Takeaways from Secretary Rivera’s Visit

Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera spoke at the GAC meeting in May, as well as during the PSLA Leadership Luncheon that same day. He informed us that his priorities are:

- College and career readiness
- Last-mile broadband for rural communities
- STEM
- Workforce development

He spoke as well about the Future Ready PA Index, an initiative that will provide a one-stop location for comprehensive information about school success.

These are areas where libraries of all types have an interest and can offer assistance. I am working with Glenn to arrange a follow-up conversation with the Secretary later this year. In the meantime, we will invite, per his suggestion, the Special Advisors for STEM, Broadband, and Workforce development to our meetings to learn more about the Department’s plans in these areas.

“No Asset is Used More... than [the] Library.”

The Cranberry Public Library has been named the Cranberry Township Community Chest’s project of the year for 2019. They will receive a grant of $750,000 to do improvements in the library, including development of a makerspace and technology improvements.

Bruce Mazzoni, a township supervisor, said, “No asset in our community is used more by residents of every age than Cranberry’s library. We are looking forward enthusiastically to the community’s response to this ambitious project.”

PALS 10th Anniversary

Congratulations to the PA Library Association on its 10 successful years running the PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies. In addition to the original Leadership Academy, the program now also includes a Directors’ Institute and a one-day training called “You Don’t Need a Title to Be a Leader.” There are 275 graduates of the program, and it has proven successful at identifying leaders for library positions and statewide volunteer opportunities.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will meet this summer to review Council members’ terms expiring in January 2019.
GAC Digitization Update on July 10, 2018

Background --

The State Library began planning for digitizing items from its collection in the late 1990's. Looking back, it was a time when there was no particular standard format which was universally accepted. And yet, we agreed that it was a direction which needed to be explored. And our 1st effort was a webpage which covered George Washington in the French and Indian War – specifically Fort Necessity. Even early on, we recognized that this type of information needed to have additional text prepared to assist teachers in their use and so we also contracted with a teacher to write lesson plans to accompany the digital items.

Through the 1st decade of the 21st century, things expanded both nationally and at the State Library. Through the efforts of Penn State Libraries, several NEH grants were received to digitize Pennsylvania newspaper microfilm which had been part of the Chronicling America inventory project of the 1980s and the State Library focused on digitizing a number of our state documents and miscellaneous rare files such as the Obituary Scrapbooks.

Things slowed down in 2009 with the reduction in staff but we did obtain one overhead scanner to digitize items on demand for reference questions. And we continued to upload the backlog of digital objects into the PA Photos and Documents, HSLC's ContentDM server.

Last Five Years:

Over the last five years, our partnership with Internet Archive has resulted in just under 17,000 items from our collection being digitized and loaded into Internet Archive's repository. Initially we focused on our World War I documents so we would be ready for the Centennial this year. Then we moved on to the 19th and 20th Century pamphlets so people could easily access the individual items.

And, using LSTA grants, we have continued to work on digitizing PA newspapers where we own the master microfilm and the title is free of copyright. Titles completed include the Pennsylvania Bulletin, the
Legislative Reference volumes and issues from the following newspapers free of copyright: Mount Pleasant Journal, Ambler Gazette, Elizabethville Echo, Elk Enterprise, Lebanon Advertiser and the Mercer Dispatch & Republican.

Current Projects --

Work with Internet Archive

- State Library’s 19th and 20th Century pamphlet volumes
- State publications – focus on Public Instruction/Education 1st

Work with Backstage (Microfilming/Digitization)

- Second group of scrapbooks/atlases was picked up in June to start the processing
- 11 boxes of individual issues of newspapers (microfilm only/digitization will go to Creekside)

Work with Creekside

- Freeland Journal back and sent to Penn State. Penn State has the Juniata Sentinel, the Scranton Tribune and Freeland Journal queued up to load in their ONI repository once they are finished loading their own titles.
- Genealogy Family files – sent for quote. This is 20 rolls of microfilmed indexed cards of family surnames and books in our collection which mention the family name
- Blair County Whig – ready to send for quote
- Jersey Shore paper – Clerical Temps are counting frames in preparation for a quote.

As scrapbooks, atlases and individual newspapers return from processing, they are designated for the appropriate repository in the RCL.

In the last year, we have called for suggestions from the field for titles to be digitized as well as offered to digitize the microfilm of others if they have clear copyright AND are willing to load the resulting files into Penn State’s repository.

Finally, all of this would be a hodgepodge with great difficulty in using another project hadn’t been developed at the same time. PA Digital,
Pennsylvania's link to DPLA, provides the overarching search mechanism for collections housed across multiple repositories. Thus, through the efforts of PA Digital, a researcher doesn't have to know that we placed XX title on Internet Archive's server and YY title in PA Photos and Documents. Harvesting of Internet Archive was successfully achieved this fiscal year.

Copyright

In a related area, State Archives is planning to move into a new Archives Building in 2021 and they have a goal to digitize their entire microfilm collection and load it into PA Photos as Documents before the move. Someone might ask why that is their goal and not that of the State Library. In a word, copyright. Because much of what they hold in their collections is state records, there is no copyright involved with the holdings.

Still we are excited to work with State Archives towards this goal as the materials held in their collections are wanted by the researchers in the State Library.
POWER Library Report to the Governor’s Advisory Council

July 2018

**Personnel**

Alan Simon has retired on June 30th after thirty years with HSLC. George Carey will join HSLC as the next Director of Network Services on July 23, 2018.

**E-resources**

HSLC is finalizing plans for the sunset of ProQuest SIRS Discoverer and select EBSCO databases, and introduction of new Gale databases. This work includes updates to the POWER Library portal and Kids portal, changes to the e-resource links generator, updates to the statistics system, cross-walking librarians from old databases to their closest match in the Gale lineup, preparing training documentation, and identifying which resources will be trained during the fall training sessions.

**PA Photos and Documents Service**

HSLC is in the final stages of vendor selection for the PA Photos and Documents service. Six vendors provided proposals, and we are currently in the Best & Final process. A contract is expected to be executed by the end of July, with an implementation plan that seeks to Go Live with the next software by January 1, 2019.

**FY 2018 Scope of Work**

In addition to providing the usual services for the POWER Library in fiscal year 2018, HSLC will investigate and report back on the following two projects: technology to support a statewide library card, and development of a discovery layer for the POWER Library.

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