Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee Meeting
Conference Call
Monday, October 28, 2013, 3:00 pm

Recorder: Arlene Weible

APPROVED

In attendance: Jane Nichols, Carol Dinges, Garnetta Wilker, Glenna Rhodes, Liz Paulus, Steve Cox, Arlene Weible, Susan Westin

In general, committee members were supportive of the draft recommendations report prepared by Nichols. It was agreed that Gale resources meet the basic needs of public and school libraries, and it is good for the report to indicate that there will probably be unhappiness in the academic community.

The need for a general encyclopedia product was discussed. While many larger school districts have a general encyclopedia product, many smaller districts do not. It would be good to know how many libraries already have one of the products, and this information could be obtained from the vendors. This information could be pursued as the SDLAC explores options in the upcoming year. It was also noted that public libraries do not see a great need for a general encyclopedia product designed for a general audience, but there could be interest in a product that was designed for K-12. It was also noted that this kind of product could also enhance Answerland services, and this point should be added to the draft report.

It was agreed that a general statement about the difficulty in meeting the needs of all constituencies (academic, public, K-12) with a periodical and reference databases package from a single vendor should be added to the report.

Budget implications were also discussed. Westin reported that there is approximately $400,000 currently allocated for Gale products in the LSTA budget, and the bid from Gale was about $350,000. The LSTA Council will further discuss and make a recommendation to the OSL Board about the allocation of the LSTA allotment, and the OSL Board will make the final determination. The Board will also decide whether to implement a subsidy model (requiring some libraries to pay for the statewide databases).

Committee members agreed that it is likely that a number of academic libraries will not participate in the Gale contract if they are required to pay, and it would seem odd to ask libraries to pay when the bid came in lower than our current contract. It was also clear from earlier SDLAC surveys that there was a general preference for free resources. Nichols will add these thoughts to the draft report.

Action items:

Nichols will draft language for the following points discussed:

- The value of a general encyclopedia to Answerland
- The difficulty meeting the needs of diverse constituencies.

- The unlikely participation of academic libraries in a subsidy model, and the desire to keep SDLP resources free.

Nichols will add this language to the draft and send it out to the committee for final review.

Added note from Weible: The Committee did not discuss deadlines during the call, but Weible later recommended via email that SDLAC finalize the report no later than November 8, and hopefully even earlier in the week of Nov. 4, to assure the LSTA Council has enough time to digest it before their meeting in mid- November.