

URSUS Library Directors

May 23, 2014

Meeting Notes

Present: Tom Abbott, John Barden, Bryce Cundick, Shiva Darbandi, James Jackson Sanborn, Leslie Kelly, Linda Lord, Barbara McDade, David Nutty, Joyce Rumery, Kim Siebold, Marianne Thibodeau

Our guest, Michelle Lisi, gave us an overview of the virtual writing center, <http://learn.maine.edu/vawlt/>. The center is available to students throughout the system.

Database purchases – collaborative and individual

For the UMS shared databases – we were all willing to close the gap in the funding this year, but it is not sustainable. Also the spring of the year is a hard time to find extra money. The Directors do understand that the plan from the Collection Committee was a way to keep the database, but we need to have an earlier report from the committee if possible.

We have discussed a 1% contribution from all of our acquisitions to support an URSUS-wide ebooks collection. Both UMA and OCLS are committed to the 1%. At UMF databases are more important than ebooks, so there is a concern about the money going to ebooks.

The 1% idea began with our discussions regarding more integration of the libraries, we already collaborate on databases and services. We are responding to the Chancellors comments that we need to integrate. So we are looking for ways to go further.

We had discussed an URSUS-wide PDA using the 1% and maybe implementing the Connect NY strategy (www.connectny.info). We will also check the Orbis Cascade strategy (www.orbiscascade.org).

Some believed that we should not get hung up on the type of resources, so why ebooks instead of databases. The reason this discussion began was that Fogler Library has become the strongest monograph collection within the UMS, but with every ebook purchased it may be that title is no longer available for lending via the Request Function. We need to try to get a way to have the ebooks be available for other users.

If we committed a percentage of our acquisitions budget to the collections committee with enough extra for an ebook collection we could work on both issues

We can look at databases, but maybe also non-content resources. We already have Learning Express. Maybe we should also have Lynda.com (<http://www.lynda.com/>). The MSL will be providing Lynda.com to the public libraries.

We will ask the Collection Committee to update their priority list, but they do not need to get prices.

Maybe we will begin with the 1% and then go to 5% in the next year for both databases and ebooks. We need to think globally about URSUS, this is not just for each library. The public librarians came up with the idea of a kickstarter program – libraries would all commit to a product and if the money was raised and committed for multiple years it would be purchased for the group or state.

Marianne and Joyce will work on a charge for the Collections Committee.

Continuing discussion on the integration of services

Floating collections. The BPL staff liked this idea. Innovative has software that would for this idea, there is a float determiner table. It indicates locations and item types that can float. It also maintains the original owning library. Each library would have to maintain shelves for Library of Congress and Dewey collections.

This topic is on the agenda for the Circulations Heads retreat this summer.

This will not be pursued until well after the Sierra migration since it will involve the Maine InfoNet staff to create the determiner table. We may start with a pilot with just a few URSUS libraries.

Cataloging. We also discussed the possibility of cataloging as an integrated service. But there is a concern that if the libraries do not have cataloging done at each library the libraries may lose those positions. There is a need though for more work to be done at libraries from copy cataloging to original cataloging. Sky River, which we will have available for the Maine InfoNet Library System may help.

We will begin by asking the Cataloging committee to update their specialist list. Bryce will take this to the committee.

Reference chat. We will send this to the Reference Committee to see if there is a single vendor to use or if that is needed. We also need to determine the hours already offered and how the information could be shared. We also need to know how to deal with questions from users that require the use of resources at a particular library or a chat from a user in a course from another campus. Joyce will ask the committee to put this on their agenda.

Special collections preservation. This is an area identified by the Special Collections Committee for integration. There is interest in Special Collections since we have materials that are hidden from the public unless we do finding aids or other guides for users. It would be even better if some collections could be scanned and made available via the catalog or other means.

Tutorials

The committee has requests for about 30 to 40 tutorials. Those that have been created are very good and the libraries should point to these or post on their web pages. The Directors thank the Tutorial Committee for their work

Discovery systems

The directors wanted a discovery system because our users want a single box for searching, the various databases have multiple searching processes, it is a way for a user to get to a database they may not know about and we are spending money on databases that are not being used

We are in the last year of Summon. UMA, USM, and UMFK are using Summon 2.0. It is an upgrade that has been problematic in its implementation. Other campuses are using the earlier version or not using it at all. We do believe there is a need for some type of discovery. The MARVEL databases will have a trial of EDS soon. Worldcat has a product. III has Encore which searches the Ebsco databases. Google Scholar should also be part of the mix. We have Summon through the end of the calendar year, so we have a few months to make a decision.

We will send this to the Reference Committee and ask them to explore options and make a recommendation. They should also explore usability studies at the libraries, this would likely be a fall semester task. We will refer to the Marshall Breeding paper, Discovery Product Functionality, Library Technology Reports. Jan/Feb2014, Vol. 50 Issue 1, p5-32.

Joyce will send the request to the reference Committee

Maine Library Commission letter about library leadership

The Maine library Commission sent a letter to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor about library leadership within the UMS. The Directors did not hear back from Dr. Hunter regarding the letter we sent.

Maine InfoNet Report

Lynn Uhlman is the new Systems Training and Support Librarian.

The Maine Shared Collections Strategy grant is ending. There had been grant funding to do Print On Demand, that funding has ended. The question before us is should there be a cost amount within the URSUS record for the POD offer for some titles.

James sent a link to us that will be the FAQ open to the Maine libraries about migration and other aspects of the change to Sierra.

June 18 – one day of downtime

Trial early to mid July

Live at the end of July – another day of downtime

During this period there will be no major record loads, but staff can still catalog. III staff said to not worry about clean-up projects. Some clean-up work is being done, but if it is not finished it will migrate along with the rest.

Library reports:

Bangor Public Library. They may move on August 11 for one year while the renovation and addition work is underway. If they do not move the construction work will take much longer.

Linda Oliver Is the new Head of Reference

Patrick Layne is now Head of Technical Services.

The library's budget has been planned for a .96% increase, but the City Council is still doing some cuts.

Maine State Library. The early childhood literacy position interviews will be held soon.

The State of Maine documents are very popular on the Digital Commons.

The library is positioning to be the on ramp for the Digital Public Library of America (<http://dp.la/>).

On May 29 Maureen Sullivan will be at the District Spring Council meeting.

Janet McKenney was named to a national training position

University of Maine at Farmington. The library now has a co-manager model.

University of Maine at Aususta. The writing center and the student computing lab will be moving into the library.

University of Maine. The Special Collections Department will have a new librarian starting this summer. Interviews for the Business Reference Librarian will be beginning soon. The library staff is working on a discard of bound journals duplicated in JSTOR.

Retreat

Our retreat will be at the University of Maine at Machias. Marianne is making arrangements for us. This retreat will be Monday and Tuesday, July 28-29. We will arrive in the afternoon on Monday and then a full day meeting on Tuesday. This is the meeting when we plan our work for the coming year.