



Highlands Regional Library Cooperative

400 Morris Avenue, Suite 202
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TEL: 973-664-1776 or 800-NET-HRLC (*Members Only*)
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www.hrlc.org

HRLC Technology Committee Meeting Minutes, August 1, 2006

Present: Amy Kearns, Chair, Leigh Keller, Nancy Madacsi, Mary Martin, recording, Suzanne Metz, Ellen Osborne, Joanne Roukens, Valerie Smith, Kurt Wagner, Karen Yannetta

Joanne mentioned that we have lost a great committee member, Jeanette Cohn, who was director of the Rockaway Twp Free Public Library. Jeanette died on July 23rd after a long battle with cancer. She will be missed.

Suzanne Metz said that her school's tech person, Rob Earلمان, would love to be on this committee. Amy asked her to have Rob get in touch with her. We can use all the new members we can get.

Wireless in Libraries update

Ellen reported that 4 or 5 new applications have been signed. Mary M. has been calling people who are nervous about it to help convince them. We may still not use up all the grant money, but this is at least a good start at getting wireless throughout the region.

Overdrive Downloadable Audiobooks update

Overdrive was launched the 5th of July, with 8 participating libraries/consortia. Very good circulation so far; a few tech issues but company is responsive and quick to fix problems. Nancy M and Joanne attended Overdrive's "Digipalooza" conference this past weekend in Cleveland.

Because Overdrive can handle downloadable video as well as audio, we hope that HRLC can eventually work on providing items in that format. Apparently Amazon is soon going to roll out downloadable videos that can be streamed to your PC and then expire once your time is up. Will anyone watch videos on their PC? Well, YouTube and Google Video are both very popular, so maybe times are changing.

Workshop Recaps

Pop Goes The Library, presented by Sophie Brookover. **Pop culture is important to your users, so it's got to be important to you.** Sophie talked about "The Long Tail," a theory developed by Chris Anderson. If you can identify the different niches that your users are interested in, and then provide materials and programs to address those interests, you will gain their everlasting support.

Conversation, Community, Connections & Collaboration: Practical, New Technologies for User-Centered Services, presented by Michael Stephens and Jenny Levine at Princeton Public Library, July 18th 2006. The program's intent was to share info about Web 2.0 (user-created) resources, how people use them, how their use may impact libraries, and how they can be USED by libraries. Resources discussed included wikis, blogs, RSS, tagging, etc. The program's main thrust was to show people what these tools are, and get dialogue going about how they can be used, so as to lessen the fear of the unknown. An interesting point made was that, in this age of social networking and sharing, many people are willing to give up some privacy and security in order to be able to share their information with other people (i.e. the library user who created a program to display what he has currently checked out, on the Internet.)

Resource Sharing – upcoming events & conferences

- Internet Librarian is in Monterey, CA in October.
- CIL is April 16-18, 2007 in Washington DC, the week before NJLA.
- In Darien Connecticut, they are holding an "un-conference" on Monday, Sept 25th – "Library Camp East." Check out their wiki at http://wiki.library2.net/index.php/Library_Camp_East_2006 for more info.
- LITA is in Nashville, TN from Oct 26-28

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- ThinkingLibraries.org – a “thinking ahead” symposium for libraries that is being held in Salt Lake City in September. Cindy from Paterson and Pat Tumulty are both going. Perhaps we can get a report from them when they return.
- There will be a Futures Conference sometime next spring, perhaps in May. It's being organized by the State Library and will possibly include libraries from several states.
- Never too early to plan! The HRLC membership meeting will be Thursday May 17th 2007, at Parsippany Public Library.

Priorities and Timeline

Newsletter – HRLC Buzzword Bulletin, quarterly. Electronic version posted to HRLC web site and advertised on listserv and in monthly mailing. Needs to be ready to go for the October program. Amy and Mary will work on this.

Program – Technology Open House

We need to have an announcement in the September mailing.

Possible Technology Stations at the open house

- “THE DE-INTIMIDATION TABLE” -- where to go if you don't know where to go
- Tools for organizing info on the Web (RSS, Wiki, Blogs, etc)
- Ask a techie – “I don't know but I'll get back to you” is an acceptable response. (Put out a call on the listserv for possible people to staff this table. This would also be a great way to find out what people want to learn about, good for planning future classes.)
- Social networking – what the heck is it? How are our patrons using it? How can libraries use it?
- HRLC Tech Projects -- Overdrive demonstration, info on how well wireless works
- Cool gadgets (put out a call on the Listserv – do you have a cool gadget? Want to show it off?)
- The Mystery Guest -- a table reserved for a library (libraries) who use technology innovatively in their library? Send a message to the listserv asking for people interested in participating. If we get a lot of responses, we can choose the best ones.

Cost: \$10.00 for three hours of networking with other people and learning about the latest things in technology and how they can be used in libraries.

Preferred dates: Tuesday Oct 17 or Wednesday Oct 11. Backup date: Wednesday October 18th . Limit attendance to 60 people. HRLC will book the room, take care of refreshments, do photocopying.

Innovative Technology Contest

Start talking it up at the open house – “how are you going to be using these?” Perhaps push the contest back to spring? Or could we have a sub-award in the Marketing/PR committee's contest – best use of technology in a library? Nancy and Mary can feel them out on Tuesday the 22nd and see if we can combine forces.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday September 7, 2:30 to 4 pm.