

**NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC)**  
**Tuesday, July 8, 2014**  
**Online Meeting**

**ATTENDEES:**

Council Members: Chairman Sarah McHugh, Colet Bartow, Barry Brown, Mary Kay Bullard, Carly Delsigne, Eva English, Doralyn Rossmann (online), Laura Wight

MSL Staff: Cara Orban, Jennie Stapp

Guests: None.

**Chairman McHugh called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM**

State Librarian Jennie Stapp described the current funding reduction in coal severance tax monies that MSL is facing. CST funding is being reduced by 25%, or about \$137,000. Funding for the MSL Library and Information Services' (LIS) digitization project and the Statewide Library Resources' (SLR) statewide databases/online services suite will be reduced proportionally based on the remaining percentage of the overall CST funding each receives. LIS will reduce their program costs by \$19,000. SLR must reduce funding for the EBSCO and Tutor contracts in the amount of \$115,991.

As described in the memo to the NAC, MSL will cancel the Tutor.com contract for the HomeworkMT services, effective September 1, 2014. However, MSL has reached out to OPI to see if they may be able to fund this contract. We have not yet heard back from OPI.

Eliminating the Tutor contract leaves a balance of \$35,974 to reduce from the EBSCO database suite. We are asking that the NAC assist us in determining ways to meet this reduction in this contract.

Cara Orban reported that EBSCO has been approached about ways to deal with this cut to the EBSCO contract. EBSCO has suggested cutting the Points of View Reference Center and the Biography Reference Center databases as a way to achieve this reduction. Sarah McHugh reminded everyone that these databases were important in the evaluation of the proposed EBSCO suite during the original RFP three years ago. Colet Bartow felt that both were very crucial to schools. Statistics showing the top ten databases by library type were reviewed and discussed. Points of View Reference Center appears in the top ten list for school libraries.

Discussion ensued about the merits of covering this cut with LSTA monies or by enlisting targeted libraries to contribute to the cost of keeping identified databases that could be cut.

Neither of these approaches was considered effective in the ultimate aim of making funding bodies aware of the effect of these cuts and these ideas were not considered further.

Barry Brown suggested that we negotiate with EBSCO by offering to extend our contract an additional year (through FY16) at the reduced amount. Jennie commented that we would need to check with Procurement on this but liked this idea.

The deadline for making the decision is as soon as possible. The current EBSCO contract is not up for renewal until FY16, but MSL is invoiced by EBSCO annually, with a September 1 due date.

Further discussion resulted in some follow ups for MSL staff:

- Cara will send the Council usage statistics for all the EBSCO databases, organized by library type and a list of those databases that are bundled into an overall cost package and those that are standalone. Based on this additional information, Council members will provide more feedback to MSL on alternatives to discuss with EBSCO to meet the funding reduction.
- Cara will check with State Procurement on the changes to the overall value of the contract, the possibilities for extending the contract by one year and, as we know more about what might be cut, on the extent of changes to the scope of the original RFP.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM**