Librarian's Meeting.   May 11, 2006   notes by Fran Rosen

Present: Dave Scott, Richard Cochran, Ann Breitenwischer, Joe Weber, Melinda McMartin, Scott Atwell, Rick Bearden, Fran Rosen, Ray Dickinson, Leah Monger, Yuri Konovalov.

Richard made some announcements:

The schedule for Summer University is out, we should feel free to participate.

Another Presidential Bus Trip is scheduled for June 5th-8th. They will be going to a number of places, including doing a number of things in Detroit. They will be signing articulation agreements with community colleges, cultivating friendships, and also meeting with businesses and friends/alumni groups.

Richard will be on a panel at the Michigan Library Association annual meeting in October, on Academic Libraries & the Future.

Richard said there were 2 meetings this week about Technology. A plan is being formulated for rotating Leeann out of FLITE. They want to bring in Brent Kundinger and have him be based at FLITE for probably a year or more. A written plan is needed. Richard says we are trying to make it clear that the presence of the same person for an extended period of time is very important.

The memo detailing Kriss Tessin's knowledge & responsibilities gave John Urbanick pause, but he is still committed to have some kind of cross-training & to having somebody else trained to participate in some of Kriss's activities. It will take a while for them to identify somebody who can be trained. However, Scott Thede will be spending some time at FLITE working with Kriss. Also, Kriss will probably have some time scheduled away from FLITE, for example 1 hour/day.

Richard says we need to give this some time & room to develop. He thanked Leah & Rick for all their hard work documenting what Kriss does & the training required.

Richard has discussed this with the VPAA who is supportive of the library. Richard has also suggested that ATS might want to send somebody to some workshops at MLC, to learn more about what is involved in technical support of libraries. Richard feels that the decision has been made and we have to cope with it and to participate in the discussions.

Rick said that he has been talking to Systems Librarians at other libraries across the state to see what the reality is. At other libraries, either the technical support is done within the library, or the library is a partner with IT.

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Yuri stated that he has been reading reports, and went to the MLC Bibliographic Services & Library Technology Members Forum meeting last week. The reports say that

cataloging is dead. Yuri thinks that we need to do more to enhance access to our resources. The new catalog enhancements are great, and Yuri is also working on authority control reports to improve "see" and "see also" references. But we need to do more. People expect something like Google. We should have 1 box for all searches, and the results would be sorted and ranked. A lot of work would have to be done behind the scenes for this to function but it is time for us to start thinking about it & moving in that direction.

Yuri and Leah pointed to Indeca, and other tools that sit on top of the catalog. The goal is to integrate all our discovery tools and provide a sensible & useable set of results.

Yuri suggested that the first step is to consider useability studies, and to find out how many times the catalog is accessed, and how many failed searches.

Yuri proposed that we collect all ideas and compile a wish list. He said we need to sit down and brainstorm and figure out what we want to do now, what we want to do soon, and what is still down the road. We need to recognize it is a huge project but we need to get going on it. There are software solutions that we could look at.

Yuri suggested we create a team to collect ideas and look at solutions. He listed some possible members: himself, Leah, Rick, Julia….

There was some general discussion and it was clear there are a lot of thoughts on this subject.

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Rick announced that the new interface for ABC-CLIO databases allows SFX, so links to things we don't have are turned off. He thinks that having those links correct will lead to more ILL requests.

Joe announced that TAC is now saying they will leave in August. Joe wants to put a Curriculum Resource Center in Room 114.

There was some discussion about Room 114 and other spaces. Richard said another possibility is to move the Multimedia equipment and the Adaptive Technology Lab into 114, and use the Adaptive Technology Lab for a Curriculum Resource Center. Brent Kundinger will need an office down there so he can supervise the students at the North Service Desk.

Joe said that if we do set up a Curriculum Resource Center, he expects that Kristy Motz would get involved in it pretty quickly. Melinda asked if there is a fairness issue, since we'd be giving the School of Education space that we don't give to other Schools or Colleges. Ann brought up the question of whether we would have to staff this room. Richard said that they had talked about moving the manipulatives on reserve into the Curriculum Resource Center, and to do that would require supervision of the area and staff time to do it.