Connecticut Library Association
Notes from the Executive Session Held 6 January 2011

I.   StarChapter Training Session: The CLA executive committee as well as section and committee chairs participated in a training webinar "Content and Communications".

II.   Budget Discussion: Although Association finances remain stable, there is concern over the lower-than-anticipated membership numbers. It is thought that a transition to a membership cycle based on anniversary date would make joining CLA more attractive and thus give the numbers a boost. It was observed that the lower than expected income from memberships would be offset by unspent funds allocated to the Editorial Committee. Income from fall programs fell a little short this year, so we may need to set more realistic expectations in next year's budget. It is unclear how the move to StarChapter will impact CLA's reliance on CLC for administrative support, but board members agreed that the level of support currently received via the management contract might not be sustainable in the future. CLA has already begun the transition to greater self-sufficiency. One model suggested was to contract for a very basic level of administrative support for most of the year (e.g., checking voicemail and routing to the appropriate person) and ramp up a bit at conference time. We also discussed the current webmaster position and how it might be consolidated into the Connecticut Libraries editor's position responsibilities.

III.   Talks with CLC and CSL: The members who were present view the greatest overlap/confusion existing between CLA and CLC. Specifically, distinguishing between CLA's sections and CLC's round tables is particularly confusing, and that confusion might have a negative impact on CLA's membership recruitment efforts. It was observed that some CLC roundtable participants think they are CLA members by virtue of their RT participation. Conversely, CLA's "Institutional" membership category may hamper CLC's membership efforts. We hope a compromise can be worked out that would provide greater clarity to the library community as well as reflect the strategic goals of each organization. This is one area in which we hope to make significant progress during the upcoming talks.