Members present:
Paula Chapman-Aurora, Debby Bocnuk-Babbitt, Mary Zaitz-Chisholm, Mary Lukkarila-Cloquet, Amy Hay-Gilbert, Linda Chappell-Grand Marais, Marcia Anderson-Grand Rapids, Nancy Riesgraf-Hibbing, Linda Wadman-NCLC, Julie Billings-Silver Bay, Susan Thompson-Two Harbors, and Nancy Maxwell-Virginia; Mark Koukol-ALS, Rebecca Patton-ALS, Shelley Rogers-ALS, Jim Weikum-ALS

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Introductions were made by all present.

The minutes of 4/23/08 were presented. No corrections were noted; the minutes were approved as written.

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES

Questions or problems with Horizon functions: none

Horizon news, updates & upgrades:

- The Horizon 2008 product plan has been released; Mark will forward information to member libraries. Horizon 7.4.2 is scheduled for release later this year. Since the planned new Sybase release has been delayed until 2009, Horizon 7.4.2 will no longer need to compensate for it. Planned new features are the Enterprise Faceted Discovery tool, which will add many additional parameters by which search results lists can be narrowed or broadened; new web 2.0 features (user reviews, RSS feeds, customized IPAC interfaces for patrons, etc); an auto-correction of obvious misspellings and a "did you mean" spelling option; the ability to put a search widget serving as a portal to the IPAC into other web pages; expanded enriched content (for example, DVD case covers will show); and bug fixes. A new IPAC release, HIP 3.10 is also scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2008. It will have bug fixes and support for OCLC match points for retrieving enriched content. Pocket Circ, which would allow for inventory and offline circulation, will also be an available option. Web Reporter 1.5, a successor product to EasyAsk, is now available; however, it requires its own server. Horizon 7.5 and HIP 3.20, which will include support for new versions of SQL and Sybase as well as new features or enhancements, are scheduled for release in 2009.
- Mark reminded everyone to avoid going into the notices; it is easy to accidentally delete them.

Ongoing discussion: ILS replacement process:

- During the last ILS replacement, 6 committees were formed: Bibliographic Maintenance (includes cataloging), Circulation, Financial, Public Access Catalog, Reports, and Serials & Acquisitions. It was suggested by those present that this time, the Bibliographic Maintenance and the Serials & Acquisitions committees could be merged into one committee so there would be 5 committees. The process of forming these committees will start in September. Duluth Public Library is willing to consider participation in the new ILS selection process.
- Minitex is hosting two workshops about Open Source ILS; Mark K., Shari F., and Jim W. will attend both workshops.
- Mark will experiment with the Open Source product Plum Creek Library System is putting on their server.

Request pull list: consensus on a default format?

- Although each individual library can tailor which fields display and how they display, and can re-sort the list according to their criterion, it was decided to modify the default display. The new display will include the following fields (in order of appearance): collection, call number, volume, author, title, barcode, and pickup point. The call number and title fields were expanded. The new format will print best as a landscape rather than portrait display.

Group Sing-Along: the SPAM Song:

- On occasion, the spam filter gets overwhelmed on the weekends and crashes, flooding everyone's inbox.
- ALS will update Spam Assassin and will soon install a newer version of Spam Assassin.
- It was suggested and decided that all messages currently being tagged as spam will be automatically deleted, and the filter will be set to start tagging the next level up of messages as spam. (We are currently at level 6 of 10 possible filtering levels.) If you are missing personal emails, please consider setting up a personal email account with one of the various email providers to receive these messages.
- The new W. A. Fisher web site design doesn't allow auto harvesting of email addresses from the directory, which should help prevent new spammers from so easily acquiring ALS email addresses. If your current address has excessive spam problems, ALS is willing to change your address. If you do this, you will need to notify your contacts of your new address.

RFID in the region's future/Self-check: clarification of ALS position on SIP issues/Time Management applications and ILS (e.g. Paros, Cybrarian, etc.):

- Various libraries in the region are considering or might consider RFID (radio frequency ID), self-checkout machines, and time management software (to manage patrons' internet time; Hibbing staff noted that the product they use saves a lot of confrontations with patrons over internet time limits). Both RFID and Self-check use SIP-2 as their interface. This is currently installed on Horizon. It is licensed by product, and is significantly less expensive if everyone uses the same product.
- There is also no guarantee that purchased products will be compatible with Horizon Dynix, or that they would be compatible with the new ILS when it is selected.
- In order that everyone is on the same page, libraries interested in considering RFID, Self-check, and time management software will form a committee to investigate options and report back to COMPASS. Interested libraries presently include Cloquet Public Library, Grand Rapids Public Library, Hibbing Public Library, Two Harbors Public Library, and Virginia Public Library. Mark K. will also serve on this committee.

Telephone messaging: clarification of process re: unsuccessful calls:

- If a telemessaging call is unable to be completed, ALS will send a printed notice only to patrons of those libraries that pay for billing notices. Other libraries will need to run a report and follow up on their uncompleted calls.
- There have been a few instances of patrons receiving calls for an item that was not at the library. Some of these may have been MnLINK items.
- Libraries using pre-overdue notices have seen a noticeable reduction of overdue items. Mark will enable pre-overdue notices on a system-wide basis. (To receive a pre-overdue notice, the email address must be filled in, notice by email must be checked, and the phone number must have a no-Telecirc-call code.)

Follow-up information: Unique Management Systems:

- Unique Management Systems, a collections agency specializing in library collections, is compatible with Sirsi-Dynix. Mark will investigate to find out what other ILS's they are compatible with.

Staff reports: Mark Koukol:

- White box computers from local computer sales stores with Windows XP will be available through January 2009. The next version of Windows, Windows 7, is billed for release in 2010.

Other:

- Sue Thompson/Two Harbors PL warned that Windows Service Pack 3 will cause problems for HP computers with an AMD chip. (HP computers with an Intel chip are fine.) Service Pack 3 has also caused some problems with library security packages. Mark notes that Service Pack 3 is, in large part, a compilation of all of the security updates since Service Pack 2. Libraries who choose not to install Service Pack 3 will still be able to install individual updates.

LIBRARY ISSUES

Reporting items missing from ALS delivery and/or NEMIDS (table until August)

Staff reports: Rebecca Patton:

- Registrations are being accepted through WebJunction for the Time Management workshop; make sure to ask for mileage reimbursement. See Rebecca if you need assistance with registration.
- The Nancy Pearl Reference Advisory workshop on September 10 is filling up fast; register soon!
- OverDrive has 3 workshop options available for September: Marketplace (shopping), Best Practices (Promotion), and OverDrive 101. Which one would people like? The workshop will be a webinar; ALS will host it, but it can also be at individual libraries.

Staff reports: Jim Weikum:

- Minnesota Power is considering a promotion campaign for the "Kill A Watt" devices previously donated to libraries. If your library has one, please make sure you have an item record for it in Horizon. Minnesota Power is willing to replace broken devices.
- Arrowhead Library System has complied the stories that have been submitted on the "Tell Your Story" form. The document "Library Strength in Minnesota: Tell Us Your Story" has been shared with the ALS board and will be shared with member libraries. ALS is submitting a final call for stories; soon the final document will be shared with regional legislators and county commissioners.
- Shelley Rogers has submitted her resignation; her last day will be July 13. ALS will advertise for an interim half-time cataloger and will work on filling the position long-term.
- In a surprise last minute addition to the omnibus tax bill, maintenance of effort was suspended for counties (not cities) for the next 3 years. Although the change was largely directed at human service maintenance of effort requirements, libraries were also added to the list. From the wording, it appears that the minimum level of support requirement was also suspended. In a worst-case scenario, counties would have the ability to provide no support, which would have an effect on ALS services (including the Bookmobile, Mail-a-Book program, KidStuff funding, and best-seller and cross-over monies). Some of the impact could be offset by the increased Regional Library Basic System Support funding, but it was hoped that the RLBSS increase would allow for expanded and enhanced services. MLA, MEMO, and

regional library system directors will be urgently communicating with legislators about this issue; more information will be shared as it is available.

NCLC:

- The "23 Things On a Stick" technology learning program is being repeated; library staff, Board members, and Friends members who did not complete the earlier program or who didn't participate at all are invited to register (www.23thingsonastick.blogspot.com).
- NCLC will have an open Board position; Linda will contact those in the area needing representation.

Other:

- Grand Rapids Public Library is hosting an open house on Friday, 5/30, from 1-5 p.m. in honor of retiring Children's Librarian Rosalie McLouden; everyone is invited.
- Duluth will be bringing in many special speakers for FinnFest this summer; libraries may wish to contact those who will be in the area to schedule programs at their libraries as well.
- Cloquet Public Library is putting in a new Circulation desk.
- Roadwork and landscaping are being done in front of Two Harbors Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, August 27, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Chapman, Secretary