November 14, 2001 Notes - Title VI Librarians

Title VI Librarians
November 14, 2001, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas.

Present: James C. Armstrong, LC; Julianne Beall, LC; Ruby Bell-Gam, UCLA; Phylis Bischof, UCB [recorder]; Simon Bockie, UCB; Jill Coelho, Harvard; Marion Frank-Wilson, Indiana U [chair]; Karen Fung, Stanford; James Gentner, LC; Miki Goral, UCLA; Al Kagan, UIUC; Deborah M. LaFond, SUNY Albany; Ken Lohrentz, U of Kansas; Joe Lauer, MSU; Peter Limb, MSU; Peter Malanchuk, U of FL; Emilie Ngo Nquidjol, UW Madison; Lauris Olson, U of Penn; Laverne Page, LC; Afeworki Paulos, U of MI; Loumona Petroff, BU; James Simon, CRL; Paul Steere, LC, Nairobi; David Westley, BU; Dorothy Woodson, Yale.

At this open meeting Title VI Librarians were joined by others interested to discuss issues of cooperation.

1. Title VI matters (new proposal, reports)

Marion has collected data from Title VI librarians regarding allocations of funding designated under this funding for cooperative library projects, both past figures as well as future projections. She distributed a preliminary version of common wording which the group discussed, and for which several small modifications in wording were suggested. She will revise and send out revised common language describing cooperative projects for the next round of proposals to apply for Title VI funding. We will edit this statement via email.

2. Brainstorming re: future projects

One suggestion was a project to collect and make available information regarding free databases, such as the Anthropological Database run by the Museum of Man in London. Other ideas brought forth included archiving websites, as a way to preserve web-based information, and collecting and preserving videos and popular culture in print including magazines and newspapers.

Indexing for African periodicals was raised in the context of asking the status of the Nairobi Office’s Quarterly Index to Africana Periodical Literature. Paul Steere informed the group that the index had been taken down due to server problems, but that he expects that it will be mounted on a more reliable server in Washington, DC. The group requested that this project be considered a high priority because of the unique value of this index.

The African Studies Center at Leiden has not been in a position to pursue a joint indexing project with American librarians as a cooperative project because of it's software, which is an EU product and incompatible with software options available here.
3. Public relations/communication with directors

We could use G. Walsh's report on cooperative projects as a foundation to communicate with directors regarding our activities. What is our goal? If to show we do valuable work, then GW's report is a good idea. Lauris Olson commented that his directors are interested in outreach to other libraries, including community college libraries, in the Delaware Valley.

Several voices were raised to advocate communicating with the directors; both the activities of individual libraries, as well as our cooperative work under Title VI. The sense of the group was to have representatives attend the Directors' meeting in order to demonstrate our interest, to distribute copies of the present report [if approved at the Business Meeting], and to make a brief statement. Miki, Ruby, Joe Lauer, and Marion will attend the Directors' meeting.

4. Report on Senegal project by Joe Caruso.

Since Joe could not meet with us, he submitted a written report. CAMP will discuss the project more fully. James Simon will make an appeal in December for contributions to the Senegal project.

L. Olson volunteered to compile a list of existing Senegal-related cooperative projects, including a UNESCO project for which he brought information dating from 1997. Its url is: unesco.org/webworld/mdm/1997/eng/senegal/form.htm.

5. Other business

P. Limb asked whether grant proposal thinking has included digitization; he believes that a digital component will be necessary in order to achieve funding.