

URSUS Meeting Notes
February 15, 2019
Maine State Library
Consultants meeting with Directors - 10:00 am to noon
URSUS Directors' Meeting - 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Maine State Library Consultants

The URSUS Library Directors met with the Maine State Library Consultants. This special meeting was an introduction to the Directors of the work done by the consultants for all libraries in Maine. The Directors learned that the consultants covered all of the issues and topics that may face libraries of all sizes and traveled on a regular basis to libraries throughout the state. Each consultant gave a brief explanation of their responsibilities.

Chris Dorman is the STEM and Emerging Technologies Statewide Specialist. Chris works with rural libraries to assist the staffs with their skill sets. She creates and offers programs such as electrical engineering. She is working with a three-year grant for youth. The goal is to incorporate STEM into everyday activities.

Jared Leadbetter is the Technology and E-rate Specialist Statewide Specialist. He provides advice on all aspects of technology. He works to teach the teachers to help the libraries with their technologies. At the federal level he helps to gather statistics on wireless use and he helps the libraries with that task. As MSLN increases speed he helps with recommendations for the equipment that will be useful 5 to 10 years from now. The equipment is upgraded with help from a grant for this purpose.

Lisa Shaw is the Statewide Specialist for Rural and Small Libraries. She focuses on the role the libraries play in their communities. She uses Linked In for just in time learning modules. She is working with the libraries on how to move information gathering about the learning and still maintain patron confidentiality. They move credentials around by blockchain. The questions she gets cover many topics. She helps the libraries adhere to standards while recognizing the differences between libraries in the state.

Stephanie Zurinski is the Statewide Specialist/Consultant and works with data and evaluation. She is responsible for getting the librarians in the state to understand and be able to demonstrate work using data. She teaches the proper way to collect the data and her goal is to get 25% of the libraries using data in the next few years. She has created toolkits, these are on the MSL website. She is the continuing education coordinator and manages the new director institute.

Deb Clark is the statewide Specialist/Consultant responsible for all aspects of library management for libraries. She helps with strategic planning, board development, customer service, and health programs. She administers the Maine Public Library Fund that offers (\$1000 to \$5000) grants for small libraries. She works with the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium that is better than SCOOP. She works with the children and young adult book review programs, reviewers from around the state participate. She works with boards and manages a library board boot camp for trustees and developers.

Janet McKenney presented for Stephanie Schott the Early Literacy and Children's Specialist. She is the literacy consultant. She manages the reading Roundup which brings together more than 400 school and public librarians. This year it is April 25 at the Augusta Civic Center. She partners with early literacy groups in Maine. This year she with the book selection committee and had books printed with a help sheet for parents included. She also does hands-on STEM work in the libraries.

How can the URSUS directors help support the work of the consultants? We can help break down barriers. Or we may need something tangible, a common/goal project. Maybe we should work on LEAN for libraries. That might be the perfect application for this, it is process driven and increases value. We could also partner in the training.

There are resources we could look to use or that we could create in the state:

A mentor or expertise list could be developed, there is such a list already on the MSL site. How does this information get pushed out, what platform should be used? How do people add themselves to the list?

The Niche Academy is available, they provide tutorials to teach the use of e-resources.

Maybe there could be a template storehouse on the MSL website for anyone to use.

Tony Zander from Louisiana may also be a resource for us.

URSUS Directors' Meeting

The January meeting notes are in process and will be on the March agenda for approval along with the February notes.

One addition to the agenda is a request that the Board note taking rotate among all Directors except the Chair. Joyce volunteered to take the notes for this meeting (a long meeting).

Maine InfoNet Director's Report

Millinocket is live and MIN staff have had a kick-off call with Thomaston.

Direct INNReach APIs, working with Bywater Communications. This is being built for the KOHA system.

Work is also ongoing with Balsam to bring them in using an API. Innovative Interfaces has a NonDisclosure Agreement for developers to sign. But, Evergreen does not have a corporate body to sign that document. James is talking with III and there is a new manager from the Polaris side and so there may be an addendum to donate the work to the community so they would be able to use the API.

ENCORE has been tweaked to work better, but we are still dealing with a legacy system that is causing some issues. In ENCORE search titles as a keyword, it does work. Now when searching in both the classic and ENCORE the numbers returned are off by just a couple, it is material type versus itype issue.

Should we standardize – ask all URSUS libraries to use ENCORE as the main catalog? We will decide in the summer. Both Augusta and Farmington made the change to ENCORE with no issue from users.

Neither catalog is perfect. One issue is precision versus recall. The librarians can always search in the classic catalog. Try a search for the journal Nature in both, it is actually a better return in ENCORE.

Innovative Interfaces health - James met with Travis Kelly, he is the Baker and Taylor representative, but he was with III for many years. He said that III is a solid company, but is not as good on the development side. That part of the company needs to have more funding. CBB is still planning an open conversation regarding III, we do not have a date. All of Iceland has gone with III, they are an INNReach site.

Discovery Layers

We would like this to be a research topic for the Reference Committee over the next year, to see if there is a replacement for Summon that we should consider. We need to engage different groups, maybe encourage a survey to be created. We should ask if a discovery layer is needed and what we should try to move towards. If various vendors or publishers will not work with some discovery systems we need to know this. We also need to have a discovery layer that will accept locally created resources.

There is a trial underway at USM, using their data, of the EBSCO EDS.

The Maine State Library wants EDS state-wide, then other institutions may get a discount. The plan is to get an RFP from the state out in March 2019. Jamie will be looking for individuals to serve on the review committee from public, school, and academic institutions. Two spots from each type of library will be available to have a manageable size committee for the review.

BlackBoard review – there is a system-wide review of BlackBoard with an RFP to search for a replacement. Even if the end result is the same company we should expect changes. We need to be aware of this and participate since we have had issues with the software, with streaming movies, and other library related work.

Dually-Enrolled Students & UMS Partnerships

The Business School partnership between UM and USM is underway with classes to begin Fall 2019. The two business librarians will be given access to each others' collections. This will be a change in their Maine Street designations and will be noted in their job descriptions. Even with

this it will not be entirely smooth, there will be faculty and students who will not have access to some resources.

UMA has an intent to plan for a program in cybersecurity with USM, it will be a master program. There is also emerging management planning for more than two campuses for a certificate program.

Academic EBSCO package renewal

Libraries are checking on the potential cost without making a commitment at this point. UMaine is not planning to participate.

CREDO information literacy package

David has had communications from the sales representative and received the pricing for the campuses minus Orono. He will send this out to all after the meeting.

ACRL Framework & Reference Heads Retreat

There are 54 registrations by this meeting date. It has not yet been opened to the region. Registrants should expect homework soon.

Development and Use of Open Educational Resources in Higher Education

This workshop by ACRL will be at Bates on April 26. There is no fee for the workshop.

Academic Library Day

At Colby College on June 12. Bryce would like to have this day rotate among other libraries. This is will be last year that Colby will host it.

The next URSUS Directors meeting is March 15, at Bangor Public Library