

COMPASS USERS' GROUP

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, January 30, 2008 DRAFT

Members present:

Paula Chapman-Aurora, Debby Bocnuk-Babbitt, Mary Lukkarila-Cloquet, Janet Coy-Grand Rapids, Ginny Richmond-Hibbing, Nancy Riesgraf-Hibbing, Sue Sowers-Hoyt Lakes, Linda Wadman-NCLC, and Nancy Maxwell-Virginia; Shari Fisher-ALS, Sharon Kangas-ALS, Mark Koukol-ALS, Rebecca Patton-ALS, Jim Weikum-ALS

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

The minutes of November 28, 2007 were presented. No corrections were noted; the minutes were approved as written.

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES

Questions or problems with Horizon functions:

- Grand Rapids reported a unique situation whereby some books that were due on July 2 were reappearing as checked out on patrons' cards even after they had been returned and checked in. (In the patron's history the books did appear as having been checked in—but then reappeared checked out on the patrons' cards.) Mark Koukol said it may have been related to the upgrade; he will run Grand Rapids a report of all books due at their library on that date so they can make sure there are not problem items outstanding.

Horizon news, updates & upgrades:

- ALS is now upgraded to Horizon 7.4.1 and HIP (Horizon Ipac) 3.09. Both systems reset the list views back to the out-of-box appearances. Mark has fixed these as they have been reported; let him know of any changes that remain to be made. (The item price was added to the "All Items Out" list on the patron's record at the request of one of the school libraries.)
- Mark has been activating pre-overdue email notices for libraries that would like this service. Pre-overdue notices are available for patrons who are set up to receive email rather than telephone notices. If you would like your library to have this functionality, let Mark know how many days in advance of the due date you would like the notice to go out.
- Another byproduct of the Horizon upgrade is a reduction of the volume of the beeps Horizon makes at checkout and check-in.
- Schools reported a bug with adding homerooms after the upgrade. Mark contacted Horizon and they promptly fixed the problem.
- Mark is working on modifying the default display for the Request Pull List. Individual libraries may still reset the defaults when opening up the list to suit their preferences.
- Horizon 7.42 is scheduled for release by the end of the year. They are also working on HIP 4.0—one anticipated enhancement would enable patrons to pull up a list of everything they have ever checked out.

Unique Management Systems:

- This is a collection agency designed to work with libraries. They have a for-a-fee product that works with Horizon. Discussion will be deferred until the February meeting.

Request Leaders report: how can we use this tool?

- Many libraries use the list as a collection development tool and order titles for their library if their patrons have holds on titles that they do not own.
- There is no way to access a report of which libraries own the titles with high holds and how many of the holds are from patrons of each library. Thus, each library has to search each title, a time-consuming process.

MnLINK upgrades and “Buy versus Borrow”:

- Coming MnLINK upgrades will allow ALS staff to monitor and flag requests that meet certain criteria (current year movies or books)—but it would require staff to mediate every request. Mediation is more labor-intensive and causes delays.
- The numbers of MnLINK requests are overwhelming some systems, and some libraries are refusing to fill requests for current release titles.
- If Nancy King encounters requests for current movies or bestsellers that are unlikely to be filled through MnLINK, or for cheap paperbacks, should she let the borrower’s home library know so they can consider the title for purchase?

Staff reports: Mark Koukol:

- The spam filter crashed over the weekend (thus the recent influx of spam), but has been restored. ALS is looking into various commercial spam filtering companies and will share more info as it is available.
- After May, Windows XP will no longer be available for purchase; all new Windows computers will be supplied with Vista. Mark recommends that you purchase a retail box version of XP for each Horizon computer before that time. A retail box version can be re-installed on a new PC once the current PC is discarded, one PC per retail box. The XP version that comes with a new computer, the OEM version, can NOT be legally reinstalled on a new PC. The license ends with the original machine. Mark is also exploring Ubuntu, an open-source operating system—but it will not currently run Horizon. Mark will share more information about Ubuntu.

Staff reports: Shari Fisher:

- Call-ins to TM3 to renew items are minimal. Is there any interest in ALS paying for an 800 number? (General informal consensus said no.)
- ALS will begin assuming the Cat Express costs on July 1, 2008 for libraries whose counties pay adequate support.

Staff report: Jim Weikum:

- The open source operating system Koha was demonstrated at the MnLINK User’s Group meeting. Some library systems are discussing ways of integrating library systems using this product.

LIBRARY ISSUES

Library security issues:

- Virginia Public Library’s library vehicle was recently stolen by someone believed to have stayed in the library after hours. The car was recovered, but VPL, at the request of their council and police department, is considering library security measures such as convex mirrors, keypad alarms for doors,

alarm doors, security cameras, and motion sensors. Nancy inquired what security measures other libraries have and how effective they are. Various libraries use security cameras or motion sensors (the heat-sensors were noted to cause more false alarms or failures than actual motion sensors). Most present were more concerned for staff safety. Various libraries have various staff safety measures in place (panic button at desk or portable panic button, policies on closing and exiting the library in pairs, etc.). Consensus was that the best security comes from having enough staff to adequately monitor the building.

Legislative update:

- February 27 is Legislative Day; a group will leave ALS on the 26th to attend a Tuesday night briefing at the Augsburg (behind the west bank of the U of M).
- Thanks to all library boards which have passed the resolution in support of increased Local Government Aid. There is no deadline, so further consideration continues to be welcome. Many resolutions are coming in from around the state.
- Library construction grants are not at present looking hopeful, but notify Jim Weikum if your library is planning projects. He will keep lobbyists apprised of the needs.

Maintenance of Effort/Minimum Level of Support forum report:

- The forum was well attended. The morning was devoted to explanations of Maintenance of Effort and Minimum Level of Support. The afternoon discussion contained a wide range of opinions on the issues. The issue has been referred to a committee of the Regional Library System Directors for further discussion and work to identify possible areas of consensus.

Staff reports: Rebecca Patton:

- The web site for the annual reports will be live Feb. 1. Rebecca will keep everyone apprised of her schedule and when she is available to provide assistance. The completion deadline for the state is 4/1, but Rebecca will be gone in late March for PLA, so please send her your report for review as soon as possible. All ALS library annual reports should be submitted to Rebecca for review before being submitted to the state.
- Upcoming workshops include a Soaring workshop (Feb. 8), Gale training on the Biography Resource Center, Chilton's Online, and the Virtual Reference Collection (Feb. 12, at Cloquet PL at 10 a.m. and at ALS at 1:30), and Reference USA training (Feb. 25.) There are presently openings for each of these workshops. Nancy Pearl will be doing a Reader's Advisory workshop on Sept. 10. (If that date does not work, ALS staff may attend this workshop at other locations in the state at other times.)
- Virtual reference titles available in the system have been added to the catalog.
- ALS can print ALA READ posters using photos local library patrons and community leaders. Contact Rita for cost estimates and information.

Staff reports: Jim Weikum:

- NeNet is looking to put together a grant proposal for ITV equipment for local schools and libraries. Eligibility is based on local poverty figures, and participation would include some cost to the library. Libraries should also be aware that ITV uses considerable bandwidth. If you would like to receive more information as the project progresses, let Mark or Jim or Shari know.
- ALS is looking at fiber connection for library Internet service for the next e-rate period; more information will follow.

NCLC:

- The Minnesota Multitypes are sponsoring “23 Things on a Stick,” a new and emerging technologies learning program. Approximately 553 people around the state have registered so far; participants have reported enjoying and learning from the experience.

Other:

- Cloquet Public Library will be closed for re-carpeting from February 4-9; they may not be able to fill requests during that time.
- Janet Coy will be retiring from Grand Rapids Public Library; March 28 is her last day of work. The Grand Rapids Public Library will be hosting an open house retirement party for her on March 31 from 3:30-6:30 p.m.; everyone is invited! Grand Rapids will be doing a “Big Read” in February. The selected title is The Maltese Falcon and the library will have various related events.

Rescheduling of February meeting date:

- The previously scheduled February meeting date conflicts with Library Legislative Day. The February COMPASS meeting was, by general consensus, re-scheduled for Feb. 20.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Chapman, Secretary