



Highlands Regional Library Cooperative

400 Morris Avenue, Suite 202
Denville, NJ 07834

TEL: 973-664-1776 or 800-NET-HRLC (*Members Only*)
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www.hrlc.org

HRLC Technology Committee Meeting

June 22, 2006

Present: Joanne Roukens, Ellen Osborne, Rosalie Baker, Amy Kearns, Nancy Madacsi, Mary Martin (recording), Suzanne Metz, Kurt Wagner

Downloadable audiobook update

Joanne explained that the new Overdrive downloadable audiobook service, which HRLC partnered with eight library systems to provide, will launch July 5th. The website to access the d/l audiobooks is www.listennjnw.com. Overdrive & HRLC are working on publicity.

BCCLS has MARC records for all titles available (about 100 titles “always available,” meaning any number of people can check them out at one time; and 300 individual popular titles, including adult & young adult fiction and nonfiction). Joanne will follow up with them to make sure all project members get access to the MARC records so they can add them to their catalogs.

Wireless project update

We are getting an extension from the State Library to complete the project. Ellen and Joanne are going to change the approach. Seeking people out and trying to get them interested in the project was not very effective and had problems, so this time they are going to put a message on the listserv saying “if you are interested in applying, here’s what you need to know!” If we open the project up to libraries who are interested and motivated, and if they get the project underway, they can serve as an example to other libraries who may have concerns. Ellen is going to work on an enticing cover letter, perhaps including quotes from libraries where wireless has been successful. Kurt said that “at William Paterson, you can cut off their water supply, their electricity – but DON’T TOUCH their wireless access!”

CE Survey Results

388 people responded to the CE survey that Ellen ran this spring. Some of the highest-interest topics turned out to not be directly technology related – customer service, collection development, staff development – although people pointed out that we could still provide technology workshops, but focus them on these areas of interest. For instance, how to provide good customer service by providing up-to-date technology to your patrons – like wireless! (hint, hint) or, how to include technology planning in your library’s strategic plan.

Suzanne Metz and Ellen discussed the possibility of HRLC working with MCMSA (Morris County School Media Specialists Association) to have an HRLC technology program in conjunction with one of the MCMSA meetings. They are going to pursue this together outside the meeting.



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Priorities for upcoming year

- We need to recruit new members (who will attend meetings) for the technology committee.
- Fall 2006 (maybe October?): Technology Committee “Open Mike” roundtable? (“Let’s Talk Tech”?) Mary mentioned an article about “unconferences,” where you let the attendees dictate what will be discussed. Perhaps we could try this format. (For more info, see http://money.cnn.com/2006/06/05/technology/business2_unconference0606.) We could include door prizes, giveaways, an opportunity to get your digital photo taken with a “Read” banner, even a “pin the tail on Bill Gates” party game. This may be a good time to recruit new members.
- Amy and Mary will work on a format for a quarterly Tech Committee newsletter and will plan to have it available by the Fall program (at the very latest).
- Fall 2006: Technology Committee Innovative Uses of Technology (we may need a catchier name) competition will be announced. Announce due date for materials (sometime in December?). Committee members will judge entries in December and January. The program where we display all the entries and announce the winners can take place in February. We can model this on the CE competition that was run a couple of years ago.
- Ellen will talk to Sophie Brookover about the possibility of doing a program on Web 2.0 sometime in November or December.
- Ellen reported that this fall, several tech-related CE classes are being offered, including demystifying Wireless, audio/video downloading, Dreamweaver, blogging, and Microsoft Office applications.
- Amy wants to get a Technology Wiki going. Wikis are less hierarchical and less linear than blogs, and may provide a friendlier atmosphere to collaborate, since everyone can edit the entries from one centralized location. (A good example of a library wiki is www.libsuccess.org.) We decided that we would create a wiki and then invite the technology-interested members from ALL of the regions, plus the statewide NJLA technology committee, to participate. A sub-committee was formed to work on the wiki: Amy, Nancy and Kurt. They will have a meeting to get started on this.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 1st from 2:30 to 4:00pm. We will need to spend a good part of the meeting planning for the October program.