

## COMPASS USERS' GROUP

DRAFT

Meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 24, 2008

DRAFT

### **Members present:**

Paula Chapman/Aurora, Debby Bocnuk/Babbitt, Mary Zaitz/Chisholm, Mary Lukkarila/Cloquet, MaryBeth Kafut/Eveleth, Ginny Richmond/Hibbing, Nancy Riesgraf/Hibbing, Sue Sowers/Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams/International Falls, Linda Wadman/NCLC, Julie Billings/Silver Bay, Susan Thompson/Two Harbors, Nancy Maxwell/Virginia; Shari Fisher/ALS, Mark Koukol/ALS, Rebecca Patton/ALS, Jim Weikum/ALS

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Introductions were made by all present.

Approval of the minutes of 8/27/08 was tabled.

### **COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES**

#### **Questions or problems with Horizon functions:**

- The new HIP server has failed; Mark and Robert switched back to the old server for now. Dell will replace the faulty parts and Mark and Robert will switch back to the new server. In the time while the new server was working, it was noticeably faster.

#### **Horizon news, updates & upgrades (another one is planned!):**

- Horizon 7.4.2 is still anticipated before the end of 2008.

#### **ILS replacement process: confirmation of the committee structure:**

- ILS Committee members were asked to stay after the COMPASS meeting to schedule their first meetings.
- ALS is working internally to find technology that will allow for a remote meeting option.
- Duluth Public Library would like to be involved in the process, but it will depend on the meeting times and places.

#### **Status report on ALS Interim Cataloger position:**

- Jan Simmons is working on Monday's and Thursday's; she is getting familiar with Horizon. Amy Hay/Gilbert spent some time working with Jan on CatExpress and Jan is also getting familiar with it.

#### **Staff reports: Jim Weikum**

- This coming Friday, the MnLINK Gateway directors/administrators will meet to discuss open source ILS products and if they have a future in Minnesota. Jim will share that ALS is open to using an open source ILS (Integrated Library System). While he is not supportive of joining a statewide ILS, he would be willing to consider sharing an ILS with another library system consisting largely of public libraries (whose needs differ significantly from those of academic libraries).

## **Other:**

- Mark asked if anyone has looked at the Koha links he sent; a couple present had. A couple of library consortia are in the processing of implementing Koha; Mark will send those links when those consortia are up and running. Polaris, another ILS to be considered, is very similar to Horizon; it is not Web based. The RFP will be sent to multiple vendors so ALS can receive as wide a response as possible.

## **LIBRARY ISSUES**

### **Strategic planning project for ALS member public libraries:**

- The proposed cluster group schedule for the strategic planning process was handed out; ALS will try to accommodate libraries' scheduling needs as much as possible.
- The consultant proposal from Whitney Crettol has been accepted. She will be working with Library directors and staff, Boards, Friends groups, and community groups to gather input for writing a strategic plan. Libraries will need to schedule local meeting space for these meetings.
- At the end of her process with each library, Whitney will write a strategic plan for that library.
- Jim will send out more detailed information about the process.

### **New library cards:**

- Shari displayed the new library cards. The cards include both a standard credit-card-sized card AND a smaller key chain card (with the same library card barcode/number on both cards). Let Shari Fisher or Heather McLaughlin know when you need new library cards.

### **Survey results:**

- Shari tallied results from this summer's "Survey of ALS Services" sent to library directors and noted some of the patterns.
  - RE: rotating video: ALS is paying attention to comments and looking to improve services.
  - RE: the disc repair service: This is a growing service.
  - RE: desired online databases: The desire for genealogy databases is not new information, but will be considered in ALS's budget process. The ALS Board will also consider having ALS assume the costs of Reference USA and the Biography Resource Center.
  - RE: Delivery and Technical Services: ALS is in the process of looking for a consultant to analyze the delivery service. Jim and Shari will attend a workshop re: analyzing Technical Services workflows in anticipation of an analysis of the ALS Technical Services department.
  - RE: the ALS Professional Collection: ALS will look at ways to better market the collection. Rebecca has been displaying titles from the Professional Collection at the COMPASS meetings and she has put together a list of titles in the collection.
  - RE: other desired services: Five libraries indicated that they wish ALS could offer more assistance with technology-related issues in their libraries. This will be kept in mind in the budget process.
  - ALS has also put out a request for analysis of technology at ALS.
- Mary Lukkarila noted that RE: ELM database training, Minitex is looking at ways to market ELM. They are talking about doing in-service trainings in libraries; a barrier is staff time. The suggestion was made to send Minitex staff to schools to train teachers, or to do training sessions at PTA meetings. Hibbing Public Library sends brochures about library services (including the ELM databases) to the schools for each teacher. Minitex archives their webinars so they are available for later viewing.

**Staff reports:****NCLC:**

- Thirty people in the region signed up for the second round of “23 Things on a Stick.” Twelve participants completed the program by the deadline; most of them loved it.

**Other:**

- Jim reported that at the Regional Library System’s directors’ meeting, there was some discussion of the state library’s offering a homework helper program. Marketing and training are potential issues. Regional library systems around the state are looking at ways to fund library marketing privately. There was also some discussion of looking at a statewide contract for Ancestry.com and OverDrive. Jim also asked about a small engine repair database.
- Marcia inquired about obtaining the total dollar amount people in her area pay on property taxes and what amount goes for library services. It was suggested that she ask her City’s Finance Director or the county auditors.
- Diane asked about OverDrive; they are working on bringing up web sites for libraries. ALS will begin ordering iPod-compatible titles when they are available. OverDrive is working on obtaining iPod rights from the various publishers. Because the iPod-compatible titles will not play on other WMA devices, ALS will order titles in both formats.
- Susan T. noted that Recorded Books is overhauling their Net Library Services.
- Paula reported that Aurora Public Library has hired Bonnie Harma as their new Assistant Librarian.

Meeting adjourned at [11:15] a.m.

**Next meeting date: Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Chapman, Secretary