Annual Report to the MOBAC Administrative Council

Fiscal Year Reporting on: 2019-2020

Committee: Technology

Committee Chairs: Kristen Cardoso (UCSC) & Katie O'Connell (HML)

Active Committee Members: Kim Smith (MPL), John Brady (CSUMB), Stacy DeMatteo (NPS), Deborah Stephens (Hartnell), Mila Rianto (SPL), Kris Amaral (MCFL), Glenn Tozier (MPC),

Alicia Martinez (WPL), Mayra Ortiz (WPL)

Date: August 2020

1. What did your committee accomplish during the last fiscal year?

Prior to the pandemic, both co-chairs were involved in investigating options for a new website and streamlining our content with a member of the MOBAC Admin Council. We have received financial support from the Pacific Library Partnership (PLP) to pursue the development of a new website as well as approval to provide access to the PLP Basecamp for committee members.

The Tech Committee had organized a workshop on web accessibility for April, but it has been indefinitely delayed due to the pandemic and the capacity of our members. We had also begun collecting resources to create a web accessibility best practices guide to be shared with the other committees and anyone who attended our workshop. We collectively watched and discussed several webinars and trainings on web accessibility.

At the start of the pandemic, we began holding weekly COVID Commiseration drop-in meetings on Zoom so members could share ideas, ask questions, and just generally feel supported and less isolated during a time of extreme stress.

2. What activities, workshops, etc. are you planning for the current fiscal year?

With the ongoing pandemic crisis and the impacts on staff both personally and professionally, we anticipate that this year we will focus on being a space for committee members to come together for relief and support. MOBAC member libraries have been severely impacted by pandemic-related budget cuts resulting in widespread furloughs, layoffs, and under-staffing during a time of significant change in service models. As such, we hope to provide opportunities for interacting with and learning from each other as we navigate implementing new services and trying to serve patrons who rely on their library for internet, technology, information, and social needs.

3. Are there any obstacles/issues/challenges you wish to convey?

It is hard to imagine a time when the obstacles we are confronting were greater than now. These obstacles are so widespread that we need not outline them in great detail here; the coronavirus crisis is both global and hyper local and the concerns for the well-being and safety of both our regional library members and all the individuals who work in them are significant and ongoing. Nonetheless, the Technology Committee is committed to serving its members to the fullest extent possible and strives to serve as a resource throughout this time.

Estimate funding need for current FY: