University of Maine System

Library Directors’ Council

**Meeting Notes**

Friday August 20, 2004

**Attending:** Rumery, Roberts, McDade, Nichols, Lutz, Gallucci, Johnson, Wells, Nutty, Lowe, Abbott, Greenlaw, and Curtis

**Budget update**:  Tom reported on his plans for the August 25th meeting with CFO Yastramski, UNET Director Dube, and Vice Chancellor Nunez.  He reviewed the handout materials and thankfully David corrected another error in the notes which has been corrected. Tom was also asked to alert Joanne about areas of concerns on linking URSUS with the new Enterprise System.  FOLLOW UP: Meeting went well and the proposed budget for this year has been approved and funded as presented.  Next year’s and future budgets will be addressed as part of the UMS request for funding.  More later on the details.

**PUC and e-rate discussion:**Gary reported that the PUC will have more requests for funding next year than they have money.  This will impact the $500,000 used for statewide databases shared by UMS and the state library and its clients. For FY 06, we are expecting a percentage reduction, and then in FY 07 no funding.  Much of the problem relates to the drawing down of the escrow account to help pay for laptops.  Possible solutions include changing the e-rate formula from .05 to .08, but that will be difficult.  Alterative solutions include eliminating the statewide databases and/or seeking other funding sources.

It was also noted that if the general public is unaware of the databases and see limited value in them, there will be less support in the legislature, therefore one of our tasks is to make sure the public, as well as our students and employees are knowledgeable. David reported on hearing from folks from the Virtual Library of Virginia on the topic of gaining public support for statewide library efforts.  We will work on a plan for our version of gaining support at the next meeting.  Gary will continue to advise us on what he finds out at the statehouse.

**Tax cap impact:**It appears that many citizens view supporting the tax cap initiative as a way to send the legislature a message about taxes being too high in Maine.”  There is a general feeling that a positive vote is inevitable.  In a worst case scenario after approval of the tax cap, a library or presumably a town or city would become “bankrupt” and the state would take over.  Then based on need and politics, could raise state taxes such as sales tax to cover the expenses of the local bankrupt agency or town.

**Out of State Students:**After a brief discussion, the consensus was that libraries in the UM System should check out materials directly to the student and mail them to their home addresses with the understanding that the student would return the material by a mail method that includes capacity for tracking.  Susan Lowe will be contacting all libraries to see if you have questions about the process.

**Barbara Herzog from Innovative Interfaces Inc**, our library management system vendor spent a good part of Thursday the 19th at UM with Laura going over issues and problems Laura had identified.  This proved to be useful for both.  At our meeting Laura guided the discussion with Barbara and the Council, covering the issues raised and probable and real solutions.  Barbara praised Laura’s work on the III software for UMS and acknowledged that our “old” system was relatively unique and took a special person on our end and on the III end.  A few highlights:

·        It was agreed that Barbara would pursue a special “access code” or similar option so Laura could immediately be connected to a Help Desk person who knows our unique system

·        We were offered consultative training for Laura from III to help us in the managing of our system (cost $3000 for first day then $2000)

·        The new Millennium System and a related piece of software purchased by Barbara (via grant) will provide local statistics on all aspects of use

·        Some discussion on moving staff from text based system to Millennium;

o       Functions of new release are more consolidated & ultimately more useful

o       It’s a much more powerful tool

o       We may have some training issues on how to use it

o       We want to train to motivate folks to move to the new system, not force them

o       But at some point soon support for the text based system is going away

·        Barbara offered to return as need arises

**DOCUTEK :**We agreed not to purchase a 3 year license up front to save 10%.  All agreed the small savings wasn’t worth having to give something else up this year.

**PsychInfo:**We reviewed the problems created by moving from EBSCO’s to Silver Platter’s version of PsychInfo.  The change happened at the last minute of negotiations and included EBSCO reneging on a bid, and us having to go to another vendor to maintain the service.  Switching vendor allowed us to purchase the license for approximately the same amount we had planned on -- $7000 under what was requested by the original vendor.  Problems included the fact that the front end for Silver Platter’s software is different and requires an extra step to find the same information available in the EBSCO version. We agreed that in the future in such an instance, to set up a conference call and provide as much information about the change as is available

**PeopleSoft and URSUS:**the message has been sent to and heard by CFO Yastramski (discussed in meeting with Tom) that there are URSUS interface issues that need to be worked out within the new enterprise system related to: posting of library fines and lost book replacement costs, as well as removing them once the bill is paid or the book returned.  Managing holds on registration and other services based on money owed to the library is also an issue.  It was noted that a common System loan rule would probably be necessary to make this work. Laura will be the point person on this. More on that as it develops.

**URSUS Update:**The Maine State Library has “brought up” the requestor function for all of its loan-able materials.  Progress is being made by Wei Dai on the Endeavor/Encompass project with 20 more links made by Muse Global. Content Café has been purchased by Barbara with grant money for URSUS.  This will allow the book jacket to be displayed, along with a summary, reviews, and the table of contents of a title found in the URSUS catalog. More than 4 million books are in the database.

**Fall and spring meeting schedule:**It was agreed that the UMS Library Council would meet every other month unless pressing business required additional meetings.  Tom willask Mary Cadyto propose in-person meeting dates and times for October, December, February, and April.  We agreed also that a phone or video conference call could be called at anytime to deal with pressing matters.

**Submitted by:**T**om Abbott**, **Chair**

**PS**: Everyone appreciated the excellent lunch menu and thanks Mary for her wise choices.