

January 16, 2002.

Notes from the Arthur Public Services meeting.

Present: Connie May (LU), Lois Marshall (LU), Lucia D'Agostino (CC), Tena Barratt (WW), Bill Lowe (WM), and Nina Stawski (SC).

1. Clarification of the Committee's official charge.

Responsibilities of the Arthur Public Services Committee as agreed upon by the Arthur Site Coordinators include:

- Web PAC design
- Investigate new Web PAC functions
- Recommend Web PAC changes to the Arthur Coordinators Committee
- Promotion of Arthur and MOBIUS catalogs.

2. Possible changes to the Arthur web pages.

- A. Any changes to the advanced search page.
- B. A faq page & where to link it.
- C. Dashes or no dashes between subject headings and subheadings.
- D. Adding an icon to the search results page identifying the medium.

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." 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? 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. 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. Publisher name keyword was discussed. It was thought that it would be little used except through searches initiated by Library staff. We will probably retain it unless we are pinched for space.

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. Questions about whether to call it “Faq” or “Help” arose. We also wondered how it was linked. 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 to read 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?

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.

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.

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? If it is not possible why is it not possible? Could this change be requested as a future upgrade? The problem is that when a student prints out a long list of marked records 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 be a short list. They have to pay for their printouts at most libraries.

3. Promotional ideas.

- A. National Library Week.
- B. Arthur or Mobius book bag for inclement weather.

National Library Week falls from April 14-20th in 2002. It was decided, as a group, not to do anything official for National Library week under the Arthur aegis. However, individual libraries may participate in any promotional activities that they care to as for example bookmarks or the impressive Best Book List of faculty/staff favorites, a booklet published by Westminster Library that Bill Lowe showed to the group.

Before any further discussion about the possibility of an “Arthur” plastic bag to protect books from dampness and promote the Arthur cluster, the Committee members decided to each do some phone calling to get some 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. Once the rest of us get some figures we can talk about possible payment methods or sponsorship.

The last member library to join the Arthur cluster will be Missouri State Library in Jefferson City, represented by Jason Stirnaman. Members felt he should be invited to all future meetings of the Arthur Public Services meetings. Perhaps he will have questions for the Committee in advance of the load for the State Library?

The next Arthur Public Services meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th, from 2:00-4:00, at Westminster College.

Respectfully submitted,
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