

**URSUS Directors Meeting  
October 25, 2013, Meeting Notes**

Present: Sofia Birden (for Leslie Kelly), Shiva Darbandi, Jess Isler (for Tom Abbott), James Jackson Sanborn, Linda Lord, Barbara McDade, David Nutty, Frank Roberts, Joyce Rumery, Marianne Thibodeau, JoAnne Wallingford

We welcomed new members Marianne Thibodeau and Shiva Darbandi.

Discovery options, the OPAC, and where do we go now

We discussed discovery and possible directions we might take for the future of access. There are multiple options for discovery, but none have all the options or access we want. We also do not really know if this is a solution that our users will accept and use. If it is not used we are wasting our money. But we also know that users are not going to the databases we have provided and we need a solution to that problem. Google and Google Scholar are still the discovery tools our users often use. We have been working against this trend for years, but we have not halted the decline. So should we go along with this and understand that we will be teaching Google searching.

Summon is article centric and requires work by each library to implement the functionality. When we began with this product we did not spend the time needed with it. In addition the five campuses using one instance was a problem for the staffs and the users. We are all now beginning to implement it more fully, but is this what we need?

The discovery search for MARVEL will be changing to Ebsco, they will try it for a year. The reasons for the change are fiscal and local staff time.

We need a process to work on this. We will create a Task Force to look at Summon and other possibilities and what will be the most effective for us. Frank and Joyce will create a charge for this group. We will want a director on the Task Force, but the committee has not been named.

Staffing issue discussion

We discussed staffing libraries with only student employees during some of the hours we are open. This was raised because of the fiscal reality of less staffing available for all hours the libraries are open. Some felt concern that even with experienced student assistants that this might be a problem, the students are not compensated for the responsibility as the staff and security may be an issue. For some libraries there is a security staff that can be called upon to help and the differences in the location of some libraries may help make the decision. If there are

security concerns the library should have regular staff. One possibility is to have the library be only card access after a designated time. The University of New England example was referenced although it was noted that the two libraries are not in downtown locations.

#### Reference Committee Tutorial Committee update

Sofia reported on the work of the committee that is creating tutorials for all of the libraries. They are discussing what can be built that will work for all of the libraries. They have two lengths, one is three to five minutes for instruction and the other type is an under one minute how to type of presentation. They already have five to six tutorials produced. They want a YouTube account for these videos that will be used by all of the URSUS libraries. The directors approved this to go ahead.

They will have subgroup vet all of the tutorials before posting. They will also have a plan for making certain that the tutorials do not get dated or contain misinformation because of the age of the tutorial.

#### Update on the University of Maine at Augusta Director position

David Nutty is on the search committee and they plan on interviews after the first of the year. The intention is for an overlap with Tom.

#### Maine InfoNet Directors Report and III Update

James described the ongoing search to fill the vacancy in Maine InfoNet.

The UMS libraries now have the campus logon option. The barcode option is still available. When the new logon was first made available it was used heavily.

A large print material type was created for URSUS, it had never been added before.

Quotes for floating collections were requested from Innovative. This has been done successfully at other libraries. There are some webinars available that may give us more information. This will be an interesting discussion and will bring in space and other collection issues.

There is still work underway to work with Innovative on a new ILS. A recent meeting with the ARRCs determined that Portland Public Library will join URSUS. There is discussion about Minerva and how libraries might be put into groupings of public/school and academic/special. This does not mean a change in the Minerva organization, it would be a change in the groups for the MIN staff. There also has to be a solution for the smaller libraries.

The Committee that is working on the letter to Innovative about the new ILS and the pricing structure is James Jackson Sanborn, Dick Thompson, David Nutty, and Clem Guthro. They will next meet on October 31. They will bring the Maine InfoNet Board a document for vote on November 4. The plan is to present the letter to Innovative by November 8. The Innovative staff will be asked to come to Maine to meet.

#### Maine Policy Review – next steps plan

Joyce and Linda Silka are planning trips around the state to talk about the Libraries and Information Maine Policy Review issue. The intention is to record users comments about their libraries or their library experiences and then post them on the Digital Commons. This is still in the planning stage, but the plan is to go to Southwest Harbor first.

#### Future meetings

November 8 - we will use this meeting for a single topic, to determine a plan for the meeting with Dr. Hunter.

December 20 – regular meeting at BPL

Dr. Hunter will be asked about meeting with us on one of our scheduled meetings dates, January 10, February 14, or March 7.

#### Award presentation

Linda Lord presented the MLA Journalist of the Year Award to Russ Van Arsdale.