

System Managers' Meeting April 8 2003

WAM Closing Temporarily - Kristen has set things up so that WAM will not fill holds. Last Saturday was the last day open at the old WAM. Staff are now packing. The target date for re-opening at the new site is May 12. There have been many fascinating issues.

The new site is at 5460 Arden Road, in the old Warren High School. The entrance is at the south side of the building. Arden is south of 14 Mile, between Mound and Ryan. It is easier to get in from Mound.

Holds class - Kristen asked if there was a need for a class just on placing holds. Currently, this is taught as part of the circulation and WorkFlows searching classes. It was agreed this was not necessary. It was suggested that instructions on placing holds go up on the instructions website.

Future Unicorn Releases - 2003 should be out at the end of April. If so, we'll upgrade at the beginning of May.

There will be a lot of changes. Currently, if a book is made lost, the link between the patron record and the item record is broken. In 2003, it won't be. When you discharge a lost book, the patron will be charged overdue fines. There will be a new report to set items to lost after a certain number of days.

There will be the ability to suspend holds.

Patron records will have more search points, such as a search by phone number. There will also be duplicate patron record checking. Three additional user categories will be available.

Tammy will look into Envisionware after the upgrade. This is a signup and management tool for public Internet access computers.

In Acquisitions, there will be selection lists that can be reviewed then turned into an order without rekeying.

9XX ordering costs extra, but will be available. X12 ordering is slowly coming.

CHE asked if the modify order bug would be fixed in 2003, since it wasn't fixed, as promised, in 2002.0.16.0. We don't know. Kristen will open up another call with SIRSI.

In 2004, WorkFlows will have support for common Windows features, such as sort on columns and copy and pasting. It will not run on Windows 95 or Windows 98, and will need a minimum of 256 megs of RAM. We will be able to retain search histories. Label printing has been completely overhauled. The limits on headers and footers for receipt printers will be removed, and it will be easier to change them. Many screens have been combined to improve displays.

SIRSI Users' Conference - It was useful and interesting. Kristen is the new Consortia Special Interest Group (SIG) chair.

New PCs - Everyone should have gotten the new PC forms. All computers will be Windows XP machines, with 512 megs of RAM and flat panel monitors. You can get old style CRTs if you wish. All of the Dells are tower PCs. The warranty on the Dells is now 4 years. The warranty on the Gateways remains 3 years, although you can buy another year.

The co-op will buy 2 new laptops with extra batteries for inventory and 5 new PCs for the training center.

SLC plans to send the order in at the end of April. You can order PCs after that, although it might take longer. Individuals can purchase PCs through the co-op.

Round Robin - SBL asked if there had been any public reaction to the iBistro call number display change. TPL noted that the same librarians who complained about incorrect call numbers in the upper part of the display were now complaining just as loudly about not having them. ROG said patrons have been confused, and are searching for where books physically are by the number of pages.

It was agreed not to change it back. It was also agreed that SIRSI really needs to fix this.

SHL is starting a new collection of ESL readers, and wished to know where to put in information to make these items searchable. Kristen suggested the 740 field.

SHL has finished fixing their serial records, and wondered why other libraries hadn't. Kristen explained that unique call numbers were needed to prevent records being erased and scrambled when the system had a glitch when checking in serials. If a library does not do this, they will be at risk of losing records. When libraries fix their serial records, they avoid a lot of work cleaning up cross-linked and deleted records, and re-entering data.

SHL asked when order records are purged from Unicorn. They aren't.

MPL asked why they couldn't fix a new record another library had created without an accompanying item record. The system won't allow anyone to use that new record until the library that created it adds an item record. When you find one of these, you can call either the creating library or SLC staff to fix it.

TPL asked why we needed to let items sit with a status of discard before they were purged from the system. This had been decided as a group, but individual libraries can ask SLC staff to change the timing on their library's discard report.

ROG said Comcast had come out to install the new lines, and insisted they had to run them into their phone room rather than their computer room. This is not true.

Chris will come out during April to the effected libraries to test and do the switch over. Ameritech lines will go away (except for TPL) at the end of June. We start paying for new Comcast lines in May.

Tammy is due September 18. She plans to be on maternity leave for 4 weeks, then to work 2 days a week through the end of December before coming back full time in January.

Next Meeting - May 13, 9:30 am at MCL.