

COMPASS USERS' GROUP
Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, January 18, 2006
Mt. Iron, MN

Members Present:

Mark Koukol-ALS, Rebecca Patton-ALS, Shelley Rogers-ALS, Jim Weikum-ALS (2 pm); Paula Chapman-Aurora, Debby Bocnuk-Babbitt, Mary Lukkarila-Cloquet, Mary Beth Kafut-Eveleth, Ginny Richmond-Gilbert, Marcia Anderson & Janet Coy-Grand Rapids Public, Terry Moore-Hibbing/Chisholm, Nancy Riesgraf-Hibbing, Sue Sowers-Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams-International Falls, Sue Thompson-Two Harbors, Nancy Maxwell-Virginia, and Linda J. Wadman, NCLC.

President Mary Lukkarila called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (Note: At 10:00 a.m. presentations were made about the two downloadable audio book vendors that serve libraries.)

Introductions were made. Welcome Marcia Anderson, new reference librarian at Grand Rapids.

The minutes of the October 26, 2005 meeting were presented. Moved by J. Coy, second N. Maxwell to approve minutes. **Motion passed.**

Nomination and election of COMPASS officers for 2006: Following individual suggestions and nominations, Thompson moved, J. Coy seconded that all current officers be re-elected. Mary Lukkarila, Chair; Nancy Maxwell, Vice-chair; and Ginny Richmond, Secretary. **Motion passed.**

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES:

Questions or problems with Horizon functions: M. Koukol reported on problems and solutions to current computer hacking that is tying up our system: Fedora-Linux was changed today and Mark hopes to have the system up by Thursday. They will also buy a firewall. Websites hosted on ALS server will remain down longer.

We are still waiting for HIP 4.1 this version is supposed to improve MN Link interoperability. Email notices are now being made available. This function is currently tied to the Print notice process so is only an option for those getting print notices mailed from ALS. There was a question: is IPrism being updated?

Interlibrary loan: T. Moore asked if any/all libraries are experiencing increases. There has been a 28% increase at Hibbing. M. Lukkarila stated she now needs one full staff position just to keep up. Cloquet's pull list averages 80 items per day.

Nancy King was invited to join the meeting. ALS was one of the last regions to go live with Get It (May 2005). We are up from 300-400 items to 600 items going out. In December we had 500 items come in. ALS is, therefore, a net lender.

Koukol noted that statistics will be changing in Horizon as EasyAsk will no longer be an option and WebReporter will be required.

Moore asked: will the increase continue or will ILL stabilize?

J. Coy commented that there are more and more unmediated requests.

How do we budget dollars and staff time for this unpredictable increase.

A report made by Will DeJohn was discussed.

E2T2 Grant funded: Enhancing Education Through Technology grant for ALS was approved but still awaiting contracts from the State. Deadlines have been extended.

Staff reports (re: COMPASS and computer issues):

Shelley Rogers: Mail A Book has 45 plus ebooks and she has improved the MARC records to make them more accessible. Search Title Browse: "Gemstar" or "Ebook reader" to see titles. ALS storytelling kits can also be searched using the General Keyword or Series search. Title Browse "book props" also yields results.

J. Coy noted that Grand Rapids has big books she would be willing to lend if it is feasible. R. Patton said they have been sent successfully via the ALS delivery. Al often puts special items in the passenger seat.

M. Lukkarila also noted that Bifokal kits and IRRC History/theme kits are available and popular with nursing homes. Could a brochure be developed to promote these items?

G. Richmond noted that Shelley has also been working to clean-up Fast Adds in rotating collections.

Mark Koukol: nothing additional.

Rebecca Patton: nothing in this section.

Other: The downloadable audio book demonstrations were discussed. Many felt the inability to download to iPods was a problem and would prevent many patrons from using the products. Some file types (wma, mp3) are compatible and some aren't. Some libraries like to buy disks that can be taken home by patrons for downloading through their computers to their own devices. BBC, Blackstone, Brilliance and others offer this option.

LIBRARY ISSUES (non-computer):**Reports by Jim Weikum:**

Legislative update –2006 Legislative Day is Thursday, March 30. Registration is free. This year is a bonding session. The Governor's budget listed no funding for library building projects. Marcia Anderson asked if increased filtering was likely to come up. Weikum stated it was more likely to come up again in 2007.

State Library Town Meetings: "Bright Ideas for Minnesota Libraries" meetings were held in Grand Rapids, Mt. Iron, and Duluth (and added location). Weikum stated they were three very different meetings but with common themes. Discussion points: Buying into distributed services versus one size fits all. Is the State Library using a 1950s vision? To down control, consolidated not federated. Suzanne made a comment that definitely caught people's attention regarding 15 libraries (buildings? Systems?) in Minnesota's future. Maybe merging multitypes? The Illinois Model was mentioned. Bill DeJohn was at the Duluth meeting.

Who should do advocacy for us? The State Library, ALS? M. Lukkarila noted the importance of children's librarians.

Gates "Staying Connected" grant for public libraries: S. Fisher sent out letters to eligible libraries. Use your money now! Printers are acceptable expenditures. First round ends June 30. Remaining/unspent funds will be redistributed based on previously established needs.

LSTA Grants: ALS submitted three letters of intent~

- 1) S. Fisher – ALS Website redevelopment with money for advertising and training for local library sites included in proposal.
- 2) R. Patton – Automation proposal for Carlton and Cook Public Libraries
- 3) Certification workshops (State level, ALS acts as fiscal agent) – Two are proposed, one will be on marketing.

Staff reports:

Rebecca Patton: Annual reports can be submitted beginning Feb. 1 and must be done by April 1. There may be some documentation changes coming from Bruce Pomerantz.

February 3 is the next Soaring to Excellence ITV: "Always a River, Sometimes a Library" will be broadcast at ALS.

A workshop for webpage development/design may be offered if the LSTA grant is approved. Sue Thompson asked if there is a way to integrate the look of Horizon iPAC and local library pages so that there is more consistency (recognition across sites/pages). It was noted that some cities have their own systems with the libraries sponsored on that site and therefore designs may be limited or controlled by another party.

Linda Wadman –NCLC: Linda Wadman noted that College of St. Scholastic is also a Soaring site for those closer to Duluth.

Other: J. Coy, Grand Rapids Area Library events: Feb. 9 Lois Jensen at Itasca Community College-Davis Hall. Tickets available at the public library. April 18 and 19 evening discussions on ethics: six questions of Socrates with Eddie Tabish – Secular Ethics. GRAL also hosts author visits when KAXE radio, next door, has them in the studio.

M. Lukkarila, Cloquet PL has Kiwanis sponsored February program: Read Around the World with Liz Jackala.

Weikum noted that the ALS Board approved funding for more COMPASS meetings in 2006.

We generally try to meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

The following dates were proposed: February 22, March 15 (22 is PLA week), April 26, May 24, No June meeting, July 26, No August, Sept 20 (27-29 is MLA in St. Cloud), October 25, November 29 (week after Thanksgiving), No December.

Motion by J. Coy, second by N. Maxwell to adjourn. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by Ginny Richmond, COMPASS secretary, 2/16/06.