



PLS System Meeting – Summary
April 20, 2012
@ Pioneer Library System

Laurie Newell, **BLO**; Diana Thorn, **BRI**; Renate Goff, **CAL**; Jenny Goodemote, Mary Ferris, Ron Kirsop, **CAN**; Tanya Thompson, Chris Finger, **GPL**; Wendy Krause, **HPL**; Theresa Streb, **LYO**; Darlene Virkler, **MAC**; Tracy Whitney, **MAR**; Blanche Warner, **NAP**; Elly Dawson, **NEW**; Sandra Hysten, Anne Rehor, **ONT**; Patricia Baynes, **PAL**; Peggy Parker, **PER**; Louise Furber, Deb Dennis, **PHE**; Liz King, **RJ**; Donna Norris, **ROS**; Carol Garland, **SOD**; Angel Wright-Sackett, **SS**; Pat Evans, Lynne Madden, **VIC**; Anna Grace, **WADS**; Beth List, **WAL**; Mary Conable, **WAR**; Dottie Pat, **WOL**; Cheryl Northup, **WYO**; Cassie Guthrie, Betsy Morris, Lindsay Stratton, Jim Frey, Heidi Jensen, Jeanne Hayes, **PLS**.

Birds of a Feather: Highlights from 2012 Computers in Libraries conference — 7 attendees

[Handout is available on the twiki]

Twiki: <http://plum.pls-net.org/twiki/bin/viewauth/Members/Meetings/SystemMeeting20120420>

Announcements

Cassie (PLS):

- Reminder: upcoming trustee/director workshop: Good Financial Stewardship. Speaker Catherine Bentzoni has a strong background in finance and knows about the different types of libraries. Lots of good info to share and several trustees are already registered for the May 10 event.
- Community Distribution Procedures. PLS will provide a distribution service for non-profits, distributing their flyers/brochures. Please see [PLUM](#) for the guidelines, form, and info regarding \$10 fee.
- Content Reserve procedure. Ellen will no longer be reviewing your list before it's submitted. Please be sure and check for unintended duplicates. The same access as current.
- Library Aid Restoration. As mentioned in PLS notes, a percentage of library aid was restored, ~3.3% and PLS is working on budget impact and projections. State aid charts have not been received yet.

Betsy (PLS):

- PLS is investigating an alternative to OCLC. SkyRiver, owned by Triple-I, gets records from a variety of places and has rigorous standards. Betsy, Heidi, and Kathryn have done some testing and there are more features and streamlined workflow. A one month overlap arrangement is possible and a 15-40% savings.
- A new brochure has been printed (grant funded) featuring the review capabilities in OWWL through ChiliFresh. Each library has a stack of unfolded brochures available to pick up off the side table.
- OWWL2go bookmarks were sent via delivery. There are a few of the business card available and libraries can send request for more of both formats.
- Mousepad group order. Although there was interest in doing a bulk order, there were not enough numbers for a lower price. (\$6 each is too much)
- PLS notes. On PLUM, there is a page with previous issues of PLS notes batched into links per quarter year. Please contact Jeanne if you want to see further back than Oct 2011. The issues are searchable using Adobe Reader, i.e. searching for articles written by Betsy.

Lindsay (PLS): Upcoming: OWWLUG (agenda on PLUM) and 3 webinars listed on the CE calendar.

Heidi (PLS): Reminder: NYSLAA conference in Niagara Falls is June 6-8.

Reminder: Summer Reading posters on table are available for pick up.

Ellen (PLS): OWWL2go commitments: Thank you to all the libraries that have sent theirs in! The volunteer selection committee will be meeting soon.

Ellen demonstrated the B&T- Title Source 3 subscription that has many more features than the BT free online version, i.e. selection list categories, reviews from journals (e.g. Kirkus, AudioFile, BookPage, Library Journal, etc.) Current cost is just under \$280. Fifteen libraries currently use and price will go up or down if total number of subscribers changes. **Please let Jeanne know by Wed April 25 if you'd like to subscribe.**

Chris Finger (Central Library): As mentioned in PLSnotes, Central Library will do OWWL2go training at your library. About six libraries have already responded and agreed to host a session. The emphasis is training library staff, and patrons may be included depending on class. Training will begin sometime in May. Contact Chris if your library is interested.

Elly (NEW): At the last PLSDAC meeting held in Arcade, the group committed to working on a staff exchange program for the purpose of experiencing differences, gathering ideas, and sharing with everyone. A committee will explore the easiest way to achieve these goals. The staff exchange idea came out of the Focus Group planning session held at PLS in October 2011.

Jim (PLS): Sometime this summer, Evergreen will be upgraded and will have new & better features, such as being able to edit a patron record on 1 screen. It is on PLS' radar that summer reading and beginning of school approaches.

Lindsay (PLS): This is one of the topics at the next OWWLUG meeting.

Jim (PLS): Betsy, Bob, and Jim will be attending the Evergreen conference in Indianapolis next week. Bob will be presenting on the reports feature he developed!

Cassie (PLS) introduced Walworth-Seely representative Beth List who joins us for the first time. Welcome.

Blanche (NAP) reminded that the next OCPLAC meeting will be held at the Naples library.

Louise (PHE): Another topic from the PLSDAC meeting was forgiving fines. Reminder: Libraries only forgive fines for their own materials, not for materials belonging to another library.

Lynne (VIC) received an email from ALA regarding a PEW research group online survey regarding eBooks. Lynne will send link to the information and how to place a link to the survey via your library website.

Ron (CAN): Wood library now loans eReaders—4 eReaders loan out and one is kept in-house. Publicity is coming shortly. Each reader is set up for OWWL2go downloads and additionally a single Amazon account is used for the Kindle. Each eReader is “cleaned” of loans before next patron borrows.

Cassie (PLS): Reminder: Wine tasting fundraiser Thurs. 4/26 at Canandaigua's Culinary Arts Center, to benefit New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC.

Favorites from Philadelphia

The 2012 PLA experience was shared by: Ron Kirsop, Carol Garland, Lynne Madden, Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ferris, Anna Grace, and Elly Dawson. Highlights from each are below and many handouts from the conference can be obtained from conference website: <http://www.placonference.org/>

See PLUM: <http://plum.pls-net.org/twiki/bin/view/Members/Meetings/SystemMeeting20120420>

Highlights

Adult Storytelling (Ron Kirsop)

- Or PLAs: Adult Storytimes: Why should kids have all the fun – speaker David Wright
- Keep it easy, let attendees come, listen & leave; it is not a literary appreciation program
- Genre suggestion: suspense did the best, followed by humor.
- Suggestion: don't use sad or profanity filled books
- Who reads the story is important; may need to hold auditions.
- Simple set-up: have a story, use a microphone, have glass of water
- Program: 45min-1 hour
- Practice, practice, practice; mark up story, use voice changes/emphasis. There is a difference between storytelling and reading
- Mix with other groups meeting at library, i.e. knitters group
- Option: read at other than library, i.e. old-age homes.
- Create podcast; be alert to copyright considerations

Black Belt Librarian (Carol Garland):

- PLAs speaker was author of book *Black Belt Librarian: Real World Safety & Security*, Warren Graham. isbn 978-0-8389-1137-2 (\$41 w/ discount) Carol will add to catalog when finished reading it.
- Have simple guidelines and post them; be consistent and be aware
- Suggest law enforcement look at plans if building new library or addition
- DO NOT BE ALONE
- If happen to be alone working; never admit it.
- Keep cash register/draw with money locked
- Lock staff room
- Key fob is recommended
- Keep windows and doors uncluttered of posters
- Have clear lines of sight
- Cameras a good idea (*not* dummy cameras)
- Reduce exits/entrances
- No scissors on desk

Branded Interactive Earl Literacy Centers (Lynne Madden):

- Kent District Library (w/ 18 branches) in Michigan developed program, see <http://www.kdl.org/> ; Program Organizer and Speaker : Michelle Miner Clark, Kent District Library - created successful branded interactive early literacy learning centers
- Uses the *new* Every Child Ready to Read @ your library; Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, Playing
- Have formal procedures to set up; have grand opening celebration and bring in donors
- Develop a station for each aspect of Ready to Read; use puppet theatres, train tables, dress up area, writing & art center tables, etc.
- Rotate centers between each library
- Use themes– books, puzzles, displays
- Brand everything and at each designated early literacy spot
- Have disinfectant procedures, can be as simple as 1 T. of bleach in 1 gallon of water in spray bottle – spray and let air dry
- Have signage explaining the idea behind each activity of early literacy
- Label with pictures and kids will clean up; give sticker too
- Display kids work
- KDL has monthly e-newsletter *Early Lit Bits*

LGBTQ (Ellen Reynolds):

- PLAs LGBTQ library services for rural libraries speaker MacKenzie Ledley
- Started by purchasing Stonewall Award books (see ALA); have positive character portrayals
- Patrons appreciated these material options
- Ellen developed lists for member libraries to use to augment their collections, see PLUM

Preschool Storytime Revisited (Mary Ferris):

- PLA program speaker Betsy Diamant-Cohen
- Children love repetition
- Present same story in different ways and expose the five senses
 - Interview characters in the story
 - Tell story from a characters point of view
 - Use an art project to tell the story
 - Use puppets

Serving Preschool-aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Their Families (Mary Ferris):

- PLAs speaker Anne Leon, Exec. Director, Public Library Services, Sherman library @ Nova Southeastern University
- Although the program had a focus of addressing the needs of those with autism, the tips given can apply to any audience
 - Have a piece of paper explaining what to expect at storyhour and use graphics



e.g. Children will sit on a rug in storyhour area

Staff Evaluations (Anna Grace):

- PLAs Abolishing Performance Evaluations: Why They Don't Work and What Does with Amy Helm & Carrie Herrmann
- Suggests book: Abolishing Performance Appraisals: why they backfire & what to do instead by Coens & Jenkins. isbn 1576750760 (VIC owns)
- Have a HAT (How Are Things) meeting
- Have more conversations throughout the year
- Do an incident report if conversations did not show results (this is documentation that you 've been working with person to improve performance)
- APOP – annual piece of paper – the goals, a succinct list and document how the year has gone

- Anna picked up three books at PLA that she recommends:
 - Libraries Prosper with Passion, Purpose & Persuasion: A PLA Toolkit for Success isbn 9780838984307
 - Winning Grants: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians with Multimedia Tutorials and Grant Development Tools (How-to-Do-It Manuals) (How-To-Do-It Manuals for Librarians (Numbered)) by Pamela H. MacKellar and Stephanie K. ISBN-13: 978-1555707002
 - Black Belt Librarian: Real-World Safety & Security by Warren Graham ISBN 978-0-8389-1137-2 (also recommended by Carol Garland)

What Makes a Collection (Ron Kirsop):

- PLAs What Makes a Collection? Redefining the library through the Collection with Patrick Sweeney
- Why not include:
 - Seeds
 - Give away seeds and survey how planting went
 - Partner with food coop
 - Guitars
 - 8-week loan
 - Guitar lessons @ library – group or individual
 - Wall-mount storage for library collection to save on space and acts also as art
 - video games
 - hold tournaments
 - simple get-togethers
 - Nintendo DS kids Pokémon trade get-togethers
 - Programs in a box – develop program & put everything needed in box
 - E.g. Fancy Nancy and include flash drive for presentation
 - eReaders
 - staff training a must
 - weed older devices
 - damage? Out of 300 loaned at large library, only 3 were damaged in one year and mostly minimal that staff could repair

What I learned at PLA (Elly Dawson):

- This is my all-time favorite conference—it is all about public libraries!
- Sharing, energy, incorporate ideas, possibilities, a reminder of our potential, positive!
- Came back energized and put ideas into practice: Newark no longer has VHS and eliminated books on cassette
- Exhibits – Yeah! It is worth actually talking to the vendor representatives for more than getting free stuff.
- Great authors: Carl Hiaasen, Robert Kennedy Jr., Betty White, etc.
- PLA is every other year. Be sure to budget money to attend. It is definitely worth it.

Computers in Libraries conference (Lindsay Stratton):

- focused on measurement and evaluation, and looking at library services to capitalize on the humanistic spirit of libraries beyond the collections or the technology.

- Maker Culture Spaces
 - Keynotes Michael Edson, Web and New Media Strategy at the Smithsonian.

Let Us Go Boldly into the Present -

Although things seem to be changed very rapidly, the future is still pretty far away and we have plenty of time to strategize and figure out what we need to do to get there. *But*, we do not spend enough time or energy thinking about what we are doing now, and now is pretty fascinating!

5 patterns for going boldly into the present:

1. be a “bad ass of objectivity” and look at your actions and compare to stated goals – do they match?
 2. Focus on building platforms to get materials/ideas/etc. into and out of the organization – and into the hands/minds of patrons – as seamlessly as possible
 3. Realize that innovation occurs edge-to-core – the best work happens on the fringes, but it requires the infrastructure of the core to succeed. Support your edge innovators, build the infrastructure, and keep incorporating innovations into the core.
 4. Focus on the mission. Every decision and action should support the mission; if it doesn't, it should go away. Organizations who can clearly articulate their mission will succeed, and those that can't—they won't succeed.
 5. Place the bet. What will you do today?
- Fiacre O'Duinn (Hamilton PL) - "Tinkerers: Maker Culture & Libraries"

Libraries have the potential to make technical learning and, more important, inquiry, accessible to a broad range of people. They have the ability to facilitate deeper personal inquiry and connections with the larger community.