

5. CMRLS News

Carolyn reported that:

Unfortunately, our the Literary Reference Center (database) only has a short-term contract through June 2009 because of lack of needed financial support.

The CMRLS annual meeting is coming up on November 4th at the Manor in West Boylston. Ken Gloss of the Brattle Book Shop will be the speaker.

The CMRLS Continuing Education brochure is out: look for programs on management and handling conflict.

Current News from local ARC institutions/libraries

Tufts Vet School: Saturday September 6 there will be an open house there.

Worcester Public Library: Starting in September, the WPL will be open Mondays again.

Assumption: Callie Curran has left Assumption for a position at MIT, so Assumption has a newly minted MLS Lory Spring in reference now.

Fitchburg: Bob Foley reported three new hires there in Tech Services and Reference.

Clark: Renovations continue at Goddard; there are now two vacancies (Head Collections Management and Science Librarian); and the University has a major gift that will substantially increase monographic acquisitions for the next five years.

WPI: Tracey reported as well as a new director there (her) there is a new Access Services person on the WPI staff. WPI has received a MBLC grant to digitize their Dickens collection. They are using vintage video games as a promotional tool there.

Holy Cross: Holy Cross has a new Science Center. As well, they have received an NSF grant in bird studies to build a database of bird skeletons. They are working to embed librarians in the FY program, and are anticipating a 2010 NEASC reaccreditation visit.

Anna Maria: They have a new dean and are preparing for a NEASC reaccreditation.

Wachusett: WMCC has three new hire, but nonetheless funding is very tight. They have a computer lab open to the community and are grappling with user issues.

UMassMed: There is good news from the state on life sciences funding, and the Med School has a new chancellor. After a journal usage study, they are going to electronic journals (format) except for their core collection.

Worcester State:

Atlantic Union:

Carolyn for CMRLS: Carolyn encouraged us to update our staff lists online; she also reminded us that we can rent video games if we want to run a game night at our libraries.

Next ARC Steering Committee is on Wednesday November 5, 9 AM at Holy Cross.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Gwen Arthur, ARC Vice-Chair/Secretary