University of Maine System and URSUS

**Library Directors’ Council**

Held at Bangor Public Library

**Friday December 15, 2006**

**Meeting Notes**

**W/ URSUS report included**

Please send corrections to tabbott@maine.edu and mary.cady@umit.maine.edu

Corrections in red

**Attending:** Sarah Campbell (PPL), Chris Knott, Lynn Randall, Tom Abbott, Joyce Rumery, Sharon Johnson, Greg Curtis, David Nutty, Jonathan Williams, Linda Lord, Frank Roberts, Marianne Thibodeau, Susan Lowe, and Karl Beiser

**1.**   No additional changes on the meeting notes from our November meeting

**2.**   Brief discussion on problems with Article Linker – Jonathan will contact Serials Solutions and report back – Reminder: Let Jonathan and Marilyn know if there are problems with software functionality as quickly as possible.

**3.**   LibQUAL Update: David reported that he had arranged a meeting with the campus/agency liaisons to take place following the Directors’ meeting (Notes attached)

**4.**   Update on UMS Tutorials – Susan reported that she has two volunteers to update the current tutorials to make them current and more interactive  -- thanks

**5.**   MULS – the MULS link will be replaced with the link to the new database supporting external serials

**6.**   Presentation by Mary Sue Iddings from OCLC: Mary Sue provided a very interesting overview and demo on the new OCLC WorldCat Collection Analysis tool available to participating libraries. Handout provides a summary of benefits and features.  Major benefits include:

·        a onetime batchload of our URSUS holdings to update each library’s holdings in OCLC,

·       Ability to compare individual collections with other UMS campus libraries, national peers and/or authoritative lists to identify overlaps, and areas needing attention

·       Clarify where to prioritize collection development expenditures for individual libraries and/or the System as a whole

Costs would have to be paid by individual campuses as the URSUS budget is already over committed. **Recommendation:**Directors asked that the proposal be taken to the Collections Sub-committee with a request that we have their recommendation in time for the January 26 meeting.

**7.**   Maine Info Net: Karl reported on the rapid progress being made by the Board on the major priorities for this inaugural year.  The Maine Info Net team is fully staffed for the first time with the hiring of Karl’s replacement.  Jonathan and Marilyn have proposed the creation of a new “aggregated index” that would index our resources using metadata – like Google – allowing more comprehensive searching by the end user. Congratulations on developing the concept.  Karl points out that refreshing URSUS holdings within OCLC (through the complementary update) would make Google books/scholar searching much more effective and useful when it came to linking to nearby libraries holding the items.

**8.**   Recommendation on Readers Guide to Periodical Literature: Tom was asked to pursue group purchase quote and to determine if the quoted cost was just the retrospective index or full-text as well and report back

**9.**   **Difficult Community Patrons –** Frank has begun requiring that 15 year olds and younger individuals be accompanied by a parent or guardian when using the UMF library. Tom will send UMA’s new “Acceptable Behavior” policy that was developed using USM and ALA’s policies as models –

**10.**         **URSUS Report**: Jonathan updated us on the items below (See attached report for details):

·       URSUS Server

·       Maine Serials List

·       Title level holds

·       Portland Public Library

**11.**         **State Library and Legislative Issues:**Linda Lord (welcome) is very busy with MSLN grant applications for connectivity noting that many sites have maxed out their current bandwidth and need more.  They were able to hire a project manager for the $6 million MSLN project – thankfully – A Blaine House conference is taking shape for end of next year on the topic of “the future of public libraries.” A new set of public library standards are also on the works. And finally congratulations are in order as Linda is chairing the national e-rate task force. The Senate President is endorsing a $2.7 million package over 2 years to enhance Maine libraries.

**12.**         **Library Assistants III:**Susan distributed a packet of materials collected in her research on creating a new LA III position for all UMS Libraries.  The **packet includes**: the current LA II generic description, a summary of site-specific duties assigned to these same LA II’s across the UMS libraries, and a draft statement describing the work of LA III’s from online resources. Each director is asked to:

·       Review the draft LA III information with department heads

·       Edit and improve as needed

·       Insert educational and experience levels

·       Send this all to Susan Lowe slowe@maine.edu

                    Great Job Susan – thanks very much

**13.**         **Other:**

·       Tom reported on his recent orientation and brunch for tour guides – idea from Frank at UMF – Tom was encouraged to follow up as the guides do seem to forget things quickly

·       Frank – extended hours during exam weeks being well used and the Kite Runner is the campus book of the year – to include a kite flying festival

·       Lynn – new legislature is in place and leadership is strong and experienced – looking forward to a good session.  Her digitization project with news clippings is underway with articles from 2004 completed and articles from 2005 nearly done. She said the project is far from being done and they continue to work on it.

·       Joyce – pod casts are up and running, pending budget cuts and inability to fill open positions is making things very difficult

·       Chris – Law has a hiring freeze as well and no budget loaded yet

·       David – 8 FTE positions open 2 professional and 6 classified – now working on exemptions for mission critical positions. Information Literacy Librarian will be in place in a few weeks congratulations – and finally the old warehouse between the library and the rest of USM is coming down!!!

·       Greg – VPAA search is underway – new publication Journal of Contemporary Philosophy is operational, and two new programs for UMPI (local history and a Wabanaki minor) are currently in the approval process.

·       Susan – She is published in the Journal of Library Administration – congratulations, recently presented an online program for the Sloan Foundation to overflow crowds from around the world – congratulations again

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**LIBRARY DIRECTORS’ ITEMS FOR THE YEAR –**this is the beginning of the year’s agenda – feel free to edit as needed

·       Fine policy for future

·       LibQual – ongoing

·       Decision on continuing Docutek

·       Career ladder system for MLS librarians – system-wide

·       Library Assistants III for support staff – sent to directors for work

·       Cooperative collection development consistent with goals of UMS Strategic Plan

·       Analyzing “avoidable” collection duplication

·       library buying items to be shared instead of each purchasing them, and/or,

·       sharing campus library purchase funds to purchase shared central database or single item to be shared

·       Last copy center if possible and if not – planned sharing via cooperative collection development

·       Digitizing bound publications where we control copyright

**THIS YEAR’S MEETING SCHEDULE:**

All at Bangor Public Library – scheduled as follows:

          January 26

          February – NO MEETING

          March 9

          April 13

May 25

URSUS System Report

Presented to URSUS Library Directors

December 15, 2006

1. **URSUS Server Upgrade** – The new server has been ordered, and the migration is scheduled to take place on January 10, 2007.  This migration may require some downtime on that day, though we hope to keep it to a minimum.  The migration was scheduled on January 10 in order to minimize disruption to campus libraries.

1. **Maine Serials List**– The users of the Maine Serials List, which is the replacement for MULS, met on December 1st and formed a users’ committee.  The attendees of the meeting represented a broad cross-section of libraries in Maine, including academic, public, health, and school libraries.  The users were very pleased with the new application.

1. **Title Level Holds in OPAC** – I have been in conversation with the helpdesk at III in order to determine the best model to use for the change to our holds.  After last month’s circulation heads meeting, I believe I have identified the major concerns about moving to at title-level model, and I am confident that we can address them with a system-level, or copy returned soonest, hold.

* 1. Renewals not allowed – I am still waiting for confirmation from III on this point, but it appears that a system-level hold can be set up so that renewals are still allowed for patrons currently borrowing the item.
	2. Recalls – System level holds do not recall currently checked out items.
	3. Long waits for items – A system level hold does not wait for a specific item.  Instead, it will place a hold on the next available item.  For titles with multiple items in the system, this should shorten the wait.  Also, patrons will be able to see the due dates on currently charged items, which will give them a rough estimate of the expected wait before placing the hold.
	4. Local Patrons – Local patrons can be given priority for locally held items.

In addition to the system-level hold, we have the option of using title priority paging, as Karl mentioned last month.  This model would address most of those concerns as well.  I am working with III to determine which model will be more appropriate for our system.

1. **Portland Public Library** – I had the opportunity to meet with several people from the Portland Public Library on November, 28.  During the meeting, we were able to identify a number of concerns and work out what the expectations will be for the migration.  I believe that we have addressed most of the concerns about cataloging and circulation policies.  We are inviting representatives from PPL to our next cataloging and circulation meetings to address outstanding concerns.

I am working with a representative from III to determine the costs of expanding URSUS to include a new scope, a new set of create list slots, and other additions that would be required to add a new library.

Submitted 12/15/06 by Jonathan Williams