Richmond Academic Library Consortium

Location: Library of Virginia

April 12, 2005

In Attendance:

John Ulmschneider, presiding (VCU); Sheila Carrington (VSU); Virginia Cherry (RBC); Kip Campbell (Library of Virginia); Rachel Frick (UR); Shanda Lemon (VUU); Helen McKann (JTCC); Abdul Miah (JSRCC); Paul Porterfield (UR); Ginger Young (R-MC); Jim Rettig (UR)

1. President John Ulmschneider called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. All introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the Board meeting of 2/1/05 were approved with minor corrections.

   1. Meeting minutes will be posted on the RALC Web site shortly after each meeting.

3. Treasurer’s report and consideration of 2005-06 budget and dues:

   1. Paul Porterfield reviewed the FY04-05 budget, expenditures to date, and projected expenditures through the end of the year. Dues this year were equal to the cost of the courier service. A deficit of $100 is projected.

   2. He reported that RALC has $20,658 in its account held by the University of Richmond and $6,193 in the Wachovia money market account.

   3. He reviewed the projected expenditures for FY05-06. The courier service cost will be higher. Thanks, however, to Paul’s negotiations with the company the increase will be $450; this is less than the company initially proposed.

      i. Courier service.......................... $14,950

      ii. Staff development....................... $1,500

      iii. RALC scholarship program......... $1,000

      iv. Audit.......................................... $300

      v. Media Co-op supplies............... $150

   vi. Total:..................................... $17,900

4. He reviewed several scenarios for dues increases and how they affect the end-of-year bottom line.

5. A dues increase of $100 (approximately 7%—or, precisely, 6.89% ) was approved, and the scholarship program was removed from the operating budget. The scholarships will be funded from the money accounts.

4. Election of officers:
1. Virginia Cherry presented the slate:
   i. Ginger Young for president
   ii. Joe Coalter for vice-president
   iii. Paul Porterfield for treasurer
   iv. Jim Rettig for secretary

2. The slate was approved as presented. The new officers take power at the conclusion of this meeting.

5. Committee reports

1. Technical Services Committee—Rachel Frick reported that the committee has not been very active this year. Many members are active in the Potomac Technical Processing Librarians group. The committee will discuss opportunities to work with PTPL for programs of interest to RALC. Another potential partner is the Technical Services and Technology section of VLA.

2. Public Services Committee—Helen McKann reported that has a program coming on May 6 at JTCC’s Midlothian campus. Esther Onega, the Off-Grounds Librarian at UVa, will speak.

3. Film Cooperative Committee—Sheila Carrington reported that committee has not been very active this year due to health issues. Webmaster will post the statistics for the year.
   i. The committee will be watching and discussing the potential VIVA purchase of PBS digital video programs.
   ii. The committee has a meeting scheduled at Virginia State.

6. RALC Scholarship award recommendation:

1. John Ulmschneider reported that we received only one application for the scholarship.

2. The applicant is Yuki Dixon, an archival assistant at VCU, who is working towards her degree in the Catholic U program. She already holds an MFA in sculpture from Temple University. She thinks that she will finish her degree in one semester.

3. The RALC Executive Committee met March 31 to discuss this and work out implementation procedures.

4. It was moved and approved that the RALC scholarship be awarded to Ms. Dixon for FY05-06.

5. Kip Campbell raised the question of whether or not individuals in entry level professional positions but who do not have an MLS are eligible for the scholarship. Such positions are not uncommon at the Library of Virginia. The scholarship guidelines are ambiguous about this and need to be clarified before the next call for applications goes out next year.

7. Abdul Miah raised questions about how the student borrowing system works.

   1. When students don’t return books, the referring institution is billed.
2. Discussion brought to light many issues and individual institutional concerns.
3. The issue was referred to the Public Services Committee.

8. Next meeting will be held at Virginia State University on June 14, 15, or 16. VSU will confirm the date.

9. All three committee chairs agreed to continue to serve.

10. Topics for future discussion:

   1. A registry of RALC digitization projects
   2. The disposition of the RALC archives—scheduled to be transferred to VCU. Have they been?
   3. A shared off-site stacks facility

11. Announcements

   • Richard Bland—
     1. Continuing with renovation plans; however there isn’t money yet to carry out the plans
     2. Doing compliance reports for SACS
     3. New librarian will start soon, coming from John Tyler
     4. Joy Galoni sends her greetings from Jamestown Public Library

   • JSRCC—
     1. Has a new position called coordinator of information literacy; position is being advertised
     2. New library and technology building construction will start in summer at Parham Road campus

   • JTCC—
     1. Celebrated 10th anniversary of its literary festival with a presentation by Rita Dove; between 150 and 200 were in the audience

   • UR—
     1. Have received a small grant through ALA to present a World War I film series in the fall. A seminar course for UR students is being built along with the series.
     2. Planning is underway for renovation of some staff areas.
     3. Planning is also underway for a science reading room in the Gottwald Science Center. It is scheduled for completion by end of summer.
     4. IMLS Civil War newspaper project continues.
     5. Planning is also underway to renovate the two subterranean stacks level. Goals of this project are to free up space by using compact shelving, create much needed quiet study space, and bring those floors into visual harmony with the renovations done in other public areas in the summers of 2000, 2001, and 2002.

   • Library of Virginia—
     1. April 18 an exhibit on art from the capital grounds will open.
     2. LVA has been working with the General Assembly on review of the public records act; this has implications for the documents program.
I. Seeking a definition of “public document” for the digital age.

II. Hope to include a fair use provision.

3. LVA has been having discussions with I-Archive; LVA has archiving responsibility for archiving all Commonwealth publications regardless of format.
   • Will harvest a subset of documents and work out a plan
4. Has received a grant from the NEH newspaper project. LVA is one of 6 pilot institutions. Will scan 100,000 pages. Will do Richmond Planet, Richmond Times-Dispatch, and others from 1900-1910. There are hopes that this will become the foundation for a Virginia newspaper project.

• Randolph-Macon—
  1. President is retiring and has told the library his papers are all on the campus network.

• VCU—
  1. Continuing to grow staff, including one hired from LVA
  2. Redesigning space to accommodate compact shelving, enough to hold 200,000 volumes
  3. Cabell will be open 24 hours for the exams period
  4. A new provost is being hired; good candidates were interviewed last week

• VUU—
  1. Still looking for a new director; hope to have one by fall
  2. Art museum having an opening this week; it is on the first floor of the library (where the archives used to be)
  3. Lombardy Street project is nearly finished
  4. Everyone happy about the men’s basketball championship
  5. President’s inaugural is this week

• VSU—
  1. Moved into new building in January
  2. Library instruction lab is in operation; looking for an information literacy librarian
  3. 24-hour computer lab not yet in operation due to glitches in security system and doors