

**COMPASS USERS' GROUP**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, October 25, 2006 DRAFT**  
**Mt. Iron, MN**

**Members Present:**

Shari Fisher-ALS, Mark Koukol-ALS, Rebecca Patton-ALS, Shelley Rogers-ALS, Jim Weikum-ALS; Paula Chapman-Aurora, Debby Bocnuk-Babbitt, Mary Lukkarila-Cloquet, Judy Peterson-Cook County Middle/High School, Jan Simmons-Duluth, Mary Beth Kafut-Eveleth, Ginny Richmond-Gilbert, Linda Chappell-Grand Marais PL, Shelby Anderson-Sawtooth Elementary/Grand Marais, Terry Moore-Hibbing/Chisholm, Nancy Riesgraf-Hibbing, Sue Sowers-Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams-International Falls Public, Sally Peterangelo-Mt. Iron, Julie Billings-Silver Bay, Susan Thompson-Two Harbors PL, Nancy Maxwell-Virginia, and Linda J. Wadman, NCLC.

Others Present: none

President Mary Lukkarila called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were given.

The minutes of the Wednesday, September 20, 2006 meeting were presented. Sally Peterangelo moved, Nancy Maxwell seconded, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES:**

**Questions or problems with Horizon functions:**

Nancy Riesgraf stated that OCLC will be switching over to ISBN 13 (13 digit numbers instead of 10 digits) on November 12 and wondered if Horizon will be able to deal with this change. Mark Koukol thinks the 7.34 Horizon upgrade is supposed to fix that. It may require some downtime to upgrade and iPac 3.06a could be done at the same time. The question is interchangeability for overlay with 001/010 MARC tags and the ISBN tag going from 024 to 020 fields. As of January 1, 2007 only ISBN 13 will be used on newly published items.

Internet Explorer 7.0 is now being marketed. Koukol says it looks very different and there are problems (graphics, loading speed, etc.). Jim Weikum found it quite awful and removed it. Unfortunately, removing 7.0 does not undo the problems. Do not update to this version if you can avoid it (may come in automatically with Critical Windows Updates in the future). Perhaps Microsoft will get some of the problems fixed in the near future (as more people use it and report problems). Koukol prefers Opera and says Firefox is also a good alternate browser.

**E2T2 Grant Project Update:** Shari Fisher reported that Amy Hay has completed her work. Six schools are in the teaching and assessment phase. Cook Co. is very happy: COMPASS has been well accepted by students and staff, even at the elementary level. Leigh Zika from Eveleth-Gilbert was hoping to attend today's meeting but had a conflict.

Koukol reviewed network changes and problems. Quest is due to install some new equipment but has changed date twice already. From Oct. 19 they have now pushed back to Nov. 15. Like ALS, schools in International Falls, Eveleth-Gilbert, Ely, Grand Rapids and Deer River have already left NE Net so the loss of functionality (very slow response times) is only affecting the few schools still on NE Net. One solution may be to pay for separate T-1 connections for schools still on NE Net. ALS has a meeting scheduled with CP Telecom tomorrow (Oct. 26).

**LSTA Grant to automate Carlton and Cook public libraries:** Cook has all equipment in place and the ALS contracted cataloger is working to input records there.

**Telecommunications/Wide Area Network Issues:** discussed some under E2T2 Grant, above. Hibbing PL has more traffic than its T-1 line can handle, especially from 3-5 pm. Jim Weikum asked if CP Telecom is prioritizing Horizon traffic above public Internet use. Terry Moore noted that My Space takes lots of bandwidth. YouTube videos do also. ALS can get more dollars from E-rate (pays about 60% of total cost) but the fiscal year on that program starts in July. Remaining balance is paid from State RLTA funds, however, ALS is already using the maximum number of T-1 lines allowed under Regional Library Telecommunications Aid. Weikum noted this is an area where the State Library needs to change out-of-date rules and additional funding is needed. All libraries need T-1 as the basic, minimum level of Internet access (speed). The current rules do not take into account geography and technology limits; they just count number of library outlets. Koukol noted that the United States is reaching its speed and infrastructure limits as well and is not keeping up with Europe.

**OCLC CatExpress:** Some ALS libraries are dropping their accounts. Three so far: Marble, Coleraine, and Calumet. ALS pays \$31,000 per year for Cat Express. If some libraries drop, who will pick up their share of cost? Integrity of records, cost sharing formulas and good of the whole were discussed.

**CODI 2007 Report:** Shari Fisher attending the Customers of Dynix annual meeting in Salt Lake City, October 3-6, 2006. She provided a written report and noted that SirsiDynix staff spent much time apologizing for the lack of progress toward Horizon 8.1. She did note that some current library staff computers (2-3 year old machines) running Horizon may need to have RAM upgrades before Horizon 8.1 comes out (now estimating 2008). One gigabyte of memory is the current standard. Some libraries around the country have already purchased hardware in anticipation of 8.x that is currently gathering dust (and probably becoming out of date as well). Koukol noted that he will be going to the Upper Midwest Dynix Users meeting hosted by the East Central Regional Library.

**Staff reports (re: COMPASS and computer issues):**

**Mark Koukol:** Thanked Chris Magnusson of Hibbing PL for stepping up to offer training on the Serials module in November at ALS. Since it is now clear that Horizon 8.1 is still far in the future, there are software issues that need to be addressed now that many of us had hoped would be resolved or improved by that software upgrade. We can no longer wait for “vaporware.” Koukol is starting general computer classes again. He will repeat previously offered sessions with improved and additional information.

**Shelley Rogers:** Serials training mentioned by Koukol has been announced on the Catalogers email list. There will be two sessions on Wednesday, November 8: 9 am-12 noon and 1-4 pm. Space is limited to 11 people per session.

No other computer issues were brought forward.

## **LIBRARY ISSUES (non-computer):**

**Legislative update:** Jim Weikum provided print version of final 2007 MLA/MEMO platform planks (10) that had just received. Please inform him of any typos or other corrections needed.

**Resolution concerning *Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS)*:** Jim Weikum has presented the resolution to four of the seven county boards in our region. All four have passed it. If any librarians want to present the resolution to their city councils, Weikum is working on a letter of explanation to help in that process. If passed, the resolutions should be sent to the League of Minnesota Cities with copies to ALS. Copies to local legislators would also be appropriate/helpful.

If increases requested in the Libraries Strengthen Minnesota platform are approved, Weikum would suggest money go toward improved (faster) telecommunications and delivery and more databases. Weikum reminds members and the ALS Board that input from ALS member libraries will determine how additional money will actually be spent.

Jan Simmons noted that Beth (Duluth PL Director) talked to their library board. Rochester has proposed a new formula for how to split money between regional and individual libraries. Increases in staff loads due to local budget cuts and ILL increases were mentioned in discussion.

**Status of ALS website make-over and website options for members:** Sally Peterangelo requested this item be moved up on the agenda because she needed to leave at 11:45 a.m. Shari Fisher provided an update and reminded members that there is a beta testing team of ALS staff and member library directors (Ginny Richmond and Terry Moore) working with WA Fisher, the company that ALS contracted with for the grant project. When asked if there were links to school as well as public libraries on the website, Fisher stated that that was not in the plan. Others noted that it might be difficult to decide what school links were appropriate (library specific versus school or district wide sites). The new website will be tested at 56k dial up speed as well as on computers with T-1 access.

**MnLINK update:** Webinars are available for staff training. When asked how Duluth is doing now that they are on MnLink, Simmons stated they average 170 requests per day and have two part-time ILL staff.

Mark Koukol was asked if ALS ILLs are going through faster with Chris Carlson on staff. Some member libraries/patrons near Duluth are having authentication problems when trying to Get It because they have cards with barcode numbers from both systems (ALS/Duluth).

**Expansion of available online databases:** What is the next after Reference USA?

Rebecca Patton provided handout (blue) with price quotes for HeritageQuest alone (\$13,725/yr), and combined with Ancestry Library edition (\$24,715). Ancestry allows no remote access. HeritageQuest does allow remote access. Duluth already gets HeritageQuest. Hibbing has a \$12,000 budget for databases and it is already used up. Members agreed that pricing should be determined for only those willing and able to purchase these databases. Patton will send additional information via email. Patton also provided a handout (goldenrod) on the Gale Reference Digitization Project.

**Staff reports (non-computer):**

**Mark Koukol:** Asked on behalf of Judy Klun (Ely schools) about Kids Cat icon choices. Apparently she has some concern about Religion and Scary stuff categories. Either picture or heading can be changed but whatever it is will be the same for all ALS libraries. Members present were open to suggestions of new language and different icons if Klun wants to bring some to the COMPASS group.

**Rebecca Patton:** Best New Technology workshop is being offered Friday (Oct. 27) at ALS. Webjunction courses are free to all Minnesota library staff.

No additional reports from Rogers, Fisher, or Weikum.

**North Country Library Cooperative:** Linda Wadman mentioned the same workshop reminders that Patton announced.

Other:

- Anyone doing things for Friends of the Library/Volunteer week?
- Virginia Public Library Friends have Herbergers coupons for sale.
- Cloquet has been holding kantele harp lessons.
- Gilbert Public Library had a large group of teens (and younger siblings, total 39) for a pizza party during Teen Read Week (Oct. 15-21). Very successful and FUN too!
- Mary Lukkarila asked what anyone does to secure their book drops and provide staff safety from biohazards and other dangerous substances that might be stuck in drops. Unfortunately, this was a topic that needed to be addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

The next COMPASS meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2006. That is the final scheduled meeting for the year.

Submitted by Ginny Richmond

First draft, 11/22/06 (version 3)

v. 4+ with JW and SR clarifications and corrections, v.6 with ML clarification