

LYNX! Directors' Meeting

18 January 2008

Mountain Home Public Library

Present : Mary DeWalt, Ada Community; William Nation, Boise (for Kevin Booe); Elaine Leppert, Caldwell; Ron Baker, Eagle; Lisa Zeiter, Garden City; Nancy Gurney, Hailey; Patty Younger, Meridian District; Luise House, Mountain Home; Karen Gansky, Nampa; Susan Ash, Twin Falls.

Others: Robin Ballentyne, Ada Community; Laurel White, Boise; Glenna Rhodes, Boise.

Agenda Review

Minutes of 19 October 2007 meeting. M/S DeWalt/Ganske; minutes approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Horizon Migration and BPL/LYNX! IT Status Reports

Laurel reported that migration has been completed and the last bill to Sirsi/Dynix has been paid. She has spoken to Boise IT staff about the WAN capacity. It would require one additional piece of inexpensive equipment to expand it. The cost of this equipment is around \$2,000. Boise IT is now aware of expansion possibilities of LYNX! and the necessity of expanding the WAN, but would rather not deal with this issue right now because of bringing new BPL branches on line. After next spring, Boise IT will be able to take this on as a scheduled project. Lisa asked if we should schedule this project now. Elaine pointed out that the LYNX! directors have not yet approved any new members and Laurel will need specifics in order to schedule work. Laurel stated that the WAN will actually have to be restructured when expanded; this is not a simple "plug-in" operation. Elaine stated that we want to plan for multiple new libraries, perhaps as many as ten. Discussion ensued. Susan observed that the Burley Public Library has moved beyond its earlier interest in LYNX! membership and is now teaming up with the DeMary Library in Rupert to write an LSTA grant for its own consortium, using Sirsi/Dynix's Symphony as an ILS. This consortium might still join LYNX! later. Lisa mentioned that Emmett Public Library is still in touch with her about catalog conversion and other issues. Lisa was concerned that LYNX! could not invite Kuna District Library into membership if it has already promised membership to Emmett. Laurel said that we should not worry about this. Boise IT knows there are four possible libraries in the membership queue. The question was raised whether we await the creation of consortium standards before admitting new libraries as members. Karen observed that Emmett did not even want to write a cataloger into a conversion grant. We might require this staffing for membership. Ron observed that there is a difference between givens (absolute requirements for membership) as opposed to developmental standards. Laurel reported that the City of Boise is moving to Time/Warner for internet service, which will involve a changeover of original addresses. This changeover will go forward library-by-library; a schedule will be announced for this. The LYNX! Consortium website now hosted at the Boise server

will move over to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Do the directors agree with this change? M/S Leppert/DeWalt to support this change; motion carried.

LYNX! Consortium Financial Report

No written report was presented. Laurel verbally reported that even after the final payment had been made to Sirsi/Dynix, we still had a credit with the company.

Library Summit Committee Report

Karen observed that National Library Week looks most promising for a timeline for this event. Mary stated that Kevin has e-mailed thoughts on mission and topics for such a summit, including: how libraries build communities; what are the “futures” of libraries in the region; what are the continued needs and restrictions libraries face; and the impact of population growth. Collaboration with outside agencies, such as the “Read to Me” program, might also be stressed. Karen observed that part of this discussion should emphasize the benefits received from LYNX!. Ron suggested that the summit include discussion of enabling legislation for developer fees and growth-related funding. There’s a need to discuss both state-wide initiatives and local issues. Essentially, the state legislative session is now over for the purpose of introducing new legislation. Karen observed that sometimes it is more important to talk to legislators in the off-season. There is less pressure and more communication this way and real discussion is ensured. Lisa asked if we want to pick date for the summit. Mary observed that both Garden City and Boise have offered their libraries as venues. Lisa stated that Garden City is now unable to host; its room is already fully booked for the period under discussion. Discussion ensued. Kevin should check BPL’s booking calendar, pick a date, and let us know what it is.

Library Standards Committee Report

Ron reported that he had contacted Kuna District Library Director Anne Hankins, who chairs ILA’s standards committee. She is optimistic that there will be ILA proposed standards for public libraries ready for the groups’ annual conference in the fall. Ron also contacted the Library Commission’s Frank Nelson, who has been designated to edit the ILA proposed standards. He has seen no draft text and is less optimistic than Anne that recommended standards will be ready for approval any time soon. Ron reported that our standards committee members have met twice. At their first meeting, they agreed to review the gathered outstanding state standards and compile three lists: standards pertinent to LYNX!; standards pertinent to Idaho library community as a whole; and standards of no interest to us. At its second meeting, earlier today, the LYNX!-specific standards were studied and a rough draft of a LYNX! members’ survey was compiled based on the standards identified as being of particular interest to us. This survey will be finalized and distributed soon. Mary stressed that we should not lose specific building standards in this process. They are needed in dealing with developers. Luise agreed with this. Ron stated that the committee felt it needed a member who had more of a history

with state standards than the three current members. Elaine agreed to serve as a fourth member of the committee.

Other

None.

NEW BUSINESS

WebFeat Presentation

Glenna discussed WebFeat, a software package providing federated searching capability (of PACs, e materials and databases, websites, etc.). Mary observed that NetLibrary has improved access to e items. Discussion ensued. Robin stated that WebFeat can integrate shared databases within the context of HIP. Lisa asked what the decision point for the directors is. Should we use WebFeat for federated search at this time? What are the costs? Glenna stated that WebFeat will both allow federated searches and provide RPA. She further stated that both a trial and custom (member specific) programming can be arranged. Discussion ensued involving member staffing for installation and Glenna referred to her e-mail report on the product. If only BPL subscribed to WebFeat, it would cost \$8,000. This figure does not include RPA. Susan asked Glenna and Robin to give examples of applications. They stated that each location entry point could be customized. Laurel observed that the biggest selling point is to have one search strategy for all databases in the Consortium. Elaine asked if we do have money for this. Laurel stated that federated searching costs could be met, in part, from the remaining funds in the Sirsi/Dynix account if that company agrees to remit them to us. Lisa thought we could get start-up costs out of our contingency funds. Maintenance costs are another matter. Patty wondered if we can only include eight databases for this cost. Glenna does not know at this point. Patty does not want WebFeat if there is this restriction. Ron asked who would do actual profiling and programming work without having our own consortium IT staff. Laurel felt that there would be in-kind involvement, with the staff now doing data bases at the various member libraries providing the next level of service. There was a general but qualified agreement as to the utility of WebFeat among directors. Funding, on the other hand, is another question. Karen thought that an LSTA grant might be a possibility. Patty said we could charge costs to the grant and then if WebFeat does not work out, we are not out of pocket. She asked how much a trial would cost. Lisa still questioned what kind of labor would be involved. How difficult is WebFeat to install. Profiles for each library would be labor intensive. Glenna wants a single list from all directors of databases and other e-materials involved. William asked if anyone in the region is using WebFeat currently. Glenna said "no." Glenna will ask users on the public library listserv about their actual experience with this product, including staff time and level of expertise involved, particularly for customizing access portals. Robin asked if the directors want a demonstration. Lisa answered "yes" and asked whether the demonstration should be during a regular meeting or on a special date. Also, are the directors the audience for this demonstration? Perhaps the directors should bring the staff member most likely to be concerned with a WebFeat installation. Robin asked if the

money is there to proceed? Mary will talk with the Library Commission staff about a grant, which would take the pressure off directors. A discussion ensued and there was general agreement to pursue this approach. Lisa stated she thought we should attempt to get \$10,000. Patty agreed. We will need to check the timeline for a grant application.

Marketing LYNX!

Elaine reported that the LUG group has asked the question regarding the relevance of the LYNX! name. Should there be a name change to identify what we do and are? With an obscure name, there is a need for more marketing. Do we want to try for a marketing grant? Do we want to market ourselves? Patty asked if we care whether or not the public understands LYNX!. William asked if we want to publicize what is essentially a bureaucracy. Elaine thought there is much to mull over in all of this, particularly in connection with the impending library summit. Lisa stated her belief that the Consortium does need to be marketed. Patty asked if we are really prepared to serve more people if marketing is successful. Lisa reiterated the possibility of a marketing grant. Ron mentioned the difference in marketing to the general public versus marketing to public officials. The latter is absolutely vital; maybe marketing to the general public is not so important.

LYNX! Guide Book

Mary reported that the LYNX! Guide Book is now up on the LYNX! website. Mary observed that Appendix A could serve as requirements/obligations list mentioned by Ron in an earlier report. It could become a sign-off for prospective members. Directors should look over the Guide Book for completeness. Most sections have now been updated by appropriate groups. Luise praised the cleaner, slicker document. Mary said that she will come back to the directors' next meeting for approval of the revised document.

OTHER

Nancy reported that Hailey P. L. is working on getting its staff up and running, particularly the IT function .

Luise observed that individual holdings for NetLibrary are not being input to the Horizon database. Elaine reminded the group that the holdings message has been changed on these records. All NetLibrary titles are represented by Ada and Nampa cataloging records.

Susan reported that Twin Falls's IT person is retiring. They are currently remodeling their YA area and staff room.

Patty reported that Meridian has hired four new staff members and new carpet is being installed.

Lisa reported that Garden City has had three grants funded to improve the teen area.

Mary reported that Ada Community has received two grants including one to install off-site locker returns at two locations. This is a pilot project as no one else is doing this in Idaho. A Texas company manufactures the locker return units and they are used extensively in Ohio.

Ron reported that Eagle has hired another half-time reference librarian, Robyn Patterson from Utah.

William reported that BPL's grand opening of its Collister Branch will be February 12th. The Hillcrest Branch will open during the last week in February. There will be an April groundbreaking for the western regional branch at Cole and Ustick. It will open in May of 2009. William asked about trouble with library card use with self-check machines. Discussion ensued.

Karen reported that Nampa is delaying plans for its new library. A design/build project is being considered in conjunction with developers/investors. Likely it would include joint use with other agencies. There are a variety of solutions in the making. Some retail might be included. Several NPL staff members are enrolled in extended learning MLS programs.

Mary discussed the Big Read program and materials. Discussion ensued. Mary wants to know if we have any adjunct programming at individual libraries.

The next meeting is at the Meridian District Library on April 11, 2008, from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Baker, Note-taker