

Maine Infonet Board Meeting
November 4, 2019 at the Maine State Library

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Joyce Rumery. Attending were Marjorie Hassen, David Nutty, James Jackson Sanborn, Pauline Angione, Nancy Grant, and Steve Norman, as well as Sarah Campbell by Zoom and James Ritter at the COSLA conference in Hartford, CT by Zoom.

Additions or changes to the agenda

The agenda item concerning Macmillan's ebook embargo policy was moved ahead to accommodate James R.'s schedule at the COSLA conference.

Our position and preparation for E-books and MacMillan embargo

James reported that an ebook committee at COSLA met with the CEO from Macmillan. The committee asked for under-the-hood data that would help to explain why Macmillan has taken the stand it has on ebooks for libraries. Incidentally, other publishers seem to be less than thrilled with the attention Macmillan is bringing to publishers' ebook pricing policies.

Macmillan is looking at this issue as a question of "price per reader." Macmillan thought they were losing money on the old pricing model without the "embargo" (or "window of time," as Macmillan terms it). James reported that COSLA will not be making an official recommendation on a boycott by libraries, but a large majority of the attendees there are likely to take action.

James Jackson Sanborn sent out a survey to Maine libraries about the embargo. 100% of the 32 respondents indicated that they were OK with a boycott of Macmillan.

Sarah Campbell reported on the Urban Libraries Council response to the issue. The ULC has developed a strategy of asking authors (they compiled a list of about 100 Macmillan authors) to contact Macmillan and express their opposition to this new model.

The Harris County (Houston, Texas) Library system is going to boycott Macmillan publications in all formats. (James R. left the Zoom meeting at about this point.)

JJS said that Macmillan imprints constitute about 5% of the MIN CloudLibrary collection. From a practical standpoint, a boycott of Macmillan by MIN would have little effect on what MIN does. JJS observed that he had spent \$10,000 just today re-buying expired titles that MIN already purchased, so the perpetual license for one copy is in fact a beneficial part of the new model.

Nancy asked about the effect of the new Macmillan policy on school libraries. The new policy is a couple of steps backward for school libraries. Special education students often need ebooks for their curricular needs.

David Nutty moved and Sarah seconded a motion that passed unanimously: that Maine Infonet 1) purchase no Macmillan ebooks from this point forward, 2) recommend to MIN program participating libraries that they follow MIN's lead in this boycott, and 3) that MIN review this action at each MIN Board meeting. JJS and Sarah will work on messaging for point number 2.

Approval of the meeting notes from October 7, 2019

Approval of minutes from previous meeting—One typo was noted in the minutes from the meeting on October 7 (a Zoom meeting): November 4 should have been listed as the next meeting. David moved and Pauline seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Vote on the goals

David had edited the Strategic Plan for format and so on. Sarah moved and Joyce seconded a motion to accept the Strategic Priorities as updated. Motion carried unanimously. Marjorie requested that a new approved date be added to the document. Pauline will make that change and reload in Box.

Finance Committee Report

JJS handed out a quarterly financial update and summarized highlights and changes. MIN is in solid shape. He commented on a couple of new line items: 1) Minerva Contracted Funds, which is for the 10-hour contracted cataloging position paid for by Minerva, and 2) MSL Catalog Support, which is there because MIN has to bill the Maine State Library for payment from federal funds for these services after the services have been performed. The latter line item will almost always show up as a negative amount in the report.

Pauline and JJS will work on an explanation for some of the balance sheet peculiarities that prompt the same questions every year.

A question was asked about Accounts Receivable Aging, which showed several Download Library payments that have not been received. JJS said there is a plan for resolving this issue.

A question came up about the Minerva service charge of \$3,000. This service charge replaced the old StaCap fees paid by Minerva to the State for handling Minerva's funds when those funds were held by the State. \$3,000 was about half of the yearly StaCap fees. This service charge is likely to be addressed in future meetings (the Secretary pro tem looked up warily from his note-taking at this point!). MIN does have expenses now that it did not have in the past: liability insurance, tax-filing costs, and so on.

Review of the EBSCO Folio presentation on October 29

The consensus was that this had been a very informative meeting and that Folio has made much progress in a short time. Folio is much more developed now than when David, Marjorie, and

Steve talked with their representatives at ALA Annual this past summer. Still, Folio is not thinking much about the public library market (although the Shanghai Public Library is coming on board), and not at all about the school library market.

The Five Colleges consortium in Massachusetts and the Fenway Group are scheduled to come up with Folio in the spring. Marjorie said that Bowdoin College plans to keep up with these developments. JJS noted that the Folio website also can be used to keep up with what is happening.

Finalize notes to OCLC for their presentation on Nov 12

Sarah organized a Zoom meeting with OCLC on November 12 for David, James R., JJS, and Joyce, but the entire board is welcome. Sarah stated that we need to spell out for OCLC what we would like to see from them. Responses were that we want to know more about their two systems (WMS and Wise) and how their systems would work in a consortial environment. Ideally, we would like to be able to walk into any library in Maine, see what is in any library in Maine, and request whatever is available in any library in Maine.

We are also interested in a statewide OCLC contract, which some other states have.

JJS was not sure that OCLC has understood what we are interested in, which is 1) a statewide cataloging arrangement (one contract) that is affordable and scalable to the really small libraries, and 2) an explanation of how we could use OCLC ILS services to power our libraries.

Executive Director's Report

JJS reviewed the policy discussion and subsequent survey from the MLA preconference.

He said that Biblionix has jumped in with both feet and developed the API for Biblionix to work with MaineCat, but now there are the foreseeable and necessary delays, including the consideration that any integration into MaineCat will have to be done in a manageable way.

JJS will draft a Memorandum of Understanding for non-Triple I libraries joining MaineCat. He will send this draft to the Governance Committee for review and next steps. All joining libraries will need to have an MOU with MIN.

David moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.