

COMPASS User Group
Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2009
DRAFT

Members present:

Susan Thompson/Two Harbors, Sue Sowers/Hoyt Lakes, Nancy Maxwell/Virginia, Jim Weikum/ALS, Rebecca Patton/ALS, Diane Adams/Int'l Falls, Ginny Richmond/Hibbing, Mary Lukkarila/Cloquet, Deb Bocnuk/Babbitt, Linda Wadman/NCLC, Mark Koukol/ALS, Marcia Anderson/Grand Rapids.

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Susan Thompson agreed to take minutes in the absence of Paula Chapman, Secretary.

M/S to approve minutes of the January 21st meeting/**Motion passed.**

Compass and Computer Related Issues

Questions or problems with Horizon functions: None reported

Horizon news, updates & upgrades:

Mark reported on the Horizon 7.4.2 upgrade. There was a HIP server problem after a planned power outage involving a Google bot search. There is something on the server now to keep that from happening in the future. There will be a 7.5 upgrade by the end of the year.

Mark reported on NCIP (NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol). It would allow Horizon to present more database search points to MnLink, and it also functions faster than the existing SIP-2 interface we currently use for MnLink.

Item-less bibliographic records:

The ALS cataloger was wondering if Compass had a policy for dealing with item-less bibliographic records in Horizon, of which there are many. They are not visible in iPac, but they are in the staff client. Compass agreed that item-less bib records should be suppressed, left in the catalog for a length of time long enough to reorder an item (3 months?), and then deleted in some kind of batch process.

Unified collection codes:

Mark is working toward streamlining ILS management by cutting down on the number of various collection codes. Mark gave a handout of the libraries' existing collection codes and some proposed unified codes. He hoped the libraries would look at the codes to see where they could consolidate. An individual library can still obtain usage statistics by collection.

Mark reported on BSTAT codes. He has been working to make them represent where a patron actually lives. If a patron lives in a library's city limits, their BSTAT will match their BTYPE. There are many other codes now for townships, other library systems, etc. This will help libraries to get statistics for reciprocal borrowing. Contact Mark if you would like sample queries for reports by BSTAT.

The next "uniformity" project will be to try to consolidate fine rates and loan periods between libraries.

ILS replacement process: update

ALS desires an ILS system that is able to work across the many different networks in the ALS region. There are not many systems that can do this. Examples of systems that could possibly work across networks are Polaris and Koha. Mark is planning to load Koha on a server at ALS for trying out. No costs have yet been examined for any ILS system.

Pre-pub dates and circulation availability

Some libraries have been circulating bestseller titles before their release dates. Most vendors post these release dates somewhere in the book shipment. Circulating books before their release dates violates the agreements that vendors have with the publishers.

MNLink hold limits

In an effort to lessen the burden of ILL costs, there was a proposal to decrease the hold limits on MNLink items for our region. This represents the number of items a person can have on hold and checked out to them; the current number is 25 items. There was discussion about formats and student needs, especially distance education students. The group decided, by consensus, to lower the number of MNLink items from 25 to 15. The number can be raised or lowered as need be.

Staff Reports

Mark: Windows 7 is coming out soon and it is reported to be quite good. He mentioned that libraries might want to go directly from XP to Windows 7, bypassing Vista. Mark also discussed Antivirus, sending .zip files, and MSN Messenger file sharing.

Rebecca: no report

Jim: Tech services report from the consultant: still working on recommendation.

Library Issues

What's happening at your library? Budget issues, LGA cuts, etc.

Ginny Richmond mentioned that Hibbing P.L. will be closed on Saturdays now. They are not able to hire anyone new and a major staff member went to another department within the city. They are also no longer able to allow outside groups to use their meeting rooms.

There was a discussion about library hours: how to cut back on hours if you have to? Some libraries are considering Sunday hours in place of Saturdays. Some libraries are considering cutting evening hours.

There was a discussion about the Stimulus project, and “shovel ready” projects. There will probably be some funding available for energy conservation projects: new windows, lighting, etc. Some libraries expressed frustration at finding information about the Stimulus package and libraries.

Reciprocal borrowing and format reciprocity

One library was wondering how many libraries limit the items they will lend out by format. Are lots of libraries not reciprocally lending DVDs, for example? Mark said he could send out a list of libraries that limit reciprocal borrowing by format.

Additional Licenses databases

Rebecca: RASAL is currently voting on a database. It will be voting from a list of 6 products. There was some discussion of Tutor.com and Homework Helper.

Staff Reports

Rebecca:

- Annual Reports need to be done by April 1st.
- Rita is making bookmarks of the Libraries & Money theme. People were invited to take some of the posters she had already made from the theme.
- There will be training after the Compass meeting for the *Small Engine Repair* database.
- Rebecca is aware that the Gates Foundation's third-party marketing service is *still* calling libraries, sometimes several times over. She was told they wouldn't be calling individual libraries, but almost every library represented had been called at some point.

Jim:

- Please report to ALS any mis-routing of ALS van delivery items. They are working on the problem.
- ALS Bookmobile will be in repair for another 4 weeks.

NCLC:

More Things On a Stick had been offered again.

Other:

Jim W. gave the group more information about Legislative Day.

Marcia Anderson informed the group about some training being offered from the Northern Community Internet Project (KAXE): "Using the Internet to Build Community." The training is intended for community leaders.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Thompson