

Public Services Advisory Committee
Meeting
June 17, 2008

Present: Ann Barrett, Ian Colford, Marc Comeau, Jane Duffy, Sharon Longard, Bill Maes, Fran Nowakowski, Gwyn Pace, Michelle Paon, Helen Powell, Karen Smith

Regrets: James Boxall, Mike Moosberger

Absent: Mark Lewis

Jane opened the meeting by providing the Committee with an update on Bill C61 (Copyright Legislation).

- the Bill has been tabled in the Legislature and has made it through the first reading
- the APLA/CLA Copyright Working Group (of which Jane is a member) has a 2-pronged strategy
 - get the Bill sent to Committee (they are recommending the Heritage Committee which represents the views of artists)
 - get as many specific examples as possible set out as to what the Bill means. The Group will be looking to CAUL for input on how this legislation might be interpreted.
- Jane will keep the Committee up-to-date with the Working Group's progress

Review summary of discussion regarding Novanet from June 3rd meeting and Discussion on next steps toward a coherent Dalhousie direction for our OPAC

Ian

- access to electronic resources – need to clarify information entered into database
- next steps
 - recommends creation of sub-committee of PSAC to come up with coherent recommendations on what to do (needs to be done in a timely fashion, e.g. over summer)

Helen

- supports Ian's suggestion of a sub-committee which could possibly consider Helen's concerns re cleaning up the look of the OPAC screen; reducing the number of clicks needed for patrons to find what they are looking for
- use-focused OPAC

Karen

- quality/accuracy of records
- customization
- focus on serials holdings to make more accurate (what do we have? what format are they in? where are they physically located?)
- concrete based
- exploring technology solutions

Ann

- reported on OPAC meeting yesterday
 - over the summer we will be moving to a “Union View” which will allow us to load large sets of data. “Union View” was developed by Melvyl at UCLA
 - Dalhousie can customize its OPAC if it wishes to do so, e.g. add SFX links, add logo, etc.
 - this system will eliminate the duplication of records
 - OPAC Committee is looking at trying to customize the OPAC to make it look better for users
- next step
 - familiarize ourselves with “Union View” OPAC and decide what we want ours to look like; what do we want to include, SFX? CRKN packages? etc.

Michelle

- sorting by relevancy – can a relevancy ranking/equation be incorporated in Aleph? Bill queried if there is an industry standard for relevancy ranking.
 - Ann responded that currently it is not possible to rank sorting by relevancy in Aleph but it would be possible with a program such as PRIMO or WorldCat.
- availability of item – on shelf? signed out?
 - use words rather than numbers in OPAC to indicate status of item

Marc

- Systems staff perspective/challenge – digital resources showing in OPAC that our users don’t have access to
- next step
 - refer to sub-committee

Geoff

- “Union View” will have impact
- we are trying to put e-records into OPAC but Geoff doesn’t feel this is the best place for them
 - leave e-journals and e-books in resolver and input paper holdings only into OPAC then have one program run both resolver and OPAC so users only need to search one location
- need to do more harvesting of digital collections where they reside

- is there a role for toolbars which we already have at our disposal
- aggregator tools?
- next step: challenges for sub-committee
 - do all records belong in Novanet
 - what is the role of link resolver
 - print journals and books \Rightarrow is this the role of Novanet

Fran

- thinks there needs to be an interface to allow “one stop searching” but until that time there needs to be one place for users to search so journals should be included in OPAC
- next step for sub-committee
 - look at current as well as future options
 - one place now?

Gwyn

- would prefer sub-committee to specifically look at what interface would be the best we could get for one stop searching for our users

Bill

- where does our search stop and another begin?
- PRIMO – too many choices for search parameters
- what do we provide through our search
- look at products
 - can we create a single search solution
- **important** – this is a critical issue and we need to be on the road to finding a solution

Jane

- practical recommendations
 - would like the sub-committee to develop a statement of support for the University Librarian in his work with Novanet Board members re future directions
 - develop a position that would support professionals at Dalhousie in their day-to-day work

Jane asked if any Committee members would object to being part of a sub-committee to look at these issues – no objections. Jane will develop terms of reference for the sub-committee and send out to PSAC members along with a call for volunteers for the sub-committee (maximum 4 or 5 people). This sub-committee will also be charged with the task of following up with PRIMO and WorldCat on research and development questions for vendors.

Discussion regarding the PRIMO presentation from June 11

- has the ability to deliver what we're looking for
- could possibly be purchased independently but we would need to clarify how it would work
 - we would definitely want ExLibris to host on their server rather than us having to purchase a server and manage it ourselves

Professional Development Update: what topics shall we plan for September?

- Suggestions included:
 - LibGuides (hands-on session rather than lecture session)
 - Collections based services, e.g. Coutts, etc.
 - Developing content for hand held devices such as Blackberries and what type of files could be used, e.g. tutorials?
 - Open access (journals) – how to create content? (was suggested this session not be Library specific but open to University community)
- Marc advised the Committee that Systems is already planning to do a session on Wikis

Next PSAC Meeting

- July 15, 2008

Other Business

- Marc advised that UCIS has selected new Evergreen machines and they will be ordered and should be in place before the end of summer.
- Marc further advised that anyone interested in University-wide blogging should contact him and he will put them in touch with the people administering this

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.