Library Technical Advisory Group (LTAG)

LTAG Meeting
April 8, 2003

Present: D. Bisom (UCI), P. Brantley (CDL), L. Declerck (UCSD), C. Masi (UCSB, for L. Carver), R. Moon (UCB), C. Riggs (LAUC), T. Ryan (UCLA), H. Schmidt (UCSF), D. Snapp (UCD), T.Toy (UCR, Chair)

Absent: D. Barclay (UCM), L. Jaffe (UCSC)

I. a) Peter Brantley

Peter was introduced to LTAG members as the new CDL representative to LTAG.

b) SOPAG/ACG meeting

T. Toy discussed the joint SOPAG meeting with ACG (All Campus
Groups) Chairs held in Oakland on Feb. 21, 2003.
ACTION: LTAG will update the LTAG Goals and Objectives document for 2003.

c) UC Digital Library Forum

LTAG discussed the recent decision to postpone planning for the next (2003) UC Digital Library Forum.

d) ACG Website

LTAG discussed the email from John Tanno, SOPAG Chair, regarding the idea of having a central server to host the ACG websites. The server would be provided by CDL. Suggestions for the LTAG site included having a page devoted to current IT hot topics, and possibly working with STAS in regards to topics that may be of concern to both groups. Appointment of a web manager, etc. was not decided pending further information about the centralized website.

II. a) Z39.50 proxy server/Endnote

Mary Heath was invited to discuss the topic of Z39.50 proxy servers and its relationship to Endnote. As discussed, it was   concluded that the issue was whether CDL or each campus should host a Z39.50 proxy server to allow off site patrons to   access the A&I databases as well as search directly with a product such as Endnote.

CDL has tested a Z39.50 proxy server with CSA and with OVID. Observations included:

- Search results using the z39.50 proxy are not necessarily the same as the results obtained directly from the web server
- One needs an account (which could be automatically established using the UC email address and a simple script) to use the proxy
- Separate instances of the proxy server have to be run for each vendor (currently there are about 6 vendors)

The specific issue concerning Endnote was best summarized by an example from UCB. A patron at that campus expressed difficulty using citation management software to search CSA's PsycINFO database. CDL had created an Endnote connection file so that the patron could search

CSA's version of PsycINFO in the same manner as they had previously searched CDL's version of PsycINFO. However, the connection file could only work with a valid UCB IP address. The only way to have it work from an off-campus IP was to implement a z39.50 proxy server.

CDL agreed that the connection file would be maintained, however it appears that the need for this service has a limited life. LTAG and CDL discussed the number of patrons affected by this problem, and it was determined that the number was very small.

Some campuses (UCSD, UCR, UCI) are already working on an alternate solution to z39.50 proxy servers. Those campuses are running VPN (Virtual Private Network). Another solution to the problem might be implementation of Shibboleth.

It was decided that installing z39.50 proxy servers to support a handful of patrons would not be the best technological decision at this time. Temporarily, the few patrons who use certain citation management software such as Endnote would be unable to use a connection file to enable them to search the vendor's database while off campus.

b) VDX update
Mary Heath was asked to give an update on VDX implementation.
Mary reported that there were initially OCLC messaging issues, but that all campuses can now send to OCLC with no problems. CDL is working with UCLA and UCSB. VDX is highly configurable, which means it is highly complex.
The discussion turned to focus on Ariel's relationship to VDX and whether CDL saw Ariel as a permanent part of the VDX architecture. Concerns about security of the Ariel server were also discussed. Also of concern was the fact that Ariel was no longer owned by RLG, and that CDL must begin negotiations anew with the new owners of Ariel (in conjunction with VDX development).

ACTION: LTAG will compile a list of Ariel software enhancements.
The final document will be forwarded to Peter Brantley, CDL. LTAG members should forward enhancement lists to the LTAG chair by April 18, 2003.

ACTION: CDL will provide an update on VDX development and distribute the information to LTAG members by email.

III. a) CDL Update—Mel-T
Peter announced that Mel-T was in limited distribution. CDL has been working on how statistics are collected, and   that backup procedures are being 'tweaked'
August is the proposed date of the end of legacy Melvyl.
Peter mentioned that those using Apple/Safari browsers may have browser problems with Mel-T.
HOTS will be discussing an upcoming stress test for Mel-T.
D. Bisom asked when Libraries should have their public workstations link directly to Mel-T. No definitive date was   given by CDL.

b) SFX
Migration for SFX version 2 is underway, and the impact to users is practically nonexistent.
Liaisons from each campus will be chosen.
There has been very little feedback about SFX so far. CDL will be testing UC-elinks with Mel-

T. UC-elink citation linker was or will be tested by ILL staff.

c) Shibboleth
Significant pilot programs will begin within 6 months. The Verisign contract expires August 2003; however certificates issued with this vendor will not expire until the end of the calendar year (December 2003). Currently, UCOP Shibboleth trials still make use of UC certificates. UCOP may release a draft white paper on the role of Shibboleth vs. the older PKI infrastructure.   Shibboleth used at the campus level will rely on the information in the local LDAP servers.

IV.   a) STAS update
        John Ober reported on the latest STAS meeting (Strategic Technology, Architecture, and Standards workgroup).   Minutes from past STAS meetings can be found at:
http://www.cdlib.org/libstaff/technology/stas
        Items discussed as the latest meeting included:
        Revisit the Digital object standard
        Shibboleth
        OAI (Open Archive Initiative)
        John also said there is a need to educate the UC Library community about emerging technologies. Discussion followed   on how this could be done. LTAG and STAS both understand the need to work together on issues that may overlap   into both groups.

b) Web conferencing tools
LTAG began discussion on the latest charge from SOPAG:
…investigate the available web-based teleconferencing software and recommend a product or products that could best serve the purposes of SOPAG, ACG, Common Interest Groups, and Task Forces …
Suggested starting points:
Segment the types of meetings: Training groups, annual groups, large workshops, small workshops, task forces, ACGs, etc.
Focus on the main points of Audio and Video, and shared documents.
List some of the products familiar to LTAG group members:
WebEx, NetMeeting, etc.
Keep in mind that the quality of interaction may be compromised, and the use of technology may change the outcome of meetings, resulting in shorter but more frequent meetings.
After prolonged discussion, it was decided to start by finding out what was available at each campus, with a focus on availability, cost, and scalability.
No recommendations could be made until a list of products, methods, costs, and availability of equipment could be gathered and studied.
UCSF and UCI also provided some documentation on videoconferencing equipment currently in use at those campuses.

ACTION: Each LTAG member will summarize videoconferencing and other equipment or software used on their campus. The information should be sent to D. Bisom (WORD attachment preferred) by April 25, 2003 (dbisom@lib.uci.edu)

ACTION: Based on the information gathered, H. Schmidt may be able to create a spreadsheet showing function vs. technology.

ACTION: T. Ryan will investigate obtaining accounts for LTAG members to create an MS Team Web site to evaluate the technology for 'chat' and 'shared document editing' that this product provides.

V.   a) Campus Reports (Round robin)
        Because of the time spent on previous agenda items, campus reports had to be very brief. Some of the highlights from the   members who were able to report on happenings at their campuses:

- Wireless available in 3 of 4 libraries at UCD
- Use of VPN and the proposal of a Shibboleth pilot at UCSD
- Expansion of overall wireless coverage and deployment of Windows XP at UCI
- Use of Legato backup software and development of ADL standalone version at UCSB
- Investigation of CMS software, XML database products, adding to the number of public workstations requiring campus login, and deploying more wireless coverage at UCB

VI.   a) Open proxies (rogue proxies)
        LTAG was unable to discuss this topic due to lack of time

b)LTAG UC Libraries Technology Survey
  LTAG was unable to discuss this topic due to lack of time
Go to SOPAG home page