Present: Tom Abbott, James Jackson Sanborn, Leslie Kelley, Angelynn King, Linda Lord, Barbara McDade, David Nutty, Frank Roberts, Joyce Rumery, JoAnne Wallingford

Budget

We discussed the realities of our situations regarding budgets and how we could help mitigate the impact by working together in different ways or looking at what we buy and assessing the importance of those purchases.

We have the eleven libraries document nearing completion, where should it go after it is done? We need to set up a meeting with the new Chancellor to discuss our collaborations and our need for a larger budget to purchase more databases for the UMS campuses.

We continue to whittle away at operating and acquisitions to find savings at our libraries. There are some group commitments that are beginning to add up to be a substantial part of the budget per library. Something has to give, there is no room for any problems that may arise. There will be impacts to acquisitions and maybe no more commitments to shared software. We need to have a way to opt out of services. Maybe we look at the concept of service level agreements.

We are buying add-ons that we need to make URSUS work, both Summon and Serial Solutions, are in use because we do not have what we need from Innovative. If we go to WorldShare there are products that would replace the add-ons we now buy. WorldShare has signed on the first ARL – the University of Delaware. At our next meeting we can ask Sarah Campbell to give us an update on Portland's experience. We do need to keep in mind that a change to a new system will overlap with the old system, so we will need to consider funding for that period of time.

We should also remain open to other systems, particularly Evergreen and Fulfillment. WMS is the most appropriate product, but not to the exclusion of Evergreen at this point.

What can we do to make a difference to our users? Maybe Orono is the collections library and all others are service points. How do we make services and collections that will work for all? It is harder to advocate for a library if the collection is not local. The library has to be a center, not a warehouse for collections. Any change we make cannot be incremental, it has to be radical. We need to talk about libraries differently and we need to raise the visibility of the library.

Where is the virtual library in our discussions? We should advocate for a virtual library with the Chancellor, one that would be governed by the URSUS directors.   Hopefully a digital library would be funded out of a different pocket. Maine InfoNet struggles with the definition of a digital library of Maine.   The digital library is a hodgepodge collection of incomplete

information that does not help the library. We need a digital library definition that can be acceptable. What do we call it and how do we fund it? We need to meet the user where they are, to be there when they need the information.

Regarding the Digital Commons, maybe we are better off cutting journals and investing in the Commons. We would be filling our role more effectively.

Collections committee

They will be meeting to discuss databases. Some campuses will survey their faculty to help assess their needs. The committee will be asked to collect a list of all of the databases that are purchased by the libraries.

Learning Express

The funding to purchase this resource came from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). It is only available through public libraries, this is because of the cost. To use the resource we need to register as a public library user.

WorldCat Local

We selected April for the trial of WorldCat local. We need criteria and questions for the trial. Joyce will ask about the trial length, how it will be displayed, and if it will include databases.

Maine InfoNet Report

Library Anywhere

James has just received the login to start setting it up. Albie Dunn will contact individual libraries about the set-up. James is paying for the first year, the second year will be 700.00 per library. This cost is by location, not by campus. Machias has opted out.

Library Interface Committee

The committee has made changes per the charge. There is another option for us to consider. We can use the out of the box interface which is cleaner and easier to maintain.

Reading history

This function requires that the user opt-in to have their circulation record available. If it is turned on it will be from the date of the opt-in. Access will be through user services.

There was a discussion about privacy and whether the users should be warned about the possible subpoena of their records. It was noted in the discussion that the database users can create and save lists of material and there is no warning.

James will check to see if turning on this function means that all records are saved, but only those of users who opted in are shown.

Saving lists

This option would allow the created lists to be saved. James will turn on this function and get us the details.

Portal

With the portal there is the ability to log-in using a campus ID instead of the barcode. This will allow users to get access to the databases before they get their barcodes linked. A question was raised about authentication, if this was as good as maintaining our own process.

The access, when not using the campus ip, will be either through the barcode or campus ID, both options will be available.

Summon

James reported on the usage for the three instances of Summon.   There was a short discussion on the incorporation into reference. Some libraries are using it more than others. The MARVEL instance of Summon may be an issue, there appeared to be some odd returns that did not match.

If the WorldCat Local trial is successful and we see that their development meets our needs it may mean a change from Summon in the near future.

Best Practices conversations

The Reference Committee is working on their retreat.

We will ask Access Services to report at our April 20 meeting. This group had made recommendations that may need an answer from us. They needed a change in the way the notices were handled at the Innovative end, that issue has been resolved.

Eleven Libraries document

Still needs some work and corrections.

Other reports

Bangor Public Library has been told that the budget is flat, but they have had a 22% increase in

healthcare costs. They also need a repair for the dome and skylight, this will be a 2.8 million campaign for that repair. Since it needs to be done soon one plan is to borrow the money from the endowment. This will reduce their acquisitions.

The Bangor Daily News will give a set of bound volumes to the library, they will be put in the Last Copy Center.   Should these materials be digitized?

Maine State Library is participating in the Internet Archive for digitization and the Digital Lending Program. Linda had sent this information out to use earlier.

The question about the status of ARES was raised. It had been too expensive for us to consider at first, now with negotiations that USM has been working on there may be a reasonable price. It would be three instances of the license. The cost is now $6,680 per instance. We need to compare that to the Docutek cost.

Future Meetings:

All are Fridays, at Bangor Public Library

March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15