

Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation, Inc.
Automated Library Services 2014 (Symphony Users)
Minutes of the Meeting of May 22, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the ALS 2014 (Symphony Users) group was held at the Superiorland Library Cooperative in Marquette and via video conference at the Bayliss Public Library in Sault Ste. Marie. Other participants dialed into the meeting via ReadyTalk audio conferencing service. Since the chair, Bruce MacDonald, was unable to attend, Suzanne Dees called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Attending:

Officers:

Treasurer: Suzanne Dees, Superiorland Library Cooperative (At Marquette)

Other ALS Representatives:

At Superiorland Library Cooperative: Janis Lubenow, Marquette General Hospital; and Jean Montgomery and Shawn Andary, UPRLC/ALS

At Bayliss Public Library: Susan James, Bayliss Public Library

Dialing in via ReadyTalk: Jeanne Ludlow, Alpena County Library; Patty Hale, Calumet School Public Library; Megan Buck, Dickinson County Library; Monique Ciofu, Escanaba Public Library; Deb Oyler, Houghton High School Library; Pat Cheski, Menominee County Library; Lisa Cromell, Munising School Public Library; Tracy Boehm, Peter White Public Library; Dion Mindykowski, Tahquamenon Area Public Library; Cheryl Hoffman, Spies Public Library; Denise Engel, Wakefield Public Library; and Cindy Bulmer, Whitefish Township Library

Others Attending (at Marquette):

Pamela Malmsten (Superiorland Library Cooperative), Recorder

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: There was one addition to the agenda: under Item "VII. B. New Business—BLUECloud Rewards" include a discussion about other new products. The amended agenda was approved by consensus.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014: The minutes of February 20, 2014 were approved as presented on a motion by Deb Oyler, seconded by Jeanne Ludlow.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

ALS Treasurer Suzanne Dees presented the financial report.

Approval of the Bills for February, March, and April 2014 and the Year to Date Expense and Revenue Reports as of April 30, 2014: Cash disbursements for February, March, and April and year to date reports as of April 30, 2014 were reviewed. Disbursements included SirsiDynix six-month maintenance (\$58,753) in March and Merit Internet access (\$30,171) in April. Suzanne noted that the ALS rebilled items will now be included with the ALS operating budget line items on the financial reports. Since the UPRLC audit is completed in a format that is compliant with GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) rules, UPRLC's auditor has recommended that the UPRLC Board approve a combined budget that is amended as necessary throughout the year to assure that no individual line item expenditures, including items

re-billed for optional products, exceed budgeted amounts. **Pat Cheski moved that cash disbursements of \$14,355.33 for February 2014, \$78,220.71 for March 2014, \$45,358.79 for April 2014, and the year to date reports as of April 30, 2014 be approved. The motion was seconded by Janis Lubenow, approved unanimously, and carried.**

COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS:

COSUGI Conference: Shawn Andary, Jean Montgomery, Jeanne Ludlow, and Megan Buck attended the COSUGI (Customers of SirsiDynix Users Group) conference in Detroit from May 15 – 17, 2014.

Shawn reported that the opening session conveyed the vision of the company and set the tone for the conference. SirsiDynix identified 5 items that are most important to customers; executives listed the items and talked about what SirsiDynix is doing in each area. The number one customer priority was cost reduction; to help customers save money, SirsiDynix has begun issuing customer credits--BLUEcloud Rewards-- that can be used to purchase new products; in addition, an upcoming new service: BLUEcloud MARC, which would give customers access to 20 million authority and MARC records, could result in reduced cataloging costs. BLUEcloud Cataloging, which will be available at no additional cost, is now in beta testing and should be released in July or August 2014. SaaS (Software as a Service) security was also a significant concern; SirsiDynix underwent NIST certification in effort to protect and encrypt hosted data for SaaS customers. EResource Central has now been released; new products that will soon be available at an additional cost include MobileCirc and BLUECloud Analytics.

Jean Montgomery attended sessions on integrating widgets into Enterprise, BLUEcloud Analytics, connecting to web services, and “Buy it Now” community funded services. Buy it Now will allow for comparative vendor pricing and links to local bookstores. In the session “What’s Up with Uptime?” Jean learned about a server monitoring product that will notify staff of server problems. She also attended the “Return to Sender” session, which discussed solutions to problems with e-mailed patron notices.

Megan Buck talked about the BLUEcloud Analytics session; she said that the product generates visually appealing reports with charts and graphs. In addition, outside data such as patron counts or program attendance, can be uploaded and incorporated into the data analysis and reports. Megan said that she is looking forward to the release of BLUEcloud Cataloging.

Jeanne Ludlow attended a session on setting up a Favorite Authors Club, which is a service that allows patrons to identify and place holds on books written by their favorite authors. The Alpena County Library is already implementing a Favorite Authors Club for its patrons.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Enterprise: Enterprise should be ready by September. Shawn, with the help of a SirsiDynix consultant, is working on a couple of different looks for Enterprise. She said that she is trying to identify the types of searches most people want and will be compiling profile information for each library. In addition, each library

will have its own “rooms” administrator. Jean Montgomery said she would help work on the look for the Kids Catalog.

Zoom Committee: Jean asked for volunteers who are willing to share their library programs using Zoom, a cloud-based video-conferencing service that allows users to connect webcam-equipped computers and devices with room-based interactive video conferencing systems. Anyone interested in joining a Zoom Committee should contact Jean; committee members will meet monthly or bi-monthly to decide what scheduled library programs could be shared via Zoom productions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Authority Control and Database Cleanup: Since Enterprise’s advanced searching capabilities will reveal more of the cataloging mistakes, and new RDA standards require the removal of the GMD field from all records in the database, the ALS group agreed that this is the right time to begin the process of looking at vendors that could provide authority control and other necessary work to assure that the records are RDA compliant. The authority control would include periodic on-going maintenance to keep the records clean.

BLUEcloud Rewards and New Products: BLUEcloud Rewards are SirsiDynix customer credits that may be used to purchase new products; a portion of the credits can be applied to on-going maintenance costs. Suzanne said that the ALS group needs to decide on new product priorities. Possibilities include BLUEcloud Analytics, eResources Central, MobileCirc, SaaS, and Portfolio. Portfolio is a digital content management system that integrates with Enterprise; Shawn said she would check on the price of the product. The group decided to contract for database authority control work and to purchase other new products with remaining funds. The group agreed to eliminate MobileCirc from consideration since an upcoming new circulation module will be accessible on mobile devices. Suzanne noted that SaaS could be a viable option since SirsiDynix has been working to improve data security.

Other Products: Suzanne Dees reported that Zinio digital magazine subscription prices for current library subscribers will not be increasing for the next renewal period starting December 1, 2014. She asked people to let her know if they are interested in other RB Digital products: IndieFlix and/or Atomic Training. IndieFlix is a streamed independent film service and Atomic Training offers patrons video-based tutorials on popular software for PCs and Macs.

MailChimp Newsletters: Cindy Mack, director of the Wixom Public Library, presented a workshop on MailChimp at this year’s Rural Library Conference. MailChimp is a service that allows users to create, send, and track e-mail newsletters. Since many library directors expressed interest in product, Jean has been sending MailChimp set-up and implementation instructions to the Listserv. The newsletters can be customized with logos, banners, and color schemes, and different types of newsletters and updates can be produced. The newsletters are periodically mass e-mailed to patrons who sign up for the service.

Courtesy Renewals: Shawn Andary reported that the directors of the Escanaba and Crawford County public libraries have expressed interest in courtesy renewals, which would allow the system to automatically renew checked-out materials if the items are renewable. Shawn said that if enough people are interested, ALS could contract

with SirsiDynix for an hour of programming to set up notifications to patrons that their items were automatically renewed, but should be returned soon. Some ALS members indicated that notifications to patrons that items were coming due soon were preferable to automatic renewals.

Other: Suzanne Dees reported that the Overdrive Young Adult and Kids Room is now up and running. Member libraries have donated \$6,000 to be used to buy additional juvenile and young adult digital books. Patrons will be able to navigate to the new site via links on their home library web pages.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Malmsten, Recorder