

Summary Minutes
FSCS Steering Committee Meeting
July 17-18, 1995

Attending Steering Committee: Adrienne Chute, Liz Gibson, Carrol Kindel, Elaine Kroe, Keith Lance, Libby Law, John Lorenz, Mary Jo Lynch, Paul Planchon, Joseph Shubert, Mark Smith (Vice Chair), Walt Terrie, Diana Ray Tope, Diana Young, Alan Zimmerman, (Chair)

Others: Tyle Auduong (Pinkerton), Elizabeth Burrows (U.S. Bureau of Census), Barbara Humes (National Institute of Postsecondary Education, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning, NIPELL), Roslyn Korb (Chief, Cooperative Surveys, NCES), Kim Miller (NCLIS), Ellen Thompson (U.S. Bureau of Census)

New Data Elements: Mark Smith reported on the results of the new data element voting by State Data Coordinators. Eight of the ten new data elements and definitions were approved. The two not approved were electronic output measures (number of internet sessions and number of data use sessions).

There was a discussion of the schedule for data collection and reporting, timing for adding elements (1995 data reported in 1996 optional, 1996 data reported in 1997 first required year, would be published in 1998) the adding of the elements to the software (task for Technical Subcommittee), and concern about how to proceed on collection of electronic output measures.

Technology in Public Library Survey Statistical Report, 1995: Mary Jo Lynch reported on the internet survey which includes 1994 data.

Library Cooperatives Survey: John Lorenz reported on the status of the work being done by Census Bureau staff on the identification by State of all Library Cooperatives. The draft list once complete will be distributed to State Data Coordinators for review.

State Library Survey: Only one State data not submitted. (Note: Received as of 8/95)

Annual Workshop/Data Conference: Paul Planchon reported that combining the Workshops with the Summer Data Conference may be logistically difficult. He said that funds can be made available for an annual FSCS Training Workshop separate from the NCES Summer Data Conference. He encouraged librarians to participate in the Summer Data Conference. There was a discussion of who should attend the Summer Data Conference -- the State Data Coordinators and/or other State Library representatives and policy people.

The ballot previously prepared for Coordinators to vote on future FSCS Workshops was discussed in light of Paul Planchon's remarks. It was decided that the conference evaluation form will be prepared to incorporate a response on the preferred timing for Annual FSCS Workshop plus, what Coordinators liked most and least about sessions at the Data Conference, training needs and topics to be considered for future meetings.

FSCS future: Continue to build on the strengths of the cooperative nature of FSCS partnership between the States and the Federal Government.

Data Use Subcommittee: Keith Lance, Chair

- Date Use Task Force research agenda: NCES public library analysis funding to begin imputation of data
- Time Series analysis needed
- Recommend to Barbara Humes that she to incorporate percentages and rankings in publications
- Mary Jo Lynch reported on the Westat role in school/public libraries study.
- Greg Henschel, Barbara Humes of NIPELLL staff participated in a discussion of additional library data needs including measuring the value of library and information services, on which Henschel is working.

Definitions Subcommittee: Mark Smith, Chair

- Discussion included concerns to be addressed by Technical Subcommittee: need for precise wording of new definitions; treatment of new definitions as sub-set of existing definitions, or as separate items; need for a new warning message that expenditure for library materials in electronic format cannot exceed Collection Expenditure; need to promote discussion of output measures particularly for electronic services (what is obtainable, what is meaningful, what alternatives exist); review of new data elements; and Westat's concern about population of branches served and data at outlet level.
- Discussion of the Census Report on Staffing data in State FSCS reports.

Technical Subcommittee: Walt Terrie, Chair

- PUBLDAP: Recommendation was to make it work or kill it within a year if not successful.
- Need survey of hardware capability in each State/territory to produce annual data.
- DECPLUS (current version) is missing some files needed to produce summary reports. Update was produced and distributed to State Data Coordinators attending conference and mailed to others.
- New data elements to be incorporated into universe file and data file.
- Work with vendors on incorporation of core data measurements into their products.

Training Subcommittee: Diana Young, Chair

- The next FSCS Steering Committee Meeting agenda is to include time for the Training Subcommittee to meet with representative(s) from Library Programs to discuss concerns regarding the territories and Carrol Kindel will contact representatives from the Elementary and Secondary Education, and Post Secondary Education surveys for information on how they work with the territories. Serious concerns were expressed regarding the training needs of the territories and how to meet these needs. Concerns expressed were: how to build on the existing data collected as part of Federal government responsibilities including elementary, secondary and postsecondary education, how to clarify the understanding of the definition of a public library where most of the services seems to be provided through combined school/public libraries, special libraries, and cooperatives.

- The agenda for the next annual workshop was discussed. Focus will be on quality data (interpretation of definitions, diagnosis of problems and importance of timely data submission). Areas to be included are: definitions training/discussion, local data collection software (possibly with time for State Data Coordinators to have hands-on time), local data collection training, special software training, e.g.: SASS, hands-on training with GIS, training of new State Data Coordinators and Territory Data Coordinators (overall program, process, organization structure, and one-on-one data entry), data use/analysis, National Data Resource Center (information available from Census, cost, and how to obtain it), Statistics for Policy Makers.

July 21 Steering Committee wrap-up

Future areas of responsibility: Carrol Kindel: Institutional Surveys (data collection and processing); Roz Korb: Maintenance of all Cooperative Surveys, including FSCS.

1996 Workshop suggestions:

- Schedule at the same time/location as COSLA, encourage each State to send the State librarian or supervisor of data coordinator.
- Flag show: include more ways to use statistics at the State level and at the local library level

Data Suggestions:

- ED Tabs: have 2 tables, one including all libraries reporting, and one excluding libraries responding "NO" to meeting public library definition. Need to correct the heading for audio.
- Electronic Output Measures: Include in next FSCS memo a request for States to let us know what they are collecting (and how).

Wish list:

- Help States who want to use electronic software for data collection using SASS, IMPS, EDI, on-line entry, STP, etc...
- Laptop computers for territories that need one
- PUBLDAP - fix or kill and replace with something else
- Put FSCS data on CD-Rom
- Definition Subcommittee to revisit definition of librarian, and will consider collecting only ALA/MLS and Total Staff

Agenda Items for Next Steering Committee Meeting: December 4-6, 1995:

- Who to attend Annual FSCS Workshop, Who to attend NCES Summer Data Conference
- ED Tab table design
- Staff of Office of Library Programs to discuss working with the Territories