

Members present:

Paula Chapman/Aurora, Debby Bocnuk/Babbitt, Mary Zaitz/Chisholm, Mary Lukkarila/Cloquet, MaryBeth Kafut/Eveleth, Will Richter/Grand Rapids, Ginny Richmond/Hibbing, Nancy Riesgraf/Hibbing, Sue Sowers/Hoyt Lakes, Jessica Oftelie/Iron Range Research Center, Linda Wadman/NCLC, Nancy Maxwell/Virginia; Mark Koukol/ALS, Rebecca Patton/ALS, Jim Weikum/ALS

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Introductions were made by all present.

Approval of COMPASS minutes for Feb. 25 meeting/**Approved.**

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES**Questions or problems with Horizon functions:**

- MaryBeth/Eveleth has had patrons with problems renewing books online from home. If this happens, please give details to Mark.
- It was asked if the Horizon Inventory unit works—it does.

Horizon news, updates & upgrades:

- Horizon 7.5 is expected to be released later this year—this will be the final Horizon update. It is anticipated to be a maintenance release with minor fixes. Horizon will be supported for 3-4 more years.
- There is a new version of NCIP available for Horizon (it allows searching of our database by non-Horizon libraries and is necessary for self-check). It is, however, expensive, high-maintenance, and doesn't seem to solve as many problems as hoped. It would be primarily useful to the ALS ILL staff and to schools. Mark judges it not a good investment at this time.

Item-less bibliographic records: continuation of February 25 discussion:

- There are presently some 30,000 item-less bib records in Horizon. While they are suppressed in the IPAC, they do show up in the Staff PAC. (If they do show up in the IPAC, let Mark know the exact search that was done.) Mark inquired about deleting all item-less bibs limited to a certain bib creation date; some present recalled that this may have caused problems in the past. It was suggested that Mark do a test-run deletion of a small batch of these bibs to see if it causes any problems.

Unified collection codes: continuation of February 25 discussion:

- Switching to unified item collection codes may need to wait until migration to a new system. Although the list of unified codes assembled by the Cataloging Committee is sound, it does not appear that libraries would be able to obtain accurate circulation statistics if a switch were made while on Horizon. Mark will look into this further.
- Mark has created new bstat codes based on taxing district boundaries. If you are unable to find a bstat code that you need, let Mark know. These codes will allow libraries to obtain statistics on library circulation to patrons outside the library taxing district boundaries.

ILS replacement process: update:

- The committees will need to do some work to find out how to style a RFP that will work for both traditional and open-source vendors. The current open source vendors don't work with traditional RFP's, but ALS needs to comply with statute on how a product is acquired.
- ALS is starting to informally look for a consultant who can guide ALS through the ILS replacement process. The consultant who has worked with ALS on this in the past is nearing retirement and is not accepting new projects.

Another "Final" update on installation of "uninterruptible power supply" (UPS) unit at ALS:

- The new UPS unit (which handles the web server and email) is installed and working; however, the remaining old unit (for Horizon) is dead. This purchase is not included in the budget; it will be presented to the ALS Board.

Staff reports: Mark Koukol

- Windows 7 is on the way (perhaps later this year?), and early reports are positive. It can run with the same memory requirements as Windows XP. Mark advises libraries to stick with Windows XP until Windows 7 is available and to skip Windows Vista if possible.

Other: None

LIBRARY ISSUES

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

- Mary Lukkarila noted that it looks like the Governor is hoping to further reduce LGA.

Reciprocal Borrowing and format reciprocity:

- A list was sent out to let staff know which libraries do not allow holds on which collections. A question was raised about libraries not allowing external patrons to place holds on certain of their collections while allowing their own patrons to borrow those same items from other libraries.

Consumer Product Safety Act and library books:

- At this point, libraries have a stay on the lead testing requirement until February 2010 while the law is reviewed. At present, libraries are generally not withdrawing items from the collection, nor are they testing for lead or barring children under the age of 12 from the library.

Update: additional licensed databases:

- The RASAL committee is presently looking at the "Learning Express" database; it offers unlimited remote and in-house access to basic higher education exam practice tests and information (SAT, ACT, GRE) as well as to professional exams. Some modules require software to be downloaded. Library staff are encouraged to explore the database and give feedback on it.
- Mary L./Cloquet noted that her library will be unable to continue paying for both Reference USA and Biography Research Center next year. It was suggested that evaluation be done of both products and how they are used by library patrons and staff. The only usage statistics available give overall data but do not break usage down by library.

Staff reports: Rebecca Patton

- Upcoming workshops at ALS include “Teens and Gaming” on April 7 and “Reference in the Electronic Age” on April 8. Contact Rebecca for further information or to register.

Staff reports: Mark Koukol

- There is now a widget called “PowerSearch” available on the ALS front page underneath the OverDrive link. A search entered in that box will simultaneously search several of the Gale databases. Mark will put a brief accompanying explanation with the box.

Staff reports: Jim Weikum

- Minitex is presently offering numerous reference databases available for trial. Libraries are asked to try these databases, and to offer the links on their web pages so patrons can explore the databases, and to offer feedback. All feedback received will be used in the process of determining which databases will be available on ELM in the future.
- The ALA web page has a link to information re: the federal economic stimulus package. Libraries applying for funds will need to work with their cities on the application process.
- Proposed legislation with modified Maintenance of Effort language has been introduced in the Minnesota house. The modified language was developed to allow libraries to participate in department-wide City cuts while still protecting libraries from excessive or exclusive cuts.
- A bill has been introduced that would allow libraries which are regional centers to charge non-city residents for library cards without losing their library system membership; the bill made the front page of the Duluth News Tribune. Duluth would like to be able to charge non-residents for library services; however, many libraries across the state would undoubtedly argue that they, too, are regional centers. The bill will at least force conversation re: the disparity of who uses local libraries vs. who pays for them. Jim will share more information as it is available.
- Library Legislative Day is March 25; Hollaye is making appointments for those who will be going.

NCLC: Nothing at this time

Other:

- Mary L./Cloquet is looking at proctoring policies.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Chapman, Secretary