

MINUTES

LOUISIANA ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE STATE DOCUMENTS DEPOSITORY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1999

The Louisiana Advisory Council for the State Documents Depository System held a regular meeting on Friday, May 7, 1999, at the Bluebonnet Branch Library in Baton Rouge. Council members present were: Judy Smith, Lori Smith, Stephen Henson, Stacey Hathaway-Bell, Carla Pritchett, Robert Benoit, Collin Hamer, Suzanne Hughes, Margaret Lane, and Eileen Menard. Several other persons attended as guests.

Council Chair Judy Smith called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

As Stephen Henson was not present when the meeting began, approval of the minutes was postponed. When he arrived, he discovered that he did not have copies of the minutes to distribute. Hence, minutes from 9/11/98 and 5/7/99 will be approved at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Recorder of Documents Report

The Recorder reported that a new superseded list would be issued soon.

B. Council Membership (Expiration of Terms and Re-appointments)

A motion was made to recommend that Francis Thomas be appointed to replace Suzanne Hughes, and to recommend that Collin Hamer be reappointed. The motion was seconded and subsequently passed. The Chair will forward the recommendations to the State Librarian.

The Chair pointed out that the terms of only two Council members will end in June 1999, but the terms of seven members are scheduled to end in June 2000. The Chair asked those Council members present if any would be willing to voluntarily extend their term in order to alleviate this problem. There were no volunteers. The Chair said that she would speak to the State Librarian about this issue.

C. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports. Due to the departure of several Council members since committees were last appointed, the chairmanship and membership of committees is no longer clear. The Council Chair will review the charges of the committees and will consider appointing new chairs.

D. Discussion of Public Service Guidelines for State Depositories

Due to the length of the agenda, it was agreed that discussion of service guidelines would be postponed until a future meeting.

E. Cataloging Project

Hathaway-Bell reported that she had received a few responses regarding the draft survey which was distributed via e-mail. One respondent suggested adding a question about the set of subject terms being used in the cataloging of state documents. It was agreed that such a question should be added. Another respondent was confused by the wording of question number six, so that question will be rephrased. It was agreed that libraries should be given a deadline of one month after the distribution of the survey in which to submit their responses. A motion was made and seconded to approved the survey as amended. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of New Council Chair-Elect

Judy Smith, who is currently completing Glenn McMullen's term as Chair, was nominated and elected by acclamation to serve as Chair-Elect. Her new term as Chair will be July 1999-June 2001.

After her re-election, the Chair asked for volunteers to serve as Chair-Elect during the 1999-2001 term. No volunteers came forth. Lori Smith suggested that the problem of staggering the terms of Council members should be resolved before a new Chair-Elect is chosen. A member of the audience pointed out that no member representing library users had ever been elected to chair the Council. Council member Benoit declined the position. Ann Carruth, the other library user representative, was not present. The issue was tabled and will be discussed at a later meeting.

(Note: Item C. on the agenda was discussed before item B.)

C. Plan for Review of Depository Program

Virginia Smith reported that the State Librarian, Thomas Jaques, would like to initiate a study which will eventually lead to a revision of the laws governing the state depository program. He would like the Council to recommend people to serve on the study committee, and issues which should be addressed by the committee. Smith distributed a handout which outlined the proposed participants on the committee, the basic issues to be addressed, and the goal of the study. Smith said that Jaques wants this to be a very active committee, and that he would like a report from the committee by Spring of 2000.

B. Discussion of House Bill 691

Virginia Smith stated that it was the introduction of this bill which precipitated action on the study mentioned above.

The bill would have drastically limited the publications which universities are required to submit for deposit, and would have established a fourth kind of depository. V. Smith said that she and the Recorder of Documents had met with the person who had asked Trish to introduce the bill. This person was persuaded to ask Trish to withdraw the bill, and Trish agreed.

Discussion returned to Mr. Jaques' proposed study. Lane reported that a meeting of persons equivalent to our Recorder of Documents from all states East of the Mississippi was being planned. No date or location had been set for the meeting, but Lane said that she expected those attending to discuss issues similar to the topics the study would address. She said that Mr. Jaques had been informed about this upcoming meeting.

Judy Smith announced her intention to schedule a special meeting of the Council in the summer to discuss the study.

A good deal of discussion followed. Some of the points made were:

1. Universities produce some of the most useful publications distributed through the depository program.
2. The Recorder of Documents would like to give the depository libraries more selectivity, but the agencies should not be allowed to choose which of their materials are sent for deposit.
3. State depositories that receive unwanted items could offer them to other depositories via BAYOUDOC.
4. Agencies are posting more things on the web rather than publishing in paper.
5. The responsibilities of the complete historical depositories could be upgraded.

The Chair asked if anyone present would like to volunteer to serve on the study committee. Georgia Chadwick volunteered to assist with research on the depository laws of other states. The Chair requested that suggestions for persons to serve on the committee be sent to Virginia Smith ASAP at ysmith@pelican.state.lib.la.us, or (225) 342-4920.

D. Future Programs/Workshops on State Documents

Judy Smith reminded Council members that Grace Moore had done workshops in the past which were designed to bring information producers and users together. J. Smith said that she is currently chairing LaGIN, and that she and Hathaway-Bell are planning a similar workshop. Nancy Underwood will help. Eileen Menard said that someone from her office will help. It is hoped that the workshop can be scheduled for the fall. J. Smith theorized that it might be a good way to kick-off the study effort. Hughes asked that advice to agencies on how to publish electronically be included in the workshop. A member of the audience stated that the workshop should include some formal dialog between the information producers and consumers.

E. Announcements

The Chair repeated that she intends to call a special meeting of the Council in the summer to discuss the study. She said that news about the workshop on state documents will be distributed as it becomes available.

Stephen Henson announced that there have been some technical problems with the BAYOUDOC list. Messages began going to an outdated subscriber list. He is working with his computer experts. Anyone who has experienced problems with messages from the list should contact him.

F. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Reporting: Lori Smith 5/12/99

Attachment: Study of the Louisiana Documents Depository Program and Law