

Library Technology Advisory Group (LTAG)

March 13, 2000, Meeting

Present: D. Bisom, B. Miller, H. Schmidt, D. Walker, J. Vasi, M. Heath (Chair and recorder), T. Toy, R. Moon, T. Ryan, B. White, H. Walker, L. Farley

I. Round robin – reports from the campuses

UCSB – The Library must make a decision on Taos by summer; and an addendum to the contract with DRA requires all functions of an ILS by summer 2001. The campus is installing a proxy server, recharging the Library for its operation. The campus is appointing a Director of Information Technology, which will be a half time faculty position

CDL – Managers are being recruited for both the OAC and eScholarship projects.

UCSF – A proxy server has been installed and will soon be made available for use; the Library is reserving the right to make this service subscription-based. DHCP stations have recently been opened for use in the Library.

UCSD – The portal development deadline was the end of February, so the new portal will be available soon; the point of entry is much simpler than in the previous system. Miller will send access to anyone of us requesting it. A Pacific Rim library server (PRL), primarily a contractual event, now contains a large database of Chinese texts. The Library is reorganizing its programming. A wireless taskforce has been formed on campus to facilitate the coordination of bandwidth use, and the Library is participating in a beta test. After an extensive evaluation of email applications, the Library has successfully implemented Groupwise; Miller will distribute the URL for the evaluation document to us.

UCI – There is a new proxy server in place, being run by the campus (using Apache). All Library Wyse terminals will soon be removed. Email applications - Eudora, Outlook, and Outlook Express, as compared to Pine – are being evaluated. The Library is considering out-sourcing technical training for Library staff. A contract has been signed with III for the full Millenium suite. The campus is preparing to issue an RFP for smartcards, and has recommended that the project be centrally funded (the greatest expense is the re-carding); since the campus does not want to own the equipment used for reading the cards, the library use will be only for printing and copying. Some servers have been migrated to new equipment.

UCSC – The Library received funds for workstation replacement this year, and are(replacing a significant number. They plan to upgrade to the III Millenium software in the next fiscal year. A large number of public terminals remain in the Library, and Millenium will require replacing those. The Maps unit is moving to

another building, and a proposal has been made to establish a data access room in the vacated space. The Library is beginning a discussion with the computer center on proxy services.

UCLA – The news on Orion II is much better; the system is now meeting minimum performance and stability goals, and it has been made available on library workstations and announced to graduates. The Myaccount function, initially unstable, was released for use in February. There is a major learning curve for users now, and the bulk of email is "how to" questions rather than complaints. The list of day-one functions has not yet been met, but DRA is making progress and milestones have been set (recalls is number one), with most of the deadlines in summer and a few in fall. The Library created a team to do informal look at other vendor system installations (Wisconsin's Endeavor, Notre Dame's Ex Libris, UCSD's III); they found no perfect system, and some things the DRA system does well. The evaluation, though very informal, helped to identify what options are available if DRA can't meet the established goals. A new Digital Library Coordinator (Howard Batchelor) has been hired; the position reports to Terry Ryan, but is not in the Systems Department. UCLA hired a new CIO (Jim Davis) from Ohio State. The campus is taking most of the IT funds for the next 3 years to fully fund the UCLA Connected program that will bring the campus up to network standard. UCLA has established a group to define a student access policy for controlling use of napster files, and are creating guidelines for complaint response; Ryan will share these guidelines with us.

UCB - Three new ULs have been appointed, and the Library is working on organizational culture and process issues. A collaborative effort is under way with CDLT to implement a circulation status display in the MELVYL system for UCB. An upgrade to the Pathfinder application is in progress, but the new version of the OCLC WebZ product is problematic. Email circulation notices are being developed for the Gladis system. Initial efforts on Pinyin conversion are underway, and plans are being made to load a new LC names authorities file. Infrastructure upgrades are in progress; Windows2000 is being installed on public workstations, and there are now fee-based print stations in all public locations. The proxy server will be made public this week. Many line-mode terminals are being replaced. Because of napster use, the campus placed a limit on bandwidth use. The campus is exploring I-Drive to provide network storage for students; use of this application may present some copyright issues for libraries. The URL <http://proxy.lib.berkeley.edu> has a set of instructions for users on proxy set up.

UCR – The campus has advertised a high speed remote access server, and a proxy server is now in beta testing; this service will be limited to faculty and librarians. The campus is also setting up a wireless network, and the Library will participate in testing; there will be a wireless corridor on the campus, for which students will be required to have cards. Smartcard implementation is planned for May, 2000, and the Library is working to acquire readers (which may be attached to Wyse terminals). This implementation presents equipment issues since workstations will

need both a barcode and a magnetic stripe reader. A contract has been signed for early summer implementation of the III Millennium product. The Rivera Library renovation this summer will result in the replacement of line-mode terminals on circulation desks with PCs. An upgrade to Windows2000 is planned.

UCD – An upgrade of all staff workstations to WindowsNT has begun; a set of supported software suites for the various staff functions has been agreed upon and is being installed as workstations are upgraded. An RFP for authorities processing is in preparation, and actual processing should begin in late Spring. The DRA cataloging and circulation system is being migrated to a new machine (a DEC 20). Web development activities are being brought into an organizational structure, and a Web Editorial Board established; a suite of development software has been described, and plans are underway to provide training to staff who have web page responsibilities. A web-based OPAC interface will soon be released for staff use, and plans are underway to release it to public in Fall. Preparation and planning have begun for implementation of a fully integrated library system, with an initial focus on data inventory and cleanup, and RFP creation. A data warehouse is being designed for the archiving of collection use and cost data.

II. Technical services (B. Miller)

Pinyin conversion - Four campuses will be going to the OCLC and RLG user group meetings. A list of options that will guide conversion for the CDL database is expected; a mixed database will affect public displays. Miller will make an effort to report back to HOTS and LTAG on the meeting.

Shared cataloging program - An update report was distributed that included a URL (<http://orpheus-1.ucsd.edu/disc/cdl/>) and listservers that can be used to gain information.

LARS – The bindery connection module for III systems is in testing at UCSD; testing should be completed by the end of March.

III. CDL RFP (L. Farley)

Farley emphasized that only those specifications that, alone, would cause a vendor to be rejected were marked mandatory. The group provided to Farley on details of the RFP.

IV. CDL-T report (D. Walker)

Verisign contract - Walker has developed a document on what authentication means to Libraries. The next three years will require a mixed technology for user authentication. Certificates should be available within a month. Key issues include anonymity and privacy for faculty on publisher sites.

CDL-T will not support a proxy for whole system. Walker will look into supplying updated files of URL's for those sites licensed by CDL for use by campus proxies.

V. Technical Architecture and Standards Working Group (T. Ryan)

The group is working on 2 documents that will soon be ready to share. One is a draft of CDL technical architecture and standards, and the other a draft on persistent identifiers (PIDs). There is a proposal LTAG be the primary response group for these drafts. Ryan asked LTAG to take responsibility for getting feedback from the most appropriate person on the campuses. The documents will also be distributed more widely, but feedback from that will be less formal. Any campus unit creating a system for the CDL or to interact with the CDL will be expected to follow the guidelines. September is the target for the next revision, so input from LTAG is desired by May. However, we should not distribute further until the next revision is complete, which will be very soon. Comments should be sent to Walker.

PURL server – The draft on Persistent Identifiers is to be reviewed by LTAG and HOTS, and comments should be sent to Hurley (bhurley@library.berkeley.edu). The document provides a context for discussion of a PURL server. If PID implementation is a redirect of given URL, then the server set up is simple. There should be a single PURL server by May. PURLs can solve a variety of problems, and set up requires identifying which are most important. One issue, for example, is whether PIDs should have semantic meaning, though doing so would probably negatively affect their persistence. There are maintenance and display issues that still need to be resolved. The world seems to be moving to URNs, and a PURL server will facilitate our movement in that direction.

VI. Metadata Workshops (M. Heath)

The HOTS/LTAG Metadata Workshop proposal has been approved by SOPAG, and will be presented by R. Lucier to the ULs. If the ULs approve, plans are underway to have the first workshop in the Spring.

VII. PIR phase II (M. Heath)

Phase II of CDL Request began in January with no major problems. There is a report on the CDL website (<http://www.cdlib.org/libstaff/sharedcoll/projects/pir/>). The project team is beginning to look at vendors again, and plan to acquire an ILL routing application to interface between the CDL processes, the campuses, and OCLC and other external systems. The DRA XML patron file API is due out soon; once UCD receive it, they will work with UCI to develop direct patron database queries for the DRA and III systems.

VIII. Next meeting – late October or early November

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