

April 16, 2002.

Notes from the Arthur Public Services meeting.

Present:

Jason Stirnaman (SL), Lois Marshall (LU), Lucia D'Agostino (CC),
Tena Barratt (WW), Bill Lowe (WM), and Nina Stawski (SC).

Committee members were notified about the possible changes to the Arthur web pages in regard to what was possible and what was not possible as indicated by some of the Site Coordinators. The Arthur Public Services Committee would like to ask the Site Coordinators if it is possible to get a timetable for the expected changes to the Arthur web Pac.

Possible changes to the Advanced search screen for Arthur were discussed. The first change was the wording of the drop down selection from "Scope" to "Library." This is a change that should go through without a problem.

A second change was from the phrase "Material format" to "Format." We wanted to see if it was possible to combine the format pull down boxes? This change will not be possible.

Comparisons between the MOBIUS advanced search page and the Arthur advanced search page were made. The placement of the search instructions in MOBIUS seemed awkward. The Committee felt that there was too much text and it was necessary to scroll down to the bottom to place the search. This formatting change may be allowed so that the advanced search boxes may also reside above the search instructions.

The Committee wondered if a pull down box for Boolean searches was possible—much as they exist in the FirstSearch database for "and, or, not?" Another feature found in the FirstSearch database that was appealing was two boxes for limiting by date so that a range was possible. We did not get an answer to these two proposed features yet.

"Publisher Name Keywords" was discussed. It was thought that it would be little used except through searches initiated by Library staff. This search feature will be retained.

The topic of subject headings searches with the possibility of including the double dashes was discussed. The double dashes are not necessary when placing the search, however, they can be made to show up in the display to

help the Librarian or patron interpret the search results. Everyone was in favor of this feature and this feature will be adopted.

Another feature that everyone liked was the use of icons to indicate the medium or format of the items brought up in the search results. This feature will not be available at this time.

A further investigation needs to be made about the old pet peeve of printout results for marked records. Is it possible to just print out a short citation for a marked list of search results? The problem is that when a student prints out a long list of marked records, in order to go pull the books off the shelves, they get the full citation often including the table of contents and analysis of the book resulting in a very long print out for what could potentially be a short summary list. Students have to pay for their printouts at most libraries. The difficulty in producing a short summary list is that the list that students mark is generated from the bibliographic record and not the item record. Because the information in the bibliographic record is shared the call numbers may not match or be identical to those assigned by individual libraries. These call numbers are not printed out in a summary format and this makes the list useless for pulling the books from the shelves. It is possible that this problem will be looked into as a future software enhancement. The Arthur Public Services Committee wishes to convey to the Site Coordinators that if a way to generate summary or brief marked records with call numbers generated from the item record could be implemented by Innovative that this would be a marked improvement in the service offered to students.

Another question involved the use of a faq page for the Arthur cluster. We were looking at the Qwest Faq to see what that was like. A link at the main Arthur page is an obvious choice but it was thought that having links at the search pages would also be handy. Perhaps it could reside in multiple places by including its placement in the violet-colored bar at the top of the pages? The Committee has an assignment of reading through the Qwest faq to see what might be useful for our purposes--what is needed and what additions or deletions are necessary for an Arthur cluster faq? Each committee member should review the faqs pages of the different clusters. Determine what language to keep and what language to omit and send your suggestions to Lucia by email.

Further discussions continued about the promotional “Arthur” book bag for inclement weather. Committee members are still working on obtaining more definitive estimates for T-shirt bags. On an initial call, Lucia got estimates for a 25,000 minimum at \$300.00 plus a \$175.00 initial plate charge. Lois Marshall was also able to find a company called J.C. Promo in Jefferson City, which can produce T-shirt bags. Samples of some bags offered through the traditional library/archive vendors were reviewed and found to be too expensive. Once the rest of us get some figures for T-shirt bags we can talk about possible payment methods or sponsorship.

Lois asked if any libraries were going to be working with E-books or purchasing any E-book readers for their collections.

Problems with blocking or highlighting in order to print were mentioned. Pasting to a notepad or software with similar capabilities lead to a discussion of the converse problem of removing all methods of word processing from public access computers when some libraries did not desire these features.

Lucia has asked Committee members to send her an email if anyone thinks of problems or questions or ideas to include in the upcoming agenda. Lucia will also be attending a conference dealing with off-campus library services. She is happy to share information with any Committee members who may have an interest in this topic.

The next Arthur Public Services meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9th, from 2:00-4:00, at William Woods University.

Respectfully submitted,
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