



PRESENT: Marcia Middleton (APLM), Geoffrey Kirkpatrick (BETH), Joe Makowiec (BRUN), Bill Leone (COLN), Margaret Garrett (GUIL), Joe Thornton (UHLS), Gail Sacco (VOOR)

9:05 AM meeting called to order by Philip Ritter, Chair. He acknowledged that four of the people in attendance were not regular attendees at the ASC meetings but were representing their libraries at the request of their Directors.

I. MINUTES

Minutes of the May 27, 2008 meeting accepted as presented.

II. AQUABROWSER STATUS

J. Thornton reported that AquaBrowser did not go live on July 1st as originally planned due to some problems between AquaBrowser and the HIP - after a patron placed a request in AquaBrowser, they were then taken back into the old HIP as the default rather than staying in AquaBrowser. Richard Naylor at COLN brought this to J. Thornton's attention and noted that it might be confusing for some patrons. J. Thornton will create a new profile that will include a "click here to close this window" button and will allow patrons to stay in AquaBrowser.

A larger problem is the fact that WebFeat is not yet set up for patron authentication which means that everyone (not just those with UHLAN or member library cards) would be able to use the online databases and this would create a legal problem because of the licensing issues.

G. Sacco asked how the libraries are supposed to handle the AquaBrowser and HIP links on their webpages. Consensus that it was up to the individual libraries as to what "page" on the UHLS website they wanted to use as the introduction to the catalog. J. Thornton will send out an email with the appropriate coding that will allow those libraries that want it to be able to link directly into the catalog and by-pass several of the UHLS webpages. They will have choices: they can link to the Traditional Search or to the Enhanced Search (which is AquaBrowser).

G. Sacco wanted better visuals that would show three possible choices for searching: Traditional Search, Enhanced Search and Kids Search. M. Middleton noted that she would like something simple with one search box and then allow patrons to select one of the other search options later.

Consensus that on the UHLS webpage, the "catalog" button would take patrons directly into AquaBrowser for searching. They would have the option to select a Traditional Search from the opening page of AquaBrowser, but AquaBrowser will be the default search engine.

Discussion regarding a start-up date for AquaBrowser. J. Thornton will push AquaBrowser to correct the

authentication problem and as soon as that is done, he will start AquaBrowser. He will notify the libraries about the start up date in order to give them time to produce publicity materials.

J. Makowiec suggested that the new catalog could go live without WebFeat and that could be started when the authentication issue was resolved. G. Sacco disagreed; she would rather see all features working when it is live. J. Thornton noted that WebFeat will only search the online databases that are part of the entire UHLS site. It will not search those databases that are subscribed to by individual libraries. Therefore, libraries will have the option to use or not use WebFeat.

IV. LOANER LAPTOPS

Discussion regarding the number of laptops that should be purchased and the software installed on them. M. Middleton suggested that they should be considered as a portable lab and should include the following features:

1. They should be of manageable size and easy to transport with carrying cases
2. There should be a wireless access point available for loan also
3. They should include Open Office so that they can be used to introduce people to open source software
4. If the funding is available, there should be a projection system
5. They should include Windows VISTA

Discussion regarding the software. G. Sacco noted that they are most likely to be used by the smaller libraries without technical staff and the librarians will not have had an opportunity to learn VISTA so the laptops should have more common programs on them such as Office 2007.

B. Leone asked about security on the laptops. J. Thornton responded that UHLS will establish a standard image for the laptops and will clear the memory when they are returned.

G. Sacco asked about getting laptops with a built-in webcam so that they can be used for workshops on downloading photos from digital cameras. J. Thornton noted that the equipment will be purchased using some of the remaining Supplemental Aid funds that were set aside for database enhancement.

MOTION: G. Sacco moved that 8 laptops should be purchased with webcams, wireless cards, etc. And they should be easily portable. J. Thornton seconded. YES - 6; NO -1 Motion passed.

V. WEBSITE REDESIGN

J. Thornton demonstrated the UHLS website as a work in progress. He is using an Open Source Search engine for the site and has been pleased with how it works. Discussion regarding "Breadcrumbs" on the site and the way in which they are created and the hierarchy defined. J. Thornton explained that the "Breadcrumbs" on the UHLS website are in the indexing list on the left side of the page, not horizontally across the upper section due to the design of the site. He is working on populating the site and establishing new pages. It is a slow and lengthy process and he will need some assistance from the other UHLS Managers in creating the new pages they have requested. The Intranet is being folded into the new website. At this time, it appears that the only restricted information will be the libraries'

statistical reports. G. Sacco noted that since the website is a work in progress, it doesn't necessarily have to be finished before it is opened to the public. J. Thornton agreed, but wanted more progress on it before making it generally available.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

J. Thornton addressed the database clean-up question that was posed by Barbara Nichols Randall in an email. She asked how UHLS planned to evaluate the impact of the cleaned up records. J. Thornton noted that he has written a query which will count the total circs of the new bib records within a pre-determined amount of time (i.e. every 3 or 6 months). Consensus that the Tech Advisory Council is not the group to review the results of the query, and that J. Thornton is the appropriate one to do that.

J. Thornton explained the situation vis-a-vis OverDrive and WebFeat. The OverDrive items do not belong to the libraries who purchase them - they are only "leased" for a specified period of time. However, in order for those items to show up in our database, UHLS must purchase the correct bib records and download them. Once those items have expired, UHLS must go into the database and manually remove each record. This is time consuming and not perhaps the best use of UHLS staff time. He suggested that these items should be included in the "external sources" list on AquaBrowser, rather than as MARC records in our database. He noted that it is a philosophical as well as material consideration and that the bib records in our catalog should be limited to those items that are actually owned by the libraries. He noted that eventually there will be a need for an expanded external sources list and OverDrive items could show up there.

Discussion. M. Middleton suggested that we should continue doing what is currently done but consider other ways to handle it. UHLS should continue to support access to OverDrive items through the OPAC, but be open to a future philosophical discussion of the purpose of the online catalog. Agreement was expressed with this statement.

NOTE: AUGUST MEETING CANCELED.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 23rd at 9:00 AM.

10:50 AM meeting adjourned.

Heidi A. Fuge
7/22/08

Automation Services Report July 22, 2008

AquaBrowser & Kids AquaBrowser

AquaBrowser: <http://aquabrowser.uhls.org>

Kids AquaBrowser: <http://aquabrowser.uhls.org:8080/>

We postponed the go-live date from 7/1 to 8/1 because of two major problems and a few minor ones, but it looks like we'll be ready by 8/1.

Some recent improvements:

- Expanded the 'Holdings' display so it uses the full width of the page. It looks much better but still can be improved, maybe with bold type or shaded lines. Still working on it.
- We spoke to SirsiDynix about running a separate HIP to process requests from AquaBrowser (so we can say "Close this window when done"), but they suggested we do it with a new profile instead. I created the profile and made a few other changes. The HIP will need to be restarted, and AquaBrowser will have to point to the new profile.
- Some records showed no holdings, which should be impossible. It turned out to be a time-out issue. *AquaBrowser* made a change and all records look okay now.

Still to do:

- Patron authentication for outside users (WebFeat). Now, anyone can access our subscription databases through AquaBrowser — even non-UHLS people.

Up to date progress reports can be seen on the Automation Services blog:

<http://uhls.org/autosvcs/blog/>

"Loaner" laptops

At a recent Directors Association meeting, the directors voted to have UHLS purchase some laptops to be maintained at UHLS and loaned to the libraries for workshops, presentations, etc. If we plan to pursue this project we'll need some information, which I requested by email after the meeting. The questions were:

- How many?
- Windows or Mac? (Linux, anybody?)
- Which applications (e.g. Microsoft Office, Firefox, ...)

Should we continue?

WordPress

We installed WordPress for BERN, HOOF, and MEND, and upgraded all APL WordPress blogs to version 2.5.1. At this time the following libraries are using WordPress: ALTM, APLM, BERN, COHS, EGRN, HOOF, MEND, NASS, PTRB, SNLK, STEP, TROY, and VOOR.

To date Rob has provided WordPress training at APLM, EGRN, and SNLK

Horizon & HIP upgrades

Due to a serious problem that we encountered in our tests (we couldn't place holds in stafpac), and the lack of major changes in the newest versions, we decided to postpone the upgrades of Horizon and HIP. We had originally planned on the second week of August, but we do not yet have a new date for the upgrades.

ILS Migration Subcommittee

We haven't met in a while, but we plan to meet shortly after 8/15, and invite John Rose of LibLime to discuss the viability of *Koha* (an open source ILS) for our system.

WebFeat

[WebFeat](#) is usable now, although the larger libraries expressed a lack of interest, and some smaller libraries may want to stick with the current [Databases page](#). Since we're redesigning the UHLS website, we'll create a new *Databases* page that gives users a choice.

We have a request in to *WebFeat* to add *OverDrive* as a *WebFeat* database, so those books could be searched simultaneously with a catalog search, without requiring us to add *OverDrive* MARC records to our database. Adding them is expensive and somewhat difficult to manage: we have to import them and attach a holding (All) to every record, and when we no longer "own" the records we have to remove them. It would be more efficient and less expensive to let *OverDrive* manage the records and have *WebFeat* search them as part of a federated *AquaBrowser* search.

Database cleanup

On 6/25 we imported 25,431 of the 25,625 bib records we had sent to MARCIVE for Brief Record Upgrade (BRU) processing. We don't know yet how many of those records were actually improved (subject headings, etc.) but we should get a report from MARCIVE soon.

It was 25,431 instead of 25,625 because we set a flag on our import program to ‘overlay only’ — so if a record was deleted by us after we sent it to MARCIVE, it would not be re-added to our database when it returned.

A few weeks ago we imported 8830 youth and children’s records that we had sent to MARCIVE for MARC Record Enrichment (MRE) processing — mainly adding 520’s.

This concludes this database cleanup project with MARCIVE.

Website redesign

We continue to move our existing web site and intranet documents to the new web site, and to create new documents where required

We installed an open source search engine called *sphider*. From its web site: “Sphider is a lightweight web spider and search engine written in PHP, using MySQL as its back end database.”

I looked at Google’s search engine, but it costs \$100/year and didn’t seem to be necessary for our pretty basic needs.

After running the indexer on the new site, in its far-from-completed state, a problem became apparent – the HTML title tag in every document needs to be descriptive, since it’s the most prominent field displayed in the search results. I’ve been using *DreamWeaver* templates to build the pages, so every page has inherited its template’s title tag (e.g. ‘Services’). This is not a big deal, but will take a little effort to correct.

APLP

On 7/7/08, at the request of APL, we made APLP available again as a pickup location in the HIP.

System slowness

We continue to receive reports – almost daily -- of sporadic system slowness. It seems to get worse in the summer, so to test a hypothesis that *KidSearch* is partly responsible, Mary Fellows and the Youth Services librarians have generously agreed to let us experiment with shutting down *KidSearch* for a four hour period on 7/18. *Kids AquaBrowser* will be available during that time.

Potential problem with reports

The Reports Subcommittee has been working on a report that's similar to the "4-column" report that we use for the NYS annual report, but with more categories. The state report has 16 categories and the new report has 35, chosen by the committee. We found a way to make it run much faster than the "4-column" report, but we've discovered a potentially show-stopping problem: the new report shows about 10% fewer total circ transactions than the "4-column" report. There are only two possible explanations:

1. The new report is wrong. Rawdon, Rob, and I did a test in the clone database. We checked out 100 books and then checked 10 of them in. The new report shows 100 items (correct) loaned today, even though none of them have collection codes that have been assigned to categories (the new report assigns any item with an uncategorized collection code to the 'Unknown' category). Likewise, the "4-column" report shows 100 items (also correct).

Experimenting, I discovered that there are about 63,000 items in the item table that have at least one checkout but no 'last_cko_date.' This should be impossible. We've asked SirsiDynix to explain. The permanent circ history table that we populate every night does not have any entries without cko_dates, but since the item table does, it's conceivable that there are checked-out items that the new report is missing.

2. The "4-column" report is wrong. This report uses the stat_summary table, which no one, reportedly not even SirsiDynix, can explain precisely.

Firewall

Rawdon and Jonathan attended a demonstration at GUIL on July 11 to learn from Annese & Associates how to manage our new security appliance (firewall).

Topics covered:

- Configure NAT (dynamic and static)
- Routing
- Access rules
- VPN access for system administrators, trusted people (using the Ipsec or the client)
- Site to site VPN.
- Lock down management access from only trusted IP.
- Monitoring firewall, network traffic.
- Troubleshooting access rules.

Network support

I'm including parts of Rawdon's weekly reports below to show part of what he worked on in the last month, but also to give an example of the network support provided by our department (mostly Rawdon) on an ongoing basis:

From Rawdon:

BERN - fixed network printer

ALTM - fixed wireless router

APL - set up Layer 3 switch for APLP and firewall for the main branch

RENS - replaced blown out router and loaned them a pc for staff use

BETH - redesigned network to allow traffic to get out to Verizon FIOS when T1 is down.

BETH T1 was down twice in the past two months and Verizon found out they had a 'facility problem' which meant that the problem was outside the library. I changed their router configuration to route all (both staff and public) internet traffic via FIOS and only UHLS-bound traffic thru the T1. To accomplish this, they are running DNS service for their internal network, and set DNS forwarder to UHLS DNS servers and Verizon DNS servers. If the T1 goes down, their DNS server will be forced to use the Verizon DNS server, and UHLS-bound traffic will get our public IP. They will need to flush the DNS cache. This will maintain their access to our resource (SIP2) to use their PC reservation system..

In the near future, I will do the same to APL.