



## Highlands Regional Library Cooperative

400 Morris Avenue, Suite 202  
Denville, NJ 07834

TEL: 973-664-1776 or 800-NET-HRLC (*Members Only*)  
FAX: 973-664-1780

[www.hrlc.org](http://www.hrlc.org)

### HRLC Technology Committee Meeting, March 27, 2006

Present: Joanne Roukens  
Amy Kearns, Chair  
Nancy Madacsi  
Ellen Osborne  
Valerie Smith  
Mary Martin (recording)

#### Set goals for 2006/07

Joanne is planning to put \$7,500 in next year's budget for an "incubator project." She would like to find a project which would hopefully benefit more than one type of library, and where perhaps there could be a cost-share: HRLC would kick in some money and the participating library(ies) would contribute as well.

Ideas the committee came up with as possibilities included:

- instant messaging reference pilot project
- providing info and assistance for libraries implementing technology into their libraries, including creating a technology plan, budgeting, dealing with depreciation, upgrades and continuing support, and so on
- encouraging collaboration and sharing of ideas on how to use technology between libraries. Possible ways to do this include holding a contest for most innovative use of technology in HRLC libraries, or maybe starting/nurturing a "best practices" wiki (or other way to share ideas) – similar to [www.libsuccess.org](http://www.libsuccess.org).
- Digital archives – find a library with a small collection of items suitable for digitizing (and likely to be used in electronic format) to do a pilot project
- Digital resources for lifelong learning – HRLC to subsidize or negotiate price breaks for members who want to offer their patrons electronic lifelong learning resources, such as Rosetta Stone (language learning)? Check with Morristown PL first, see how they like Rosetta Stone.

There was much discussion about the possibility of the contest for most innovative use of technology. The contest that the CE Committee held last year, on marketing your library, was very successful and elicited ideas and participation from libraries who may not normally participate in HRLC committees. We could follow a similar model with this contest.

After some discussion, we tentatively decided to announce the contest in the May mailing, with deadline for entry submission to be April 1<sup>st</sup>. Then the program where all entries are displayed, and where the winners are announced, will be held perhaps in late September/early October. This will give the Tech Committee time to judge all the entries. And by announcing the contest in May, we will hopefully give school librarians enough time to put their entries together before school is out in June.

We will need some guidelines/criteria for our contest. What constitutes an innovative use of technology? Are there certain factors that we should publicize and that we should judge entries by? We will work on the criteria at our next meeting. Meanwhile, here are a few places to look:



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- Check out this posting about SLA's *Innovation in Technology* award – designed to recognize an individual librarian, not a library as a whole, but we might get something out of it: <http://lists.webjunction.org/wjlists/web4lib/2005-January/002327.html>
- NJLA's College & University Section holds a contest on innovation in libraries: see <http://www.njla.org/njacrl/techinnov.html> for info/criteria
- WebJunction held an “innovative content and uses of technology” award from 2003-2005. Criteria are posted at <http://webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=1179#innovate>

It hasn't been finalized yet, but we discussed having several award categories based on type of library: public, academic, school, and special. (Will we have first, second and third prize in each category? What will the prizes be?) We also thought about having a special award – the MacGyver award for best pieced-together innovative use of technology.

### Member survey

Ellen informed us that the CE committee will be sending out a survey to the membership in a few weeks, so we took a quick look at the survey to see if there were any questions we might want to add. We did add one question about technology planning under the Library Management section.

### Wireless pilot project

Ellen reported on the wireless pilot project. There are some libraries who are marching forward, others who need a bit more encouragement. Mary offered to call some of the libraries who are not moving forward, find out what their concerns are and see if she could help them work it out.

### Overdrive initiative

Joanne reported on the Overdrive downloadable audiobook project. The contract has been signed. 8 libraries/consortia are participating: Centenary College, Parsippany Public Library, BCCLS, PALS, Bernardsville Public Library, Hunterdon County Library, Sussex County Library and Phillipsburg Public Library. We are hoping for a June 1<sup>st</sup> launch. The Overdrive website will be [www.listenjnw.com](http://www.listenjnw.com) and will look similar to CJRLC/Infolink's Overdrive page, [www.listenj.com](http://www.listenj.com).

### MySpace and libraries

We had a brief discussion of MySpace and libraries. Should public libraries allow use of MySpace? We talked about how anything new is scary to some people, and the media hysteria is probably not helping either. Reporters are now focusing on all the negative aspects of MySpace and predators, just as when the Internet first became mainstream, they focused on the abundance of pornography, and when Internet Chat came on the public's radar, they focused on predators who used chat to solicit victims. Negative, scare-inducing news sells, unfortunately.



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### Resource Sharing

Mary did a brief demo of Bloglines and will write a short blurb about how to use bloglines and post it to the HRLC listserv (also make it available from the technology committee web page).

Joanne R mentioned that it might be interesting to take a look at OCLC's report on Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources (2005), which can be found here: <http://www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm> The conclusion of the report is only 8 pages and gives an interesting view of how the public sees libraries and library services.

Nancy reported on a project she's doing at Centenary, through their Blackboard software. She is using a format similar to Google News, and providing links to all the places where Centenary College shows up in local news resources. She is using Google Alerts to get the news stories. Unfortunately, since the project is through Blackboard, it's available to Centenary staff & students only.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 pm at the HRLC offices (their new offices!) in Denville.