

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
October 17, 2022
at William Hall Library
Program Room, Lower Level
1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905

Members Attending: Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Karen Andrews, Nicolette Baffoni, Karen Mellor

Guests: None

Materials Distributed:

- OLIS 2023 Work Plan
- LBRI Proposed Meeting Schedule, 2022-2023

I. WELCOME

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:27 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the June 13, 2022, meeting

Moved By: Mr. Coutu

Seconded By: Mr. Sloan

The minutes were approved as presented.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Drnach welcomed members to a new legislative session.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. OLIS Updates

i. Ongoing: Personnel

Jason Ackermann, Digital Resources & Applications Coordinator, moved to another state agency on July 1; the vacated position will be filled soon.

David Marrocco began work on July 2, replacing Jeremy Cutler as Support Services Technician II. Mr. Marrocco supports Library Development, including youth services projects, continuing education, and state aid to libraries. He is currently assisting with the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 'Programs in a Box' project funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The circulating kits contain educational devices such as robots and simple machines, tablets, program supplies, and literacy activities for all age groups; OLIS will replenish kit materials as necessary.

ii. State Budget, Fiscal Year 2023

OLIS is funded at the current service level including anticipated contractual salary increases.

OLIS is seeking additional funds in the revised FY23 budget to fully fund delivery. Because the FY23 budget did not fully fund delivery, federal funds will be needed for the contract balance. If the request is approved, federal funds will be used for discretionary library grants. The status of this request will be known in January when the revised FY23 and FY24 budgets are presented by the Governor.

Increased funding for delivery would bring the number of delivery stops to the pre-pandemic level in the FY23 revised and FY24 budgets. When delivery volume decreased during the pandemic, OLIS negotiated with the vendor to reduce the contracted minimum number of stops.

B. Public Library Annual Survey

The public library annual survey closed on September 15 and OLIS staff is reviewing the submitted data. All public libraries have met maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements for grant-in-aid (GIA) eligibility. While there were no requests for waiver of the MOE requirement, staffing and open hours waiver requests increased. Libraries are facing a multitude of staffing challenges while trying to maintain the open hours requirement and meeting staffing requirements. In FY23, GIA is funded at the full 25% level provided in RI General Law 29-6-2.

C. Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC)

The Statewide Reference Resource Center received additional funding from the General Assembly which will enable OLIS to continue providing current resources that were paid with federal stimulus funds in 2021 and 2022. The added funds allow continued subscriptions to [Tutor.com](#), an online tutoring platform, [Udemy](#), an online learning platform, and the Job and Career Accelerator that complements Learning Express Library. OLIS will continue to seek full annual state funding for these resources.

Ms. Mellor expressed her gratitude to the RI Library Association (RILA) for their lobbying efforts on behalf of the SRRC and in securing full GIA state funding.

D. 2022 Summer Reading Program (SRP) (Ms. Baffoni reporting)

This year, OLIS moved from the Collaborative Summer Library Program to the [iREAD Summer Reading Program](#) created and administered by the [Illinois Library Association](#). The 2022 program theme was 'Read Beyond the Beaten Path.' OLIS provided customized iREAD program materials to RI libraries, including promotional posters and bookmarks.

SRP participants included 12,213 children, 2,065 teens and 2,715 adults, all increases from 2021. Virtual programs decreased, resulting in less virtual attendance and more in-person attendance. Virtual attendance participants included 1,338 children, 419 teens, and 52 adults. In-person program participants included 36,028 children, 4,203 teens, and 6,937 adults.

Formulaic summer reading grants totaling \$39,750 were awarded to 43 public libraries. All libraries were eligible to receive \$600 for youth programs, \$300 for library branches and \$300 for adult programs. Four qualified public libraries served as summer meal sites, providing meals with programs.

The 2023 iRead program theme is '[Find Your Voice](#)'. Youth Services Coordinator, Danielle Margarida, and Adult Services Coordinator, Emily Goodman, have begun 2023 SRP preparations.

E. OLIS Projects

i. OLIS Website

The state is moving its websites to a content management system (CMS). Moving OLIS' dynamic content into the CMS has been challenging as the system initially did not include modules to handle dynamic database queries. Pablo Morales Henry, Program Manager for Network Services, has identified and configured modules to migrate OLIS' current dynamic content features to the new platform. The project began in Spring 2021 and will potentially launch in November of this year. The new website is anticipated to be more navigable and easier to update and maintain.

ii. Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

The DPLA Working Group (OLIS, Brown University Libraries, Providence Public Library) undertook a statewide survey in May 2022 to identify RI digital collections for inclusion in the inaugural collection of the RI DPLA hub. The results are being analyzed to identify collections with RI culture and history, RI-exclusive materials, and unique RI materials beneficial to libraries and researchers nationwide. The RI hub launch is anticipated for June 2023 using digital content that currently meets inclusion requirements; 50,000 digitized items are necessary to launch the hub.

A second phase of the project will assist organizations and libraries with digital preparation or content digitization. Mr. Morales Henry will attend the next LBRI meeting to discuss the project.

iii. Disaster Preparedness Planning Tool (D-PLAN RI)

The Northeast Document Conversation Center built the D-Plan RI tool with Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funds over a decade ago; the tool was not being updated and has been decommissioned. Mr. Morales Henry built a temporary system for libraries to input basic disaster plan information in accordance with statutory requirements for public library eligibility for state GIA.

F. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants

The ARPA grant program funded by IMLS ended on September 30. Ms. Baffoni led the grant program that awarded \$2.3M in direct library grants and statewide projects. A sampling of library projects will be showcased at future meetings and a more in-depth ARPA grant report will be presented at the next meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Public Library Minimum Standards

Library service changes during the pandemic will inform the upcoming review and potential revision of the Public Library Minimum Standards. Ms. Drnach has appointed board members to the upcoming review committee which will also include non-board members representative of public libraries.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Mr. Coutu & Ms. Mellor Reporting)

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

i. Rhode Island Legislation

Public library grant-in-aid (GIA) was funded at 25% in FY23 by the General Assembly in accordance with RI General Law [§ 29-6-2](#). Level funding would have resulted in funding at 22.4% of local appropriations and expenditures.

RILA is hosting a pledge drive for RI political candidates in the 2022 election in coordination with the American Library Association (ALA) to confirm library support.

ii. Federal Legislation

The federal government's continuing budget resolution expires in Dec 2022; the federal 2023 budget ideally will be approved after the mid-term elections. A small increase to Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding is in the Senate version of the budget, including \$20M for library construction lobbied for by ALA. Construction funds would include funding for a survey of library construction needs nationwide.

The IMLS is leading a new commission on the arts and humanities which will include the National Endowment of the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Senator Jack Reed has proposed funding for school libraries for the Right To Read initiative.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Dr. Hopper

As part of a larger budget review, the Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN) is reviewing library delivery costs for materials transported between RI and Massachusetts. HELIN members each pay \$3,000 annually which translates to approximately \$24-60 per item delivered to Massachusetts, which supports HELIN member Wheaton College and OLIS delivery to Massachusetts in partnership with the Massachusetts Library System (MLS). Receiving detailed vendor delivery data has proven to be problematic. Ms. Mellor advised that OLIS will work with HELIN, MLS, and the delivery vendor to secure delivery data.

B. Mr. Coutu

Ocean State Libraries (OSL) is moving to an open-source Integrated Library System (ILS), Koha; the migration is scheduled for completion in May 2023. Mr. Coutu reported that the move will result in considerable savings for the consortium.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. OLIS 2023 Work Plan

Ms. Mellor presented an overview of OLIS' 2023 work plan. The plan is based on OLIS' Five-Year 2023-2027 Strategic Plan approved by the LBRI in June and by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in September. Each plan year, staff develops a work plan to implement the plan's 3 strategic goals, Access, Learning and Engagement. The 2023 budget is \$3.2M, including IMLS and state funds, and funds 13 full-time employees (FTE).

Each goal supports three projects. Access projects are resource sharing, the Talking Books Library (TBL), and digitization, preservation & disaster preparedness. OLIS will complete use analyses of interlibrary loan (ILL) and OCLC First Search to determine a forward path. OLIS spends \$25,000 annually on OCLC and serves as the state clearinghouse for ILL requests for public and school libraries. TBL is working on increasing membership through targeted outreach campaigns. OLIS will continue work on the DPLA launch and D-Plan tool as part of the digitization and preservation project.

Learning projects are continuing education, reading and literacy, and statewide programs including Reading Across RI (RARI) and health and financial literacy. Continuing education workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and learning cohorts will continue to support library staff professional development in the areas of youth services, adult services, and library management. Trustee training and a handbook will also be a primary focus this year.

Engagement projects include equity, diversity and inclusion, community connectors, and local library development. OLIS will continue to support individuals from underrepresented groups to defray costs of earning a library science degree at the University of RI Graduate School of Library & Information Studies.

The work plan is scheduled for a vote at the November meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2022, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at a venue to be determined. Board members will be notified of any date or venue changes.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Dr. Hopper

Seconded By: Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.