

Western Council Summer Meeting 2018 Minutes  
Utah State Library, Salt Lake City, UT

Members present: Mark Smith, TX; Patience Frederiksen, AK; Gene Hainer, CO; Mary Soucie, ND; Ann Joslin, ID; Eric Norris, KS; Robin Westphal, MO; Michael Scott, IA; Greg Lucas, CA; Jeff Kintop, NV; Lori Thornton, NM; Rod Wagner, NE; Jennie Stapp, MT; Daria Bossman, SD; Colleen Eggett, UT; Caren Egata, OR

Mark convened the meeting at 9:00. Mark thanked the UT State Library staff for their assistance with planning the meeting. Members introduced themselves.

Peter Bromberg from Salt Lake City Public Library gave a presentation on surviving and thriving in an ever-changing world. WestCo members discussed the presentation and shared their thoughts after.

Virtual Reality presentation:

Joe Olayvar (WSL), Negin Dahya and Jin Ha Lee, University of Washington iSchool presented about the WSL Virtual Reality project. They are working with Oculus to get virtual reality kits in 40 Washington libraries. The pilot phase, which is the research phase, will last until 9/30/18. The project will be conducted in four phases, each six months in length. The research phase will be conducted through the end of Phase II.

Phase I began with 10 Oculus Rift systems; 7 at libraries, 6 at research locations, 2 at WSL. The WSL units are for support needs and backup reserve. Phase II, forty additional VR systems deployed; a mixture of Rift and GO systems. The iSchool is serving as the researchers for the study.

Post presentation discussion:

Greg Lucas is willing to make connections between SLA's and Oculus; contact him if you're interested. CA SLA also has a project with Oculus. He also recommended checking out augmented reality if you haven't already; public libraries are doing some cool things with AR.

Colleen brought VR glasses into the room for people to try.

Mark suggested that the role for SLA's is to move beyond the coolness factor towards content. Ann added our role is also to move libraries to adoption of the technology.

President Smith will reach out to Oculus to see if they are willing to donate 2 units to each WestCo member.

After the VR presentation, WestCo members began sharing their updates focusing on major initiatives and successes and challenges. See below.

Adjourn: President Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:00.

Wednesday, May 23

Western Council Business Meeting

President Smith convened the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Approval of minutes- Greg moved, seconded by Ann to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried by voice vote with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Cindy Aden submitted the report via email. President Smith discussed the report and the state of our finances. Mary moved, seconded by Daria to perform the audit at a cost not to exceed \$5500 by the CPA identified by Amigos. Motion carried by voice vote unanimously. Next summer's meeting will be in Denver, CO. A Doodle poll will be coming out in the future to determine a date. Michael moved, seconded by Jeff to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Officer election: Past President Hainer put forward the name of Michael Scott for President-Elect and opened up for nominations from the floor. Anne moved to close the nominations, seconded by Gene. Motion carried unanimously. Ann presented Gene with a card and gifts from WestCo and recognized his ten years of service on the Executive Committee. He was the longest serving since 1998. Colleen moved, seconded by Greg, to appoint Ann to serve in the Past President role upon Gene's retirement. Motion carried by voice vote with one abstention.

Approval of the Amigos contract: Move to approve the Amigos contract for two years in the amount of \$14,500 for the first year and \$14,750 for the second year by Mary, second by Greg. Ann thinks that at some point in the future we should consider moving to AMR as part of COSLA when that is an option. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion of legislative issues:

Jennie was pleasantly surprised to hear the openness by ALA at Leg Day to increased funding. There seems to be some movement on \$1 Per Capita. Language from ALA was much softer this year on level funding.

Greg commented that it's not a strategic position to ask Congress for the same amount. He commented that we should double down for libraries; there's a benefit to all of us to speaking in one voice. We should promote the ROI in libraries; connecting libraries better to workforce development. Jennie said showing how much of the dollars go towards databases and the public/private partnership. We need to educate people on the value of libraries. Need to figure out who the members of our delegations are open to investing in libraries. Gene mentioned that he is interested in the languages book that Peter mentioned in his presentation, hoping that it will help us better craft our message to the key people who will carry the message forward. We need to craft a statement that shows how the money is being used in areas A,B,C.

ALA has a new policy core that is taking a hard look at their legislative agenda and what they need to be. Jennie thinks there are some good people that we could work with on the committee.

Mark thinks that we need to present to COSLA what we think the level should be. WestCo has agreement that we should ask for additional dollars, although we haven't settled on the amount. Once we know our ask, we can then draft our arguments for the increased dollars. A discussion ensued on what an appropriate amount should be. Greg suggested including a COLA as well.

Mark commented that we have neglected highlighting the impact on rural areas.

Jennie moved, seconded by Colleen that the Western Council of State Librarians resolves that the Library Services and Technology Act Grants to State program should be appropriated at \$1 per capita annually. Motion carried by an enthusiastic unanimous voice vote. Gene will craft a draft resolution in Google docs that members can edit.

The group discussed the characteristics that they'd like to see in the next IMLS director who will be appointed from the library side. We'd like someone that is inclusive of both the museum and library community and that reaches out to the other Federal agencies that libraries and museums touch. We'd like the director to be an advocate for libraries and museums at the Federal level.

Discussion of/reactions to the Measures that Matter project and report:

Another year of funding has been secured for implementation of the project. Lots of gratitude was expressed to the committee for all of their work. We're questioning what the actual outcomes will be; what is the next step; what changes will be implemented because of this. How can we use the data that is collected to tell the library better? We'd like to see IMLS have a more robust data portal that would allow different groups to create dashboards. IMLS is

working on a new search and compare tool. This is a next step for Measures that Matter to bring together this disparate data into one portal.

Discussion of developments around E-books:

Jennie shared information on the coalition of networked information. Jennie will forward a document from the meeting.

Discussion of how states are working with OCLC:

Mark recapped the conversation at the COSLA spring meeting in DC. Each state is using OCLC differently. There are different levels of satisfaction with OCLC but there is an across the board concern about the lack of transparency in OCLC's pricing and the lack of development of products. COSLA is going to look into the services that SLA's are using from OCLC, their pricing and possible alternatives. OCLC is a member organization with a board of directors; COSLA as a group should go to the board meeting and communicate those concerns once we've clearly articulated our concerns. There will be a survey forthcoming on this topic. Jennie wants us to be exactly on point when we go to the board because public libraries are not their market anymore; it's small and medium sized academics and the world market. Is the point to convey our concerns to OCLC or to investigate alternatives; let's build our own future. Jennie raised the suggestion at COSLA that we put out an RFI for ILL. Mark suggested that a question be added to the COSLA survey to inquire if SLA's would be willing to participate in an RFI for ILL. Jennie will inquire at the next COSLA update if COSLA has the capacity to issue an RFI.

Conclusion of the sharing of news from the states

- a. Major initiatives
- b. Successes and challenges

Sharing of news from the states:

TX: Successes: received a million dollars last legislative session to improve broadband in Texas; at the end of the first year they have 85 libraries participating in e-rate with an over 900% increase in connection speed among them. Going to continue to try to get libraries to take advantage of e-rate and the legislature to continue funding. Challenge: going through sunset, need to be re-authorized every 12 years. Trying to get authority to advertise services, sell products, restructure obsolete systems. Have to do zero based budgeting since they're going through the sunset process. Had a Capstone student from Univ of TX do a study of library services to prisoners; putting LSTA dollars to some sort of prison population services. Looking at an outreach effort across all programs to try and go out and make more of a concerted effort to deliver services across the state; hoping to purchase a library branded LibraryMobile.

AK: Have filled 12 vacancies in the last year; have 6 additional. LD has doubled in size. Did fine with legislature; no cuts, no increases. CE Forum is in Juneau in August. They have a partnership with Dept of Ed; they received 30K per year which they are using to purchase Sesame Street e-libraries. Working on a virtual reality project. Getting some interesting uses of the building; hosted a Coast Guard ceremony a few weeks ago. Building cool system failed completely last July; there was enough money left over to fix it from the building fund. They have a partnership with the local TV station; they are wired in to them and AKSL has a TV show on that station. The big exhibit between the archives, museum and library is the sinking of the Princess Sophia.

State sharing:

CO: Good: RIPL sessions continue to be successful; thanks to all who supported staff, librarians, or are plan to attend personally the summer RIPL institute in Atlanta. CO and WY have formed a joint [digitization hub pilot](#) for adding content to DP.LA. There have been glitches with DPLA in getting the digital content added, but hope to resolve it soon. Our Talking book library was awarded the regional library program of the year last week. Also, CSL provides pass-through funds to two in-state organizations for the blind and deaf with funds from the Dept. of Regulatory Affairs that originate with a statewide telephone tax. This state agency has agreed to provide \$250k next year to the talking book library for staff and services. CO also had a national medal [winner](#) from IMLS: Pueblo city county library.

Bad: A [1982 state law](#) is having significant negative effects on funding to libraries and other entities. The law requires that home property tax-to-non property tax remain at a 45:55% ratio. As property values have risen the formula to calculate the percentage of tax going to libraries (and fire districts, cities, counties, etc.) has dropped to maintain the ratio. Library tax revenues, especially rural, have dropped by 10-25%, and could drop more in 2020 if not fixed. CSL is working with the library association to gather stories to include in any legislative efforts in the 2019 session to fix the gaps.

Ugly: a small group of parents has been alleging for the past 18 months that CSL and the dept. of education are part of a scheme to stream p\*rn into schools and libraries through EBSCO and other databases. The efforts have resulted in numerous presentations to school and library boards, and more than 100 confrontational messages on library- and education-based Facebook pages around the state and country pointing to [their message](#). The OIF is aware and has offered some assistance. The state's regional system, which manages the discount purchasing for this and other databases, created a [how-to guide](#) for responding and offers history of the allegations. If you or other libraries receive negative FB reviews or other contacts on this, the advice is to address them through normal social media policy and practice.

ND: NDSL has a 5% reduction for the 2019-21 biennium, plus an additional 3% contingency. Mary is meeting with each staff member in preparation for determining the budget cuts. She asked staff to answer three questions: what should we absolutely continue to do, what should we stop doing, what are we not doing that we should be. NDSL has done 6 months of Facebook Live presentations once a month. They have now switched this to “Lunch with the State Librarian”; once a month, Mary gives a 20-30 minute presentation on a topic. Topics are being solicited from the ND library community. NDSL has a partnership with the Grand Forks Air Force Base to create and circulate STEM kits.

ID: Wants to move TB from Federal back to state funds. Anne thinks they’ve gotten enough traction to get this passed next year. Long term chairs of the joint finance committee are retiring which has people concerned because they have such a grasp of the budget and agencies don’t know what the new process will be. In the last 18 months, Ann has made 12 new hires; some were internal. Two more retirements are on the horizon. She wants to take a look at how reassignments and new hires have worked out and where changes need to be made; may hire a consultant to assist with the evaluation. One of the staff members, Shirley Bilideau, has been building partnerships with other state agencies and where libraries fit in with a goal of connecting people in the statewide agencies to public libraries at a local or regional level.

KS: Eric is learning as much as he can as quickly as he can. Hired a temp employee to help with the database renewals in 2020; canvassing state and getting ideas on improvements needed. Hired a temp employee to update legislative info and make sure it gets processed over correctly to new platform. Interviewing to add an employee to statewide services department. Starting to have conversations about where they can make improvements, looking hard at statewide services and how they’re using the LSTA dollars. Everyone seems to be optimistic about the budget; if they don’t see a late budget cut, it will be the first time in 8 years to not have one.

OR: Challenge and a great opportunity: they’ve had about 25% turnover in staff in the last 1-½ years. OLA has been working hard along with the State Library Board to be sure that recruitment brings in a strong candidate for the Governor to appoint a new State Librarian. Success: they were providing support for mailing lists for over 25 years but they’ve decided to no longer support those; Department of Administration IT has put them on an enterprise system. Working on communicating the transition. In the middle of a large renovation building project; Governor’s advisors will be moving into the upper floor of the building. Working on creating a recording studio in the library to be used for library support as well as Government Support Reference Librarians to provide education.

MO: Robin's focus is where they've been and where they want to go and how to get everyone on the same path. Want to start using LSTA funds for more statewide initiatives rather than subgrants. Would like reference to be more innovative and more valuable to state employees; is going to survey state employees. Looking at possibly adding a second recording studio for Braille. 45 libraries part of a statewide consortium for Koha; provide support for that and looking at how they can help expand what they do. Robin is touring the state to try and visit libraries and see what they're wanting from the SLA. Funding was stable.

IA: big success is that they have a contract with ULC for Edge. Want to engage the larger libraries, which is about 30 out of over 500 PL's; hoping to have 100% participation from larger libraries. Challenges/opportunities: by end of this FY will have had 3 retirements with another 3 next FY; will be taking time to decide how to fill the positions. They are doing an IMLS MOE waiver for the first time due to a budget reduction last FY.

CA: Added statewide databases for school libraries; 2 of the 3 vendors will also be in the public libraries. They will get some one-time monies in their budget; hoping to get 2.5M for literacy for children, 5M one-time for broadband. Part of the 5M will be looking at regional solutions to improving capacity for broadband. They've begun crawling website for state docs in conjunction with the state archives, which should place the libraries and archives in a more solid position when future budget cuts come. New Deputy State Librarian is Norinder Sufi from England. In the LSTA five-year plan they made a commitment to look at it each year to make it more real. He is hoping to get a \$5M bond for library construction introduced next year. They are tagging their grants so that they can be searched easier. CA is doing zip books where they purchase books in rural areas rather than ILL'ing; the book gets sent right to the patron.

NV: NV has a Statewide Workforce Contract with Headed2, being employed in all libraries. Users need a library card to access local employment information and trends as well as job searching assistance and life counseling assistance. Piloting the software in Southern Nevada, partnering with some of the local job offices that have moved into the library to provide the job counseling. Library staff will provide assistance when the job core staff is not there. Will expand to whole state if it works. The local libraries contacted the local offices to initiate the partnering on the partnership of using the software and moving some of the offices into libraries. Statewide costs for NV are 200K annually. NV is pilot testing a virtual reality project, modeling after CA's project. Added two new LSTA funded library development consultants to manage statewide databases and contracts. Upcoming challenge is that the director of their department would like to turn the library into an Innovation and Research Center, which would eliminate space for the collection where it's currently housed. Jeff will be retiring in September.

NM: One of five pilots to submit a consortium application to FCC to streamline applications; FCC Commissioner Rosenworcel will be visiting NM with one of their Senators and touring Tribal Libraries. State of NM went out to bid for the e-rate application. 4 of the Pueblo tribes have received a grant to lay fiber for 60 miles; largest tribal project in NM. Libraries as a LaunchPad, utilize libraries as a Launchpad for entrepreneurs. There are 5 pilot sites. They have two new bookmobiles. Challenge is that the most significant mandate the SL has is to take care of state publications and they aren't capturing anything digital.

NE: NE just signed a new three-year agreement with Ebsco. They have a biennial budget; they are working on their 2019-21 budget. Both a success and a challenge is an IMLS grant called Library Innovation Studios that include 30 libraries that will receive Makerspace Kits for about 5 months along with training. The goal is that they'll purchase their own equipment following the trial. They are in year two. They've established some key partnerships as a result of this grant; NE Innovation Studio is creating a network of Makerspaces across NE and libraries will be included. The e-book consortium of 170 libraries across NE uses Overdrive to purchase e-books and e-audiobooks; they are seeing steady growth over time. Libraries are assessed a fee based on population with some state dollars added; have a committee of librarians that do selection. They are working on putting together funding through some foundations, supplemented by state and federal dollars, to get Edge. IA/NE Library Association will have a joint conference in 2019; they are looking to do a joint two states- one book.

SD: New superintendent of education. Major initiatives: educate and get involved with the education community about school libraries, especially future ready. Getting ready to do a strategic plan; goal is to keep SDSL in front of legislature and educational leaders. Will be fully staffed by end of summer for first time in three years.

MT: Jennie was pleasantly surprised when they met with Senator Greg JeanForte, who met with them for 20 minutes. He asked insightful questions about the future of librarianship, very interested in STEM and workforce development. Many budget challenges; still dealing with ramifications from the RIF of last year. Hoping to be able to hire some techs. Don't know what budget future holds. Revenue projections are looking positive but they've been told not to make any budget requests at this time. Initiatives: working with a contractor to create a separate nonprofit to support statewide projects; working with Library Strategies from St. Paul. It's an 18 month contract and goal is at end of 18 months to have enough funds to hire an executive director to begin fundraising. Other initiative is statewide public relations on the importance of libraries.

UT: Challenge is having a new State Librarian who is learning her role. Needs a new Development Program Manager. Strengths: has been doing great with OverDrive and RB Digital; circled over 1M items last year. They have the highest per capita circulation in the nation right now. Other things on UT Online Library have had a 16% increase. They had a Hamilton project where they brought the play in and legislators and kids went to see it and libraries had corresponding displays. Major initiative: distributed 560K to 59 libraries; leveraged 2.1M in match. Colleen shared new activity braille books that they've created on Alaska and UT.

WA: see attached

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:45.

## Washington State Report for Western Council Meeting, Salt Lake City, May, 2018

**Virtual Reality pilot:** you will hear from Joe Olayvar and the two researchers, Negin Dahya and Jinha Lee, about the project. Negin may mention that we just completed a grant request of the Knight Foundation for research funding in order to focus on incarcerated youth and VR. We are trying to get into the prisons with VR, but we are starting with this project. Meanwhile, as an aside, we have a new Secretary of Dept. of Corrections, and he surprised us and came to the State Library to deliver a video speech promoting National Library Week. He is also going to write a letter of support to our senators for IMLS, so we have a better advocate than we have ever had in the prison system.

**Strategic plan & mission statement:** It was a big project to engage my entire library in writing a strategic plan and mission statement—one that included LSTA's 5-year goals, but also included what the rest of the library does. There was a lot of good cross-fertilization, and I think everyone understands the overarching purpose of the library better. The plan is up on our website now—all 7 goals—but the mission statement is: *Connecting Washington through the power of libraries.*

**Budget & hiring:** As Washington continues to grow, we continue to enjoy a stable budget situation, and as a result of the last legislative session, we were approved to expend another quarter million. We are hiring another entry-level staff—our third in the past year—and we will finally have some funds to focus on filming and digitizing our state collections and developing a project we are calling Primarily Washington that works with teachers to create curriculum using primary source material that we digitize and put on this website. A big focus for this coming year will be Washington's history of women's suffrage. Washington State was 10 years ahead of the nation in giving women the right the vote, which will be part of the story of the 100-year anniversary for suffrage in 2020.

**New building:** The last legislative session also saw the approval of initial funds for a new building. The Secretary of State wants one new building to house all her departments, so not only will it be a library building, but it will house Archives, Elections, Corporations & Charities and our Washington Legacy historical research department. The building is being called the Library & Archives building and will be housed 5 miles off-campus, near where our temporary library building is now, in Tumwater. The City of Tumwater intends to use this building as the new anchor for a renewed downtown it will develop around this heavily tree-ed largely undeveloped area. Ground is expected to be broken in September, 2019.

**Rural Broadband:** Lastly, I wanted to mention that rural broadband is taking off as a hot topic in Washington State again, and I am happy to say that the State Library has emerged as a player in this space. The State Librarian was successfully added as an additional member of the Governor's proposed Broadband Committee in a bill that ultimately did not pass, but is expected to be reintroduced next January. (There were a record number of bills introduced to our short session this spring, and many bills just didn't make it across the finish line.) Meanwhile there is a flurry of activity—local conferences, a community granting opportunity and talk of how PUDs can get into the business of providing connectivity, and the Library has been included in all discussions. It's a busy time!

Have a great conference and so sorry to miss seeing you all. Cindy