URSUS Directors Meeting
March 7, 2014, Meeting Notes

Present: Tom Abbott, John Barden, Bryce Cundick, Chris Hepler, James Jackson Sanborn,
                Leslie Kelly, Linda Lord, Barbara McDade, Ana Noriega, David Nutty,
                Joyce Rumery, Marianne Thibodeau, JoAnne Wallingford

                Frank Roberts was our special guest at lunch.

Academic Video Online (VAST)

The cost for this service $16,000/year for the UMS libraries. It is no longer funded centrally and would have to be the responsibility of the libraries if we want to continue it. It has videos that are not available in FOD so the loss of this service will be a problem for some users, both faculty and students. We have VAST usage from Tim Pellett, but we could not tell the comparison with FOD.

The VAST contact ends May 2014. Individual films may be purchased by campuses. We may be able to work with University College to load and stream videos for classes.

Should we do an overlap analysis for VAST and FOD from Serials Solution?

After discussion we will not continue the subscription to VAST, but we will be revisiting acquiring access to this resource.

Cataloging Standards Committee

The committee recommends that the database be cleaned up before we migrate to Sierra. Some of recommendations:

- Update order and vendor records
- Outstanding holds
- Lost and on-the-fly records
- Orphaned review files
- Serial vendor records

Possible Cataloging Committee retreat – the Committee would like to have more opportunities like the RDA training. They would like to have the meetings or workshops to include their staffs and maybe go beyond the URSUS libraries.

RDA – the Committee decided to move toward cataloging in RDA across the URSUS libraries. Each library needs a subscription to the RDA toolkit. As a first step they will do all original cataloging in RDA.

Migration to Sierra

The migration to Sierra will take place take place for the URSUS libraries by the end of July 2014. To make this process go well for the MIN staff it is recommended that an FAQ be created to answer common questions. Also questions will be funneled through the chairs of the URSUS committees.

Clean-up of the catalog will be done by each library per their ability.

Maine Library Association

There is a proposal that each library pays for membership for all staff. The cost has not been finalized, but may be 10.00 per staff member. MLA would get a list of all staff and their responsibilities at each library (circulation, cataloging, etc.). MLA is down to about 300 members. This would help the Association increase membership.

The November 2014 conference is being planned.

Digital Public Library of America

The Maine State Library is taking the lead on this project. The metadata of the digital collections in the state need to be sent according to DPLA standards, it has to be normalized at the state level. The collections are may include more than those that are in the state's Digital Commons and also have to be collections (not single items) and have to meet the collection date set by the DPLA. MSL staff have explored what other states are doing to add collections to the DPLA.

Encore demo?

Encore is the discovery layer created by III. It is a catalog focused discovery layer, not article focused. It is a better catalog interface than the OPAC. If the library is also an EDS customer it would be come a true discover layer because they talk to each other. It would be better to have Encore on top of INNReach. Sierra will not bring changes to the OPAC. Our only alternate discovery would be two products EDS and Encore.

The EDS demo for MARVEL will be available later in the year.

This will be on the agenda for next year after we have completed the migration to Sierra.

Future of the URSUS Libraries

The consistency of the URSUS group is important. We have been praised for our collaborations and other groups/units have been directed to emulate our collaborative work.

We make efforts to work together and there is value in meeting as a group. That is why we do a retreat each year.

We have an obligation - the centrality of the libraries to the academic mission and student success requires an informed leadership. It is insulting and wrong to have someone walk in to run a library who does not know what a library does, does not have the library education, etc.

We need to state our professional concerns. This is fundamental, not a turf war. We should not have to defend our existence at a university.

We need to communicate our concerns and make certain that users know about this issue. Dr. Hunter has been contacted, but we need to do more. It was a discussion at the Maine InfoNet Board and the Board will also be communicating concerns about this trend.

Ben Treat will be representing Augusta. We do not know about Farmington.

Maine InfoNet Update

The Maine InfoNet offices are expanding by incorporating the next three rooms in the second suite. This will give each staff member a room. The work should be complete by the end of break.

The search for the position funded by the Maine State Library is closing soon. All interviews have been held.

Maine InfoNet's 501c3 organization has applied for a grant that would give James the ability to hire temporary staff to help with the migration and would also fund an endowment.

The migration dates are still tentative for all libraries, they are still waiting for some communication from III. The URSUS server is planned to be switched over at the end of July or beginning of August. Then the University of New England followed by Minerva or Portland Public Library.

They may host Portland Public Library and the University of New England as well as URSUS and Minerva.

The date was shared with the Reference Committee.

The FAQ on the MIN site should give a timeline and milestones.