

**Sailor Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2009  
State Library Resource Center**

**Attendees:** Audra Caplan, Chair, Daria Parry, Craig Abresch, Nini Beegan, Jim DeArmeay, Michael Gannon, Stuart Ragland, Ann Smith, Greg Talley, Michael Walsh

**Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Greg Talley moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting. Craig Abresch seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**Database Update – MLC, MPERLS, Database Review Committee:** There was no news from MLC. MPERLS and the Database Review Committee completed work on the contract negotiation and selection of databases for the coming fiscal year. Audra acknowledged the help of Lynn Stonesifer and Ann Yurcaba in making this process a success. The group reviewed usage statistics and polled key players to determine which sources were useful and which subject areas were most in demand. Through careful negotiation they were able to compose a package of databases that meets the needs of the users at a price that was approximately \$86,000 less than had been budgeted. It is likely that a similar process will be used next year. Several at the table noted that funding is likely to be even tighter next year. Vendors have recognized this and have made pricing more attractive in order to retain customers.

Ann Smith noted that Sailor is interested in redesigning the way that databases are presented on the Sailor web site and asked for the group's approval to present the database information in a limited manner at first with the plan to improve and enhance the page at a later date. The group accepted this without dissent and shared information on strategies to increase use by using language that is more familiar to customers.

**Merlin Demonstration** – Nini Beegan distributed a handout about the new design of the Merlin site and then demonstrated the site to the group. Merlin is intended to be a community of communities with a primary focus on learning and staff development for libraries across the state. The site also offers web space for national and statewide groups to post content or links to their sites.

Nini will be working to promote awareness and use of the site. Libraries can help by promoting it to staff and by posting links on internal web sites and intranets.

**Marina Report** – Ann Smith reported that URSA 4.2 is being tested now with Southern Maryland, Carroll County and SLRC. There have been some glitches but these seem to be in the software setup. The goal is to solve these issues and make sure that the software has been completely tested. When full implementation begins the process is likely to work with additional libraries in groups of three, iron out any issues, and then continue to the next group.

**Sailor Network Report** – Mike Walsh provided information on the upgrades in Nassawango and Snow Hill. He is awaiting the results from the effort to pursue stimulus money. Mike told the group about recent reductions in the cost of bandwidth and anticipates that this trend will continue.

**Sailor Network Managers Group** – Stuart Ragland reported on the group’s most recent meeting which involved a report on the Sailor network and then information sharing among those who attended. Chris Bailey from Cecil County will be the group Chairperson in the coming year. Stuart will serve as Secretary.

**Wimba/WebJunction** – Daria Parry informed the group that WebJunction will be ending their partnership with Wimba. The state has done significant training and teambuilding around the Wimba platform. In order to make best use of that investment, a contract has been worked out with Wimba for another year at an acceptable cost. It includes 499 seats. Daria will check to see if use of the system must still be limited to training as it was during the WebJunction partnership or if the software can be used more broadly now for meetings and other purposes.

**Budget Update** – Ann Smith reviewed the budget handout. She noted that the recent expenditures on databases weren’t reflected in the document. When that money has been spent, it is expected that the budget will come in on target for the year.

Other Business – Greg Talley asked if there had been any progress on the campaign to pursue stimulus funding to benefit Maryland libraries. Mike said that there was nothing yet to report on this front.

Michael Gannon asked if there had been an improvement in keeping the information up to date on the directory of public libraries on the Sailor web site. Stuart said that updates were being made but did not note any significant improvement.

**FY 2010 Meeting Dates:** Stuart listed the projected meeting dates for the coming fiscal year, keeping with the current pattern of meeting on the third Thursday of every other month. Those meeting dates are:

- October 15, 2009
- December 10, 2009
- February 18, 2010
- April 15, 2010
- June 17, 2010

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Daria Parry at 11:10 a.m.

All meetings are 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon and are currently scheduled in the Poe Room of the State Library Resource Center.

Committee documents and other useful information is available on the Sailor Advisory Committee web site at: <http://www.soc.lib.md.us/sac/>. To reduce wasteful printing, Committee members are requested to take responsibility for printing copies for themselves.