

Members present:

Paula Chapman-Aurora, Debby Bocnuk-Babbitt, Patrick Perry-Bovey, Mary Lukkarila-Cloquet, David Ouse-Duluth, MaryBeth Kafut-Eveleth, Amy Hay-Gilbert, Ginny Richmond-Hibbing, Nancy Riesgraf-Hibbing, Sue Sowers-Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams-International Falls, Sally Peterangelo-Mountain Iron, Linda Wadman-NCLC, Julie Billing-Silver Bay, Susan Thompson-Two Harbors, and Nancy Maxwell-Virginia; Shari Fisher-ALS, Sharon Kangas-ALS, Mark Koukol-ALS, Rebecca Patton-ALS, Shelley Rogers-ALS, Jim Weikum-ALS

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

- Shari Fisher attended the SirsiDynix CODI conference
 - SirsiDynix announced a partnership with Brainware, which will allow for the additional of additional features (ex.: spell-checking)
 - Some parts of Symphony are in Beta testing. SirsiDynix is giving information about upgrade options for interested customers.
 - There was some discussion of “Software as a Service.” SirsiDynix is willing to host the library’s Horizon database on their server and to provide upgrades, backups, and database maintenance. Several libraries expressed concerns about having their data offsite. This service is perhaps more useful to smaller entities without technical support staff.
 - There was some discussion of Web 2.0 technologies and how libraries are using them. (Some libraries are using wikis to document and track technical support.)
 - Learning 2.0 (the 23 technologies in 9 weeks) was discussed and a synopsis of lifelong learning habits was given.
 - Horizon 7.4.1 and 7.4.2 will be available in 2008; SirsiDynix notes that 7.4.1 has over 350 bug fixes for the present version, and 7.4.2 has over 700 fixes for the current version. Both upgrades are Microsoft Vista certified. (Mark noted that retail versions of XP will be unavailable for purchase after June 2008, but currently owned retail versions may still be reinstalled; the licenses for operating versions of Windows XP that came installed on purchased computers only last for the life of the computer.)
 - SirsiDynix is saying that they will support the current Horizon product for 4 to 6 more years, but 4 years seemed to be the number the company representatives were stressing at the conference.
 - There will be definite costs involved whether the COMPASS libraries decide to upgrade to SirsiDynix’s Symphony product or whether they migrate to the product of a different vendor. (Mark Koukol noted that he recently saw a demonstration of Koha—a freeware library program that provides the option of paying for ongoing custom programming.)

Telephone messaging

- Patrons have the option of receiving either an email or a phone call (no “both” option is available). If a patron prefers email, the three steps are:
 - Code ALL phone numbers as “No Telecirc Call” numbers.
 - Check the notification by email box.
 - Fill in an email address and the patron’s full name.
- Area codes need to be defined by the system to be accepted; if you have an area code that cannot presently be called, let Mark know.

- Definitions:
 - “Intercepted”—either no area code is entered, the number is no longer in service, or the person’s phone is set up not to allow automated calls.
 - Switched of—in some cases, this means that a cell phone is turned off; Mark is looking into why else this code occurs.
 - Other codes include Busy, No Answer.
- When a hold is scanned in, the message appears as a block note on the patron’s account immediately; email or phone messages go out the next day.
- Mark will look into how the telephone messaging system handles answering machines with multiple mailboxes.
- The calling hours are adjustable, but only for the entire system, not for individual libraries.

Adding new item status codes to Horizon

- Let Mark know if there are any new item status codes you would like added and if you want holds to be available on those statuses.
- Upon immediate request of present members, Mark will add item status codes for “On display” and “Program Use” (for example, a book being used for story time).

Any interest in meeting with a 3M representative to discuss RFID?

- The new 3M representative contacted Jim Weikum and offered to do a demonstration of RFID (trackable chips in items which not only track who checked an item out, but also where the item physically is).
- Concerns about patron privacy were expressed; there was no interest expressed in a demo.

Staff reports: Mark Koukol

- It has been about 2 years since patron records expired for 3+ years were purged. Mark asked if the group would like another patron record purge done, and if this should be an annual procedure? (Records with blocks are NOT purged; Mark would send a list to each library of their patrons whose borrower records could not be deleted.) The group decided that yes, it should be done annually. Mark will run the purge on the last day of November.

Staff reports: Shari Fisher

- Libraries that might be interested in adding an additional T-1 line (at the library’s expense) should let Shari know by 11/29/07. Adding a T-1 line should increase computer speed, although libraries that have done so have noted that there are still slow-downs at peak-use periods. Costs after the e-rate discount would vary by library; expressing interest will not be taken as a commitment. Shari will let any interested library know when a commitment must be made per the e-rate program guidelines.

Other:

- Two Harbors had a problem with their wireless Mediacom Internet; the problem has been resolved.

LIBRARY ISSUES

RASAL recommendations regarding possible electronic database products:

- The RASAL (Reference Advisory Committee) also considered electronic reference titles.

- The titles they recommended are ones that they anticipated would receive broad use across the region, and which are titles that the larger libraries may currently purchase in print versions; having them available electronically would save shelf space.
- The titles are static electronic renditions of the print version of the title; they are not dynamic databases that are updated.
- Libraries which presently purchase the print version of these titles and which would wish to do so even if the group opts for a purchase of the electronic version would receive a 75% discount on the print version.
- ALS is willing to pay the entire cost for either the Electronic Reference titles recommended by RASAL or for Chilton's Online.
- The greatest interest was expressed in the electronic reference titles and the Chilton's Online database. ALS will send out a survey via Survey Monkey so that each library director can vote on which electronic database options should be selected for group purchase. The survey will have a one-week completion deadline.
- Rebecca Patton will contact Chilton's about how current subscriptions by libraries that individually subscribe to Chilton's Online would be handled if a system-wide purchase is made.
- Rebecca Patton will also inquire about a combined price for Chilton's Online and the Electronic Reference titles.
- These databases will be available to patrons at the libraries or over the Internet to patrons with public library cards; because of different pricing and discount practices, they will not be available for login with a school library card.

MnLINK update (last MnLINK Gateway Operations meeting 11/1/07)

- MnLINK upgrades are still coming. (Some are in beta testing.)
- Open source ILS and OCLC cataloging tools were discussed at the last MnLINK meeting.

Staff reports: Mark Koukol

- If you are aware of a patron record with a stuck hold (a hold notice block that you are unable to delete), send Mark the patron and item barcodes. He is able to clear them.

Staff reports: Rebecca Patton

- 18 libraries have expressed interest in participating in a Teens and Gaming LSTA grant. Rebecca will schedule an informational workshop for interested librarians with a Hennepin librarian.

Staff reports: Jim Weikum

- The MLA platform has been set and will be distributed.
- There will be a meeting held at 2:00 on November 29 at Rosedale to discuss how to most effectively approach lobbying for the second plank (an increase in LGA/Local Government Aid and County Program Aid).
- There will be a forum held in the metro area on Wed., Jan. 23 to discuss Maintenance of Effort and Minimum Level of Support for Libraries: what's right, what's wrong, what should be modified. The forum is sponsored by Minnesota's library systems.
- Effective Jan. 1, 2008, Shari Fisher will be the Assistant Director of ALS.

NCLC:

- The trial for the Children's Reference database expires Dec 23.

- The multitypes are planning a 23-things (new technologies) project, with incentives for participating library staff, for all libraries in the region. Linda will send out more information as it is available.
- The NCLC Governing Board is conducting a survey as part of the strategic planning process; Linda will send out a link to the survey through Survey Monkey.

Other:

- Mary Lukkarila went to the 100th anniversary celebration of Astrid Lindgren. Presenters came from Sweden to the celebration. There is a new English translation of Pippi Longstocking which corrects errors in the original translation (for example, the local natives were mistranslated as cannibals).
- Cloquet Public Library may be closed for a week in early January for recarpeting; Mary will let everyone know when it happens.
- Hibbing Public Library has hired a new Children's Librarian. Chuck Bill, who is from Illinois but has been working as a School Librarian in Kansas, will start Jan. 2.

2008 MEETING DATES & TIMES

COMPASS meeting will generally be held on the 4th Wednesday of most months; however, some adjustment will be made due to other library conferences. The 2008 meeting dates will be:

- Jan. 30 (date moved due to meeting in Rosedale on the 23rd)
- Feb. 27
- No March meeting (PLA)
- Apr. 23
- May 28
- No June or July meetings
- Aug. 27
- Sept. 24
- Oct. 22
- Dec. 3 (November meeting moved to early Dec.)

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Chapman, Secretary