University of Maine System

Library Directors’ Council

**Meeting Notes - 3rd Revision**

Friday March 4, 2005

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

Most attended a 9:00 interview with the first UMS Chief Information Officer candidate, and all were invited to send comments to Tom for submission or directly to a search committee member.

**Announcements:** Laura was recognized for receiving a second place *Be Innovative!* award from Innovative Interfaces User Group for her work on staff tutorials for the newest Millennium software. Congratulations Laura!

Marilyn has begun the process of evaluating the cost of revamping the graphics, format and presentation of the URSUS and MARINER websites.  The decision to proceed will be based on the costs of the project.

**Laura’s URSUS Report:**

Laura continues as the chairperson for the III User Group’s Cataloging and Database Maintenance Committee and is working diligently at keeping our upgrade needs and problems in the forefront.

Marilyn and Laura made a presentation in Washington to the Institute of Museum and Library Services about the Maine Music Box that was very well received.

See Laura’s handout, posted on Library Support (http://libraries.maine.edu/support) for other details of her activities.

**Report from Gary Nichols:**

Gary is watching five bills related to New Century Grant funding

* LD 1020 Governor’s bond package -- originally had 1.5 million for cultural programs but Gary and others helped move the number to $5 million.
* LD 756 has $25 million for cultural initiatives, downtown development and the creative economy – based on a survey indicating that there are $390 million in needs – also New Century
* LD 521 will provide $1.5 million funding for the New Century Program funded from a new fee to register deeds
* LD 327 ties New Century support to tourism

**Re: Catch up and future funding for state library databases** **which we share:** Representative Rosen is working on a bill that will adjust the e-rate assessment for access from its current .05 to .08 for two years allowing past and current commitments including $1 million designated for the state databases and then back to .06 for future.  Please note that the UMS budget is carrying this un-reimbursed $1 million at this point.  There is also a bill in place (LD 544) ***(please attend hearing on 4/6/05 at 1:00 PM)*** that will provide $450,000 for two years to cover the costs of the databases, a back up plan -- Gary remains optimistic that the problem will be corrected and past and future funding for these core databases will be addressed before the session ends.

Other library related legislation:

* LD 198: Enhancing the research role of Fogler library at $1.5 million.  ***(please attend hearing on 4/6/05 at 1:00 PM*** ) This reflects the additional needs to expand Fogler’s role as the lead research library in the System.  Strategic Direction #4 Task Force will be addressing the future funding needs of the UMS Libraries as well.
* LD 618: relates to “parental responsibility” and requires UMS libraries and others to provide lists of used library materials used by minors to parents when they ask.  UMS has responded (drafted by Tom) and the Maine Library community will, especially on the issue of privacy. ***(came out of committee on 3/17/05 as ought not to pass)***

**Budget Update:**

Tom reported that the URSUS budget (the UMS Library budget that funds databases, staff and operations) is whole as approved by the CFO’s, that all contributions from campuses have been received and placed in the budget, and that the object code allocations will be as outlined in the presentation to the CFO’s.  He reminded everyone that the budget presented was a maintenance budget – allowing the continuation of current functions with only annual 3 % increases built in for staff (subject to negotiations and board approval) and a 10% inflationary increase for databases – no new activities.

When asked about the future funding of this budget, Tom reported that it was his clear understanding from Joanne that unless other sources of funds were found, that this five year budget plan would be funded by the same or similar process (campus contributions.) Finally, he noted that there is a moderate amount of travel money allocated for meeting participation, so those who do not have campus budget support to travel to UMS meetings may apply for reimbursement to Joyce’s office.

**Strategic Direction #4 Implementation:**

The process began last week with a meeting of about 13 of the 20 plus task force present.  Many campus faculty reps had not yet been appointed and a number of others we on break.  Nonetheless, the organizational process went forward, setting up subgroups based on SD #4’s goals, and library leaders were designated as subgroup conveners.  Work is underway and will be reported at the next full task force meeting of SD#4 meeting on March 15, 2005. ***(March 29th meeting canceled – next meeting is April 19th at 10 am – small groups are to continue their work and come to the next meeting with draft recommendations.)***

**Report from the Database Committee**:

Susan reported that the items listed in the collection development policy were not in priority order, and she will make that clear in the next version.  After some discussion about the many recommendations we receive for new databases, Marilyn agreed to establish a website that all faculty and staff can use to recommend databases.  UMS library staff will evaluate each item recommended, and post cost, availability and make available trial review sessions if there is enough interest and the cost is within the realm of possibilities.   This site will be made public and notices will encourage anyone interested to make recommendations and/or refer others.

**Maine Union List of Serials:**

MULS provides access to information about journals, magazines and newspapers held by more than 80 Maine libraries. Approximately 22,000 unique titles and 52,300 holdings records are included. MULS support is provided by UM, USM, Bowdoin, Bates, Colby, Bangor Public Library, Portland Public Library and the Maine State Library. Fogler staff maintain the system.  The library directors agree that we should get out the business of managing MULS by May 1, 2005.  Marilyn agreed to convene a meeting of those (or their reps) who continue to use it, with the goal of either transferring the project to another manager or letting it die by the May 1st date.

**University Intellectual Commons:**

Marilyn and others have been working with UMS faculty on the concept of open source publishing with faculty review boards, and possible uses of e-portfolios.  She urged us all to see the website (http://commons.umaine.edu/home.html)

**Endeavor/Encompass/Federated Search:**

Tom, Joyce and Gary reported on the lack of progress and limited feedback from Endeavor on our problems with their cross-search product.  The group agreed that we should cancel the contract with them due to non-performance.  Tom and Joyce have a meeting with UMS Counsel on March 9th to make that recommendation to him. ***(Follow-up: with Joyce’s help, Associate Counsel is working on a letter to the company.)***

It was also recommended that the library directors revisit the whole concept of adding the federated search process to our system, and in the process consider what other possible uses we might have of these bond funds.  The topic will be on the next agenda meeting. In the mean time all are asked to consider the direction and value of “federated searching,” as well as new information seeking behaviors, information commons concepts, information literacy teaching, etc.  Marilyn asked to resume her role in the investigation, analysis, and evaluation of software.  Marilyn will prepare a ‘state of the art’ report on federated searching.

RECOMMENDED READING from EDUCAUSE:

 Educating the Net Generation, An e-book from EDUCAUSE: The Net Generation has grown up with information technology. The aptitudes, attitudes, expectations, and learning styles of Net Gen students reflect the environment in which they were raised—one that is decidedly different from that which existed when faculty and administrators were growing up.

**Statistical Package:**

Laura discussed the consortium management extensions statistical package to upgrade tracking of library and database use by location and user. The Director’s did not approve this purchase of $21,500, but agreed to review more information about it, and put it on a wish list to make a decision at a later time.  Will be considered at the next meeting pending availability of funding.

**Digital Portal:**

Marilyn is working on the “Windows Project” a grant funded program that will digitize video clips, index them and convert them to video streaming to be used to support instruction. This resource is available to all of our libraries. Marilyn and others are working on how this material can be integrated into K-12 curriculum. One of our UMS Library servers will serve as a mirror site for the CPB Professional Development Program for Teachers.

**ILL:**

Susan will convene a System meeting of campus reps involved in interlibrary loan to review rules, process, and technology.

**Outsourcing:**

Bert asked if the three consortium campuses could continue to study and perhaps test the idea of outsourcing cataloging to a provider. They were encouraged to proceed with study, negotiations and implementation if it makes sense, saves money and allows them to reallocate staff.  They are encouraged to report their efforts to SD #4.

**Virtual Reference:**

Laura reported that the most recent upgrade to the Virtual Reference software is complex and is being studied. All agreed that it shouldn’t be put in place until this summer.

**Other Discussion:**

Joyce and Bert had a discussion regarding the ability and willingness of the UMaine library to assist the UMM library in the area of technical processing of materials.

***Submitted by Tom Abbott***