



**HRLC Technology Committee Meeting Minutes:
July 19, 2005**

- I. Present: Mary Martin – Chair, Glen Rock Public Library; Rosalie Baker, Bernardsville Public Library; Kim Grohs, Sussex County Library; Amy Kearns, Clifton Public Library; Leigh Keller, Ramapo College Library; Suzanne Metz, Robert Lazar Middle School; Joanne Roukens, Highlands Regional Library Cooperative; Valerie Smith, Roxbury Public Library; Kurt Wagner, William Paterson University (recorder); Mary Wilson, Paterson Free Public Library; Karen Yanetta, Bernardsville Public Library
- II. Mary discussed Cablevision's "Power to Learn" program, which provides free Internet access to public libraries and schools. She provided a URL (www.powertolearn.com) for those interested in this program.
- III. Mary distributed a list of HRLC member libraries with wireless Internet access and thanked Joanne for starting it. Mary has used it several times.
- IV. Mary reported that on April 26 Suzanne and Michelle conducted a blogging roundtable. She said that it was an interesting conversation and that it takes a certain investment in time to read and maintain blogs. Amy said that at Clifton PL they use an internal blog, which is passworded, to discuss staff and administrative matters. There was discussion of the merits of blogs versus threaded e-mail as used by Google's gmail service.
- V. Joanne reported that the HRLC Annual Meeting was successful and well attended. She said that pictures from the event are available on the HRLC web page. Mary showed the Powerpoint presentation she made on behalf of the Technology Committee (http://www.hrlc.org/annual_mtg/tc_amm.ppt).
- VI. Karen opened a discussion of options available to smaller libraries that wish to offer authentication access to resources, but do not have access to a proxy server. She said that her library's current subscription to Britannica Online,



and potential subscription to NetLibrary audiobooks, make no accommodation for offsite users. She wanted to know if there are third party suppliers of authentication services that could be used. Joanne said that she could enquire as HRLC Executive Director to get a clarification, as this will affect other libraries in similar circumstances. Joanne asked Karen to summarize the situation and send it to her. If Britannica can't provide offsite authentication, then perhaps they can discount their price for libraries that can't provide their own offsite authentication.

VII. Joanne continued the discussion on downloadable audio books. She and Mary demonstrated MP3 players (iPod Shuffle and Creative MuVo MP3 player). Joanne said that HRLC is offering two online 'webinars' demonstrating downloadable audio books from Overdrive (<http://www.overdrive.com/>). She said that these are to test interest levels in this sort of service and to learn about pricing models. Overdrive offers subscriptions to libraries who wish to provide access to MP3 audio files to their patrons. NetLibrary offers a similar service. She said that in addition to providing entertainment, these files might enhance vision-impaired, early childhood, foreign language or language instruction collections.

VIII. Mary mentioned www.audible.com as a resource for downloading audio books, but this service is consumer-oriented. Joanne suggested reviewing cnet.com for MP3 player reviews, comparisons and suggested models. Go to cnet.com and click on *MP3 and Digital Music* in the left navigation bar.

IX. Joanne discussed things she saw at the ALA Midwinter meeting in Boston: Interpretype (www.interpretype.com), a communication tool for the hearing-impaired that can also be used as a language translator; Speakit Suite (www.teachingmachine.com), software that improves reading and oral English skills; Prices For Antiques (www.p4a.com), a tool for antique research; expanded database offerings by EBSCO including Readers Guide 1890-1982 and The Play Index. Joanne said that the Internet Librarian conference will be held in October in Monterey, CA and that it would be nice if a member of the Committee could attend. Joanne demonstrated the AWE Early Literacy Station, a self-contained computer workstation designed specifically for very young children that provides 21 software packages across seven curricular areas. She said that purchasing discounts from 5% to 15% are available for multi-unit purchases. She said that the workstations are ready to use and require no configuration or Internet connection.



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X. Kurt discussed SynchronEyes (<http://www2.smarttech.com/st/enUS/Products/SynchronEyes+Computer-Lab+Instruction+Software/>) a software-based classroom management system. He said that at WPUNJ they are installing this system in their Library Instruction Classroom and that it has the potential to perform better than their aging hardwired system. He said that it was purchased through a grant from the SMARTer Kids Foundation (<http://www.smarterkids.org/>) which entailed a significant cost reduction.

XI. Mary W. discussed alternatives to Acrobat for PDF conversion, particularly www.fastpdf.com which provides free conversions (with a small watermark) and pricing for bulk conversions. Mary M. mentioned an open source application called PDFCreator available for review at <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,1681532,00.asp> and for download at www.sourceforge.net.

XII. Suzanne Metz said that her Library just obtained 200 flash/keychain drives and asked for ideas on how to store, label, and circulate them. The issue of keeping the drives virus free and cleaning files off them when they are returned was mentioned. This may be a good job for a teen volunteer!

XIII. Amy said that the NJLA Information Technologies section is planning a workshop at the Jackson Branch of Ocean County Library on September 14. Topics will include a blogging workshop in the morning and an open forum in the afternoon.

XIV. The next meeting of the Technology Committee will be September 20, 2005, 2:30-4pm at the HRLC Office.