

HOTS Conference Call Minutes
November 15, 2006
2:00-4:00

Present: Jim Dooley (UCM, Chair), Brad Eden (UCSB), Tony Harvell (UCSD-LAUC), Lai-Ying Hsiung (UCSC), Carole Kiehl (UCI), Lee Leighton (UCB), Patti Martin (CDL), John Riemer (UCLA & SCP AC, recorder), Paul Wakeford (UCSF)

1. Announcements

- a) SOPAG found the HOTS work goals for the upcoming year to be fine and expressed enthusiasm for the HOTS plan to work with CDC and others to improve coordination of book approval plans and current monographic purchasing.
- b) The December HOTS conference call will be Friday, Dec. 15, 3:00-4:30. Likely agenda topic is review of CAMCIG report on single/separate serial record issue.
- c) The spring in-person meeting, probably in April, will supplant that month's conference call.

2. Report on recent BSTF activity (Riemer)

Jim had previously reported on the July 24 BSTF Workshop that he, Patti, and John had attended. The focus was on moving forward on "creating the next generation discovery system." This encompasses three of the BSTF report recommendations

- Support searching across the entire bibliographic information space
- Create a single catalog interface for all of UC
- Deliver bibliographic services where the users are

For the portion of the information space the OPAC typically covers, SOPAG asked BSTF in early October to develop core specifications for the next generation catalog. Patti led BSTF for the past five weeks in completing this task.

The specs would be needed in the pursuit of any of the three architecture options in the BSTF report (shared central file with a single copy of each bibliographic record, single systemwide implementation of an ILS in UC, use of OCLC as the single UC database of record). The ULs will use the high-level specs for talking with OCLC to see if the idea of basing a new UC OPAC on WorldCat can be made to work. SUNY and University of Washington are two others that have wanted to use OCLC as the basis of the OPAC.

As expected, the following are some of the requirements in the BSTF-generated list:

- Accommodating the one-third of record not now present in WorldCat
- Location information more granular than an OCLC institution symbol
- Holdings data for multi-volume titles
- Seamless linking to holdings, circ status, on-order information, selected information from the ERM
- Provision of user-initiated services

Depending on how discussions go (expected by year's end), there may be a call for more detailed specs.

3. Efforts to synchronize WorldCat with output of mass digitization projects (Riemer)

About a year ago CDL was interested in somebody's keeping up with all the material being scanned by the Open Content Alliance, so that Melvyl could reflect the newly-available online access. One model was the Shared Cataloging Program distributing records to UC. Another idea was addition of URLs to master records in OCLC, as a form of digital registry.

This past September, CDL became aware of a white paper OCLC had written, stemming from its interest in recording what's been digitized from the Google partner (G-7) libraries. Spinning off a digital registry of copyright evidence would be a separate product.

In October Linda Barnhart and the Shared Cataloging Program were asked to comment on the white paper. SCP applauds the paper's direction and encourages a similar approach for OCA. For books in the public domain, OCLC WorldCat Collection Sets could make groups of records available to interested libraries.

An issue for UC is how Melvyl would hold up against an onslaught of records.

In discussion, HOTS agreed it would like to see HOTS/CAMCIG involvement in any upcoming CDL planning efforts related to mass digitization projects.

Also in October, OCLC staff, including Bill Carney, met with CDL in Oakland on the nitty gritty.

Action: Patti will ask Robin Chandler if the minutes of that meeting can be shared.

4. Discussion of CAMCIG report on using OCLC as the single datastore.

There has been some confusion on the relationship between using WorldCat as an OPAC interface and as a data store/cataloging tool, as well as what our usage of WorldCat would actually replace (Melvyl, local OPACs, local copies of bibliographic records). It is clear that pursuit of improved front-end services cannot be divorced from back-end considerations.

Our current web OPACs do not cost us much as a percentage of overall ILS expenses, but the OPACs are not very good. Investing to create something better is expensive, and it should be done once within UC. This would imply giving up local OPACs. It is critical that the UC OPAC include all the records.

HOTS thanks CAMCIG for the great amount work done in a short amount of time, within a group that was only very recently formed.

Action: Jim will convey to the CAMCIG chair HOTS' ideas for improving the wording of the report. Carole will draft a cover memo to be used to convey the report to SOPAG.

Next conference call: Dec 15 at 3:00.