Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC)

40th meeting of the Library Council Sub-committee to be held on Monday 19 June 2006 in the Jean Garling Room, State Library of New South Wales, at 10.30am

Agenda

1. Attendance

2. Minutes
   The minutes of the 39th meeting held on Monday 20 March 2006

   2.1 Business arising
      2.1.1
      2.1.2

Monitor the funding arrangements to provide advice to the Library Council on an annual basis

3. Public Library Funding Strategy 2006/07
   Assistant State Librarian, Public Library Services

   Action: For information and endorsement

Provide policy advice to Library Council in relation to the provision of public library services in New South Wales

4. Advice on Library Committees (s11 of the Library Act 1939)
   Manager, Funding and Advisory Services

   Action: For information and discussion

5. NSW.net user Group Report (annual)
   Chair, NSW.net User group

   Action: For information and discussion

6. Guideline on Access to Information in NSW public libraries
   Manager, Funding and Advisory Services

   Action: For information and advice

Provide a consultative framework for the Library Council, the State Library and key stakeholders in local government concerning public library services in New South Wales

7. Library Council report March – May (standing item)
Chairperson, Public Libraries Consultative Committee

8. Emerging issues for NSW public libraries (standing item)
Chairperson, Public Libraries Consultative Committee

Provide advice to Library Council on an annual basis concerning the development of guidelines for Library Development Grants

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. For information

9.1 Public Library Survey: Satisfaction with State Library Services
Assistant State Librarian, Public Library Services

9.2 Public Library Developments
Manager, Funding & Advisory Services

9.3 Country Public Libraries Association (CPLA) report
Secretary, Country Public Libraries Association

9.4 Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (MPLA) report
Secretary, Metropolitan Public Libraries Association

9.5 Public Libraries Australia (PLA) report
Executive Officer, Public Libraries Australia Ltd

9.6 State Library Multicultural Collection 2005
Manager, Funding and Advisory Services

10. Other business
Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC)
Draft Minutes

40th Meeting of the Library Council Sub-Committee held on
Monday 19 June 2006 in the Jean Garling Room
State Library of NSW, at 10:30am

1. Attendance

Robert Knight, Chair (Library Council), Richard Fisher (Library Council), Lucy
Arundell (A/State Librarian & CEO), Beverley Giegerl (LGSA), Ewan Tolhurst
(CPLA), Sonya Phillips (MPLA), Jan Richards (CPLA), Paul Scully (MPLA),
Lynne Makin (CPLA), Frances Sims (MPLA), Kathleen Bresnahan (State
Library), Cameron Morley (State Library – Minutes)

Apologies

Noel Baum (LGSA), Greg Smith (LGMA)

ACTION

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the 39th meeting held on 20 March 2006 which had been circulated, were
confirmed and accepted as a true record.

2.1 Business Arising

2.1.1 Review of library service provision models

The final report has been prepared by the Consultant and submitted to the
Steering Committee.

2.1.2 CPLA/MPLA Joint Secretariat

Discussions are ongoing.

2.1.3 Ilanet

The State Library will report to a future PLCC meeting on Ilanet. Email lists
will continue to be maintained until a replacement is established.

2.1.4 PLCC Terms of Reference

The revised Terms of Reference were approved at the May 2006 meeting of Library Council.
MONITOR THE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE LIBRARY COUNCIL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS
3. Public Library Funding Strategy 2006/07

The Public Library Funding Strategy approved in November 2005 now guides the allocation of the Public Libraries Grants & Subsidies funding. A 1% cut to the Public Libraries Grants and Subsidies was announced in the 2006/007 State Budget. Total funds available in 2006/07 will be $24,551,010.

The Committee unanimously recommended the 2006/07 Public Library Funding Strategy to Library Council.
4. **Legal Advice on Library Committees**
   Further to information provided to the November 2005 meeting of the Committee, the NSW Crown Solicitor has provided advice on Library Committees.
   Cameron Morley

   The Committee noted the advice and agreed that all NSW local authorities be notified.

5. **NSW.net User Group Report (annual)**
   Roger Henshaw attended and presented the report for the Committee’s information.

6. **Access to information in NSW public libraries**
   The Library Council of NSW endorsed the Guideline entitled *Access to information in NSW public libraries* at its meeting of 24 April 2006.
7. **Library Council Report from the Chairperson**  
*[Standing agenda item]*

*Library Council meeting 24 April 2006*

- Public Library Funding Outcomes – Library Council approved that a paper detailing increases in access and service provision during 2003/04 resulting from increased state government funding be forwarded to the Government for information. This paper was endorsed by the PLCC meeting of 28 November 2005.

*Library Council meeting 22 May 2006*


- PLCC Terms of Reference 2006 – revised terms of reference were approved by Library Council. The revised terms of reference includes guidelines for the appointment and attendance of alternate delegates to PLCC.

- PLCC Strategic Plan 2006/08 – the PLCC Strategic Plan 2006/08, as reviewed and endorsed at the PLCC planning meeting on 28 November 2005, was endorsed by Library Council.
8. **Emerging issues for NSW public libraries**  
   [*Standing agenda item*]  
   No issues were reported.

9. **General Business**

   **For information**  
   The following reports were circulated for the Committee’s information.

   9.1 Public Library Survey: Satisfaction with State Library Services

   9.2 Public Library Developments

   9.3 Country Public Libraries Association (CPLA) Report

   9.4 Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (MPLA) Report

   9.5 Public Libraries Australia (PLA) Report

   9.6 State Library Multicultural Collection 2005

10. **Other business**

    The meeting closed at 11:40am
Public Libraries Consultative Committee

Library Committees Under the Library Act

**Issue**

Legal advice on library committees

**Background**

Section 11 of the Library Act 1939 sets out the provisions for establishing a library committee. During a review of regional library agreements the State Library became aware that a number of regional libraries had established library committees using the provisions of s355 of the Local Government Act 1993, rather than the Library Act.

A paper on library committees was presented to the November 2005 Meeting following advice from the NSW Crown Solicitor. The Crown Solicitor had advised that:

- local authorities must comply with the Library Act 1939 in order to be eligible for subsidy

- if a local authority chooses to establish a library committee it must be established under the s11 of the Library Act 1939 in order to comply with the Act.

- a local authority is entitled to establish a library committee under s355 of the Local Government Act 1993, however this would mean that the local authority was not compliant with the Library Act 1939 and therefore ineligible for subsidy.

The Committee asked for clarification on the status of committees constituted by local authorities, such as “friends of the library” committees, that are advisory in nature. Further advice was sought from the Crown Solicitor on this matter.

**Summary**

The Crown Solicitor has advised that a committee set up by a local authority that is merely advisory in nature does not need to be established under s11 of the Library Act 1939 in order for the local authority to remain eligible for subsidy.
**Recommendation**

1. That the State Library advises all local authorities of the Crown Solicitor’s advice.

Cameron Morley  
**Manager, Funding and Advisory Services**  
19 June 2006

NSW.net staff and representatives of the NSW.net User Group have been working together to pilot a virtual product known as E-Desk or MimerDesk. E-Desk is an intranet based service that allows virtual communities or communities of common interest to communicate and share information in a private e-environment.

E-Desk is a virtual desktop environment that can be accessed via the Internet from anywhere in the world; and will run on all platforms from normal desktop computers to hand-held devices. E-Desk also has the ability to evolve through the feedback and contribution of its users and can be customised to suit users’ needs.

Specifically E-Desk allows:

- Interest Groups to meet and interact online;
- The creation of online document libraries;
- The set-up and tabulation of small surveys;
- Online Forums;
- Group Calendars; and
- Chat room sessions

To date there have been two training sessions facilitated by the State Library of NSW. These sessions were also used to evaluate the product and its usefulness to libraries across NSW and in particular its value to groups such as PLEG and the NSW.net User Group. So far the only limitation found with E-Desk is the amount of space available for online document storage.

As a follow up from the training/evaluation sessions all libraries in NSW have been asked via email (Attachment 1) to complete a NSW.net User Group membership form (Attachment 2) so that they can be registered on the E-Desk system. Over 50 registrations have been received to date.

The NSW.net User Group and members of the NSW.net Team will now be able to meet, share information and discuss issues and ideas on line. E-Desk should be an invaluable communication tool for all libraries and in particular more remote services.

A meeting has also been held to look at file and folder naming protocols for groups, to try and ensure a reasonably common and intuitive approach to file/record storage, for example Meeting Minutes.

Recommendations

1. That the work and support of the NSW.net team in making this pilot a reality is formally acknowledged by the PLCC;

2. Pending final evaluation of the pilot that NSW.net continues to support and fund E-Desk; and

3. That E-Desk document storage limitations are reviewed and addressed

Roger L Henshaw
Chair, NSW.net User Group
ATTACHMENT .1  [Email to NSW.net Users]

Dear NSW.net User,

NSW.net is setting up software (MimerDesk) that will allow us and many other groups such as PLEG, to communicate privately online. The software will allow us to develop our own online library e.g. a place to store and share meeting minutes, policy documents etc; run small surveys; conduct online forums via our own chat room; set up a group calendar etc. This will help us all to exchange information and ‘meet’ online regularly – thus hopefully improving our communication of ideas, issues etc with each other and NSW.net. Information on how to access and use our online site will be sent to you when you register.

Please complete the form attached and return it to: Roger Henshaw either by email – rhenshaw@parracity.nsw.gov.au or via mail to Parramatta City Library 1A Civic Place, Parramatta NSW 2150. by 23 June 2006

The NSW.net User Group works closely with the NSW.net Project Team to ensure the ongoing sustainability, growth and development of NSW.net. Key Areas to be addressed by the group are: Sustainability and continuance of the network – in particular infrastructure, consortia and services; Remote Access – provide NSW.net with support, information and recommendations regarding equitable and affordable access to NSW.net to remote users including those who don’t have direct access to a public library connections; Policy and Planning – inform the development of policy and planning for the ongoing development and rollout of NSW.net, it’s services and products.

This would include: Development of Service Level Agreements (including Council IT departments); Service Standards; and Strategic directions. Consultation – to provide a means of facilitating consultation between members, NSW.net and its end users. To gain an understanding of both the quantitative and qualitative needs of users – service levels, managed services; content (i.e. Content Evaluation Working Group) etc. Network Issues – to assist users with broader issues (issues over and above those that would be dealt with on a day to day basis by the NSW.net Help Desk). To provide a ‘voice’ for libraries and their Councils. Inform – informing the network about issues and solutions. Promoting and marketing NSW.net and its usage

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Public Libraries Consultative Committee

Public Library Developments

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Minneapolis Public Library
The new Minneapolis Central Library is 32,500 square metres & has many interesting features.
http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/newcentrallib.asp

The library’s hot topics list links directly to items on the catalogue.
http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/hottopics1.asp

Las Vegas Clark County
The Las Vegas Clark County site includes databases and collection items under specific online guides
http://www.lvccld.org/library/info_guides.cfm

British Library
The British Library has published a consultation document on their collection development strategy.
http://www.bl.uk/about/strategic/contentstrategy.html

State Library of Queensland
The State Library of Queensland is trialing webconferencing as a way of communicating with staff/libraries in remote locations
http://www.opal-online.org/index.html

@ Your Library (USA) and Womans Day
The American Library Association and the Womans Day magazine (USA) wants to learn how the library has changed lives.
The magazine announced the editorial initiative in its March 7 issue, which reached subscribers last week. In the issue, the magazine declares that libraries are magical places and asks readers to submit their stories in 700 words or less. Four of the submissions will be featured in an upcoming issue of Womans Day.

See: http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/sponsorship/wdchangelives.htm
**Books for Dads and Kids**
The reading is fundamental. The website features a list of Books About Fathers and their Children on the Reading.  
http://www.rif.org/educators/books/list_fathers_children.mspx

**4UREADERS** This site was developed with East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Library Authorities for readers aged 11-16. The site divides into three separate sections to appeal to different audiences within the age group. The Girls with Attitude section was developed specifically for girls between 14-16. School and Children's librarians worked with young readers to help plan the content of the site. Further funding from SLIC/CILIPS enabled six other Scottish library authorities to participate.  
http://www.4ureaders.net/welcomev2/

**Alexandria Manifesto on Libraries, the Information Society in Action**

Adopted in Alexandria, Egypt, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, on 11 November 2005

Libraries and information services contribute to the sound operation of the inclusive Information Society. They enable intellectual freedom by providing access to information, ideas and works of imagination in any medium and regardless of frontiers. They help to safeguard democratic values and universal civil rights impartially and by opposing any form of censorship.

The unique role of libraries and information services is that they respond to the particular questions and needs of individuals. This complements the general transmission of knowledge by the media, for example, and makes libraries and information services vital to a democratic and open Information Society. Libraries are essential for a well informed citizenry and transparent governance, as well as for the take-up of e-government. They also build capacity by promoting information literacy and providing support and training for effective use of information resources, including Information and Communication Technologies. This is especially critical in promoting the development agenda because human resources are central to economic progress. In these ways libraries contribute significantly to addressing the digital divide and the information inequality that results from it. They help to make the Millennium Development Goals a reality, including reduction of poverty. They will do more with quite modest investments.

The value of the return is at least 4-6 times the investment.

In pursuit of the goal of access to information by all peoples, IFLA supports balance and fairness in copyright. IFLA is also vitally concerned to promote multilingual content, cultural diversity and the special needs of Indigenous peoples and minorities.
IFLA and libraries and information services share the common vision of an Information Society for all adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003. That vision promotes an inclusive society based on the fundamental right of human beings both to access and to express information without restriction and in which everyone will be able to create, access, use and share information and knowledge.

IFLA urges national, regional and local governments as well as international organisations to:

* invest in library and information services as vital elements in their Information Society strategies, policies and budgets;
* upgrade and extend existing library networks to obtain the greatest possible benefits for their citizens and communities;
* support unrestricted access to information and freedom of expression;
* promote open access to information and address structural and other barriers to access; and
* recognise the importance of information literacy and vigorously support strategies to create a literate and skilled populace which can advance and benefit from the global Information Society.

Adopted in Alexandria, Egypt, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, on 11 November 2005

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Associated documents:

IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto http://www.ifla.org/II/s8/unesco/manif.htm


IFLA Internet Manifesto http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/internetmanif.htm


See http://www.ifla.org/V/cdoc/policies.htm#Manifestos for other statements.


Daniel D. Barron et. al.. The Economic Impact of Public Libraries in South Carolina, 2005. www.libsci.sc.edu/SCEIS/home.htm

Cameron Morley
Manager, Funding and Advisory Services, Public Library Services
19 June 2006

With assistance from PLS Managers and Consultants (especially Ellen Forsyth & Mylee Joseph).