



HRLC Technology Committee Meeting Minutes March 7, 2005

Present: Mary Martin, Chair - Morris County Library; Suzanne Blecker - Sparta Public Library; Jeanette Cohn - Rockaway Twp. Public Library; Kim Grohs – Sussex County Library; Amy Kearns - Clifton Public Library; Michelle Kowalsky - Whippany Park High School Library; Nancy Madacsi - Centenary College; Joanne Roukens - Highlands Regional Library Cooperative; Valerie Smith - Roxbury Public Library; Kurt Wagner - William Paterson University, Cheng Library; Mary Wilson - Paterson Free Public Library; Karen Yannetta – Bernardsville Public Library.

New Committee Members

M. Martin called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM, and mentioned that we have two new Committee members Rosemary Francone, from Hunterdon County library, and Kim Grohs, Sussex County Library's Systems Librarian (the only one able to attend today's meeting). Karen Boyer will update the Committee list on the Technology Committee web page.

New HRLC Web Page Features

- Joanne has put together a list of HRLC members with wireless access – Joanne Roukens discussed a follow-up survey for detailed information. Please let Joanne know if you know of additional libraries that should be on the list - http://www.hrlc.org/technology/wireless_access.htm
- Hot technology topics (listed by "hotness") – Joanne Roukens revised – available at www.hrlc.org/tehcncologyo/technology.htm -- includes minutes of Tech Committee meetings. Mary Martin pointed out that this needs to be updated frequently.

Blogs

Mary Martin led discussion of blogs – Michelle Kowalsky reported that people say they like her blog but don't seem to use it. Amy Kearns suggested bloglines.com – a site where you can enable an alert when new blog submissions are posted.

A blogging roundtable is schedule for Tuesday, April 26. There will be a blogging class at Morris County Library in March, followed by the roundtable.

Nancy Madacsi reported that blogs are being used for student assessment.

Mary Martin confirmed that the Tech Committee blog will continue. Mary will resend invitations to join to all Committee members. Amy Kearns suggested that when members contribute an important item, also send an e-mail to Committee members to remind them to look at the blog.

Wireless news

HRLC held a wireless networking program last week. Jeanette Cohn reported that it was a little confusing but good. Speaker was willing to e-mail PowerPoint presentation for clarity.

Mary Wilson reported that ten people attended the Wireless roundtable at Paterson Public Library, including Rob Zangara from the State Library. Handouts included a sample wireless policy Rob likes. Jim Dwyer from PALS Plus was supportive. Rob said he would look for state funds for wireless initiatives. Other issues included importance of unit placement – people were encouraged to use a cordless phone first to determine what placement would yield the best reception. Mary Wilson will forward minutes from this roundtable to Mary Martin to post on the website. The roundtable format worked well.



Resource Sharing

Technology-related meetings and documents:

- Amy Kearns reported on upcoming NJLA conference workshops on technology.
- Nancy Madacsi attending a meeting on why e-books are so unsuccessful. Conclusion: They are boring. Readers averaged eight minutes reading e-books.
- Jeannette Cohn mentioned Thomson Gale History collection – e-book with remote access for same price plus 75% print discount.
- Joanne Roukens handed out NetConnect's top 10 ways to keep the library relevant.
- Mary Martin provided ALA's top tech trends article highlighting OPAC problems.
- Nancy Madacsi recommended David Pogue's New York Times column – <http://tech.nytimes.com/pages/technology/circuits/index.html>

Tech Hotline

- Michelle Kowalsky described a needed service where people could call with technology questions. Discussion followed about how to accomplish, including quality of information, timeliness of answers, costs and existence of similar resources. Karen Yannetta suggested implementing to see what kinds of topics HRLC members need help with. Joanne Roukens suggested utilizing WebJunction as a support source. Michelle Kowalsky and Mary Martin will work to create a pathfinder for troubleshooting tech problems. Please send them web sites and tools that you use to solve tech problems.

The HRLC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26 at the arboretum. The meeting will celebrate the first year of the strategic plan implementation including Technology Committee work. Joanne asked Mary M to put together a 10-15 minute presentation on what the Tech Committee has been doing.

Suzanne Blecker has left Sussex County Community College and is now at Sparta Public Library. She will contact HRLC with her new contact information when all is settled.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 18 at 2:30 PM at HRLC.