

HOTS Conference Call

July 19, 2007

3:00 – 4:50 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Jim Dooley (M, chair), John Riemer (LA, SCP AC), Brad Eden (SB), Patti Martin (CDL), Sharon Scott (R), Martha Hruska (SD, recorder), Lee Leighton (B), Tony Harvell (LAUC), Carole Kiehl (I), Julia Kochi (SF), Lai-Ying Hsiung (SC)

Announcements; report on status of Chinese cataloging proposal (Jim)

Chinese cataloger proposal: most campuses were in agreement with the proposal. Jim has submitted the proposal officially to SOPAG from HOTS.

Linda Barnhart has been on jury duty for the last couple of weeks and has had to delay completion of the Japanese cataloging proposal.

Jim reminded the group that HOTS needs a new chair in Sept. Volunteers are encouraged!

Verde update (Heather Christenson)

Heather noted that she and Tony Harvell participated in the Eluna meeting in South Dakota in June where they found only the Ontario consortium had Verde working... many reports from the other consortia of problems.

SOPAG has asked 1) CDC to reinforce their needs for reports and Tier 3 support, 2) CDL to do an environmental scan to see what other ERMS systems are out there now. Feedback on both is due to SOPAG at the end of the month. SOPAG will have to recommend a path forward.

CDL is currently testing the service pack from Ex Libris... reports are working, but with lots of bugs. These are canned not flexible reports. The interoperability between SFX and Verde, which had to take into account UC's requirements to work with Davis and CDL has had light testing and appears to be working.

The CDC report on their requirements is due next week. This will be discussed tomorrow on CDC's conference call.

The CDL environmental scan is reporting four currently viable ERMS vendors -- Gold Rush, Serials Solutions, Innovative, and Ex Libris. None have a proven track record of supporting a consortium. In the discussion it was noted that the Tier 3 information is important information to share among the campuses and to keep as an ERMS requirement.

Melvyl update (Patti)

CDL continues to be in the 30 month process of upgrading to Aleph 16.02... uncovering some problems, bugs. The release is now tentatively scheduled for mid to late Oct.

Impact on campuses: Record loading into Melvyl will stop while the upgrade is underway so the backlog will grow. CDL will try to do catchup loading in early Aug. Patti will find out and let the group know what that schedule will be and Public Services groups will be notified. Telnets access will be terminated in mid August.

The length of time and number of bugs in the Aleph software have made this upgrade a challenging process for CDL staff. It has been particularly challenging since none of the Aleph upgrade tools worked out of the box given that Melvyl was on a non standard version.

It has become clear that Aleph would be consumed by loading and indexing the large numbers of mass digitization records, given current performance, leaving limited, if any, ability to load and index the same load from campuses as currently received.

With this current upgrade, it will continue to take 6 weeks to reindex the database.

Given ExL practice of fixing bugs in Service Packs, and then releasing the Service Packs with limited, if any, testing, the commitment by exL to this model has raised serious concerns at CDL that have been shared with exL management. . Given the Verde discussion earlier, the HOTS group wonders if it is worthwhile for UC to continue to spend large amounts of time and money on another buggy product from Ex Libris, with the same development model. The Verde Implementation Team is now testing the service pack, and finding that it creates new bugs, making the system 'unstable'. Members of the team don't have fundamental confidence in the information in the system at this point.

Based on the CDL and individual campus experiences with Aleph and with Verde over the last three years of this pending implementation, HOTS members are uncomfortable with the prospect that Ex Libris will be able to deliver a reliable and functional product.

In response to a question on the Innovative ERMS (Kiehl) T. Harvell noted that San Diego has used it for UCSD resources only so far. When asked how satisfied he was with both, he noted these are two different systems. The usability and interoperability of Innovative works well, but it is not clear how it would scale to a consortial environment. It does not have as many data elements and is not quite as sophisticated. The Innovative ERMS does help track basics, like licenses, etc.

ALA reports (everyone)

Lee Leighton reported on his private meeting with Big Heads on Berkeley's current experiments with low level subject headings in 653 fields for materials pending fuller bib record notification. These are legitimate LCSH terms, but not arranged in the proper string, just the elements all in subfield a, so these are retrieved with keyword access.

John Riemer: reported on the presentation he made to Big Heads on *De-coupling user interface from the back end systems: what this trend means for the work we do*. He discussed how systems and dataflows could change with the ILS serving more to manage acquisitions and circulation functions, less for discovery. He also raised the question of getting the mass digitization records in local ILS systems. John will share his presentation with HOTS for further discussion.

There was also discussion of a session on: New models for ILS systems with UWashington describing their experience with WorldCat Local implementation. Steve Shadle noted that keeping the local catalog in sync with OCLC was a challenge. It was noted that ILL has increased within the consortium as a result of the WorldCat Local implementation.

Implementation Team update (John, Patti) and general discussion

John noted the press release on the UC/OCLC pilot in early 08 came out right before ALA. The Implementation team is meeting each week by telephone with regular in-person meetings. There are now 70 people on the various working groups. The working groups and their reports as they are submitted can all be found at Task Force FAQ found on the 'Read all About It' message Jim forwarded the other day, http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/uc_oclc.html#task. Many of the groups are now reporting out and this will continue to be a very dynamic process.

John summarized the work of some of the groups working most closely with topics related to HOTS areas of responsibility.

- Records Missing from WorldCat TF has identified missing records to be sent to OCLC, the team will review how well these loaded and matched. Will include In Process or on order records right before going live, also digital library records from Escholarship and records for digitized items from the campuses.

- OCLC Holdings Symbols team report is on web site now: recommending 13 holdings symbols for the pilot, 10 for the campuses, plus one for UC Davis Health Sciences, NRLF and SRLF. He noted that the recommendation will be for no change in single/sep record practice for the pilot since both exist in catalogs and the WC Local pilot will be an opportunity to see how both work in WorldCat.
- Local Bibliographic Data team surveyed campuses on use of local bib data and found practices all over the map. Found some of those edited bib records could go into master record. Not recommending migrating much of local data for the pilot. Holdings information is a major type of local data that can now be better handled by using LHRs to update. OCLC now supports batch updates of holdings to LDRs. UCLA may test this batch loading. John will report back. The group will be recommending that important changes to bib records be made to the master record using the Enhance upgrade feature, other changes could be reconsidered.
- Mass Digitization – Patti reported on working with OCLC to synchronize mass-digitized records with WorldCat records. The process is quite complex, with records flying in many different directions, not sure how this could work for UC pilot. A Mass Digitization Work Group has not yet been charged, the Implementation Team is still reviewing. Question: What about taking digitized records back into local catalogs? Electronic version and overlay print record on it, but would mean single record model.

The Implementation Team has offered to schedule general staff updates at each campus. These have already been held at Berkeley and Davis. Let the Implementation team know if you want to schedule at your campus.

There are many open issues that will affect workflow, including how to get OCLC numbers into bib records in each campus catalog.

In discussing when is the appropriate time for HOTS input on the process, it was agreed that review of relevant reports should be a standing agenda item for the HOTS meetings. John and Patti, who are on the Implementation Team, will monitor the reports as they become available and alert HOTS members of the reports that should be on the upcoming meeting agendas.

Jim will send out some suggested times on email for the next HOTS conference call sometime in late Aug/early Sept.