URSUS Library Directors Council

Bangor Public Library

February 12, 2010

Meeting Notes

Present:               Tom Abbott, Donna Bancroft, Venice Bayrd, Greg Curtis, Leslie Kelly, Angelynn King, Linda Lord, Barbara McDade, David Nutty, Frank Roberts, Joyce Rumery, James Jackson Sanborn

Absent:                John Barden, Steve Podgajny, Chris Knott

The group welcomed Venice Bayrd.  Venice is a Library Systems Manager with Maine InfoNet.

We discussed the order of the day and began work on best practices.  We acknowledged that we would not be able to get through the full agenda and determined that we will have to meet more often on occasion to complete our work.

Cataloging Best Practices

We discussed the centralization of cataloging and if that should be a goal.  The Massachusetts Five Colleges and Orbis Cascade may be examples if this is to be addressed in the future.  What we may actually be talking about is “distributed collaborative cataloging”. We noted that our response to the Cataloging Best Practices is largely about communication and we need to address more than that one aspect of best practices.  We should add to the document for the group to look at the catalog and what would add value – Library Thing and Novelist could be integrated into III.  We also noted their phrase to move from MARC to metadata and will ask that they monitor developments in metadata.

The catalogers should poll themselves for their specific expertise in order to share that knowledge with others within URSUS.

The Catalogers listserv is not being used, but the wiki that was begun could be used to help with the information sharing and procedures.  Maybe LibGuides could be used in conjunction with the wiki.

We recognize that because of budget restrictions the group has not been meeting as often as in the past, the budget is still an issue, but we will ask that they meet once a month around a specific topic.  These additional meetings may be via polycom or telephone bridge.

Reference Best Practices

The reference group should be our eyes for emerging trends.  We encourage the use of Lyrasis and the training that is available from that organization.

Virtual reference – how do we encourage the use of this.  Can we work with libraries on the west coast to expand the service time?  Many questions are very local and training may be needed for all libraries to answer some basic questions.  We would like to have a pilot project on this idea.

Reference collections – we will ask Deb Rollins to check on a URSUS wide CREDO license.  Also, are there other collections that should be shared that we have not discovered.

Self Help – The Mariner page needs to be reworked, it can be misleading, but a number of libraries do use it.  We need a reconceptualization, not just a redesign.  We do believe one page for the libraries would be helpful for both staff and patron tutorials if done well.  We also want to eliminate the Mariner name – there are too many names for various library groups, etc. Other self help may be Library Elf, this would allow users to keep a list of their books and we would not be in violation of privacy issues.

Circulation Best Practices

Loan Rules - we appreciate the ideas regarding the loan rules, we know they need to be tightened up, but the problem has been the notices.  There will be a release relatively soon (2009B) that should eliminate this issue and then will allow for less loan rules.

Collections access/user experience – We cannot have the III patron reading history turned on because of privacy issues, but we can refer to Library Elf.  Or we can see what it would cost for a consortial Library Elf that any patron could use.  It was noted that we would like to have staff leave the desks where possible to help patrons, remaining at desks leaves some patrons unserved.

We encourage the use of Lyrasis for professional development and would encourage the use of the webinars and other opportunities offered by that organization.

Copyright – we will explore the CCC license for the group and Donna Bancroft will call to see if it would be feasible.

Interlibrary Loan – we do need to open up more collections as we are able, while recognizing that some will always remain closed – Special Collections and course reserves are two examples.  We need to look at more open lending between the libraries.

Technology and Trends – Innovative has the III University, free online tutorials from CS Direct.  James Jackson Sanborn will get the information to us.

Distance education and the impact on Donna Bancroft’s services.  The multi-card is the best way to identify these students, but it is the persistent headache and the students should have to figure out what they need to do in order to get access to the databases. Distance education support is not insignificant and is only growing.  Adjunct faculty are a big challenge and that group is growing.  We wondered what the cost would be to add another 1,000 undergraduates to the licenses of all of our databases so all could have access.

Discussion of best practices for the rest of the topics was tabled.  We will need to look at these closely, they are all valid and should be addressed, but we need more participants to take these on as a task.

                Disaster Response (almost done thanks to Greg Curtis and John Barden)

                Marketing

                Strategic planning

                Assessment to inform and support decision-making

                Mentoring/staff development

                Our constituents

Strategic Investment Fund

Jim Breece said that we are eligible and he expects us to submit a request.  He said that we should submit to Jim and to Rich and we should get the signatures of all presidents and CAOs.  Also we should try to get endorsements from the CFOs and the chief student officers.  The two priorities he noted are better serving the citizens of the state and reducing costs, but we need to check off as many of the principles as possible.  They do expect a match.  The due date is April 16, 2010.

We had hoped to look at an Espresso machine for this, but since that is in the IMLS grant we will not put it forward.  We do not need two of these machines in the state.

We discussed an online book collection and CREDO was noted as a possible state wide collection.

A Mariner overhaul was suggested – we would change the interface and have it be able to be a “my Mariner” type of page for all users.  One component would be information literacy for all users.  It would include information for K-12 as well as businesses and other users.  We are about 15 years behind on this type of development.  This could be a new tool to think about resources and a gateway for e-reference.

We do note that we can be in competition with our campus initiatives.

We should consider an institutional repository and in this way be leaders and not competitors.  We could possibly work with Ralph Caruso since he is interested in establishing an IR for the UMS.

Leslie Kelly suggested a search and discovery service for the multiple groups we serve - to move away from URSUS and go with another interface.  Aquabrowser and Summon were noted and James Jackson Sanborn will see if we can get the vendors to meet with us.  The question of the types of licenses Summon would require is unknown and if it is seven implementations because of our different databases it may be a problem.

We have to consider the funding issues if we acquire a product that is a subscription.

A suggestion was made to combine search and discovery with an IR, but that would be too much to handle.

We created a committee.  The volunteers are Leslie Kelly, Sofia Biden, Donna Bancroft, Tom Abbott, and James Jackson Sanborn.  Tom will be the chair.  The committee charge is to look at the search and discovery idea and create a draft for the group to review. The time frame is short since April will come very soon.  We should have something to react to before the March meeting.

System Initiative for online classes and libraries priorities – this topic will like be a big part of our August retreat.  The information is not yet finalized from the University of Maine Board of Trustees.

Maine InfoNet report is attached; please send any questions to James

IMLS Grant – we will hear about the success of the grant in September.

FY11 Budget strategies

What are our ideas regarding the database funds that support the databases that are shared by the UMS libraries?  Should we ask for more money for this budget?  The URSUS budget has not increased either and will become a problem also as costs increase – the III contract did increase this year.  Also we will need to replace the MaineCat hardware, it needs to migrate to Linux.  We will create a couple of documents to show the decline in purchasing power with both of the budgets and see if we can affect any change for either or both.

Hathi Trust (<http://www.hathitrust.org/access>) we should monitor this site for any developments that will help us.

Barbara reported that BPL has purchased a machine that will repairs DVDs and CDs.  When the BPL staff becomes comfortable with the use of the machine Barbara will set up a fee service for other libraries use.

Our August retreat will be held in Portland.  David will work with Steve for the Thursday activities and we will meet at USM for the Friday meeting.  Details regarding dates will follow.  One suggested agenda item is our response to the increased distance education.

Upcoming meetings are March 19 and May 21.  We will add an April date too.