On October 23, the SENYLRC Board of Trustees, along with neighboring library systems, met to discuss shared services. In attendance were representatives from library systems from Albany to New York City as well as representatives from the New York State Division of Library Development.

The impetus for the forum was the 2013 feasibility report to the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council by the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), “Strategic Options to Realign Resources for the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council; Exploring the Feasibility of Consolidation.” CGR’s Scott Sittig, Project Director for the report, facilitated the forum.

The discussion centered around three questions:
1) Describe, in general terms, any conversations you have had with colleagues, your board, staff or members regarding shared services. Based upon these conversations, how do you think this would impact your members?
2) What opportunities do you see for sharing services regionally or statewide?
3) What are your top 3 concerns about the options presented in the report?

With various ideas and opinions represented, a prevailing view is that now is the time to implement ideas of collaboration, shared services and to explore administrative and/or program consolidation. Pioneering new ideas, even with the risk of failure, is preferable to trying nothing at all.

The attendees brainstormed how to improve efficiencies and keep our systems sustainable. Concepts that could be implemented immediately without the need for complete upheaval include:
- Consolidate the Hospital Library Services Program between two or more Councils
- Delivery - could be expanded geographically

Inspiration for action items came from a number of sources, both in and out of state. State Librarian Bernie Margolis emphasized the point that we do not just need to look at financial incentives for sharing and consolidating; we also need to keep in mind that our mission is to serve our customers, the taxpayers of New York.

Finally, CGR’s Scott Sittig challenged the group to “vision casting,” whereby we should attempt to anticipate the future to see what library customers will look to from libraries – how services will be delivered by libraries and then for library systems to “work back” to develop a model to help libraries deliver their services.
NEW! Federated Search Tool for Hospitals

Swets, the information service company, has entered into partnership with Deep Web Technologies to announce the release of the cutting-edge *SwetsWise Medical Searcher*. This is big news for the 13 SENYLRC hospital websites that will soon have a federated search tool featured on their websites.

The hospitals with subsidies from the HLSP program have licensed this easy-to-use application that gives doctors, researchers and healthcare professionals direct access to their most trusted content and databases. Its powerful search capabilities help to uncover fast and accurate answers.

About 15 sources will be included, and researchers can use the search to perform both simple and advanced search queries.

This package was developed specifically with medical institutions in mind and we are happy to see it become available to hospital libraries in the Southeastern region for such an affordable price.

Introducing: The TRAC Committee

The Technology Review and Advisory Committee (TRAC) has been re-instated in order to take a look at issues surrounding regional inter-system resource sharing and the current SEAL ILL service.

One major and immediate challenge facing the committee is that in 2016, OCLC will no longer support the current product (VDX), which is used to support SEAL. The focus of TRAC will be to analyze the regional inter-system resource sharing issues and recommend an alternative (if needed) to OCLC’s VDX product that is the basis of the current SEAL ILL service.

TRAC is represented by librarians from a variety of library types and sizes, and they expect to make detailed analysis of current problems and solutions over the 18 months. The committee had their first meeting in the SENYLRC Conference room on November 4th and had an open discussion of InterLibrary Loan practices within the region involving our libraries.

Using Primary Sources to Teach the Hudson Valley

In July, teachers, museum educators, and librarians spent four days learning about primary resources such as those in the Library of Congress and HRVH.org. They had to create lessons for their students, then test the lessons with their class, and report back to a group that met at SENYLRC last Saturday. The projects topics included transportation, community, labor issues, and birds.

Kathryn Paulsen, an art teacher for the LaGrange Middle School, displayed artwork from her sixth grade class entitled “Hudson Valley Birds: The art of Naature,” seen here as presented by her husband, Lee.
Empire State in the DPLA

We have exciting news for organizations with a presence on HRVH! The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) announced three new service hubs, including the Empire State Digital Network for New York State. What does this mean for Southeastern members and contributors to HRVH? Through a partnership with the NY3Rs association and administration by Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), major digital repositories in New York, including HRVH, New York Heritage, and Long Island Memories, will now have a centralized hub. By contributing digital content and metadata to HRVH, libraries and cultural heritage organizations in the Southeastern Region will soon have national exposure to their content through DPLA.

“The DPLA Service Hubs are state or regional digital libraries that aggregate information about digital objects from libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions within their given state or region. Each Service Hub offers its state or regional partners a full menu of standardized digital services, including digitization, metadata, data aggregation and storage services, as well as locally hosted community outreach programs, bringing users in contact with digital content of local relevance.”

CE from the 3 R’s

Registration for all NY3RS Association, Inc. (NY3Rs) workshops and events is now available online through the NY3RS website. Confirmation will be sent automatically. If you do not receive confirmation of this event, please email the administrator at admin@ny3rs.org

Coming on December 12th: Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) - What does it mean for libraries? Register for this at: http://www.ny3rs.org/educational-opportunities/registration/

Coming in January: Cataloging with RDA!

Renewing Lynda

Good news for online learners out there! The NY3Rs and SENYLRC have decided to renew the Lynda.com contract for another year. That means that members will be able to access the site’s wonderful instructional videos through all of 2014. Features on the site include tutorials about popular software like Microsoft Office suite, and conceptual videos on design, photography, and management.

SENYLRC is offering licenses to member staff for 30 days at a time. To sign up, please register online here:

http://www.senylrc.org/reg/lyndareg.htm
Catching up with Barrytown College’s Library

One of SENYLRC’s earliest members is also the newest college in the country. After receiving accreditation in February, Barrytown College of UTS is now in its first semester with 20 FTE students enrolled in the school. Recently, we visited with Barrytown’s librarian, Rhonda Altonen.

Located on the beautiful grounds of the former Christian Brothers school, the campus has recently served as the home of the affiliated Unification Theological Seminary, which moved to a new space in New York City. At the library, Rhonda is a one-person show, and since starting in July of 2012, she has put in hours of work to bring the library to readiness for the first semester. She has been working with SENYLRC to set up Koha for her catalog, and soon the collection will soon be available through ILL. She is also able to track items in the New York City location, and has been using electronic tools like Libguides to maintain a robust website and NOVELny resources to increase the breadth of material available to students.

The school currently offers a B.A. in World Religions and Philosophy, and has minors in Business, Media Arts, and Family Studies. As the school grows, (students and teachers are not required to be members of the Unification Church, and classes are not all theological) they plan to expand the minors into majors.

Part of Rhonda’s duties also include teaching a computer science class, and working with students who use the media center within the library.

With all the work she put into bringing the school library up to speed, she was unfortunately rewarded with a mold problem on the ground floor. The two-story library was built in the 1970’s inside an old gym, and has a lot of carpet and little circulation. For weeks, student assistants have helped to meticulously clean every single book in the library, and the full collection will be available again very soon. Despite this, Rhonda has created a welcoming, open environment with plans for even more improvements in the near future.

Keep an eye out for something new!

Now that SENYLRC Matters has spent a full year in revival mode, it’s time for a new look! In the next few weeks, keep an eye out for some changes to SENYLRC online. In the meantime, if you have any news from your institution, please contact Carolyn: carolyn@senylrc.org.

We encourage articles, story ideas and photographs of the good things that are happening at our member libraries.