MINITEX POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
18 Andersen Library
Friday, Nov. 30, 2007
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Members Present:
Karla Gedell     Dan Gjelten
Elizabeth Benson Johnson (alternate)   Richard Kettering
Wendy Lougee     Mary Lukkarila
Doris Ott         Joan Roca, Vice Chair for FY08
Anne Ryan         Ruth Solie
Peg Werner, Chair for FY08     Jym Wroblewski (alternate)

Members Unable to Attend:
Pat Akerman
Vanessa Birdsey
Dorothy Liegl
Suzanne Miller (Jym Wroblewski attended as alternate)
Bill Sozansky (Elizabeth Benson Johnson attended by phone as alternate)

Staff Present:
Bill DeJohn     Emily Kissane

Ex Officio Members Unable to Attend:
Todd Digby

Observers:
Cecelia Boone     Kathy Drozd
Stephen Elfstrand  Mary Parker
Becky Ringwelski

1) Introductions, Review and Acceptance of Agenda
Werner welcomed attendees, and Council members introduced themselves. The agenda was approved as distributed.

2) Review of Minutes of June 1, 2007
Roca moved and Ryan seconded a motion for approval of the minutes as distributed. The motion was approved.

3) Minnesota Office of Higher Education Report
Kissane reported that Office of Higher Education has been busy with many agency projects including the "I Make It Happen" campaign, the accountability report, the e-transcript initiative, several new financial aid programs, and legislative reports.

Discussing the revised MINITEX Criteria for Participation, Kissane said OHE has reviewed the revised criteria with agency leadership and has accepted the criteria with the understanding that institutions that are currently participating will be allowed to continue. OHE says further that the compliance process should emphasize assistance to members in developing their library programs.
Council members discussed a number of issues relating to libraries at small MnSCU institutions. Digby described visits that he and others are making to small technical and community colleges to support and enhance library programs on the campuses. These visits have included joint discussions with campus library staff and administrators. DeJohn noted that he had made a visit to the Iron Range to meet with the librarians from the technical and community colleges and Lake Superior College.

Members also discussed problems relating to library and information services support for distance education courses offered by MnSCU institutions and for joint programs offered by combinations of the institutions.

Discussing MnLINK, Kissane reported that the MnLINK logo and wordmark have been re-registered with the Secretary of State’s office for a 10-year period. She says that OHE feels there is a need for open and inclusive discussion of MnLINK’s future direction. DeJohn opened the discussion, saying that he plans to wait to fill the already budgeted MnLINK leadership position and asked for Council member’s opinions about hiring a consultant to study issues related to library and information technology and infrastructure in Minnesota.

Topics discussed included:

- What is MnLINK? Is the original MnLINK concept still valid: is the combination of a single integrated library system (ILS) for the University of Minnesota and MnSCU institutions and a system to facilitate combined access to the collections of Minnesota’s public and other academic and special libraries still the most technologically relevant? Would an interoperative multi-system ILS be more efficient and effective?
- How can students and others who use school media centers access resources available through the MnLINK Gateway most effectively?
- Is there a need to have an individual with designated responsibility to oversee library technology for Minnesota libraries and help facilitate planning and future visioning for library technology in the state?
- Is there a need to have an individual with designated responsibility to oversee implementation and use of library and information resources available statewide through legislative funding?

DeJohn said that he wants to continue the Gateway server site payments as a recognition of the work done by staff at the sites in support of MnLINK.

4) Open Source Integrated Library System – Follow Up Events

Council members discussed the information provided during the meetings of the Minnesota Innovative User Group and the MnLINK User Group, particularly the growing interest in Open Source integrated library systems and other Open Source software. It was noted that the current Aleph-based MnLINK ILS is more complex and has features that aren’t useful for some MnSCU institutions and state government libraries. Open Source software has the advantage that development and maintenance work can be pooled and shared among many libraries and groups. The question was raised whether our current system of consortial arrangements would be relevant in an environment defined by Open Source or other possible future software developments.

Returning to discussion of the option of a study of the Minnesota library infrastructure, members outlined various aspects to these issues. For example:

- What will be the role of interlibrary loan, ELM, and other products and services in the future of Minnesota libraries and library users?
- What are the factors that should be taken into consideration in planning for the future of library technology?
What are the relationships among those factors?
What factors would serve to bring to relationships together – and which would tend to break them apart.

Members questioned whether these types of questions would fall under the purview of the proposed MnLINK Technical Advisory Council, or of a subgroup of the Policy Advisory Council, or whether they would be investigated best through a consultant’s study.

5) Minnesota Digital Library (Umbrella Concept)
MnLINK Gateway; ELM; Minnesota Reflections
DeJohn described plans to provide subscriptions that would cover all Minnesota ISPs so ELM users would not have to use their public library barcodes for searching if they were using a computer linked to a Minnesota ISP. It is hoped that removing the need to use a barcode will remove a barrier to the use of ELM resources by public library users.

Ringwelski noted that that ZPORTAL and VDX are now OCLC products and that the servers supporting the MnLINK Gateway will be moving from Kansas to OCLC headquarters in Ohio.

DeJohn reported that the MDL Steering Committee is developing a five-year plan and that it may have a report ready by the time of the Policy Advisory Council’s March meeting.

6) MINITEX Director’s Report
DeJohn talked about the new My Health Minnesota → Go Local database urging Council members to suggest that this website (http://hsl.lib.umn.edu/golocal/) should be on the websites of libraries, county and local governments, and community organizations throughout the state.

DeJohn also reported on:
- the beginning of the new Virtual Reference project, which will include a number of local and public libraries to serve users of Minnesota libraries;
- enhancements to the Research Project Calculator; and
- the new MINITEX subscription to OPAL, which will allow Minnesota libraries to use the Online Programming for All Libraries (OPAL) site for Web conferences, meetings, and other online interactions.

7) Future Developments that could affect the MINITEX Region
Members discussed articles sent in advance and related developments.

8) Member Reports & Other Issues
Johnson told the group about the work on the Learning 2.0 program by University of Minnesota, Duluth library staff. Solie said the Minnesota multitypes plan to launch a “23 Things on a Stick” program in January and will work to complete the initiative by April.

9) Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned.

Remaining meeting dates for FY2008: March 7, 2008; June 6, 2008.