

FSCS Professional Development Conference
March 25-28, 2001
Theme: Data Quality Agenda
Embassy Square Suites
2000 N. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
March 25-28, 2001
Report

Training for New State Data Coordinators was held on Sunday, March 25. Twelve new SDC's attended. Several SDC's came for review.

The full Conference began on Monday, March 26 at 9am with a welcome and introduction of New SDC's by Lynn Shurden, Chair of the Steering Committee. The four SDC candidates for the Steering Committee: Liz Gibson (CA), Naomi Krefman (MI), Bruce Pomerantz (MN) and Marianne Kotch (VT) were introduced and given an opportunity to make brief remarks.

NCES Updates:

Jeffrey Owings reported that the governmental transition may delay publication of the data. Gary Phillips remains the Acting Director of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). In support of Jeff Owings, Jeff Williams is assuming additional responsibilities as Director of the Library Program area. The four library surveys are: the annual Public Library Survey, the annual State Library Agency Survey (Elaine Kroe is project officer), the bi-annual Academic Library Survey, and the School Library/Media Center Survey. Funds will be available for more analysis, more web support and more fast response surveys (FRSS). Libraries are being included in more of the Longitudinal Surveys. The 10th Grade Cohort will include libraries and data can be used to see the impact of libraries on student achievement.

NCLIS Update:

Bob Willard reported 2 programs: (1) The Governmental Information Dissemination program resulting in recommendations to consolidate various governmental information programs such as the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, and NTIS into a new agency, PIRA, which is to be part of the Executive Branch of Government. (2) On April 26, 2001 hearings will be held in Cincinnati, OH on "School Libraries, Knowledge Navigators in Troubled Times." Also, the President's budget will be released on April 9. At this time no funding is recommended for NCLIS.

IMLS Update:

Jane Heiser, IMLS Director of Library Programs, reported on the status on evaluation of the 5-year programs and preparation for reauthorization. Training has been provided to 28 States and 91 people in Outcome base methodology for evaluation. The Third Annual Training Conference is scheduled for November 14, 15, 16, 2001.

Importance of Quality Data:

Mary Jo Lynch reported on the unique history of FSCS (beginning with FY 83) and how the ALA Office uses FSCS data.

Timeline of Data:

Denise Davis and Jeffrey Owings reported on the need for timely release and publication of data and on plans to catch-up within the next year. In order to catch-up, no changes will be made to the software for the next two years (FY2000 & FY2001 data). The schedule was reviewed and libraries were encouraged to post any anticipated problems. A meeting will be held April 4 to finalize the schedule.

Data Definitions:

J.D. Waggoner, Chair of the Data Elements Subcommittee, led a review and discussion of each data element. The group identified several data elements for further review by the Steering Committee. Carolyn Ashcraft is the incoming Chair of the Data Elements Subcommittee.

7B. Legal Basis Code: City/County (some confusion about what is meant)

7E. Geographic Code: Clarify this data element. May wish to omit statement regarding getting funding from.

8. Population of Legal Service Area: Some states are not clear about this. To be discussed in Mentor Sessions.

13. Librarians (ALA/MLS): Clarify this data element. Does this include all paid staff with ALA/MLS regardless of duties?

14. Total Librarians: Review and clarify this definition.

17 – 21. Income: Where to report E-Rate. Suggestion is to follow audit policy for library regarding whether it is considered income or reimbursement of expenditures. Naomi Krefman has better wording.)

20. Other Income. Consider addition of sentence: If library receives income from E-rate, include it under “Other Income”.

21. Income: Add the note from Expenditures.

25. Collection Expenditures: Add a note of relationship to data elements 44 & 45.

26. Other Operating Expenditures: Add a note of relationship to data element 44 and 45.

29. Book/Serial Volumes. Add word “print” to sentence: Serials are “print” publications issued...

45. Operating Expenditure: Add note to report “remote access” to library databases here. Reference to bibliographic utility needs to be removed from the definition.

44. & 46. Needs relationship note.

45. & 47. Needs relationship note.

47. Access to Electronic Services. Should this include or exclude OCLS catalog. Add examples.

52. Number of Users of Electronic Resources Per Typical Week. Discussion of how to count and use. This is a training issue to be sure all libraries are counting the same way. “Historian” software, Sign-in logs, Observation, “Pharof” software (Pharof.com). Also issue of counting users of on-line catalog.

Typical Week. Add a definition of what is meant by Typical Week in manual and repeat in software.

Electronic Data: There was a discussion of adding a series of yes/no questions based on the John Bertot study. The Steering Committee is to consider this, possibly using the academic survey as a model. Denise Davis will check other surveys and post on list serve for discussion. There was a brief discussion of measuring remote use of electronic resources and the use of this data with legislators.

WEB Address: There was a discussion of the location of the WEB address and the size of the field. There is a possibility of moving the address from the CE library to the Administrative Entity without making changes to the software. Need to clarify the value/location of WEB address and the best place to collect it (Administrative Entity – now in Outlet)

There was a request for a separate distribution of a print copy of all of the definitions. It was noted that they are on the NCLIS Web Page.

Census Update:

Patty Garner introduced Cynthia Ramsey who reported that all FY99 data was received on time and that SDC's had promptly responded to any questions from Census regarding the Edit Checks. There was a high non-response rate to the first year Electronic Users question.

COSLA Panel:

Suzanne Miller (SD) reported on the value of Public Library data to her as a new State Librarian. Amy Owens (UT) was unable to attend and submitted a written report. Clare Zales (representing Gary Wolfe) (PA) reported on the value of the Public Library data, which was used to increase local support for libraries in Pennsylvania.

Concurrent Sessions:

The Concurrent Session on Policy Analysis with Leslie Scott, NCES was cancelled.

Chat with Jeffrey Owings:

Goal is quality data in a timely manner. NCES has a commitment to release data in the same year that it is collected. FY2001 data collected in FY2002 to be release by December 2002. If FY2000 data is submitted to Census by May 2001 due date, Jeff indicated NCES will do their best to release data by December 2001.

Mapping Project: Libraries are to be included in the current school-mapping project. Libraries with service areas conforming to School Districts and to Counties will be able to relate library statistics to Census population data. Efforts are being made to include libraries with non-conforming service areas in about 2 years.

Plans are to continue the Steering Committee activities. If Annual Conference date changes, dates of Steering Committee meetings will be adjusted accordingly.

Adrienne Chute is doing a lot of work with the NCES LSP WEB page. The WEB page is the first place new data will appear. By December 2001, FY99 data will be available.

Fast Response Survey System (FRSS): The rate of response to the Adult Programming Survey was high. A FRSS is in the works for Censorship/Filtering. Concern was expressed about FRSS being sent to branches and not to the administrative entity.

Professional Development Conference: There was a discussion about the scheduling of the next Conference. NCEC is forward funding this program so funds should be available for a meeting in FY2002. Even if there will be no changes to the software, there is no reason not to pursue new electronic data elements. Jeff Owings also encouraged the SDC's to identify FRSS ideas and improvements needed to Locator and Peer tools.

Some of the Conference issues are: July is not a good month because of data due date. Shorter meeting may present a problem of travel time. Eleven SDC's indicated that they will be attending the IMLS Workshop in *November 2001 but there may be a problem with a holiday at the beginning of the month*. Group consensus indicates that early December seems to be a good time.

Concern was expressed regarding the long-term impact of dividing the group into two different reporting cycles and the impact it may have on training. Bruce Pomerantz suggested that SDC's be offered an opportunity to volunteer for various submission dates.

Concern was expressed regarding the impact on the Keppel Award since some States may have great difficulty just meeting the "drop dead date".

All of the Census and NCEC edit checks will be compiled and Census will be making any follow-up contacts. Edit tolerances will be reviewed for the 2001 data collection cycle.

Business Meeting:

Report on Mentor Sessions

Group 1 Sondra Taylor-Furbee and Lynn Shurden*

Group 2 J.D. Waggoner* & Darla Cottrill

Group 3 Keith Lance and Libby Law*

Group 4 Carolyn Ashcraft*, and Al Zimmerman

*person makes report

- **Report on any problems with the Software:**

Group 1: There were few problems that weren't quickly solved by Census. The exception to this was Montana.

Group 2: CNMI had problems related to mail. Delaware entered their data directly into WinPlus. No other problems were noted.

Group 2: Item #52 was raised as a problem because it includes OPACs. However, it was felt that because terminals are used for so many different functions, the

definitions should not be changed. The opening of the Internet to the islands will improve resource sharing.

Group 2: Some of the states have unique Geographic Areas. Virginia's "towns" and cities" are defined very specifically. Still the SDC's were satisfied with the choices.

Group 2: The SDC's felt using different population years was a problem, but it is a state decision.

- **How is your state dealing with statistical gathering and analysis of statewide or consortia databases?**

Group 1:

SDC's are not working directly with Vendors and have not had input in regard to statistics needed.

Group 2:

This issue did not exist for the territories. For the five states represented, Delaware, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia, statewide databases are being reported in the State Library Agency Survey. Usage is still not being reported.

Group 3:

Currently this is not an issue, however, North Carolina State Library has purchased a collection of e-books for statewide use. Each library receives use statistics but there are no statewide figures. Very little data is currently available. AK: State Library gathers statistics. Free if the user has Alaska IP, password access it travel.

AL: Can't compare. Working on it. Public and Consortia.

CO: Working on this. Plan to attribute to libraries. Establishing a uniform patron base.

IN: Better numbers are needed.

KY: Virtual library.

NC: Public and Academic (remote and onsite). Report goes to library, not to state.

OR: Statewide database but libraries pay to participate.

SC: For all types of libraries. Remote access for individuals through local libraries who can authenticate user, generic password for others. Information is currently very limited.

TN: Statewide vendor so data is a contractual issue. Plans to ask libraries to get number from vendor.

WA: LSTA project. Working on getting state funding. Future of program is unknown.

Concern: How to count titles when the same title may be in several different subscriptions.

Group 4:

Not currently collecting this type of information.

AR: Databases for all types with reports to individual libraries and state.

FL: First Search

LA: See Handout: Computer people developed a program that collects data on consortia use.

NH: Proquest

PA: Data is available from Vendors.

SD: Usage and money spent is not reported on their survey.

TX: Over 20 databases

- **How are people dealing with e-books:**

- **Group 1:**

- The SDC's want the Steering Committee to look into this and decide where to report the information.

- **Group 2:**

- At this point the e-books are not having much effect. The issue should be kept before the Committee but should not be addressed at this time. The Data Elements Subcommittee should look at the definition of "volumes." Some discussion took place on the best fit for e-books. Should it be volumes or electronic resources?

- **Group 3:**

- IN: Net Library. Number of titles and number of devices.

- NC: Purchase e-books (Net Library). Statistics are at individual library level. No state statistics.

- Possibly ask a Yes/No question about E-books.

- **Group 4:**

- Recommend count as electronic not as book and count physical unit as if it is a Reader's Digest condensed book. One volume regardless of the number of stories in the book.

- **Other**

- **Group 2:**

- Those in the session were not in favor of a 20-month wait between conferences.

- The territories recommended that a person come to the Pacific to train local people for data submission. A joint island conference is to be held in November.

- **Group 3:**

- Time to get caught up. Thank you NCES and CENSUS

- How do States determine the Population of Legal Service Area for each library.

- There should be a uniform way to refer to the data. SDC's report finding it confusing when some groups refer to the data by submission year and those submitting data refer to it as the data year.

- **Group 4:**

- New SDC's would like more opportunities to discuss definitions/data elements.

- Some like the review of each data item, some don't.

- SDC's expressed interest in an archival process and more notes and historical information about the data elements.

SDC's would like the opportunity to attend more of the concurrent sessions. If sessions cannot be repeated, handouts should be made available for all. Need to make sure that everyone is on the list serve. Have mentors follow-up to make sure that all receive items that are posted on the list. SDC's should contact Kim to be sure they are on the listserv. Concern about legal service area population. How tourism areas are reported.

Caucus:

Prior to the Caucus, Lee Hoffman made a brief presentation of the NCES Fellows Program and encouraged participation by librarians. The Fellows Program scheduled for May is filled, however there is still space available in the November Program. E-mail:

lee.hoffman@ed.gov

Goals of the Steering Committee:

See handout for goals and accomplishments of the Steering Committee. .

Announcement of new Steering Committee Members

Naomi Krefman (MI) and Marianne Kotch (VT) were elected to the Steering Committee.

SDC's were encouraged to submit names of those who they recommend for the Steering Committee and to personally volunteer to run for the Committee. The time commitment was reviewed.

Lynn Shurden then made a presentation to the incoming chair, who then praised Lynn's creativity and hard work

Plus/Minus and Suggestions

Plus

Nice Towels
Good Location
Accommodating staff
Suites with kitchens
Conference Good Content
Lone Arranger's attempt for group activity
New SDC's
J.D.'s performance
Reception, Thanks Denise
Al Zimmerman
State Librarian's representation
Good contacts with help
Abe Abramson
Logistics – ESSI
Listserv
Mary Jo Lynch

Minus and Suggestions

Facility --- Coffee
Recommend that mentor groups go out to eat together.
Have a general session where SDC candidates for the Steering Committee can make presentations to the entire group, not just breakout session.
Have a bulletin board available for announcements of “social” activities in order to make it more structured
WinPlus hands-on training needs to be a separate session, not only one concurrent session.
Need to identify the most popular statistics posted on WEB pages.
Would like hands-on training for what to do with numbers when you have them – making graphs...
Would like a national “fast fact” publication – NCES is looking into this.
Denise will post something on the WEB regarding where data comes from and who uses it.
The definitions for new data elements (Square Footage, E-mail, an Fax number) will be posted on the WEB. Concurrent Sessions:

To Do:

Denise Davis is to review other surveys for yes/no models to use for electronic data items.

Data Elements Subcommittee to review Definitions Discussion and Mentor Session.

Data Conference Subcommittee to review concerns raised in Mentor Session, Chat with Jeff Session and Plus/Minus.

**FSCS Steering Committee
Embassy Square Suites
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March 28, 2001
Minutes**

Attending:

Elected: J.D. Waggoner (Chair), Carolyn Ashcraft (Vice Chair), Sondra Taylor Furbee, Marianne Kotch, Naomi Krefman, Lynn Shurden.

Appointed: Darla Cottrill and Libby Law (Absent: Keith Lance)

ALA: Mary Jo Lynch (Absent)

NCES: Elaine Kroe, Jeff Williams

NCLIS: Abe Abramson, Kim Miller, Denise Davis

ESSI: Joannell Porter

Future Meetings: The location of the next meetings is still to be decided but the dates will be: June 4,5,6 and September 10, 11, 12, The September meeting may be followed by a StLA Survey Steering Committee meeting.

Jeff Williams indicated that his and Adrienne Chutes' role on the Steering Committee is still to be decided by Jeff Owings. Cynthia Ramsey will replace Ebonie Curry from Census on the Date Use Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Chairs will be: Data Collection: Darla Cottrill, Data Conference: Sondra Taylor-Furbee, Date Elements: Carolyn Ashcraft, Date Use: Keith Lance Membership on each committee will be worked out by J.D. Waggoner.

The decision was made to have the date for qualification for the Keppel Award to coincide with the drop-dead date for the submission of 2000 and 2001 data.

J.D. Waggoner will review the by-laws and identify revisions needed as a result of changes in Professional Development Conference Date and the need for a provision for absentee voting. Steering Committee members are to review the by-laws and notify J.D. of any changes needed.

J. D. Waggoner will review mentor assignments and notify SDC members of the Steering Committee of assignments.

There was a discussion of dates for the next conference. The first week in December was identified as a first choice. Phoenix, AZ will be considered (funding permitting). The Steering Committee reaffirmed the desire for conference participation by the State Librarians.

The steering committee discussed the problem with data submission from the territories and J.D. Waggoner and Denise Davis will explore the possibility of providing a training pre-conference at the Pacific Island Territories Conference in November 2001.

There was a brief discussion about a resolution of support for NCES for their support and leadership in the Data Process. Denise Davis will keep SDC's informed of budget status.

To do:

Denise will send a copy of her steering committee distribution list each member of the Steering Committee.

Denise Davis will keep SDC's informed on the NCLIS budget status.

All: Review the By-laws and send recommended changes to J.D. Waggoner.

J.D. to inform everyone of Subcommittee assignments

J.D. to prepare recommended changes to the bylaws.

J.D. notify SDC members of the Steering Committee of Mentor State assignment.

Who: Check into the possibility of a training preconference at the Pacific Island Territories Meeting.