

MAGNOLIA Steering Committee Meeting
Mississippi Library Commission
5/31/22

Members Present: Mary Beth Applin, Hulen Bivins, Susan Bryant, Stephen Cunetto, Holly Gray, Otha Keys, Jeff Slagell. Members Absent: Elizabeth Simmons; Guest: Dr. Lis Pankl, Dean, Mississippi State University Libraries

- Stephen welcomed everyone to the meeting. Moved to have agenda approved-seconded and approved.
- Stephen went over the Legislative session notes and how appreciative we are to have the additional funding. Great news to have additional funding after no increase since 2009.
- Members introduced themselves.
- Committee reviewed meeting minutes from the 4/21/22 meeting. Mary Beth moved to accept; Jeff seconded. Members voted to accept the minutes as presented.
- Budget information was presented by Stephen. Went over information on budget sheet. We are \$100 short from the pledges we received. Looked at contributions from individual libraries. There is a deficit balance of \$14,135.18 still at MSU. Stephen asked Hulen if the Mississippi Library Commission will provide funding to cover the deficit. Hulen indicated they will get together next week to work it out.
- Regarding the FY2023 budget, MAGNOLIA did receive \$1,350,000 from the Legislature. A special thank you to Hulen and others within the MLC, MLA, MAGNOLIA Steering Committee and others throughout the State for advocating for the additional funding. Stephen thanked everyone involved in working with the legislature. Discussed expenditures for FY23.
- Stephen noted that if we keep OCLC, we will have \$83,098.94 to spend on new products and \$171,545.96 if we discontinue OCLC. There is discussion among the University Libraries that they may continue to pay the OCLC invoice if MAGNOLIA decides not to include it in the expenditures from the Legislature.
- Stephen previously asked Elizabeth Simmons if Mississippi Department of Education would be able to continue to contribute \$75,000 to the MAGNOLIA project. She indicated that they will not be able to do so this year due to budget constraints.
- Hulen discussed FY24. Everything should be level next year. Most every state agency received something from the state budget. Taxes were also cut. No guarantee for the next year. He has personally been told that we should submit a budget for next year that should include the extra \$350K that we received this year. Make sure that is a number that we can stay within. Most legislative members do not know about MAGNOLIA because they do not have school age children. Hulen also mentioned that we need more PR. Bennett was vital in getting information out to the legislature. Hulen is encouraged that we will receive the same funding in FY24. We need to make sure that what we include is quality. Hulen promised the members of the legislature a true evaluation of current products.

- Open discussion about PR and ways to get the word out about MAGNOLIA. Social Media is vital. Stephen spoke about committees to handle marketing. He spoke with Otha about heading this up. We have a brochure, a video, etc. Mary Beth spoke of many creative ways to market and advertise. She also suggested an icon from MAGNOLIA, so people see that icon and know it is MAGNOLIA. Holly suggested that we have a presence at the different conferences for teachers such as MECA, Lamp, etc. Jeff also added that we keep people in the loop regarding MAGNOLIA as they retire and new people come in. Hulen also mentioned MLA conference in Meridian and having a class there. Susan added that we should have training classes at MECA, etc. Holly suggested having booths at MLA as well.
- Tracy pointed out that wording is everything in that it was said that money must be spent on databases from the legislature. We need to be clear about how we spend money. Hulen will check to see if the funds can be used on something other than databases such as PR/Marketing.
- Stephen brought up the MAGNOLIA website (<http://magnolia.msstate.edu>) on the projector and showed the MAGNOLIA video. Pointed out the brochure on the website as well. A statistics link is available as well as minutes from previous meetings. <https://magnolia.msstate.edu/about/magnolia>
- Open discussion about how to use the extra funding. Elizabeth sent her recommendations. "I would like to keep the following for school: academic search, book collection, Eric, history reference, literacy reference, middle search, newspaper source, primary search, professional development, topic search, vocational search. I am not sure about OCLC FirstSearch for schools. But I would open for the discussion on how schools could use this. I agree that schools need some type of book review program that could help cut down on potential challenged material requests. Two side notes: We will have new social studies standards in November that will need to be updated in the history reference center. Also, we need to make sure that EBSCO does not include references to CRT in the history reference center." (Elizabeth Simmons)
- Otha and Susan discussed public school survey results. Mary Beth and Holly discussed community college results. Everyone discussed OCLC and making sure there aren't a lot of duplications. Tracy spoke about public libraries and the results from Mara and Erin. Tracy is representing Mara and Erin, who are absent. Rosetta Stone would be something good to add which is a part of EBSCO. The group discussed Learning Express which is currently available through all public libraries and is paid for by the MS Library Commission. Tracy pointed out that to use Library Express through the public library, you don't need a card. Stephen asked if what public libraries subscribe to is in entirety. Tracy was uncertain. Jeff discussed the university findings from the survey. He thinks OCLC still has value from a university perspective. There are also other things we can explore as new options. The stats showed usage from public libraries as well as universities. It is still a core resource. Hulen asked Jeff if it is enough of a core for public schools/libraries. Jeff thinks it is core and there is an element of greater good. If individual libraries paid separately, it would be unaffordable. Tracy said some of the other suggestions from public libraries were ancestry, newspapers.com, etc.

- Stephen opened an OCLC discussion. The group discussed the pros and cons of the OCLC FirstSearch/Worldcat subscription. Stephen noted that the subscription ends on July 31, 2022 so we need to reach a decision prior to this date. Jeff expressed that he does not think we are in a position to make a decision on OCLC today, but we need to in a timely manner. We need to see what people are interested in. Lis commented that USM, UM, and MUW want OCLC and need a decision so they can pursue it in their own budgets if MAGNOLIA does not plan to include it in the MAGNOLIA expenditure. According to the survey, the majority of the universities want to keep OCLC. Stephen went over a list of academic recommendations. Jeff suggested that we go back to our groups and talk about options and survey results to get a better feel for what people want.
- The group discussed options including how to approach EBSCO about databases not receiving as much use, seeing what we can add to EBSCO with the \$83,000 we have if we keep OCLC, and setting up trials during the year as a means of evaluating databases in preparation for the next fiscal year.
- At the end of the discussion, the group decided on the following actions items.
 - By the end of the week, Stephen will assimilate the list of all recommendations for EBSCO and non-EBSCO databases. This will be sent to the MAGNOLIA Steering Committee to distribute to their members to solicit input on which databases they would like to see added.
 - MAGNOLIA Steering Committee representatives will talk with their constituents again about the value of OCLC FirstSearch/Worldcat to assist with our decision about MAGNOLIA paying for OCLC FirstSearch/Worldcat.
 - The following week we will meet via WebEx to discuss the surveys and hopefully make some decisions.
 - Stephen talked about re-establishing committees to work on various aspects of the MAGNOLIA project. This will help distribute the workload and engagement with MAGNOLIA. Holly and Tracy will chair the Training Committee; Otha will chair the Marketing Committee; Jeff will chair the Budget Committee; and Mary Beth will chair the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee will assist with drafting a governance document that outlines our current practices regarding the structure and decision making for the MAGNOLIA project.
- Next meeting: June 21, 2022 10:00 AM via Webex
- Stephen asked motion to adjourn. Jeff motioned; Susan seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Bryant, MAGNOLIA Secretary