

Education City Library Directors Council (ECLDC)
Meeting Minutes April 17, 2011

Present: Bijan Esfahani (CMU-Q), Joan de Beer (CL), Frieda Wiebe (GUSFS-Q), Gill Westera (NU-Q), Beverley Stubbs (QA), Kathy Grant (Qatar Music Academy), Tracy Havlin (Sidra), Carole Thompson (TAMUQ), Carol Hansen (VCUQatar), Ellen Sayed (WCMC-Q), Ray Harding (UCL)

Regrets: S.C. Kumaresan (ABP), Mohammad Hammam (Heritage Library), Aisha Al- Kelaifi (QFIS), Chris Bell (TLCS)

Minutes

Welcome to

Carol Hansen, Director of Libraries, VCUQ

And our visitors:

Torrence Royer, Shafallah Center

Ray Harding, COO, University College of London

Report on ILN PD Workshop - IL QF/SEC workshop 22 to 24 October 2011 (Joan de Beer)
Central Library in collaboration with SEC (working with Martine Raphael) - 3 day Information Literacy workshop for teacher- librarians of SEC independent schools. 4 presenters: Carol Hansen, Deb Gilchrist, Jane Birks, Fiona Hunt.

Discussion of library opening hours (Gill Westera)

“Close down time” review of norms for library hours appears to be that the libraries reduce operating hours during intersession periods, but do not close.

Creation of an academic library directors’ SIG (Gill Westera)

Sufficient interest was expressed. Gill will send an email to the various directors to initiate a first meeting.

Arab Advisors Group consortium possibility (Gill Westera)

Seems like the type of subscription of licensing that ideally would be handled by Central Library, because individual use at each library for a consortial acquisition is problematic for a variety of reasons, such as managing the resource in terms of cataloging or distribution. Consensus is that, at present, insufficient interest to warrant proceeding.

Report on SIG Spring meeting planning (Gill Westera)

Planned date is May 4, Wednesday 2.30pm. General meeting will be a speaker on copyright. Stipend covered by TAMU-Q, Georgetown, VCU-Q, CMU-Q and NU-Q. Need to ask for clarification as to what laws to follow under what circumstances, e.g., are there exemptions under Qatar copyright law that would be permitted or denied under US copyright law? What circumstances in case of a contested violation would one need to be concerned about Qatar (local) law vs. US law.

Report / Discussion on Professional Development subgroup plans (Ellen Sayed)

Nothing to report at this time. Historically, events occurred once in Fall and Spring each year. Need people to help plan events.

Report / Discussion on Spring ILL pilot with QUL, CNAQL, UCQL (has joined), etc. (Carole Thompson)

Not extensive activity, but it seems to have worked all right. Next step will be to get the participating members back together to move forward with drafting a formal agreement, to which libraries in Qatar can opt in or out of.

1:15 Torrence Royer, presentation on trained young adults from Shafallah Center

Ten year old facility for training disabled young children and adults and has a post-school program. Have about 50 young adult graduates in need of integration into community, about 25 new graduates per year, and about 250 children on the waiting list. Shaffalah is an Arabic speaking center. Have a job program to match graduates into employment situations. Students are taught English. Workers start with a job coach from Shafallah who works with them for at least one month. The job coach will also come out each time a worker is given a new task to learn. The best tasks are those that are concrete (ie a clear finished product). Graduates are less good at process jobs such as customer service. Social loneliness is one of the biggest challenges for new workers. Another challenge is that if someone starts working, they lose their regular stipend of 3,500QAR/month (+ sometimes driver/maid) from the Qatari Government, however, sometimes the jobs they move in to pay less than this amount. Shafallah is working on changing this ruling. Currently there are 4 library assistants in the workforce in Qatar (QU, CNAQ) who do jobs such as: labelling books, lining up books on the shelves to look tidy, picking out books out of order on shelves, collecting books from tables, filling photocopiers. Torrence would like to speak with anyone willing to employ a Shafallah graduate – whether for short term or long term work.

Vice chair

It was agreed that (since we were out of time) that we'd cover this in our September meeting.

Next meeting

Gill to email to find an appropriate time in September.