

**Multi-type Reference Group
Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2013**

Members Present: Zach Berger (RILINK), Patricia Brennan (RIC), Jessica D'Avanza (Barrington and Warwick), Andrea Hajian (LaSalle), Amanda Izenstark (URI), Maura Keating (Bryant), Alicia Waters (OLIS), Mary Zammarelli (St. Joseph), Lisa Zawadzki (Cranston)

Members Absent: Nancy Maddocks (Barrington Middle)

Introductions: Alicia welcomed the new group members Maura Keating and Lisa Zawadzki.

News/Announcements: Alicia informed the group that the covered bins have begun being distributed to libraries. Some libraries have been overstuffing the bins. When filling the bins, libraries must allow enough room to close the cover.

The Cranston Public Library recently acquired a 3D printer and is undergoing moderate interior renovations, including a new circulation desk and removal of the center information desk. Cranston's new head of Children's Services is Emily Brown.

The Warwick Public Library will be getting a 3D printer soon. They have renovated the former cafe into an idea studio/maker's space complete with a computer lab and available meeting space for other groups. Jessica D'Avanza has been named the new chair of the E-zone Committee. Congratulations to Jessica!

St. Joseph's School of Nursing is now affiliated with Salve Regina University. Students are taking their courses at the Salve Warwick Campus and have library privileges at Salve. As a result, ILLs have increased between St. Josephs and Salve.

URI is now conducting Search Savvy seminars, which are being held at alternating times to be more convenient and thus attracting more attendees.

RIC has opened half of the new Alex and Ani Hall - Arts Center (the remaining half should be open in about a year). The library has reconfigured the Reference Office into a consultation room. The library has increased their library lecture series to 8 sessions.

Bryant jointed Geek the Library and are sponsoring a lecture series "Seek Your Geek." Laptop Central has moved to the library building. With tech support now in the library building, there has been increased foot traffic. The library has continued its collaboration with the Writing 106 classes with librarians now teaching three to six sessions, up from 1 to 2 sessions last year. The freshman library tour has now gone digital.

RILINK has 5 new members bring the total number of participating schools to 155 members. Two RILINK members will be presenting at the AASL conference in Hartford this November.

Discussion of Reference Needs: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will be implemented on October 1. Libraries will be providing patrons with information to help them compare their options. OLIS will be sponsoring a workshop on Consumer Health Information on September 24 at 9:30 a.m. at the East Providence Library. There was some discussion about the growing role of libraries in assisting patrons with social services (unemployment, affordable health care, IRS/tax forms).

Lisa began a discussion about how reference is become less about true reference questions and more about tech-related questions. In order to provide tech assistance, librarians are in need of tech updates and more training in the various tech devices (e-readers, tablets, smartphones, etc.). Tish mentioned that RIC has an emerging technologies librarian who trains the staff with the technology before allowing patrons to borrow the devices. Many mentioned that finding time for training of staff is difficult as many staff and budgets are already stretched too thin.

Zach discussed the survey he conducted with school librarians (RILINK and SLRI). 48 librarians completed the survey of 17 questions. Zach will compile the results of the survey into a more formal report.

Discussion of programming ideas: It was suggested that Amanda and Lisa possibly repeat the programs they led at the RILA conference: *Binders Full of Handy Websites* (Lisa) and *Google Tips and Tricks* (Amanda). The group also discussed a theme that arose during announcements from various libraries on the various roles libraries and their spaces are taking on. It was suggested that the Resource Sharing Group should work with us to come up with a topic/theme for our next program.

Alicia will invite them to our next meeting on December 4. In the meantime, forward any program ideas to Alicia.

Other business: An additional special librarian is still needed to complete our group. Pass on any names and/or recommendations to Alicia.

Next meeting: December 4, 2013 at LaSalle Academy