

URSUS Directors Meeting
March 27, 2015
Meeting Notes

Present: Bryce Cundick, Shiva Darbandi, James Jackson Sanborn, Leslie Kelly, Barbara McDade, David Nutty, Jamie Ritter, Joyce Rumery, Marianne Thibodeau, Anna Wong

Cataloging Self-Study Update

- With the current turnover in cataloging positions, the Cataloging Standards Committee decided to conduct a self-study to look at strengths and weaknesses. The Law and Legislative Library and UMPI Library are in the process of submitting their information. All other campuses have submitted.
- The next Cataloging Standards meeting is on May 8th in Bangor. This meeting will include discussion of the self-study and its accuracy. The numbers across each campus have been standardized as much as possible. The numbers reflect some weakness, backlogs that are forming, and strengths on other campuses. The study forced each campus to take the time to gather the data in an in-depth manner.

Discovery Review

- The review day will happen on Friday July 24th, allowing the Reference group to evaluate Primo and EDS in the same day instead of commuting for another day. A computer lab has been reserved in Bangor, and the group has requested lunch.
- The group hopes that a representative from UMA, specifically Jess Isler, can attend. Leslie will discuss this possibility further with Ben.

Collection Committee Report

- Discussion took place about how best to address increasing databases costs and deficits. One option may be to look even more closely at costs per search. MLA is essential to English programs but costly per search. There is overlap with this topic, procurement, and APRIP. A One University model may have significant impacts on student FTE calculation and database costs.
- OCLC still has not uploaded JSTOR records to URSUS. There have been some errors both in the uploading process and past billing. This may be an example of the vendor overpromising. The bill was paid in December, and it's possible that the DDA model will not be used until summer. There is not a sense of when these eBooks will work. Leslie will coordinate with Joyce and Deb Rollins to express our concerns and negotiate for some kind of financial renegotiation to compensate for the issues experienced.
- The Collection Committee discussed the possible benefits of using WorldCat Discovery and the way in which users interface with it. It's just another discovery service. OCLC has always packaged up indexes through their First Search product, but they had the idea to provide First Search content through their WDS layer. As of now the WDS search box isn't optimized properly, muddying the waters more if you're looking for a database. The Directors would like to learn more about some of the features available through WDS

Campus and Committee Reports

- Special Collections
 - Their next meeting is scheduled in August.
- Bangor Public Library
 - On Monday a new committee of the Maine Library Commission will discuss changing the Maine District Library plan. The state is divided into three parts: Portland Public Library in the South, Bangor Public Library in the north, and Maine State Library in the middle. BPL is the back-up library for publics. The plan was initiated in the early 1970s, and it's being reviewed. Ideas for the state and services welcome.
 - BPL is moving along with renovations. The third floor is now totally demolished. The children's department is moving up there. 30,000 volumes have been removed, and the staff is working fast to delete these from the catalog. The Library was closed Mondays and Fridays last month to do the work. There has not been a lot of public feedback yet.
 - Next Friday night Richard Blanco will be speaking at BPL. All 100 tickets were given out.
 - BPL is offering library cards to patrons for those who want to use Flipster. The applications can be mailed, and about two days after getting them in the mail, the BPL Library card will be authenticated. The local library should confirm that the address of the patron is correct. Flipster has 70 periodicals with a broad range for adults.
- University of Maine at Machias
 - An MSL trainer is coming with the technology petting zoo.
 - There will be open workshops on April 8th and 9th for anyone coming by.
 - Suggestion boards have been put up all over the Library.
 - The president found the strategic plan for the Library to be a good vision, but it will mean weeding 30,000 books and finding room for a maker space, 3-d printers, etc.
 - The Planning, Budget, and Advisory Committee will cut 3% from the Library budget (\$2100). Concerns have been expressed to the CAO, and Marianne is meeting with the CFO on Monday.
- Off-Campus Library Services
 - The first portion of ILEAD ran from Monday, March 23rd thru Thursday, March 26th. OCLS represented the only academic librarian participating as a member of an ILEAD team. Their ILEAD team is investigating methods to provide devices and wifi hotspots to residents of Maine. The devices will also include some digital literacy/information literacy component for users.
 - The Service Level Agreement is currently being revised, and it will be ready to share with the Directors shortly.
- University of Maine at Presque Isle
 - Two staff members are going to retire in April, and as a result the Library has requested work study students.
 - There is an intensive weeding project underway.
 - Anna hopes to get approval for a new position in the new fiscal year.
 - Plans for a second floor art gallery in the Library are still underway.

- University of Maine
 - President Hunter's installation and presentation in the afternoon with dinner at Wells Commons were well attended. A foundation was started in her name, raising \$60,000 that evening.
 - The 150 land grant celebrations are ongoing.
 - Admissions are up over last year.
 - The next printing of the *Historical Atlas of Maine* will be in mid-June. The press will be moving to the Library soon from their current little white building.
 - New Reference Librarian Amber Gray is starting April 1st.
 - The Science Reference position has a new search out with 29 applications.
 - There is work on a job description/PDQ for the Public Relations position, which may be blended with work involving the Friends of Fogler Library and an advisory board.
 - Building the new space for the Reference Librarians is a summer project.
 - The Science Center is being repurposed for more student spaces including bean bag chairs.
 - The Library is gearing up for JSTOR journal discards. They will recycle the whole journal. This is a 10 year project as embargos fall off.
 - Digital Commons is going well with interest from multiple departments including Anthropology, Forestry, etc. There is request to host a conference in 2016.
 - Finals week is coming up and hours will be until 2:30 a.m. Opening at 7:30 a.m. Dogs will be returning for finals.
- Maine InfoNet
 - Maine Music Box is in the process of decommissioning content, which will be moved to Digital Commons. This will free up space on some of the legacy servers. Space will also be freed up when content is moved off Windows on Maine. Various processes are being explored in order to find out which will be the most efficient for the move from Maine Music Box to Digital Commons.
 - Different libraries are being moved into different systems (e.g. MECA into Minerva and modeling Maine State Library system to URSUS from Minerva).
 - There is work being done for the new MILLs library, Vose Library.
 - Bills for the Download Library will be arriving over the next two weeks.
 - The LD13 bill to extend library sales tax exemption to groups of libraries passed without comment and through consent with both the House and Senate on Thursday 19th. Now there are 10 days for the governor to sign, veto, or ignore.
- University of Maine at Farmington
 - The Library is meeting with key faculty about information literacy and how the Library can have a more intrinsic approach. Right now it's done through Freshman Orientation. There is a collegial agreement with faculty about inviting the Library, but only a 1/3rd of faculty actually do.
 - Admissions admits are up but not the number of those confirmed coming.
- University of Maine at Fort Kent
 - The Education program went through review with full accreditation and no concerns. Math was added to the curriculum, with it being the first time it was approved
 - Still lots of NEASC work being done and the rolling out a strategic plan.
 - There will be staffing changes in the Library. One staff will move on to Colby College for a Cataloging position.

- The Library is working with Learning Commons, which is attached to the Library, so that students know they can use rooms in Learning Commons and also to cut down some of the noise.
- University of Southern Maine
 - New President Dr. Harvey Kesselman, from Stockton State in New Jersey, is starting July 1 but already polycoming with folks.
 - Space issues impacting Glickman Library are continuing.
 - New Director of Online Teaching and Learning will start on Monday, taking some of the work off David's plate.
 - David testified to the Joint Education Committee in the of House for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, allowing Maine Colleges and Universities to offer online courses and programs through state lines without lengthy paperwork. Glen Cummings organized it.

Chat

- MSL would like holistically to see it happen.
- BPL first tried it in the 90s, but they had to have someone sitting at the desk. If a text message comes someone might not be able to answer it right away when patrons expect immediate response.
- Database issues might make this difficult.
- Some students use it from within the Library. Some students connect directly with a specific reference librarian and don't use chat.
- USM uses Springshare, so it would be ideal if there was a way to participate without having to get out of Springshare.
- Ask the reference group to evaluate three chat services: LibaryH3lp, RefChater, and Springshare. Leslie will ask Nancy to have the group review these products with the goal that we're going to be offering state-wide services. We will work on other concerns and talk through them.

Procurement

- Met with Procurement on the 16th and began with the review of the letter passed on to Faculty Senate from procurement. It gave examples and next steps. There was discussion about concerns about library contracts vs. license agreements.
- Issues were addressed in the spreadsheet with funds that come into the Orono budget but are not Orono funds.
- Innovate, Digital Commons, EBSCO are very much services and not straight content.
- The more information that can be added to the spreadsheet by other libraries, the better. Each library should take the sheet, check the language, and add any language that will serve an educational purpose (for those outside the group that are reading the spreadsheet and unfamiliar with libraries).
- Leslie will work with Deb to highlight things like the EBSCO spend for the state a bit better and other ways the spend is broken up. Also add some narrative such as stories like BPL's savings for Flipster because of EBSCO expenses.
- Highlight the domino effect and the logic behind what was done. Impact federal funding and how we use it as a match. Legislatively mandated, some funding is specifically set aside for database funding.
- The next meeting with procurement is April 7th at 9:00 a.m. By April 6th at 5:00 p.m. libraries should turn in their updates to the spreadsheet to Leslie.

May Meeting

- It has been rescheduled for May 22nd.

APRIP

Deb and Joyce were asked to attend a committee that is asked to offer courses across multiple campuses. They were asked about the costs involved with providing databases for multiple campuses.

NEASC

There were some concerns from NEASC about the centralization model for the system leading to some campuses being noncompliant. In March the chancellor meet with the presidents about a single accreditation. They are getting an advisory opinion from NEASC.

David and Joyce were named to a committee for Standard 7 with Dick Thompson. In two weeks a response will go forward as the letter of intent and request for an advisory opinion to the NEASC commission. The major concerns with Standard 7 involve the budget, sharing of acquisitions, and sharing of services. Joyce will share Standard 7 for feedback with the group.