

# Database Maintenance Advisory Council

February 16, 2005

ATTENDEES: Mary Ellen Bena, Lisa Bouchard, Rob Carle, Mary Coon, Sue Dague, Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Carol Lagasse (CDLC), Peggy Mello, Carol Reppard, Julie Stump, Joe Thornton

MINUTES FROM JANUARY, 2005 MEETING: The meeting began at 9:30. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without recrimination.

BEHAVIOR OF REQUESTS DURING BIB MERGES: At the previous meeting, "Geoff explained that merged bib records do not merge requests correctly, but 'zipper' the request dates instead of sorting them chronologically." Rob looked into it and demonstrated a method of merging correctly, using the *Transfer Request Queue* function in stafpac (Circulation -> Circulation Control Menu -> Transfer Request Queue). Geoff would like to just merge the bib records directly, in one step, rather than the two steps that Rob's suggestion requires. Geoff asked why, if Dynix can merge requests correctly using Rob's method, it can't merge them correctly when merging bib records. We all agreed that that's a good question, and we'll ask Dynix.

REQUEST PERIOD EXTENSION: To accommodate very popular items such as the *Harry Potter* books, for which there are prepub records well in advance of the publication date, and which patrons place holds on, we will recommend to ASC that we extend the Request Period in all Btypes from 180 to 365 days, so the holds don't expire before the item is actually available.

WEB PAGE, BLOG, ?: Joe would like to experiment with a weblog (blog) as a centralized alternative to email as a place to list cataloging problems, publish shared documents, etc. Joe will try to set up a blog for the Database Maintenance Advisory Council by the next meeting.

CATEXPRESS ISSUES: Sue asked if others have seen the problem where downloaded CatExpress records are not found in our database. Carol Lagasse offered a possible explanation: previously (years ago) the UHLS symbol was attached to many OCLC records, and those records may no longer be in our database. So an item in OCLC may show that it's owned by UHLS when that is no longer true. Rob also had a possible explanation: the Baker & Taylor records that are imported as part of the Acquisitions process will overlay existing records, including recently imported OCLC records, and will not have an OCLC number included. So a search using OCLC number will not find those records. Rob suggested using other indexes such as ISBN.

DATABASE CLEANUP: Mary Ellen reported on her database cleanup efforts, particularly her work with the list of duplicate ISBN's. She said that a lot of the records are not really duplicates, but have a legitimate excuse such as serials title changes.

TYPICAL EGRN PATRON: Sue reported about the EGRN patron who questioned the quality of our authority control when she spotted multiple author entries.

COLLECTION CODES: Joe said that UHLS will start running a script to notify libraries by email when they add a collection code that doesn't map to one of the sixteen categories used by the NYS annual report.

REQUEST REORDER: Joe said that UHLS moved the Request Reorder report from the FTP server to the web reports page (<https://horizon.uhls.lib.ny.us/reports/>) and also added two new 'Request Reorder' reports- - "Just Videos" and "Excluding Videos."

NO CANADA: Carol Reppard said that the National Library of Canada shows on the list of ftp sites but there is no ZCF file available. Mary Ellen said that she asked Jonathan to add the site to the ftp list, and Joe will ask him to make a ZCF file available.

SOUND RECORDINGS: Mary Ellen has been searching for sound recordings that do not have "CD" in the bib record, and adding it if appropriate, since the icon that's displayed in the HIP depends on the presence of the term "CD." In the process, she found a lot of 33 1/3 LPs. Carol Reppard said that some might be from TROY, but they would be from WAY BACK. Joe asked what else he's supposed to play on his Victrola.

HIP RECOMMENDATIONS: Sue asked if we could alter the "Request Confirmation" screen in the HIP, since so many patrons apparently don't notice the "Select a location..." menu, and therefore have their requests sent to the wrong library. Her suggestion is to move that menu to the top of the display. We also discussed eliminating the "Comment" text area on that screen, since it serves no useful purpose. We will present these suggestions to the Resource Sharing Advisory Council.

DEFAULT SEARCH IN HIP: Rob suggested changing the default search in the HIP to "title browse" instead of "keyword." After much discussion about the appearance and efficiency of the HIP, we decided to leave it alone, since it's obvious that people have strong, conflicting preferences.

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2005 at 9:30 at UHLS.**