

**Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) Fall 2013 Membership Meeting  
Sept 26, 2013 Montana State Capitol room 303  
Helena MT**

Honore Bray, Executive Board Chair and Large Public Libraries Representative, introduced the other members of the Executive Board:

Deb Kramer (Medium Public Libraries rep.)  
Diane Anderson (High School/District School Libraries rep.)  
Anne Rutherford (Academic Libraries rep.)  
Dale Alger (Small Public Libraries rep.)  
Cherie Heser (Eastern-at-large rep.)  
Libby Wolfe (Special Libraries rep.)  
Jack Albrecht (Western-at-large rep.)  
Becky Mosbacher (K-8 School Libraries rep.)

Dennis Parman, Office of Public Instruction (OPI) was introduced as a guest.

Melody Condron (MSC) introduced three new Member Libraries, Fort Peck Tribal Library, Hobson Community Library, and Stanford-Judith Basin County Free Library.

Roll Call

**Approval of the Spring 2013 meeting minutes**

**ACTION ITEM: Vote on meeting minutes**

**Moved to approve the minutes: Sonja Woods**

**Seconded the motion: Jodi Oberweiser**

**Discussion:**

**Kathy Robins asked to add to the minutes that she had announced at the Spring Meeting the Parmly Billings Library was giving away 35K books to the Membership if they pick them up in Billings. The addition was made.**

**APPROVED**

**Discussion with OPI Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman**

Sarah McHugh, Montana State Library (MSL), reminded everyone Mr. Parman, who originally was to speak at the spring meeting, would be addressing whether OPI might provide some support in light of the many school libraries that use the MSC. Mr. Parman has been in contact with many people at the MSL and in the MSC. He has also sat on several library boards. Mr. Parman stated that at present OPI cannot offer any money to help with the issue. He suggested that the state legislature would be the only place to look for and find a constant source of funding to offset costs incurred when the MSC accepts school libraries. He offered that in the best case scenario, monies from the legislature would arrive no sooner than July 2015. He advised that a legislator be found as soon as possible who would champion the cause, and recommended that any funding request be kept entirely separate from the K-12 funding bill. Ideally the bill would be on the floor by March. Statistics showing that school library membership in the MSC increased efficiency overall should be presented. The amount requested

should be high to allow for cuts during negotiations. He stated that libraries and their supporters are seen by legislators as a formidable force, meaning this is by no means an impossible effort.

Mr. Parman responded to several questions from the audience, to wit:

If and when individual librarians advocate to their school's administration for some funding bill helping them pay for MSC membership, be clear that there is no competition for budget dollars; that it is a separate bill issue.

For politically pragmatic reasons, it would be best that MSC tell the real-world stories vis-à-vis costs, not OPI.

## **Lunch and Networking** – Capital Rotunda

### **MSC Operations Update: Budget, Software and Hardware** (Ken Adams, MSC)

#### **Budget:**

FY 2013 closed out late August with a \$103,568.83 cash balance. Conference and travel costs were overspent because more people were sent to COSUGI and mileage costs went up. These overruns have been taken into acct for the FY 2014 budget. No salary money was left due to the payout of State employee bonuses. All dues have been collected, all bills have been paid.

FY 2014 as of September 23rd, \$235,717.40 has been collected from Membership, with \$12,342.02 left to be collected. The SirsiDynix (SD) annual license and maintenance fee was paid in late July; maintenance and hardware for HP and IBM have also been paid.

#### **Software:**

SirsiDynix very recently released their roadmap for product delivery: Symphony SP4 is coming in November or December. This will include bug fixes, an increase of user categories from five to eleven, and Windows 8 compatibility. Mobile circ is coming in the next month or so. Blue Cloud analytics (replacement for Director's Station) was supposed to come out August, but no word on where that is (allegedly Nov, Dec). Facebook and bookmyne app upgrades are coming as well.

Shout Bomb (SMS text messaging service) will be testing early October, and will be ready hopefully by late October.

Enterprise, which is supposed to replace eLibrary (the OPAC interface) was upgraded to the 4.3 version in July; linked into DiscoverIt!; hold bug fixes are not in place yet so it's still not useable. The assumption is that we can start playing with it soon. North Lake County Public's page was shown as an example; the interface is almost entirely customizable. Libraries should start thinking about customization decisions like labeling, facets (how many, which, what order), and displays. Time to set up profiles should be minimal, once a library has decided on how they want it set up. No date for startup can be set until the place holds bug is worked out however.

### **WMS Pilot Update** (Melody Condron (MSC) and Sarah McHugh (MSL))

#### **Background & Goals of the Pilot**

During RFP which resulted in renewal of the SirsiDynix contract, there was significant interest in OCLC's Worldshare Management System (WMS), which for various reasons just was not ready at that time. OCLC wanted to see if we could work with them to develop sharing group functionality within WMS, hence the Pilot group was formed. The group was expected to last for a year. OCLC wanted to relate the testing to group functionality, in the realm of circulation and acquisitions. Objectives included gaining insight into WMS functionality as pertained circulation and acquisitions within a sharing group and strengthening the ongoing collaborative partnership between OCLC and MSC. However, for mundane technical reasons there were a lot of participants shut out for a good part of the beginning of the pilot. Also: some basic functionality was missing and while OCLC was addressing those issues, it was not part of the scope of the pilot group to test for them; OCLC couldn't model the MSC system to a degree where we could meaningfully test WMS as it pertains to the MSC and its subsets (e.g. Partners).

Outcomes: OCLC received a lot of feedback about desirable consortial features, and about functionality and features generally. Pilot participants received a look at how sharing groups work; identified functions unique to MSC; identified features in WorkFlows that would have to change if the MSC moved to any other ILS; and developed a stronger relationship with OCLC.

Implications for the MSC: The WMS Pilot project made clear that the uniqueness of the MSC will make any future migration to another system (viz., away from WorkFlows) extremely challenging for both MSC staff and staff at MSC libraries. That is, if we want to have ILS options in the future, we will have to make changes as to what makes us unique by determining which of these unique aspects are worth keeping, and which are not.

## **BREAK**

### **New Hire Discussion and vote**

#### Discussion

Honore Bray related that the MSC Exec Board is not interested in going to the legislature and asking for funding for one type of library; they want to ask for funding for all libraries. She also stated that the new hire would be to ease workload on Ken, Amy, and Melody—they are maxed out.

Sarah McHugh said that the desire for libraries to maintain such a high level of autonomy within the MSC, particularly as pertains to system policies, comes at a very high cost, monetarily and temporally. Sarah, Ken, Amy, and Melody got together to make recommendations as to how to reduce the costs associated with using the ILS like we do. She asked members to reflect on why the MSC exists today.

Cherie Hesper noted that at a previous MSC meeting, the Executive Board asked the MSL to see where some money could be saved. But, without spending this money we are risking burning out present MSC staff. She opined that the attitude that membership in MSC means getting a custom-fit ILS has to go.

Comments from the Membership included statements of support for a new hire.

Some wondered whether hiring for a half-time position might be possible in order to save money. Sarah McHugh suggested that as long as libraries continue to join, the position would become full-time later anyway.

Since the MSC figure of 50-60 libraries requires one MSC full-time staff person, there was a question as to how the current staff handles the size of the MSC Membership as it stands. Ken Adams answered that not all libraries come with the same MSC staff time commitment.

Some commented that their share of paying for the new hire would be a serious burden on already strained budgets.

There was a question as to whether the Membership isn't in fact dealing with three separate issues: hiring a full-time person; standardizing policies; and adding new libraries. The suggestion was that perhaps these issues needed to be broken up. Sarah McHugh remarked that the second and third of these issues will exist whether or not the Membership votes in favor of the new hire. If new libraries are added without an additional staff hired, where public libraries are applicants these libraries would be given priority.

There was a question as to whether adding an MSC staffer would mean better service to existing members. Existing members were informally polled and none reported poor support from the current MSC staff. It was stated that adding another staff member would free up some time for current staff members to work on things besides managing the consequences of the way the policies etc. are now, which itself would be better service.

It was suggested that the MSC could hire a consultant to help with streamlining.

There was a suggestion that the MSC needs a strategic plan.

**ACTION ITEM: Vote on MSC New Hire**

**Motion: Deb Hronek moved to add full-time employee to MSC.**

**Seconded: Kim Crowley**

**Discussion: Kate Vasser and Kathy Robins expressed support for the idea of a consultant.**

**APPROVED**

**MSC Logo and related marketing materials** (Luke Duran, ElementL Design)

Luke Duran, graphic designer at ElementL Design, explained that the two components of a good logo are the name and the icon. Accordingly, he presented the new MSC logo which is a ten-pointed star composed of a repeated shape that can be read as an open book or an open laptop with "Montana Shared Catalog" in the center. The logo was checked (and examples were shown) to see how it works in different colors, in black and white, in white on black, at different sizes, and on different items.

**Public Comments, Announcements and Adjourn**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned.