Richmond Academic Library Consortium

Richard Bland College

August 6, 1999

In Attendance:

Dan Bedsole (R-MC), Nancy Brantley (LVA), Virginia Cherry (RBC), Jim Rettig (U of R), Susan Sparling (for Vonita Foster) (VUU), Elsie Weatherington (VSU).

Session:

Virginia Cherry called the meeting to order at 1025 am. Members present introduced themselves. The minutes for April 23, 1999 were approved and adopted with the correction of two typos. These changes are to be given to Hong Wu for the Webpage version.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Porterfield

Jim Rettig presented Paul Porterfield's budget report. "Everyone has been billed and we've been paid."

Committee Reports:

User Services:

ILL statistics for '98-'99 need to be sent to Tim Williams (Donna Temple is no longer on this committee - she is moving to Tech Services)

Technical Services:

Nancy Brantly reported that scholarships were provided for ten (10) attendees of the VLA TSAR spring workshop, "A PERL Toolkit for Libraries," held June 7 at the State Library of VA. About eighty people attended the workshop.

Film Coop:

Statistics for '97-'98 were presented and compared to those for '96-'97. Both loaning and borrowing are down and use of titles owned are up. Statistics for '98-'99 need to be turned in to Virginia Cherry.

Statistics from ILL and Film Coop for '98-'99 are needed to calculate the per item use of the shuttle. We need to make an informed decision on the courier service for next year. The service costs approximately $10,000 per year.

Old Business:

Search Engine Committee:
We need a consultant. Is there someone within our organizations who has the knowledge and time to do the job or should we hire someone? Do we need a new committee? Global searching of member libraries' catalogs is being investigated. SIRSI may be able to do this. If we can't do the global searching do we create a new RALC union catalog? We need to resolve these questions at the next meeting.

**RALC Webpages:**

There needs to be a regular inspection of the Webpages by all members. The Secretary could request this of all members and then send members' responses on to the Webmaster. Since it is difficult to guess which button to use for navigation, we could add a list of contents that would appear when you point a cursor at a button. The RALC Committee Members page needs to be edited. Changes will be sent to the Webmaster.

**New Business:**

**By-Laws:**

The Webpage needs to reflect the change to "two year" term in Article IV, Section 3. It has been suggested that the Vice President/President Elect be elected in April of the first year of the President's two-year term. This would stagger the office terms. The Vice President/President Elect would be Vice President for one year and President for two. The rewording of these changes will be presented at the October meeting. Jim Rettig suggested that we look at the by-laws of the North Carolina Library Association whose structure is similar to ours.

**Changing focus of RALC:**

The members at this meeting strongly recommend that we revisit the mission of RALC at our next meeting. VIVA and ILL through OCLC are duplicating many of our efforts. The following are some of the thoughts presented today:

- Do we have a mission any longer?
- Examine usefulness of present RALC committees combine, eliminate?
- Get away from books and be mostly film lenders.
- Use our bank account to serve our membership.
- Focus more on professional development.
- Have a more active paraprofessional forum.
- Create a committee to plan and set up workshops that would be composed of representatives from the other committees.
- Put deadlines on reports.
- Have specific purposes for meetings.
- Discuss issues with staff.

All members should be prepared to discuss these issues at the next meeting.
Announcements:

Next meeting will be held on October 15, 1999 at Virginia Union University. Subsequent meetings are January 21, April 14, and June 15, 2000.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Susan Sparling for
Vonita W. Foster, Secretary