

May 22, 2003. Notes from the Arthur Public Services meeting.

Members Present: Tena Barratt (WW), Lucia D'Agostino (CC), Angela Gerling (WC), Lois Marshall (LU), Jason Stirnaman (SL), Nina Stawski (SC), and Cindy Wyatt (SL). Clara Liao, a summer practicum student at Columbia College was also in attendance.

The redesign of the Arthur cluster web page was the topic under consideration. The Arthur web page design had already been discussed by both the Arthur Coordinators and the Arthur Directors committees. It was reiterated that these committees feel that the charge of the Public Services committee should be threefold: promotion of the Arthur cluster, web design changes, and bibliographic instruction including written instructions such as faq pages and tutorials. [Historical note: The official charge for the committee was reported in the minutes of the January 16, 2002 meeting.] Along with the web page redesign, Lucia also told the committee that the Coordinators would like to see the Public Services committee rotate the chair and the secretary positions annually. Lois Marshall, from Lincoln University will be the new chairperson. The duties for the secretary position will fall upon an individual from the Missouri State Library. The Coordinators have asked that the minutes be posted to the web within two weeks of each meeting. Copies of the minutes will also be sent to the Chair of the Arthur Coordinators and Arthur Directors committees for further distribution if so desired.

These other committees have asked the Arthur Public Services Committee to work on the web page redesign within certain parameters. Lucia conveyed to Public Services her understanding about what these other committees wish to see in the Arthur web page. They have asked to have a quick search box, which will search the entire cluster as the default. [Historical note: the Public Services committee chose initially not to have a quick search box for the reasons outlined in the minutes of the October 10, 2001 meeting. Choose the "view original online" option for improved readability of those minutes.] These other committees have also asked for the colors Royal blue and black, and they have asked to see text enclosed within boxes. They have asked that on the search pages where a specific library has been chosen, that the smaller Arthur logo reside in one upper corner and that perhaps the library's logo should appear in the other corner.

The Public Services committee will be choosing/modifying the icon or logo and creating the graphics for it. The MCO office will do the coding of the web page. Hardy Pottinger has developed the web pages for several clusters and may have templates handy or certain suggestions to make in regard to the web page design. The group is would like to meet with Hardy at the upcoming meeting in order to better understand our options and to try to expedite decisions so that the new page may be ready for the fall semester. It is expected that a draft copy of the page in progress will have a temporary posting on the web so that it will be available for Arthur members to react to prior to its debut.

The Public Services committee will be dealing with the main Arthur cluster home page, and the keyword search pages and advanced search pages. Each library is free to customize its own library's Arthur search page if desired. Public services members have agreed that the design should be as straightforward and easily read as possible. The font should be as large as possible--choosing perhaps the Verdana or Arial styles. Once you have pulled up a list of books in an Arthur search, the font defaults to what appears to be Times New Roman and some thought was given to using this font throughout the web page. The style sheets for coding should recognize that many distance patrons accessing the web page may have old computers and the web pages should be created for quick loading and formatted for low resolution and small screens.

The logo has yet to be decided upon although the sword and decorative use of the sword blade are under consideration. The choice of the logo and its positioning will naturally determine the placement of other design features and buttons. [Secretary's note: In my judgment it is important to keep the "King Arthur" theme boldly in the forefront. Occasionally students take offense, when, as reference librarians speak about the searching the **Arthur** catalog, students mistakenly perceive that the librarian is disastrously mispronouncing the word "**author**." Therefore clarity surrounding the "King Arthur" theme and chosen logo should be a priority.]

The Public Services committee has made several design decisions during the meeting. There will be some kind of bar or graphic across the top with links to the faq pages and other needed links above. Shaded blue buttons for linking and movement will be used with a similar but darker blue font. There will be numerous links in order to facilitate moving about between pages and especially a more direct link to the MOBIUS catalog. The quick search box

will have the member library selections underneath. Text boxes will be open on the side.

The next Arthur Public Services meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2003, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the MCO office on Lemone Industrial Blvd. We will be meeting with Hardy Pottinger regarding the web page redesign.

Brief note: as I will be passing on the responsibilities of secretary/note taker to another Arthur member I would like to thank the other committee members for their patience. I have taken the liberty of inserting historical notes in the minutes as I am the only remaining member from the days of the Committee's inception and hence have had a sense of the underlying thread and *raison d'être*.

Respectfully submitted,  
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