

Meeting summary for Cataloging Advisory Council (10/03/2024)

[Zoom Summary, edited by JT]

Present: Lisa Bouchard (EGRN), Rob Carle (UHLS), Jane Feeney (BETH), Pam Jacobson (SNLK), Loreen Kaiser (Troy), Peggy Mello (COLN), Chris O'Brien (BETH), Lisa Thomas (BETH), Joe Thornton (UHLS), Kathleen Tyrrell (GUIL)

Quick recap

Lisa Bouchard shared that she is the new part-time catalog librarian at East Greenbush. This part time position was created because Sue Dague retired. Sue was head of Technical Services and the catalog librarian. Marion Pierson, formerly Head of Circulation, is now Head of Borrower Services.

Lisa Thomas shared during the discussion about CatExpress vs Skyriver that she felt the 24 hour lag time for downloads from CatExpress was an issue for getting out new, reserved items, and Lisa B agreed with her. Lisa said that she liked CatExpress, and likes SkyRiver, and the quickness and other features of SkyRiver are a bonus. "No shared catalog is perfect."

The group also addressed technical issues with Zoom and SkyRiver, a cataloging tool, and discussed the challenges of finding subject headings and the importance of training. Lastly, they discussed the issue of Overdrive titles expiring and not being re-imported into Encore or Sierra, and proposed a solution to track reordered titles.

Next steps

- Rob to send an email to the cataloging list with reminders about ISBN handling and a link to his recent training session.
- Rob to keep deleted Overdrive records instead of permanently deleting them, to potentially reuse if titles are reordered.
- Anne to discuss with their Overdrive person about tracking reordered expired titles and communicating that information to Rob and herself.

Summary

New Roles and Catalog Position Discussion

Lisa B. shared her new role as a part-time catalog librarian at East Greenbush, replacing Sue Dague, who retired. Lisa B. also mentioned that Marion Pierson, the new head of circulation and tech services, had created a new catalog position. Lisa B. expressed her gratitude for the support from Rob Carle and Sue Dague, and her excitement to learn about the new ways of handling the children's collection at East Greenbush.

Transition and Training for New Role

Loreen from Troy joined the meeting as she is transitioning into a role previously held by Laurie Burns. Rob offered to assist Loreen with cataloging, Sierra, and report-related queries during the transition. Laurie's departure represents a potential loss of expertise in generating Sierra reports. The meeting aimed to address Loreen's training needs and ensure a smooth handover process.

ISBN Management and SkyRiver Usage Discussion

Anne and Rob discussed issues with ISBN numbers being retained, causing overwritten records. Rob advised using the 'Derive' button in SkyRiver to prevent overrides and only keep two ISBN numbers, preferably the 13-digit one. Anne suggested that we remind directors about this. Peggy mentioned delays in accessing SkyRiver due to Town of Colonie IT restrictions. Rob offered assistance with SkyRiver settings. Rob highlighted the importance of the 'Derive' button for templates and variable length fields. A discussion was planned with Rob to send a reminder about ISBNs and training. Joe discussed potential OCLC pricing changes, as it was previously expensive. The group had mixed opinions on SkyRiver versus OCLC, but agreed to continue with SkyRiver unless a better option emerged. Peggy and Joe discussed the connection between SALS and UHLS via Z39.50, with Joe unsure about CatExpress usage. Joe mentioned SALS previously relied on UHLS CatExpress records downloaded via Z39.50.

Record Creation, Adjustment, and SkyRiver Challenges

Peggy and Rob discussed the process of creating and adjusting records, with Peggy expressing her intention to create a new record from scratch. Rob suggested copying the closest record and adjusting it, which Peggy agreed could be done quickly. They also discussed the use of SkyRiver and the challenges of finding subject headings. Anne added that she sometimes finds information in WorldCat that is not yet in SkyRiver, and that OCLC is the gold standard for records but too expensive for our use. The group agreed that OCLC is not ideal for their needs and that they need to find a balance between quality and cost.

SkyRiver and Sierra Cataloging Tool Discussion

The group discussed their experiences with SkyRiver and Sierra. Rob emphasized the importance of training and offered to provide one-on-one training sessions. Peggy asked about the inclusion of SkyRiver in the cataloging manual, to which Rob responded that it wasn't specifically addressed but could be covered in training. The group also discussed the need for original cataloging and the importance of meeting community needs. Lisa B. shared her positive experience with SkyRiver, but noted some issues with CatExpress, such as the quality of records and a 24-hour delay.

Worldcat, Cataloging Manual, and SkyRiver Discussion

Lisa B. discussed her use of Worldcat and the Library of Congress for cataloging, and mentioned that she had previously worked on revising the cataloging manual. She also asked about the availability of the updated cataloging manual on the training website. Rob confirmed that the manual is available on the training website and suggested bookmarking it for easy access. The group also discussed their satisfaction with SkyRiver, noting that while it has minor flaws, it generally meets their needs. Rob also explained the dynamic interaction between Sierra and SkyRiver, which updates records in real time.

Library Collection Management and Communication

Peggy raised a question about the library's collection of items, specifically about the suppression of bibliographic information. Anne clarified that the library only suppresses a bib if they no longer have the item. Peggy expressed her concern about unsuppressing previously suppressed items, such as cell phone chargers. Anne suggested that the library's patrons could understand the meaning of "library use only" and that it could be a valuable communication tool. Peggy agreed, noting that people seem to prefer self-service over personal interaction. The group ended the conversation without any further questions or issues.

Overdrive Titles Expiration and Reordering Solutions

Anne and Rob discussed the issue of Overdrive titles expiring and not being re-imported into Encore or Sierra. Rob proposed a solution where he would keep the records he weeds in a separate file, allowing for easier tracking of reordered titles. Anne agreed to this idea and also proposed to communicate with the Overdrive person at BETH to see if they could keep track of what they're ordering and communicate this information to either Anne or UHLS. The group agreed that this approach would help solve the problem of expired titles not being re-imported. Rob and Kathleen discussed scheduling a cataloging training with Dustin, with Rob offering to provide one-on-one training and requesting reminders from Kathleen. The conversation ended with Joe thanking everyone and mentioning the presence of new members, Lisa B. and Loreen.