**URSUS Library Directors Council**

**Bangor Public Library, Board Room**

**Friday, March 21, 2008**

**Present:** Barbara McDade; Susan Lowe; Linda Lord; Gary Nichols; Jonathan Williams; Marianne Thibodeau; Judith Clarke (for Tom Abbott); David Nutty; Frank Roberts; Chris Knott; Joyce Rumery; and Leslie Kelly

**Absent:** John Barden; Steve Podgajny; Greg Curtis

Database report discussion:

The report from the System Database Taskforce prompted a discussion of what we can do to manage our collections with the same or less budget for acquisitions. It is recognized that the full-text databases are more important for our collections that the hard copy journals. We need to look at databases as a way to save money as a group.

What we are currently doing is not working; we are always in a resource cut mode and are reactionary with no plan. The budget is driven with monographs vs. paper journals vs. online resources. Are we willing to give up some resource locally if we can get something for all of us at a reduced rate – especially if it is full-text. A collaborative environment to grow is paramount.

We may want to put money from our budgets into an account – a certain amount from each campus to support databases.

We need another strategic plan for the databases. We need to get the chief academic officers and the chief financial officers from all of the campuses behind this problem; ultimately this is an academic issue. We should meet with Jim Breece about this in particular and invite him to our meetings.

A proposal was made to have a one page position paper go to the chief academic officers, this paper could move forward with their support. We can use our LibQual results for this and we may also want to make a list of state universities and their online resources compared to ours.

Barbara will bring the database acquisitions up at the Maine InfoNet Board retreat, with the idea that the public libraries could form consortia and maybe Maine InfoNet could be a vehicle for consortia buying.

The question was raised about NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) and accreditation if we go to all online – this is not an issue for NEASC.

The audit report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers is now public. One recommendation is that the budget was not aligned to reality – the universities must develop a yearly budget that reflects the reality of their expenses and revenue.

Gary reported that the 500,000 PUC money that provides most of the MARVEL databases is being questioned, the issue raised is the purchase of content for libraries. A report has been requested that will go to the PUC commissioners about the MARVEL group of databases. This report is needed by the end of March. Deb Rollins and Marilyn Lutz will be asked to work on this report. It has to be a professional, polished presentation for the PUC.

We need to revisit the System strategic plan (Strategic Direction #4) and look at the priorities that were incorporated into that report. Frank, David, Tom, Leslie, Barbara, and Joyce volunteered to pull together the first round of thoughts by the next meeting. This dovetails with the LibQual report - we need action steps from what we learned from that survey. Also try to answer the questions – what is the digital library and what will that library be in 2010. We want to pull together the first round of thoughts by the next meeting.

Action Step: We need to advocate for our own databases, we need to connect our users to the collections we have purchased.

Each library has access to: their local collection (individual acquisitions budgets)

URSUS collection (URSUS budget)

MARVEL (PUC, MSL, and Fogler)

We need to show what happens - what “deflates” if one part of the collection is lost

The System Database Taskforce report and recommendations for cuts were passed 7 to 0 by the Library Directors – with regrets.

LibQual Report:

We will ask Jim Breece if we can be on the May agenda for his provosts meeting.

Docutek E-Res:

The question was raised if we can eliminate this product and use MilCirc, as long as we do not lose the required stats or other functionality. Jonathan will look into this and it will be on the agenda of the circulation heads meeting on April 11.

LA III:

The group was reminded to post all support staff job descriptions on our BlackBoard site. There is no official news regarding the HECCP.

Elimination of Overdue Fines:

The directors did okay this a few meetings ago. It will not take effect until July 2008 since all who are doing this have to account for it as a loss of revenue.

Mainestreet:

Frank said that advisors can see if a student owes a library fine – not the details, but they can see that there is a hold because of a library fine. He asked if this was okay with us, most responded that we did not want the holds to be defined.

Maine InfoNet Report:

The revised OPAC is being tested by Bangor Public; the Maine State Library, and Fort Kent.

The Webfeat trial is not yet ready for testing. Minerva libraries are interested in a LibraryThing trial. Maine InfoNet will hold a Board retreat on March 26 at Colby College.

URSUS Manager’s Report:

SSL certificate installation will cause an extra step for linking to the OPAC; users need to use the server name and not the ip address.

Jonathan attended the VALE symposium – both the Evergreen and KOHA developers were there as well as users of those systems. Automate ME will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on March on March 31, KOHA will be in the vendors area.

The Library of Congress is pulling back from their classification and cataloging function. Should we be concerned about this? Will OCLC fill this role? In the current issue of American Libraries, (Ending the Status Quo, March 2008, p38.) there is an article about the role of the traditional cataloging function.

Library Reports:

Maine State Library. They have had two rounds of cuts, first 100,000 and then 131,000. The cuts were taken from acquisitions and 2 staff positions. There is no more flexibility. They have another vacancy they hope to maintain. The question is where to go for spending for technology without money to pay for it. They will be looking at issues throughout the summer months.

The Cultural Affairs Council gave 400,000 to the Maine State Library for renovation and construction grants for public libraries. The Maine Historical Society grant information is on their web page.

Interviews for the CMLD consultant will take place on March 24.

John Martin submitted a bill for restructuring the cultural agencies; it was changed to a resolve.

University of Southern Maine. The decision was made to address all of the fiscal problems in one year, 6 million to be reduced on ’09. Everyone was given targets, but the library was relatively protected. Nine fte were eliminated from the library (6 professional and 3 classified), these cuts were not strategic, they were voluntary. Going forward the only option for future cuts would be lay-offs. There are now 47 staff at the USM libraries. They are working on a realignment of resources with four task force groups:

Eliminate government documents

Eliminate all paper journals

Create a learning resource center with IT

Realignment of services

The building projects continue for Osher and the new entrance.

Law Library. ABA accreditation visit was in February, they had prepared 54 three-inch binders for the accreditation team. The report notes they are teetering on the edge of financial viability. Cuts for the Law School are not yet known.

They are in the programming phase to build a new law school; the idea is to have the space needed to have a larger student body.

The Law Library has a three-year agreement with West Publishing to get an agreed upon list of titles. Now they are ready to move away from print.

Chris reported that David did a very good job politically and this helped Chris with the budget cuts being faced.

Farmington. Also budget problems – the problems from admissions and retention are better this year, but there is still a million dollar hole.

Frank asked that we look at his web page, under what’s new – they have public service announcements.

Bangor Public. They now have lots of teens coming in and have a thriving young adult program. Budget issue - next cuts, if necessary, will be staff. Circulation is booming. The last copy center is still a possibility.

Augusta. The search for the position left vacant by Jay Hoffman has been rewritten to include outreach. They will be brining three candidates to campus soon. They have reinstated the library faculty advisory committee.

OCLS. The Holocaust Center has great speakers, they have CDs of these lectures, copies have been sent to BPL.

OCLS will be combined with Augusta administratively, but they will have separate web pages.

Machias. The new director will arrive in mid-July. The campus took a 2% cut. They are cutting, but will also have to repay the loan from the System Office. IT services will be moved to the library temporarily during the renovation.

Fort Kent. The library is a full staff (5); they have not had a full staff for a long time. They are redesigning their web page to increase navigability, this from the LibQual survey. Their bond money will be used to renovate s building and add classrooms and offices. This building connects to the library; it will be good for added traffic.

They are excited about Biathlon 2009.

It was decided, as a surprise for Greg, to hold our August retreat at UMPI.

**URSUS Manager Report to URSUS Directors**

**From Jonathan Williams**

**3/20/2008**

1. **WebPAC Pro --** Due to high demand, III has been unable to schedule a date for the WebPAC Pro installation, though I expect them to perform the installation in early April.
2. **SSL Certificate** – Before moving to the next release of Millennium, we will need to install an SSL certificate on the OPAC. This provides additional security for transactions that require the patron’s login information. Installing the SSL certificate will require libraries to use the server name, ursus.maine.edu, rather than the IP address when they link to the URSUS OPAC. Using the IP address will work, but it will cause the user to see an error message before they are able to log in to the OPAC. I will provide further details about the timeline for installing the security certificate when I know more.
3. **VALE Symposium** – I had the chance to attend the VALE Symposium on Open Source ILS products hosted at The College of New Jersey on March 12. Developers of Koha and Evergreen, as well as users of both systems, presented talks about the future of Open Source in libraries and Open Source ILSes in particular. These were the main points that I took away:
   1. Open Source is not inherently riskier than commercial in an environment where so many vendors are merging, going out of business, or shifting development resources away from the ILS.
   2. Cost savings is not the biggest benefit of Open Source, flexibility is.
   3. Libraries should hire more technologists to be prepared for the changes in library technology.
   4. Open Source ILSes are being developed much more quickly than commercial ones.
   5. Users drive Open Source development.
   6. Large institutions and consortia are beginning to put more resources behind Open Source development.
   7. Evergreen Acquisitions is almost finished!
4. **IUG** – I will be attending IUG this year. Please let me know if you would like me to seek out anything in particular while I am there.
5. **Tim’s Absence** – Tim is roughly half-way through his leave. He, his wife, and his little ones are doing well. Marilyn and I have been keeping up with his day-to-day work, but we are less familiar than he is with some of the systems he uses, so if something that I have done for him looks different from the way he usually does it, please let me know.
6. **Statewide Registry project** – Marilyn and I recently met with a number of special collections librarians throughout the state about the possibility of building a statewide registry for digital collections and objects. Initial response to her presentation was positive, and she is currently surveying the potential participants to determine their needs for such a project.

Maine InfoNet

Report from Barbara McDade, Interim

March 21, 2008

1. URSUS staff wants to know where they can work after May 15. If there is no space may staff work from home?
2. Automate ME will be held on Monday, March 31 from 8 AM to 4 PM at the Augusta Civic Center.
3. URSUS will upgrade to WebPAC Pro in the near future. Users may try a demo version of WebPAC Pro at <http://standalone.iii.com:5631/>
4. Before moving to the next release of Millennium, URSUS will need to have an SSL certificate installed on the OPAC. This provides additional security for transactions that require the patron’s login information. Installing the SSL certificate will require libraries to use the server name, “ursus.maine.edu” rather than the IP address. Using the IP address will work, but it will cause the user to see an error message before he is able to log in to the OPAC.
5. Jonathan Williams attended the VALE Symposium on Open Source ILS products hosted at The College of New Jersey on March 12. Developers of Koha and Evergreen, as well as users of both systems presented talks about the future of Open Source in libraries and Open Source ILS. He learned that: Open Source is not inherently riskier than commercial systems; Cost saving is not the biggest benefit of Open Source, flexibility is; Libraries should hire more technologists to be prepared for the coming changes; Open Sources ILS’s are being developed much more quickly than commercial ones; Users drive Open Source development; Large institutions and consortia are beginning to put more resources behind Open Source development; Evergreen Acquisitions is almost finished.
6. Staff will be attending the IUG in DC April 27 - 30.
7. Marilyn Lutz set up a trial of WebFeat using the Marvel! databases. It will run through the end of April.
8. Scarborough Public Library and Walker Memorial Library are successfully running in Minerva. Unity College is scheduled to go “live” April 1.
9. Minerva Libraries continue to talk about running LibraryThing. The quote to run LibraryThing on Minerva is $8,000/year. The consultant who set it up at Bowdoin College gave an estimate of $36/hour for 4 hours for setup for Minerva.
10. Minerva voted to cap its membership at 63 libraries until negotiations are completed with III. They would like to have at least an 18 month contract extension so members will know the cost of membership in the consortium. The cost will remain $3,000/library/year for the coming fiscal year, but anticipate an increase for the next year.
11. The March Minerva Summit was postponed because of snow, it will now be held April 23. Minerva members are voting on new representatives to the Board and By-Law changes. They have developed a draft procedure for statistics for the public library annual report. The afternoon will be a “Summit” to talk about what is needed to carry the organization forward.
12. Marilyn Lutz held a meeting on March 6 at Colby to discuss the idea of a Registry of Maine Digital Collections. Based on the discussion, those attending concluded that a decision regarding the feasibility of a registry could not be made until the focus of digital collections in Maine is identified. Those attending also felt an urgent need for a search engine that can mine collections encoded in EAD format. Marilyn reported that, “There is a clear understanding of the need for long-term preservation of digital resources, and the expectation that this service will be managed centrally, statewide, as it is simply too expensive for individual endeavors.” Marilyn sent a survey to participants regarding digital collections for discussion at the next meeting.
13. Deb Hensler suggested that the Board may want to consider changing the name of Maine InfoNet, since there are various spellings and the fact that it is tough to brand something with a generic name, shouldn’t the name include the word library or at least a “lib” to make it easier to identify it with libraries.

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TO: Library Directors

FROM: System Database Taskforce

Deb Rollins, Chair

DATE: 3/18/08

SUBJECT: University of Maine Libraries Database Taskforce Recommendations for FY 2009 System Subscriptions

The System Database Taskforce met February 29 to evaluate system-wide database subscriptions and make cuts totaling $23,256.21 to stay within budget. Negotiations with CSA and Wilson were successful in keeping FY09 costs the same as FY08. Also, we were able to get a lower-than-projected quote from EBSCO on the ABC-CLIO history databases, which it now owns.

We recommend the following cancellations, which would be effective as of July 1, 2008:

* + RILM (a music index)
  + Mental Measurements Yearbook
  + Oxford Reference Online

Please see attached spreadsheet for cost details. Orono agreed to pay the balance remaining after the above cancellations are made and other invoices are paid.

**In FY10, the system libraries would need an estimated $262, 621** to maintain the FY09 list of databases, based on an average cost increase of 5% on the FY09 total of $250,115.

A number of other issues were discussed at the meeting, including creation of persistent URLs to link to articles, updates on subscription info provided to directors last year, EBSCO service charges, USM’s preference for online journal resources rather than indexing databases, WebFeat federated searching, and the possibility of adding free digitized books to our catalog from sources such as University of Michigan. For details, see the meeting minutes, attached.