

Database Maintenance Advisory Council

November 17, 2005

ATTENDEES: Mary Ellen Bena, Lisa Bouchard, Rob Carle, Mary Coon, Sue Dague, Geoff Kirkpatrick, Deidre Lisio, Marcia Middleton, Lisa Pitkin, Bonnie St. Pierre, Julie Stump, Joe Thornton

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2005 MEETING: The meeting began at 9:30. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without comment.

ACQUISITIONS: Valerie Chase of SirsiDynix joined us for a conference call to discuss specific problems with the implementation of Acquisitions at GUIL, as well as the broader question of whether we should encourage the use of Acquisitions by our other libraries or wait instead for *Horizon 8.0*, which appears to be more suitable to a system such as ours.

After a lengthy discussion of GUIL's particular problems, we settled on four main issues, all of which point to the conclusion that we'd be better off waiting for 8.0:

1. Basic functionality. Bonnie and Lisa described to Valerie the workflow, workarounds, plusses and minuses of Acquisitions at GUIL. Valerie had a few specific suggestions that will fix some of their problems, but the conversation ended with the feeling that things will not improve significantly till 8.0.
2. This and the following two items are considered by us to be "sharing issues." We continue to struggle with the problem of new Acquisitions records overlaying better and/or edited existing records. Valerie had given us some suggestions by email after our last meeting in October. Rob and Mary Ellen experimented with the suggestions but did not find that they fixed our problem. Valerie is confident that they will, so we'll experiment some more.
3. Alternate views. We need "alternate views" to prevent one library from seeing or changing the budgets of another, to simplify the use of the system, and generally to emulate the forthcoming "processing centers" of *Horizon 8.0*, which will make each library appear independent. The creation of the necessary alternate views for APL was "arduous" and the consensus is that it would be arduous to the point of impossibility to create and manage alternate views for 29 libraries.
4. Different budget years. With only two libraries participating so far, we've already encountered a serious problem because those libraries use different budget years. Again, the problem would grow enormously with many more libraries participating.

The discussion produced four action items:

1. Rob and Mary Ellen will experiment some more with Valerie's suggestions for handling the "overlay problem" with Acquisitions records such as those from Baker & Taylor.
2. Joe will ask Kathi Adams of SirsiDynix to give us the names of other library systems that are using the Acquisitions module.
3. Joe will ask Kathi Adams to setup a WebEx session at GUIL to help with their problems related to Acquisitions.
4. Joe will make the following report to ASC:
 - a. The Database Maintenance Advisory Council strongly recommends that the libraries that are not yet using the Acquisitions module should wait for *Horizon 8.0*, which we will probably not install before the end of 2006.
 - b. We will continue to do all we can to help the libraries (APL and GUIL) that are already using Acquisitions.
 - c. We will do all we can to assist any library that decides to use Acquisitions before the 8.0 upgrade. Lisa Pitkin said that anyone interested in taking this step is welcome to visit GUIL to observe their workflow.

AUTHORITY CONTROL: Joe reported that our database has returned from LTI along with our new authority files. He said that the Automation Services Department was concerned about the negative impact on system performance of importing 480,000+ bib records and 300,000 authority records, and so planned to do the imports over the winter break. The council feels that that is too long to wait in spite of the potential problems: poor performance and authority records with no bib records attached (we will load the authority files first). Joe will suggest to ASC that we begin importing immediately, in small groups of records during off hours.

NETLIBRARY: Joe reported on the status of NetLibrary:

- We have imported almost 1,000 NetLibrary bib records into our catalog.
- We wrote a script to change the 245\$h to [downloadable audiobook].
- We do have to attach items to the bib records or else the titles won't appear in browse searches. Each subscribing library (APL, BETH, and GUIL) needs to attach an item record.
- We'll receive updates once a month. Lisa Pitkin will forward any email announcements of the availability of NetLibrary records to Joe.

Marcia asked if we could come up with a more efficient way of adding items than to have each of the three libraries edit every bib record independently. The consensus was that it would be too confusing and potentially unfair to try to coordinate this process, and that we should stick with the traditional method where each library does its own items.

BETH improved on the recommendation that Joe had emailed to 'Database' related to the handling of items. The original recommendation was:

Itype: NR21DAY /* since they're not requestable */
Collection: ZZNETLB /* displays as "Downloadable Audiobook" */
Item Status: online /* displays as "Online" */
Call no.: - /* literally a dash '-' */

Geoff said that BETH found that using a period ('.') instead of a dash ('-') for Call number improved the appearance of the record in the HIP. Joe will send this revised recommendation to the 'Database' list.

MULTIPART DVD'S: Geoff asked how everyone was handling multipart DVDs – keeping them together or splitting them up? Most libraries split them to make the separate pieces available while the others are out.

SERIALS TRAINING: Lisa Pitkin discussed with Maggie Horn (OLIS employee and serials expert) the possibility of her coming to UHLS to train us. Joe wondered if it was really necessary, especially before we have a more introductory session from someone else like Carol Lagasse. The council thinks:

- It couldn't hurt to have Maggie come.
- The audience should be us (Database Maintenance), although we'll make everyone aware of the session with the warning that it's not for beginners.
- Maggie will charge a small fee, which we're sure will be well spent.
- We should finish the authority control import first.
- It will probably happen in the spring.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2005 at 9:30 at UHLS.