

WRLSWEB Network Advisory Committee Meeting

December 4, 2008

La Crosse Public Library

Minutes

Members present: Jill Bjornstad, Cindy Brown, Bridget Christenson, Trina Erickson, Judy Grant, Peggy Klein, Carol Krett, Kelly Krieg-Sigman, Deb Lambert, Chris McArdle Rojo, Kris McNamer, David Polodna, Jeanne Rice, Karyn Schmidt, Lynette Vlasak

Guests: Kristen Anderson, Charles Clemence, Deb Dagnon, Randy Dagnon, Noreen Fish, David Goldfein, Jennifer Losinski, Myrna Paulson, Marcia Sarnowski, Lisa Ann Widner

The meeting was convened by Polodna at 2:04 pm.

I. Greetings and Introductions/Roll Call. Roll call was taken as indicated above.

II. Approval of minutes from October 2 meeting. *Motion by Bridget Christenson, seconded by Karyn Schmidt, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2008 meeting as presented. Carried.*

III. Short Bib Records: Goldfein explained the problems created by allowing short bib records, and proposed eliminating the possibility for anyone to add records to the database except for LPL technical services staff. He did not have a specific strategy to present at the meeting but rather wanted to know if people were in favor of the concept. He did however indicate that there would need to be a communication mechanism whereby those with an item for which no bibliographic record existed could request that a record be added and then within a stated, limited period of time, LPL staff would download a record from OCLC. Most members present indicated that they felt such a change would be beneficial and agreeable to them, as long as it was responsive. When the question was raised about LPL having adequate staff to do this, Goldfein said he expected this process would actually save time because clean up would not be needed. There was also discussion about how the acquisitions module would help or hinder this endeavor. Goldfein asked if all members would take a tally of how many short bibs they added in a given period of time (e.g., per week, per month) and send him an email with the figure. He will provide a report with a specific process outlined in it at the February NAC meeting.

IV. Cleaning Up the Database -- Records with Single Holdings: Krieg-Sigman stated that she had requested a report be run of how many records in the database had only one holding attached to it. The result showed that there were 270,000 such records. Then the first 5,000 records with LPL holdings were reviewed more closely to get a sense of what kinds of items these were and whether they were still justified in the LPL collection. She was bringing this to the group to see if they would also like to have a report that showed the records with single holding from their libraries. She feels this is an effective way to inform weeding and indicated that LPL would be removing many of these titles. Polodna noted that it should be remembered that LPL has a responsibility as the resource library and that includes retaining some "last copies" of items that could still be useful. The discussion then wandered to the idea of merging the records for various editions of a single title into one bibliographic record. This was seen as a way to reduce the size of the database while easing the task of the searcher who might not care about the specific bibliographic character of the item desired. Polodna stated that all should think carefully about wholesale merging of such records because it represents a significant philosophical change; the important thing is that everyone understand precisely what will be the result before taking action. Back to the original topic, the members present said they would like to see the reports. It was then made clear that the reports were an opportunity to analyze each library's collection and not a mandate to remove last copies if they are still useful to the library's users. Reports will be sorted by library and will contain collection codes, call numbers, and check out history.

V. Definition of Claims Returned: Since the person requesting this topic could not be

identified, and the nature of the issue was unclear, this topic was removed from the agenda.

- VI. ILS Search and the Potential Merger:** Polodna provided an update on the two initiatives accordingly: the ILS search was set aside momentarily while a clearer understanding of the desire for merging technology with Southwest Wisconsin Library System (SWLS) was considered. Since Sirsi-Dynix has decided to keep Horizon functional for a longer period of time, some of the pressure is off for making a quick decision on an ILS change. It was also concluded that to effectively handle the flow of change, it would be wiser to merge technology first, and restart the ILS search process when both systems could be involved in the discussions. At this time, then, both regions are weighing various issues and trying to decide if a merger of technology is desirable. The group discussed the reasons why a merger might be worthwhile and some of the potential problems involved with merging. There is concern that LPL's collection might have undue demands placed upon it with another region of libraries having access. Clemence noted that the lending patterns within WRLSWEB show a relative balance, with most libraries lending as much as they borrow, and this suggests that the drain on LPL might not occur. He also thought that cooperative collection development might be an opportunity that could enrich all libraries while distributing acquisitions responsibilities.
- VII. Possible Alternative Fee Structure:** Polodna had included a chart with the packet that displayed how fees would change if the SWLS formula were to be applied to WRLSWEB. This formula, presented as the 2/49/49 formula, takes 2% of the total projected annual operating costs and distributes it evenly among all members, resulting in a base participation fee, then 49% of the costs are distributed based on circulation levels and 49% are distributed based on collection size. As with any formula change, some libraries would see increases and some decreases. It was pointed out that there was nothing magic about this formula, but its one benefit would be that it is the approach recently adopted by SWLS and if we were to merge it would get us all in line with the same payment structure. People were asked to assess this alternative and be prepared to make suggestions in the future. The current fee structure will remain for 2009; Goldfein indicated that regardless what happens with SWLS, however, we needed to change structures because the WRLSWEB fee structure discourages libraries from expanding services in some cases.
- VIII. Additional Issues or Concerns:** Krieg-Sigman asked if extra copies of popular but no longer new bestsellers would be useful to member libraries. LPL has large numbers of some titles on their shelves and will be discarding them if other libraries are not interested.
- Lambert expressed concern about being informed of when one of her items, lent via WRLSWEB to another library, is lost. D. Dagnon said that running a status report on "lost" would provide that information. Dagnon will send out the directions for running such a report.
- IX. Topic for February Meeting:** Report on eliminating short bib records.
- X. Next Meeting:** February 5, 2009 at the Sparta Free Library.
- XI. Adjournment:** *Motion by Krett, seconded by Christenson, to adjourn.* The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Polodna