Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)
Good afternoon and welcome to the NLS Open Forum call for May. Before we go any further we'll go around the room and identify the NLS people here…

Comment: (Library Staff - NLS)
Michael Martys; Joel Phillips; Neil Bernstein; Jane Caulton; Chuck R.; Pamela Davenport; John Brown; MaryBeth Wise; Paula Bahmani; Vickie Collins…

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)
…and I'm Steve Prine. Just a couple quick announcements really: I sent out an Operations Alert asking for Network libraries to indicate visits they would like to have from NLS for 2015. Not necessarily consultant visits but, related to other opportunities – Advisory Group meetings, Friends Group, Open Houses – things of that nature. We've gotten a couple of responses so far but I encourage you to look at it and think about asking. We plan our budget a little more than a year ahead of time. It's good to have the information because we'll be looking at our management plans, probably in June, and that will include travel and training plans also. So it will be good to have that information. Also Meredith Beckhardt who is the head of the Reference Section sent out a Magazine Survey – an Operations Alert – and if you didn't respond, I encourage you to respond to that survey. Even if you're not doing magazines just go ahead and put in your CMLS I.D. and answer the first question which would basically be "no." and that way, we know we haven't missed somebody.

We're still recovering from the conference, and there are some Operations Alerts that are in process coming out about that. In the next week or so we think we will have one out on the labeling of Digital Books. I'm sorry to say that the vendor that will be handling the disposal of our RC books – that process is still ongoing and has not been awarded yet. We still think that that will happen hopefully in July. So, it isn't off track yet. Does anyone else have anything that they would like to add to the conversation?

Comment: (Library Staff - NLS)
I would just mention that if you haven't sent in your resolutions from the conference, will you please do that? And for those who have sent them in, thank you very much!

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)
Okay. At this point, we will open the floor to questions.

Question: (Linda Vincent - WI)
I thought that the conference went really, really well and thank you for all your hard work on it. My question is: I know there was a request that if anyone wanted to test out the Android app, that we should supply names and, I wasn't sure who I should send those to.

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)
Judy Dixon.

Question: (Gordon Reddick - CT)
I was just inquiring as to the status of overseas donations of braille books? How that came about? What the future looks like?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)
The future is looking brighter than it had in the past. We just learned that the library that had appealed, actually won its appeal. We're in the process of doing some follow-up work with our liaison at the Postal Service, because there are some minor changes, and we hope to get an Operations Alert out about it sometime in June. We're getting much closer. It looks like the Network will be sending materials overseas again.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

We're getting near the end of (the) state fiscal year then of course (the) federal fiscal year shortly after that, and we're being encouraged to spend leftover funds and, I'm not sure how much I have or even if I have any but I remember that at the conference it was announced that NLS would provide some blank cartridges. Do we know any more information on that?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

We really do not. Karen made the announcement and tasked Materials Development division with identifying funding we had for it and following through on the process. So, that's still ongoing… We do expect to be able to provide some cartridges but I really can't give you a hard and fast timeline. If you have some funding…you might want to spend some on cartridges.

Question: (Danielle Miller - WA)

We're just wondering – with her death today – how soon the biography of Maya Angelou might be completed?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

We'll check on it.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

I had a question… I was looking up a series of books on Historical Fiction on Ireland and saw that the second one in the series – there's only two in the series – is in process to be in digital, but the first one is not. Do you want me to send Collection Development a notice saying 'you might want to do this one too' or should I just trust that they're going to get to it when they get to it?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

I'd send them the request, just to reinforce it.

Comment: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

…and since we mentioned Richard (Smith), I have to publicly congratulate him on his new job. Congratulations Richard! I assume you're out there somewhere.

Comment: (Richard Smith - MO)

I was calling just to say we will get the job description out for 'Unofficial Notes' for NLS Open phone conferences. So we'll be posting that really soon. The pay is really astronomical! (It was a) really fine conference in Oklahoma. A lot of good reviews on it. You did an outstanding job.

Question: (Linda Vincent - WI)

With the idea that you are changing the Application form to include the Bill Reader,… I was wondering if it would be possible to get a fill-in form - some sort of file that we could all post on our websites to sort of facilitate people being able to put the forms in faster… For the Application form, a PDF would be nice but, what would be even nicer would be if there would be some sort of file for a 'fill-in' form that we could just add our mailing information at the top and then we could post it on our websites and people could do 'fill-in.' I don't know. I might be dreaming.

Question: (Michael Martys - NLS)

So, I guess what you're saying is that you'd like a (form-fillable PDF).

Answer: (Linda Vincent - WI)

A form-fillable PDF, but that there would be some space on there (where) we could put our identified library on, so that they would come back to us instead of going to you and then back to us.

Answer: (Michael Martys - NLS)

There are some technical issues with that… It sounds kind of simple in theory… Why don't we take your comment under advisement and we'll get back to you on that.

Comment: (Linda Vincent - WI)

Okay and if you would at some point – what we had done instead of reinventing the application was (to) scan the NLS application but put our own information on top of it so that people knew where to mail it back. So, if you are

designing something – if there can be a spot on there to say like 'return to' or 'mail to,' where each of our libraries can put in our own information, it would probably help the patrons.

Question: (Michael Martys - NLS)
Is your vision for this that this form would be off your website?

Answer: (Linda Vincent - WI)
Yes. That would be awesome.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)
Are those forms for the Bill Readers supposed to come back to the libraries? Or do they go to the Bureau of Engraving?

Answer: (Michael Martys - NLS)
The vision right now is that the libraries have the flexibility to approach this the way they'd like to approach it. That can range from minimal involvement to a substantial involvement. Minimal meaning (that) you have nothing to do with it. Substantial meaning that there might be an application that is on your website. What exactly we're going to offer and when we're going to offer it is still being worked out, but I think the one thing that is clear is that the libraries will make their own decision as to how involved they'd like to be.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)
I kind of got the impression that we were not going to be given the currency readers to distribute, so I don't understand why we would want the application sent back to us.

Answer: (Jane Caulton - NLS)
There are two different issues here. The question asked by the previous librarian was, since NLS would be rewriting the form to include information about the currency reader – if we could customize it with the library name…so if you signed new patrons up, you would be asking them if they wanted a reader, and they would be able to check that off on that application. So, those applications would be for the regular, eligible persons that would be applying to your library – and that's why you would want it to come back to your library.

Comment: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)
I kind of understand that…I thought she was talking about a separate form for the currency reader, which gave me the idea that we could just print it off and insert it into our application like we do the Newsline form now.

Comment: (Jane Caulton - NLS)
The implementation of the currency reader will not be a separate application. It will be a checkbox on the NLS application.

Comment: (Linda Vincent - WI)
Since I opened the can of worms – what I was getting at was that I was under the impression that NLS would be redoing the form to include this checkbox for the currency reader, and if you're redoing the form anyway, I thought I'd put in a plug for maybe a bit of a different layout or maybe providing us with those fill-ables – PDF.

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)
Obviously, there may not be just one new way we do this. There may be several ways that libraries can take advantage of it. We obviously are going to modify our application form. What you're suggesting and what Ruth is suggesting are other considerations also.

Question: (David Andrews - MN)
All of this kind of begs the question 'What are you going to do for existing patrons?' which seems like where the larger numbers are, rather than newly-applying people.

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)
As far as existing patrons: once they're checked that they are in the NLS database, they will be given a reader, and on the NLS database there is a checkbox that will indicate that a reader has been sent to the patron.

Question: (David Andrews - MN)
So, all people will be given it automatically?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)
No. They have to request it.

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)
In the initial pre-pilot and pilot, which would run for the rest of this year, we will modify Webnet (which connects to CMLS) to allow patron callers who have said, 'I heard about the reader and I would like one' – you would go into CMLS (PIMMS) and do a check-off – this patron requests a currency reader. That will generate a mailing label to the distribution point where the reader will be (shipped out). That's the only step that the libraries have to take, in terms of assisting in this project. There are other levels of interest, such as getting a small inventory to use at Consumer Group meetings, conferences and other kinds of events. Those are still being discussed but that kind of flexibility is there. We really tried to design this per Karen's direction in such a way that libraries were not required to have an inventory, track these things and keep track of who had what. The minimal step is: If you have a patron that wants one – if you're serving him – you can just go in and say yes, this person needs a currency reader, and that would be all the action you as a library would need to take.

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)
If you did not want to take any action at all, we are working on having a Call Center here at NLS, and there is a Call Center at the Bureau of Engraving. You can just direct the patron to either of those Call Centers and, we have access to CMLS/PIMMS and we will check that off. That will be starting hopefully September 1, when the second phase of the pilot is beginning.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)
We get calls from patrons and non-patrons who want to use BARD and we explain to them that they have to be registered with us. What about (people) who hear about this currency reader and want one but they don't want our service? Do we refer them to that call center at the Bureau of Engraving?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)
Yes. You can do that as well. Also, we are investigating having on the NLS application two boxes: one that says I want a currency reader. The second one is: I want a currency reader but I do not wish to join the system (NLS).

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)
Well, in that case, we appreciate your participation in this call and we look forward to talking to you next month at the end of June on the next Open Forum call. Thank you everybody for participating!

No more questions or comments.