

Digital Resources Manager's Report

October 25, 2021 - December 11, 2021

Northstar Digital Literacy

The bulk of my efforts have been focused on Northstar implementation. Don, Karl, and Laura set the project in motion prior to my joining the team. Don, of course, started the project with the application for the grant, work with the vendor on the license, and preparing an initial list of site administrators for each of the libraries. Karl planned for the authentication of every library and handled the account creation details for each. Laura developed all of the initial promotional materials for libraries at OLC and made a unique and inviting display for those materials at the conference. It was a show-stopper in the Exhibit Hall.

That has been a tough act to follow, but I think I have also made some contributions in the last month: after attending conversations with folks at Literacy Minnesota and the introductory webinar for Ohio libraries in October, Don and I brainstormed about what implementation should look like, and what measures of success should be. I prepared a project outline that has been my guiding document as a result of all of those conversations. I am pleased to say that we are running very close to schedule, with solid participation and great enthusiasm from a wide swath of our library community. As of 9am on December 3, we had 97 of our libraries with administrative accounts established. Of those 97, they have all either indicated that they are ready to implement Northstar or feel that they will be ready after a little more training.

Additionally, we are working on more deeply differentiated communications resources and messaging, based on three defined stakeholder groups: the libraries, the general public/the library patrons, and potential digital literacy partners like the Connectivity Champions and Broadband Ohio. I am also looking forward to connecting more deeply with colleagues in other states who are part of the Northstar Users Group of statewide implementers.

E-rate

Having attended a variety of training sessions by USAC, Funds For Learning, and our own statewide consultant Lorrie Germann, I am beginning to gain the knowledge necessary to be part of this process for OPLIN and for our libraries. I am looking forward to learning more as we go through the FY22 cycle.

Ohio Web Library

I have met with representatives from a few of our Ohio Web Library vendors (LinkedInLearning, Transparent Language), and I am looking forward to renewing my acquaintance with a number of the other OWL vendors (EBSCO, Gale, Oxford, ProQuest) and working with a new vendor (WorldBook). The folks at WorldBook are familiar to me because of my previous work, even if I did not work with them directly. Don and I have started to talk about the process for the next ITN, which will need to open next fall.

Digitization

In preparation for my role with the ODN CEC group, I am becoming familiar with the broader work of Ohio DIG and re-familiarizing myself with the considerations in digitizing materials for library use. I am expecting that we will start making some progress on Sanborn Map images later in 2022.

General

I am very pleased to be part of the OPLIN team, and I would like to express my appreciation to each of my new colleagues for their warm welcome and helpful preparations. This has been an extraordinarily easy transition because of their kindness and thoughtfulness.