SOPAG's Task Force on Access Integration - October 31, 2001

BACKGROUND:

When the UC Libraries began licensing electronic content, those resources were few enough that it was both easy and desirable to give them prominence by building web pages that listed them. As the number of licensed electronic resources increased, maintenance of these lists became increasingly difficult. Additionally, the licensing efforts of the CDL for the UC system as a whole, and the creation of electronic finding aids presented access issues that neither the local catalogs nor the MELVYL and PE databases could resolve. Initially, the CDL Directory was an effort to both alleviate those issues and provide the same quick access as the web page lists.

Many of us have now shifted from maintaining lists of electronic resources on web pages to dynamically generating the pages from catalog or other databases. The issues of access integration, however, are still very real, as we struggle with facilitating a wide range of both user and staff needs, and integrating access to both electronic and non-electronic formats. While the most immediate questions being posed are focused on the CDL Directory and its role in providing access to electronic resources, the issues being raised are much broader and more long term.

To explore and delineate these issues and bring them to a broad discussion level, SOPAG is appointing this Task Force to develop a white paper on the relationship between our various catalogs, databases, and web pages as access paths to library materials.

CHARGE: The charge to the Task Force has five parts:

1. Investigate the current roles of the CDL Directory and other web-based lists of licensed resources (regardless of how they are created) - these uses might include such functions as providing a hierarchical search and browse for broad level subjects; providing enhanced description, licensing, and access information; providing holdings information for services such as Request; and gathering rudimentary use statistics (by recording clicks on specific titles, for example).
2. Explore the relationship between these web-based products and the catalog databases - can the web products be created from the catalog databases?
3. Explore what new services are needed in providing access to electronic resources, what kind of data these services require, and the implications of separating electronic from other, non-electronic formats.
4. Investigate and assess what other libraries are doing to resolve these access integration issues.
5. Suggest a path on which the UC libraries might concentrate their efforts to best serve their collective needs for representing electronic resources.

MEMBERSHIP:

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