

**Florida Library Network Council
Meeting Minutes
February 27-28, 2006**

The following council members were in attendance: Judi Ring, State Librarian, Barry Baker, Mary Brown, John Callahan, James Corey, Danny Hales, Betty Johnson, Richard Madaus, Barbara Stites, Loretta Flowers, and Mark Flynn. Special Guest: Chuck McClure. Visitors included Charlie Parker, Beth Farmer, and David McMurrin.

Mark Flynn opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda and the informational packet distributed to the Council.

Judi Ring, State Librarian, made the following remarks.

Announcements:

- Ms. Ring thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Ms. Ring welcomed a new member Brian Kelley. Brian Kelley is from Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth, FL. Ms. Ring announced that William Conniff resigned from the FLNC group. We will work on his replacement for the next meeting. Barbara Stites will be reporting and representing the MLC groups. Ms. Ring also welcomed David McMurrin from Port St. John Public Library who is in a leadership program with Joe Stines. Ms. Ring also congratulated John Callahan. John will receive his official appointment as the Director of Palm Beach County Libraries.
- Ms. Ring re-stated Secretary of State Hood resignation and announced Secretary Sue Ann Cobb as her replacement. Secretary Cobb was once the Secretary of the Lottery during Governor's Bush first term of office and was Ambassador of Jamaica. She also was the first woman who attempted to climb Mount Everest and wrote about it. She is also an attorney. Her husband is also an attorney and also was the Ambassador to Iceland.
- Secretary Cobb decided to re-organize the Department. Secretary Cobb decided that our Division to move under the direction of JuDee Pettijohn, Deputy Secretary of State, Office of Cultural and Historical Programs.
- The budget issues for this year have stayed about the same. The grants have stayed the same with the continuation budgets: State Aid at \$31.8 million, MLC's at 1.8 million, CLICK Program at \$200,000, and Construction Grants moving over to the Legislature in a rank order for the legislatures to decide on funding. There will be a decrease in our Operations Budget. The Governor's budget has recommended that we cut 8.5 full time positions', these are current vacant positions across the division. The FLA and a Legislative Committee with Charley Parker ahead of that committee has an agenda to increase the State Aid to public libraries.
- Judy announced that we have a good consensus on the opinion of the change of state aid formula. Loretta, Marian Deeney, Faye Roberts, and Judi have been traveling across the state speaking to library directors explaining how the current formula works and what changes the task force is recommending. We have not received any negative responses in any of the meetings. We hope to build a consensus to bring forward recommendations to the Department of State, then to the Governor's office for legislation to be introduced in the 2007 legislative session.

Council Action: Motion was made to adopt the Minutes of the August 16-17, 2005. Motion passed.

Judi Ring asked for members to introduce themselves for the new people.

Mark Flynn reported on “Virtual Reference Activities in Florida”. Virtual reference have grown since the launching of Florida Electronic Library in 2004 especially when “Ask the Librarian” became part of the Florida Electronic Library which was funded by LSTA. They are about 20 or more virtual libraries cooperatives nationally. Mark mentioned that he attended a summit meeting for Virtual Library managers hosted by SOLINET in Atlanta, GA on February 8th and 9th. Information on management, evaluation and cooperation among various state virtual library projects in the Southeastern United States was bought back from this meeting. Galileo was discussed at the Virtual Library managers meeting. Galileo is developing a strong virtual reference for libraries in the southeast.

Barry Baker was asked by Mark to give an overview and background information on “**ASERL Virtual Reference Program**”. The program started two years in February 2004. They are 35 members in the southeast which include six state libraries and large research libraries. ASERL launched a pilot project two years ago which was “Ask the Librarian”. The program was reviewed at the end of 2004. Thirteen libraries participated in the pilot program. At this moment only nine libraries participate. Some libraries decided that the program wasn’t for them. Libraries contribute to the operation through SOLINET – ASERL is closely related to SOLINET. ASERL is in an expanded marketing campaign at this moment. ASERL (Association of Southeastern Research Libraries) brings together leaders from research and state libraries in the region to foster a high standard of library excellence through inter-institutional resource sharing and other collaborative efforts. ASERL is the largest regional research library consortium in the United States.

Deborah Mekeel gave a presentation on how to use the “**Get Answers**” program. The program was started by the State Technology Office and the Office of Public Services Commission which was called “Right Now”. The purpose was to offer information about the services on state government and to cut down the work load within each state agency. The State Library inherited the program when the State Technology Office was unable to keep up the number of questions.

Mark Flynn, Richard Madaus, and Charley Parker discussed or gave a presentation on the “**Ask a Librarian**” program maintained by the Florida Electronic Library. “**Ask a Librarian**” is a free online information service provided by Florida libraries. Library staff from public, academic, school, and special libraries throughout Florida answer questions. The FLNC members were given an update on the changes. The presentations and discussions on the program included Richard Madaus on the beginning of the program and the “future-of-the-future”, Mark Flynn on the current status of the program, and Charley Parker on the future direction of the program.

Tutor.com was discussed within the meeting. Tutor.com is a company that uses the Internet to connect people or students for one-to-one instruction in any subject, anywhere, anytime. Senator Fasano asked Tutor.com to give a presentation on “**Florida Online Homework Help in Libraries Programs**” to the TED Committee. This program is for homework help only. Tutor.com is asking \$2.9 million dollars to implement the project in Florida.

Mark Flynn briefly discussed the Gale databases. During the month of January over 1,300,000 searches from Gale databases were received which 600,000 came from K-12. We received over 7 million Gale searches from last year.

Mark Flynn discussed the **Florida Electronic Library Budget for 2006-2007 grant year**. The grant budget narrative was distributed to the council members. The grant narrative also included a three-year comparison. The budget will include a new program for new digitization. There is no growth in the budget. The budget is less than last year. The break down on the budget includes evaluation and promotion dropping from 7% to 3%; vendor licensing cost at 85%, and administration cost at 12%.

The only increase in database licensing is in OCLC for FirstSearch statewide which pays for all of the libraries statewide including the Florida Group Catalog. FirstSearch always has a 4% increase in cost every year. We usually have a flat pricing for database licensing in DocuTech and MetaLib.

The Gale Group database licensing will carry us to September 30, 2007, but the contract ends in December in 2007. We are looking at a new contract for database licensing and we will need a contract in place this time next year.

The portal is contracted with FCLA and this is where MetaLib SFX is hosted and managed. We have staff at the State Library who does the configuration for the portal. Jim Corey's staff at FCLA looked after the service pack, updates, keeping it on the Internet secured, and maintaining the server. The cost for the portal has gone down, because this is the third and final year for the payment for the software. After this our cost will go down for maintenance around \$85,000 a year plus cost recovery for FCLA for system work. FCLA receives about \$20,000 to \$23,000 a year.

The cost for the digital collection project will go up from \$25,000 to \$40,000. A meeting occurred last September with the digital managers within the state to talk to them about what projects will be ready next year. There is money in the grant to take on nine new projects next year. We are working with museums and universities, NEFLIN, and TBLC about a digitalization project. Additional \$10,000 dollars will go to creating a model oral history digital program and training materials. \$5,000 will go to host a statewide meeting.

Marketing the Florida Electronic Library

A council member asked for a power point presentation to be made for council members to use when going to meetings to show off the Florida Electronic Library. Unfortunately a lot of meeting places don't have the Internet. Mark will work on a contract for an open purchase order for a presentation to be made. A council member will be able to edit the presentation for different types of meetings. This will help in promoting FEL.

The council members were asked for recommendations for the budget. Council members gave their input, thoughts, problems, and feelings into how to fund for the future.

Council Action: Motion was made to adopt the budget. Motion passed.

Re-bidding State-Wide Access to Databases

The Gale contract is up for re-bidding. The Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN) will request a quotation for licensing and pricing agreements for database products to be licensed on a statewide basis in Florida. The RMG Consultants, Inc. will work with NEFLIN to negotiate and finalize any resulting agreements. We will be allowed to work only with Gale for a contract. We are not obligated to seek other quotes.

Betty Johnson, Director of DuPont Ball Library at Stetson University in Deland, has invited Mark Flynn to come in May to talk to the ICUF (Independent Colleges of University of Florida) schools about their participation in the Florida Electronic Library.

Evaluation Discussion with Charles McClure

Charles McClure discussed evaluating of the use of MetaLib and ExLibris. The goal is developing methods and data collection that will measure the quality and use of the databases. Before implementing the MetaLib software Mark Flynn and the Florida Electronic Library office wishes to make sure that the software was tested. The data collected for this year will be compared from last year.

The five-year plan is coming to an end. MLIS has asked for an evaluation of the five-year plan. The Florida Electronic Library was a good service for a five-year plan. The comprehensive review will be needed to satisfy the LSTA requirements. **Loretta Flowers** stated that in a few weeks we will be in the midst of developing a process for the next phase of FEL and involving the council members in the process. MLIS criteria requirement was to evaluate one program or project. Chuck stated that we also need to look at an evaluation that will help us for the next five years. We will need to look at areas that will benefit our program.

The Gates foundation provided the institute a grant for a study to be done every two years of public libraries and the internet. The institute did a lengthy survey with five successful different states programs. The states included New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Iowa, and Florida. Texas, Iowa, and New Jersey surveys have been completed. The institute wanted to find out why these libraries were successful in provision and the management of network information services compare to others.

The institute found out that they are three reasons that make a library a success. The reasons are:

- 1) Technology in place.
- 2) Skilled net work staff and skilled staff who work the political scene.
- 3) Values and measures are in place.

ILL Management and Resource Sharing In Florida

The following items were discussed on the second day.

- **Chuck McClure - Scan of other states activities**
- **Mark Flynn – Review of FLIN Statistics**
- **NCIP Overview & Discussion**
- **Beth Farmer – URSA Presentation**
- **Charlie Parker – Proposing a Business Model for Florida**

The Meeting Adjourned.