

COMPASS USERS' GROUP

DRAFT

Meeting minutes of Wednesday, June 3, 2009

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Members present:

Debby Bocnuk/Babbitt, Mary Zaitz/Chisholm, Mary Lukkarila/Cloquet, Carla Powers/Duluth, Linda Chappell/Grand Marais, Ginny Richmond/Hibbing, Nancy Riesgraf/Hibbing, Sue Sowers/Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams/International Falls, Linda Wadman/NCLC, Nancy Maxwell/Virginia; Shari Fisher/ALS, Mark Koukol/ALS, Rebecca Patton/ALS, Jim Weikum/ALS (10:20)

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Requested volunteer to take minutes in absence of Secretary.

Introductions were made by all present. A special welcome was extended to Carla Powers, new Library Manager at Duluth Public Library.

Approval of COMPASS minutes for April 22 meeting/**Approved.**

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES

Questions or problems with Horizon functions:

- Mary Z. reported problems with Chisholm item records disappearing from bib records.

Horizon news, updates & upgrades:

- Mark K. reported nothing new on Horizon. UPS battery backup has been purchased for server bank hoping to keep Horizon running during power failures. 7.5 still due to be released by year end.

Item-less bibliographic records, status report:

- Mark has deleted one month of itemless bibs from 2003; experiment went well. He asked if he could delete all from 2003 & 2004, no members present objected.

ILS replacement process, update:

- Mark reported that he will be attending WILS World in Madison, Wisconsin on July 22.
- While Open Source software like Koha is just a new way to write the same type of ILS currently sold by companies, there is a new type of module-less "cloud" structure being developed. This is very new and will not be ready for ALS to consider in the time we have. Mark thinks we should move to our next generation ILS by the end of 2010 (next year!) Mostly likely options remain Polaris and Koha but all major vendors will be sent bid specifications. Carla Powers is familiar with Innovative Interfaces from her previous work in Wisconsin libraries. Three major criteria will be 1) Cross-operability across internet networks (Horizon only works on one WAN), 2) Reporting capabilities, and 3) Request handling.

Technical Services Librarian position at ALS:

- Jim W. reported that the position has been posted through Express Employment Professionals and nationwide advertising is underway. Original cataloging experience will be a mandatory qualification. The position is to be for two years, as recommended in the Ohionet report, with the person, hired on a contract, to act as a change agent to carry out the recommendations of the study. Clearly this

restructuring will affect individual libraries as well as ALS. The backlog of unique items needing cataloging was discussed in relation to the ALS TS position.

Staff reports:

- Jim W. reported that Janet Stram's position at Nashwauk-Keewatin school library may be eliminated. She will be appealing this. The school library also acts as the Nashwauk public library under an old and unusual political/financial agreement. Members expressed concern about continuing to loan materials to schools that do not have regular, paid staff in their libraries.

Other: None.

LIBRARY ISSUES

Delivery: ALS and NEMIDS:

Shari F. shared a handout and explained some of the things that need to be done to make our delivery systems (ALS van, NEMIDS couriers) run quickly and accurately. Most important is that libraries both write the proper code letters at the top of yellow (ALS) and/or green (NEMIDS) routing slips ***AND also*** circle the proper codes, listed on the slips, as a double check. Illegible handwriting and use of inappropriate code letters (delivery abbreviations are NOT the same as Horizon codes) are causing delivery errors and delays. Another request was that both green & yellow slips be put in books leaving libraries that only get NEMIDS delivery. Some members seemed surprised by the fact that there are two different delivery slips: they were not familiar with the yellow ALS slip which includes the daily delivery schedules as well as codes.

What's happening at your library? Budget issues, LGA cuts, etc.:

- Linda Chappell/Grand Marais noted that Cook County paid a large amount of extra money this year to get up to standard contribution levels and wondered how that would affect Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Jim stated that 2009 Local Government Aid (LGA) cuts could result in proportional cuts to library funding. There is no consensus yet on how new legislation regarding MOE and potential unallotment of LGA will actually be handled. For 2010 MOE, Cook County went above minimum and all other counties are currently at minimum. The Cities in our region are all above minimum and could cut library revenue in proportion with cuts received. In attempting to make your budgets for the coming year, the conservative approach would be to subtract the maximum 10% from your current/expected local revenue.
- Carla Powers noted on her third day of work a news report came out quoting a Duluth resident and State Representative for Dist. 07B, Roger Reinert stating that the Duluth Public Library might have to close due to the severe economic crisis in that city. She met with Mayor Ness yesterday and feels he is supportive of the library. [Ginny needs verification that she is even close to accurate on this!!]

New "State Plan for Libraries"

- General discussion and reports from individuals and groups meeting about State Plan. Groups include Regional Directors and Public Library Director's and well as on-line discussions. Most feel a lot of work and sharing needs to be done before an acceptable document is ready. Many think there needs to be a more specific focus on the State Library: how it is run, under what part of State government and with sufficient funding to make whatever plan is accepted both feasible and realistic. Recommendations have included making this a topic of discussion at MLA Annual Conference in the fall (St. Cloud, Oct. 14-16).

Legacy Amendment:

- Funds for libraries were approved at \$4.5 million for FY 2010 and 2011. This could bring approximately \$450,000 to the ALS region. Some sort of grant process would need to be developed.

Update: additional licensed databases:

- Shari F. provided handouts showing cost of current and proposed databases provided through ALS and the amounts paid per library for Biography Resource Center & Reference USA. A second handout gave Usage Statistics for Gale Biog. Resource Center for Jan.-Dec. 2008. Only 9 of 6,969 sessions were remote (accessed from outside a member library). Diane Adams moved that ALS fully fund the following six databases for 2010 plus as much of Biography Resource Center as remaining balance allows. 1) Novelist, 2) Chiltons Auto repair, 3) EBSCO Small Engine repair, 4) Virtual Reference, 5) Overdrive downloadable books, and 6) Learning Express (new). Support by Ginny. Motion approved with no opposing votes. Rebecca P. will see if Learning Express can be started earlier than Jan. 2010. [Follow-up email from Shari Fisher, June 5, 2009, reported that “based upon ALS having the ability to cover the same amount of costs in the 2010 Budget as we did in the 2009 Budget, public libraries would not be billed for Biography Resource Center in 2010.” Note this package does not include Reference USA. -GR]

Staff reports: Rebecca Patton

- Twins posters are available for members to take back to their children’s librarians as requested. There appear to be plenty to go around.
- College Scholarship information has been sent out but has timeline restrictions. Note, the more entries from a given library, the higher chance to win money for library as well as an area child. Please distribute materials with Summer Reading Program sign-up and encourage participation.

Staff reports: Jim Weikum

- PLD (Public Library Division of MLA) is sponsoring a webinar next Monday (June 8) regarding budgets. Mary Lukkarila is one of the presenters.

NCLC (North Country Library Cooperative):

- Linda Wadman noted that More Things on a Stick deadline has been extended one month, until June 20. Remember that NCLC has scholarships available for library workshops and conferences.

Other:

- Debby Bocnuk asked about wireless internet options. Some libraries get free wireless through their local cable or media provider (often in exchange for using city towers/equipment). ALS can provide a wireless router to libraries in need. Hibbing is contracting with Superior Broadband/Computdyne for a monthly rate of \$100. Friends of HPL paid for start costs (equipment, wiring, etc.) Duluth is also using Superior Broadband.
- Debby B. asked about spine labels. One of those things Horizon has not done well. Her staff is using a Dymo labelwriter printer.
- Mary Lukkarila asked if any libraries have a dress code (for patrons...).

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The next COMPASS meeting will be August 26; in August, the starting time will change to 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Richmond, Acting Secretary