

MINUTES
MORE Directors Council
Friday, January 17, 2025

Present/Attending: Heather Wiarda (AM), Beth Sippl (BA), Linda Heimstead (BL), Sue Christianson (BN), Stacey Brown (BB), Colby Peterson (BR), Samma Johnson (CA), Dawn Ayers (CM), Emily Resendiz (CH), Joe Niese (CF), Cricket LaFond (CL), Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt (CO), Denise Korenuk (CN), Rob Ankarlo (CU), Barbara Krueger (DP), Leann French (DR), Lori Gilles (DU), Nancy Kerr (EC), Charlene Conradi (FC), Rochel Karlson (GC), Michelle Johnson (HA), John Thompson (IF), Christinna Swearingen (LA), Joleen Sterk (ME), Bonnie Carl (MI), Monica LaVold (NR), Amy Abele (OG), Anne Miller (OS), Christy Rundquist (PE), Jenna Beyer (PC), Rachel Thomas (RL), Tanya Misselt (RF), Tori Schoess (RO), Shelly Rae (SA), Kristina Kelley-Johnson (SO), Sue Leslie (SC), Elizabeth Miniatt (ST), Allison Lutz (TL), Karen Furo-Bonnstetter (WO).

Proxy: John Thompson for Kati Morley (CV), Tanya Misselt for Tiffany Meyer (EL), Amy Abele for Deb Hyde (PF), Monica LaVold for Rebecca Puhl (PH), Jenna Beyer for Carissa Langer (PR), Jenna Beyer for Katie Schneider (SV).

Also Present: Lori Roholt, Joanne Gardner, Cecelia Cole, Bridget Krejci.

Absent: Olivia Moris (AL), Leslie LaRose (AU), Kallie Anderson (BO), Anna Griffin (CE), Nick Andrews (EW), Rozanne Traczek (FA), Amanda Blackmon (FR), Jennifer Mabie (HK), Shelley Tougas (HU), Jill Glover (LU).

CALL TO ORDER:

French (DR) called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Sterk (ME) established a quorum was present by roll call vote.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH
OPEN MEETING LAW:**

Certification of compliance with open meeting law was confirmed.

AGENDA:

Rundquist (PE) moved to approve the agenda. LaFond (CL) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Rundquist (PE) moved to approve the minutes dated November 15, 2024. Karlson (GC) seconded. Motion carried. (Sippl (BA) abstains)

MORE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) noted that the MORE Operations Committee discussed the failed TNS notices and what to do with bounce backs with bad phone numbers. They also discussed the MORE Circulation Policy updates and the Lucky Day/Local High Interest Collections. More information on these topics can be found in the minutes of this committee.

MORE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

IFLS colleagues and Roholt are working on compiling statistics for the 2024 member library annual reports. Information prefilled into annual reports includes collection count, circulation statistics, etc. Annual reports should open up midweek next week.

Circulation activity was up again in 2024 compared to 2023 and 2022. Renewals were slightly down. This could be a result of libraries being fine free. Checkouts were up and checkouts via OverDrive/Libby showed a large jump.

In reviewing 2024, Hawkins joined MORE in July, becoming the last IFLS-member library to join. Kathy Setter, longtime MORE Project Manager, retired in December. Catalogers at IFLS and partner catalogers added almost 29,000 title records to the shared catalog. Member libraries added 114,120 item records.

Jackee Johnson became the new MORE Support Specialist in January. Jackee will work with the Helpdesk, training, and updating documentation for MORE. Julia Reid will join us later in January as a part-time Database Maintenance Specialist. Alyson Jones, who started in December, is a full-time Database Maintenance Specialist.

As noted in This Week at MORE (TWAM), MORE will be launching a text message notification service for patrons. Beginning January 28th, patrons will start receiving text messages. Information about the new text messaging service is being provided.

MORE is sending IFLS staff and Emily Dunn, Circulation Assistant at New Richmond, to the annual Innovative Users Group (IUG) Conference in Denver. The IUG Conference is a good opportunity to share ideas and news among library users of the automation software.

IFLS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Thompson noted that the annual report season is up and coming. IFLS will be holding two sessions (Fall Creek and Somerset) where staff will walk through the annual report and its completion. There will be time to work on the reports and ask questions. All new directors are encouraged to attend. IFLS hopes to have the member library's completed reports by February 14th so we can review for completeness and filing with the state.

A new legislative season is beginning with a budget year. Funding for BadgerLink is part of the funding process. Thompson will keep libraries up to date. There are new folks in power this year. Some Joint Finance committee members represent the IFLS area. Thompson will pass along all advocacy advised through the Wisconsin Library Association and legislation that may impact libraries.

The IFLS Board of Trustees will meet next week. They will hold an election of officers for 2025.

MORE CIRCULATION POLICY UPDATES:

New business for today's meeting includes discussion on the MORE Circulation Policy updates, as recommended by the Executive Committee in collaboration with the IFLS Intellectual Freedom Working Group. The Council is not required to vote but if they choose to, it will need 80% approval by roll call vote.

Rundquist (PE) moved to discuss the MORE Circulation Policy updates. Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) seconded.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) inquired if the labeled items will be local pickup only and what if that labeled item is only available through the library with the labeled item. Cole noted that the onus will fall unto the library staff to not fill that hold. If the item is only available at the library owning the labeled item, there are other avenues to request.

Kerr (EC) viewed this update to the circulation policy as reactionary and not thought out thoroughly. This is being done in response to one library issue. Will this lead to other genres not being available? If a patron is putting a hold on an item, they are likely to have knowledge of what the material is.

Cole noted that the Intellectual Freedom Working Group has been meeting for several months now. The particular issue arose from LGBTQ+ stickers being placed inside the front cover of materials at the Phillips Public Library. This was the result of book challenges. In order to keep items on the shelves, the library board directed the library to place the labels on the inside front cover. The library received a complaint that the sticker disenfranchised that group. It has been discussed at length and the group acknowledges there is no perfect solution. The solution is to amend the MORE Circulation Policy to include an exception to give the library back a little more control. The library would then be able to decide if they choose not to circulate those materials.

Cole and the Intellectual Freedom Working Group has done a lot of research with the American Library Association and others for guidance and best practices.

Krueger (DP) inquired at what point do rating labels become prejudicial. Cole noted that in an addendum cited ALA labeling and what constitutes a prejudicial label. If the label is intended to help library users browse materials, a prejudicial label is judging the content. The Intellectual Freedom Workshop Group and IFLS provide resources on labelling as a

whole and also share some unintended consequences of labeling. Phillips labeling falls under prejudicial labeling.

LaVold (NR) is a member of the Intellectual Freedom Working Group, and they have had many discussions. The decision is to make sure the onus for “policing” falls on the owning library and not to burden the borrowing library. LaVold is operating as a director under the assumption that within MORE, every library has the right to reject or choose not to circulate items to their patrons. LaVold would like clarification as she could not find that stated out.

The place the Intellectual Freedom Working Group comes from as a committee is they agree to err on the side of protecting the patron from harm with prejudicial labels. Libraries do want accessibility. There is the weighing of accessibility versus harm.

Roholt noted that there is not a specific MORE policy requiring to circulate. No one is coming after you if you opt not to circulate to your patrons.

As much as Johnson (CA) agrees with LaVold (NR), she is not here to police what another library’s patrons want to check out. As much as we understand and do not agree, it was a compromise Phillips had to make with the board and community. Adding to the policy is a slippery slope and libraries need to be careful what we open ourselves up to.

LaVold (NR) as a proxy for Becky Puhl (PH) understands there is not a perfect solution. What is hoped is support from the system to help her governance recognize the harm and prejudice of the labeling.

Johnson (CA) knowing support from the system helps, but at the same time putting into a policy is very extreme. It seems like the group is going directly to the worse case scenario. Could a letter be compiled to the Phillips Library Board from the MORE Consortium notifying that this practice is not best practice?

Thomas (RL) agrees that this is a slippery slope, and other steps can be taken before amending the policy. Should we be reviewing our labeling policy and revisit not allowing prejudicial labels?

Roholt’s sense is that MORE policy generally does not address how libraries handle their collections. MORE can make policy for sharing materials.

Misselt (RF) shared condolences for the director facing this challenge. Misselt-
condolences director facing this challenge. Misselt is shocked that this is happening, and it is disappointing. While this deserves a response from library directors, there is concern about inflating the problem by giving it attention.

Thompson (IF) noted that the system does not have authority of governance over library boards by statute. IFLS, as a system, deals with statutory compliance issues and items spelled out in the statutes or system requirements.

Thompson (IF) added that none of the things Phillips has done challenged the statutory requirements. It would be difficult for the MORE Directors Council or the IFLS Board of Trustees to say we do not like the policy you implemented and kick them out of the system. It is not clear how that would sit with the State or a lawyer. It is a slippery slope of trying to handle a situation.

Thompson (IF) noted that there is not a consensus on an updated policy. Thompson would recommend gathering feedback and comments and sending this back to the Executive Committee and seeing if a different approach could be taken. It may be helpful to consult with other MORE committees. If MORE Directors Council wishes to send a letter to Phillips regarding the sharing of resources and labeling, that is within the Council's prerogative. Thompson is not sure of the impact on the library board and supporters that want these materials labeled or moved within their library.

Rundquist (PE) moved to withdraw the motion to discuss the MORE Circulation Policy updates. Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) seconded. Motion withdrawn.

The Council discussed the recommended change to the MORE Circulation Policy of changing the "Lucky Day Collections" section to "Local High Interest Collections."

Sterk (ME) made a motion to adopt the Local High Interest Collections policy as edited by the Executive Committee. LaVold (NR) seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder