Richmond Academic Library Consortium

Location: Richard Bland College

October 11, 2005

In Attendance:

Ginger Young, presiding (R-MC); Kip Campbell (Library of Virginia); Virginia Cherry (RBC); Joe Coalter (Union-PSCE); Helen McKann (JTCC); Linda Luebke (JTCC); Paul Porterfield (UR); John Ulmschneider (VCU); Elsie Wetherington (VSU); Jim Rettig (UR)

1. President Ginger Young called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

2. Minutes of the Board meeting of June 7, 2005 were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer’s report:
   1. Paul Porterfield reported that all dues have been paid and deposited.
   2. Continuing education staff development—there has been a lot of interest in activities. Current budget is $1,500; we have exceeded that. We have spent nearly $2,000 thus far.
      i. In May Public Services Committee had a program on library services for distance education.
      ii. SOLINET workshop on copyright in the digital age in June.
      iii. SOLINET workshop on evaluating library services in July.
   3. Paul has purchased new bins for the courier service.
   4. We have not heard anything from the courier service about an increase in cost.

4. Approval of agenda:
   1. Item on scholarly communication

5. Committee reports
   1. Technical Services Committee—No report; committee currently has no chair.
   2. Public Services Committee—See RALC Pass survey item below.
   3. Media Coop Committee—No report.

6. RALC Pass survey—Helen McKann distributed copies of a survey distributed in spring on the RALC Pass program.
   1. Helen reviewed the results question by question.
   2. Institutions vary the limit on the number of books it will lend
      i. The Board settled on a revised rule of a minimum of five items per borrower.
3. Discussion related to borrowing privileges showed a wide range of practices—most JTCC students don’t have a JTCC ID card; some offer community user privileges to all students.

4. Billing practices for RALC items loaned but not returned will continue to be a local option—either bill the borrower’s institution or bill the borrower directly.

7. Shared searching

1. John Ulmschneider reported on this service. VCCS is hosting the software and it and VCU are implementing it jointly. John asked for feedback on it as RALC librarians use it.

2. RALC members appreciate this service.

8. Amendment to the RALC Bylaws

1. President Young proposed a change in the bylaws to eliminate the requirement to hold a meeting every June. The proposal was approved unanimously.

9. Budget matters

1. Use of RALC funds to defray costs of SOLINET workshops
   i. It would be helpful to receive notice of these earlier.
   
   ii. How do we select the workshops to be supported in this way?

1. One requirement is that it be hosted at a RALC institution

2. The Board will ask committee chairs to review the SOLINET workshop schedule and suggest those to the Board for funding.

   1. Prorating dues
   
   i. Perhaps statistics on use of the courier service could be a basis for a prorated dues structure; however those who most need it may be those least able to pay a prorated share.
   
   ii. The RALC reserve has remained fairly constant in recent years.
   
   iii. RALC provides local opportunities to RALC librarians beyond what is offered at the state and national levels.

2. Honorarium for Hong Wu
   
   i. The Board approved a one-time thank you honorarium of $300 for Hong Wu.

10. Scholarly communication—Melanie Hillner of the University of Richmond poses a question for RALC. Would RALC be interested in a multi-institutional effort to increase faculty awareness of the crisis in scholarly communication? Would RALC be interested in bringing in an outside speaker who is an expert on this topic?

   1. Helen McKann will contact Melanie Hillner to explore the idea.
11. Next meeting will be held at Randolph-Macon College on Tuesday, January 31.

12. Technical Services Committee

1. Currently does not have a chair
2. Should we consider some sort of alliance or merger with the Potomac Technical Processing Librarians; or discontinue the committee and direct technical services librarians to joint PTPL instead?
   i. We need to see the proposal document and obtain additional information.
3. The Board will ask the committee to continue and to establish some sort of relationship with PTPL.

13. Annual reports

1. Randolph-Macon does not ask the library for one; nor does University of Richmond (but it puts information about the library on its Web site annually).
2. Library of Virginia does multiple annual reports—one for the library as a whole and one from each division.
3. VCU does three reports—one for the university, one on the Web site, and one for print publication.
4. Union-PSCE does a report; it is distributed to the faculty and administrators.
5. VSU does a report for the provost.
6. Several Board members brought examples of their reports.

14. Announcements

• Richard Bland—
  1. Virginia Cherry distributed copies of the information that the library gives to parents during student orientation.
  2. Other projects are delaying work on library renovation; it should be done in 2008 at the same time dorms will open.
• Union-PSCE—
  1. Implementing ExLibris.
  2. A challenge to get students to realize how much the new catalog can do.
• JTCC—
  1. Revising its master plan.
  2. Hopes for legislative approval for funding for a new building for the Midlothian campus; will include space for the library.
  3. Chester campus needs renovation; library will lose space to classroom as a part of this project.
• VCU—
  1. Enrollment over 29,000 this year.
  2. Two new dorms opened; more than 5,000 residential students.
  3. Average SAT score up 70+ points in five years.
  4. Entering class 21% African-American; 38% non-white.
  5. Budget improving; collections budget exceeds $5,000,000; expects it to grow by $500,000 this year.
6. Ranked 98th in country by National Science Foundation for sponsored research.
7. VIVA working on a significant increase in its budget.

• UR—
  1. Have moved from 24/5 to 24/7 service on the two main floors.
  2. Hosting a film series on World War I, made available by a grant through the ALA Public Programs Office and National Video Resources with funding from National Endowment from the Humanities.
  3. Participated in the Chinese film festival.
     i. Both film programs are good community outreach.
  4. Planning renovation of two stacks levels during summer 2006.

• Library of Virginia—
  1. Doing a pilot project with I-Archive to harvest and save state agency Web site.
  2. Redefining roles of technology support group—very involved in collection development and archival work.
  3. Multiple meetings over summer with legislative subcommittee to give LVA authority to enforce retention and archiving.
  5. Looking at stacks space needs as space dwindles.

• Randolph Macon—
  1. Search for a new president is concluding; interviews have been conducted and the board of trustees meets soon to make a decision.

• VSU—
  1. The new building is coming along fine. 24-hr section is not yet open for lack of security guards.
  2. Would like to implement fee-based printing.