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I-Share OPAC Team Minutes for November 10, 2009

Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois

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I-Share OPAC Team Minutes

November 10, 2009

Present: Lisa Wallis, Jana Brubaker, Amanda Pippitt, Kathy Chang, Paula Dempsey, Paige Weston (CARLI), Lisa Gonzalez, Peggy Steele, Keith Eiten, Edith List, Greg Morrison

Minutes: Greg Morrison

Report from CARLI annual meeting (Amanda)

- The committee chair meeting discussed the program planning committee (Anne Craig, chairperson) explaining its mission and programs; it is meant to help organize and support programs with a broader appeal. Amanda cited the recent copyright forum as an example. Check out the CARLI (under “programs”) website to find out more information. The committee welcomes ideas for the future, and is considering meeting twice annually. It currently meets just once a year. The chairs of the committee are also considering the creation of a document with more detailed guidelines of what committee chairs should do
- Priscilla Matthews, chair of the I-Cat group, expressed that her team wants to be a resource for the opac team. Perhaps there would be a joint conference call in the future. She did not mention any particular concern
- The recent CARLI member survey indicated (not surprisingly) that opac- and I-Share-related matters ranked high in importance (4.82 out of 5), whereas actual satisfaction with the opac was significantly lower (3.86). High percentage of respondents (40%) wants high priority given to fully developing VuFind as an alternate interface. Respondents also thought high priority should be given to the work of testing other discovery interfaces, and participating in collaborative development of ILS (45% and 47% respectively)
- Survey results also showed significant interest in making the broadcast search system at UIUC more widely available, and making Syndetics information searchable
- High interest in general in open source initiatives
- Amanda noted in Susan Singleton’s further comments a growing acceptance of the likelihood of multiple user interfaces for the same data, which marks a philosophical shift away from a staunch commitment to standardization in the profession and reflects the broader world of online searching where standardization seems also less and less important
- Meeting ended with an informative talk on the topic of “libraries in tough economic times”

CARLI News (Paige)

- VuFind: Paige now has greater access to the development area in VuFind, and is able to make infrastructure changes. This empowers her to make wording changes that the team discussed previously (e.g. adding more details, marc field changes, myaccount information)
- Reinstalled snooping software to help improve communication between VuFind and Voyager, specifically to improve VuFind’s ability to submit requests that Voyager knows what to do with.
- VuFind index corruption has been an issue of late, making some records irretrievable. Optimized copies of the indexes are now being copied from the development area weekly. This is an interim solution. The longer-term solution involves fixing the VuFind hardware, which is currently underway

- Additional VuFind enhancement requests from libraries (40% want further VuFind development to go forward). One request is to change language on the logon page
- Paige addressed the 856 field display problem in VuFind. It is due to the fact that VuFind cannot parse easily the 856 data that comes from the MFHD record, but Paige believes that, though it won't be perfect, it can be improved and is currently working on it
- The project to make Syndetics data searchable in VuFind is moving forward, but syncing the Voyager and Syndetics data is proving to be a challenge
- TomCat report: ExLibris provided CARLI with 3 "hot fixes" that aim to eliminate some software problems, e.g. the problem of extra sessions that won't die. Susan Singleton indicated that CARLI will eventually simply have to test the fixes by moving them to production. So things are happening but no eureka moment as of yet; there may be an attempt to test it again over the winter holidays

IUG News (Keith)

- Last IUG meeting was short, and there is nothing to report at this time

Update to Usability Testing background reading

- Jana and Lisa updated the list of resources the ILCISO task force first created to inform librarians on the topic of usability testing
- All team members are invited to review the current list, identify gaps, and send links for additional resources to add to the document via the email list
- It was suggested that the document reside on the Usability Testing group page
- Amanda tried unsuccessfully to send an email to the usability testing volunteer group, which aimed to determine the level of training needs among the group. She will try again to email them with the list of readings and preliminary questions
- Lisa thought that this resource list could be finished by the time of the December meeting for consumption by the volunteer group

Usability Testing (UT) questions

- It was agreed to add a question to the UT question list that addresses tagging
- Amanda clarified that the Opac team will form the core usability questions but each institution determines how it will go about answering it, and how it formulates the test
- Lisa highlighted a particular Powerpoint resource (esp. slides 37-39) on the compiled list as particularly useful in formulating questions, and the goals behind them.
- The suggestion was made to offer some introduction and how-to narrative to each of the categories of material on the resource list

Tagging in Academic Library catalogs (see Jana's email, 10/28/09)

- Discussed how important this is to academic users, and considered the survey/interview results of one German study suggesting that users are largely uninterested in tagging and commenting in an online catalog
- Tag browsing is currently inactive in VuFind b/c it is seriously flawed; there remains a way to search tags by build a URL that includes "tag=term"
- Amanda shared the "bollywood" tag example and described how it could be useful in our setting, but the ability to search them effectively is not there

- Paula suggested we read an article that discusses tagging and commenting at the University of Oklahoma
- Considered renaming the “comments” tab to something like “review this book”

Next meeting is Dec. 8th, 10am-12pm