

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

How are you doing? Good afternoon here in soggy, still rather warm, Washington. It's a good day to stay inside and work on the budget – which I think our Congress is doing for us right now... We have a number of people here. My name is Richard Smith. I'm the Chief of the Network Division and across the way is...

Comment: (Library Staff - NLS)

Steve Prine, Assistant Chief of the Network Division; Shana Osborne, Equipment Control Officer; Pamela Davenport, Network Consultant; Paula Bahmani, Education and Training Specialist; MaryBeth Wise, Network Consultant; Neil Bernstein, R&D Officer; Meredith Beckhardt, Head of Reference Section;

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

Okay. Well we had a few presentations here, had a few events going on (and) had a lively conversation with the Chairs last week. Hopefully we'll answer some questions that were raised and, Paula, if you'll go first...

Comment: (Paula Bahmani - NLS)

I just wanted everyone to know, we had a very successful DTB-making workshop last week here at NLS. We had 11 participants and the participants experienced some hands-on training with Hindenburg in the areas of markup as well as recording. We also had some mini-sessions on the Content Protection software – also known as the Encryption software. Additionally, we did some work with the Digital Talking Book Write-Protection software. The participants also had a tour of the NLS studio and it was very successful. We're looking forward to the November workshop, which will be the 4th and the 5th.

Comment: (Meredith Beckhardt - NLS)

Many of you have hopefully received in your email inbox, the Operations Alert from this morning, on how we're open - starting tomorrow - for the next Readership and Circulation Survey. So, I just wanted to mention a couple things – because I didn't get a chance to put them in the Alert. One of them was: If you are a regional library that has an AOC in your state, if you could kindly respond to the survey on behalf of them and incorporate both of the statistics within your submission. And if you're a sub-regional, please submit the statistics on your own. The regionals will be doing theirs and the sub-regionals need to do their own. I want to remind people to print out a copy of your survey pages before you submit them. That way, you have a nice paper copy on hand – and, now is the time to find out if your password is still working for you. If you need some help, please email me and I'll get you a working password so that you can submit the survey. Thank you.

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

One of the things that came up last week...the clear containers – we're moving forward with those. I think we're hoping to get those out by the end of October – start shipping them. And indeed I think that of the 77 libraries that got peach cartridges, probably 11 libraries will get them directly from the vendor – the large orders. So we'll be sending pallets to 11 libraries. The rest will come from the Multi-States. So, hopefully we'll start shipping them by the end of October. It looks pretty positive on that. Steve, do you want to update on PIMMS?

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)

I will do that. The PIMMS – the Patron Information Machine Maintenance System has been up and running at the contractor since last October. Starting early this year we started moving the WebREADS libraries from READS to WebREADS - and as they moved into WebREADS they migrated to using PIMMS. We now have all the WebREADS libraries using PIMMS, and the other automated systems vendors are on a forum with Data Management, talking about different aspects of preparation for migration, and I can't speak for any of the systems but, we're hoping that we're going to see some pilot tests within the next month or so and then after the first of the year the other system will probably pick up also, so, we're all shooting for the goal of the end of September 2016 to have all Network libraries migrated and using PIMMS on an ongoing basis.

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

Anyway (those are) some of the reports here. Michael might come later but right now I think we're ready to open up for questions from the Network.

Question: (Joshua Berkov - NC)

Hi. I know this has come up a couple of times in previous conference calls. We're beginning to run low here in North Carolina on the braille mailing containers, and we were wondering when Multi-State might be getting more of those in so we can order them.

Answer: (Michael Katzmann - NLS)

There are some braille mailing containers being manufactured at the moment so, I'll get that information out and Richard will send it.

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

Right. I think they were pretty positive on getting the order in pretty quick – Joel Phillips was – so we'll get that information to you – in an Operations Alert probably.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

Speaking of Operations Alerts – hello all. Operations Alert 15-58 – Distribution of Android App for Kindle Fire devices – about 3 months ago now. Any news in that area?

Answer: (Neil Bernstein - NLS)

Yes. We have reached an agreement with Amazon and we are in the process of uploading the assets needed to put it on the Amazon Store – all the screenshots and the text that goes with it. The actual application itself is version 1.0.2 of the Android app, which is currently in the hands of beta testers and has been for a couple of days. It probably needs about 1 more day to shake out and then we'll be able to submit to Amazon – so it's right around the corner – probably next week. One thing we don't know is how long Amazon will take to review it but it's probably not a very long process for them. That will support Kindle Fire models from 2013 and later. As we understand it, models before then were not accessible anyway so, it won't run on those.

Comment: (Bernard Margolis – NY9)

I have lurked on this call before but never been on the call to introduce myself. I'm the State Librarian of New York and at the moment, I'm also the Acting Director of the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library. I wanted to be sure that those on the call are aware that Sharon Phillips who had been in this role for many years, has moved to another position in the State Library and, we are about to begin a recruitment for a permanent director and I wanted to begin to spread the word of that vacancy. We're looking for an energetic, innovative, thoughtful leader to push our Talking Book and Braille Library program to the next level. If you know good people or, if that describes you, please watch for the more formal announcement about the position opening or, send me an email if you have questions or thoughts or want to refer other people or share names of other people with me. My email address: bernard.margolis@nysed.gov. I appreciate any referrals and any help. Thank you.

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

Thank you for calling in from New York. Where's that? Albany? I saw a lot of eyebrows raised. They want to go to Albany. ... I'll just mention the Standards. We're moving forward on that. ASCLA got the contract for the Standards and, we're working in Advisory Committees... If you're not an ASCLA/ALA member please join so that you can be considered for the...Advisory Committee. Other than that, if there are no more questions, thank you for your time. Have a good day!

No more questions or comments.