

February 21, 2001

## Webpac design committee meeting minutes

Attended: Hardy Pottinger, MCO; Robin Kespohl, MCO, Jim Dutton, MCO, Melissa Belvadi, chair; Per Almquist, Covenant; June Williams, Fontbonne; Eileen Condon, Eden-Webster; Ellen Eliceiri, Eden-Webster; Anne Booker, Lindenwood; Fred McKinney, Missouri Baptist; Jean Rose, Logan; Joe Rogers, Fontbonne; Denise Pakala, Covenant, Linda Orzel, Harris-Stowe.

Hardy Pottinger introduced himself. He is the sole employee at MCO in charge of web page design, both MCO's own web site and the web pages that make up the OPACs for each cluster. He started in September, and has taken WILO and LANCE through their webpac design. He has designed a web file management system which is a significant improvement over III's and allows for much faster updates (days instead of weeks), especially for global changes across several pages.

Hardy passed out a 7-page handout, "Webpac Design Notes". He gave an overview of the underlying workings of the server, and then what choices are available to us for what screens, and which choices are cluster-level and which can be made differently for each scope (10 total, including the all-cluster scope). The screens/areas that ultimately need design are:

- mainmenu - opening cluster screen
- opacmenu - main search screen – one for each scope
- libinfo – information about the library, scope level - This is optional, and Hardy urges us to consider either replacing or supplementing this page with a FAQ page. Since so many libraries have their own web page, it makes more sense to simply link to the library home page from a header and/or footer.
- header/toolbar – same on every screen, scope level
- footer – same on every screen, scope level
- search-help – one for each search index, scope level
- patroninfo – layout of "view own record" screen, cluster level - The 'view own record' login screen is customizable, but Hardy would urge the cluster to refrain from changing the screen until we have a clearer idea of the needs of our patrons, when they use this login screen. The actual record display screen is not customizable.
- buttons – design of graphical buttons on all search screens after initial search, cluster level

He emphasized that his recommendations are merely that, and that the ultimate decisions rest with the cluster, although some of his suggestions will be strongly based on knowledge of the underlying workings.

Hardy had viewed our mockup sample (see previous minutes) prior to this meeting.

Hardy offered the following design recommendations and information:

- Buttons are completely customizable
- Rollovers (also known as mouseovers) are problematic due to slow load times and access problems for people with disabilities or older web browsers. Archway implemented these. He recommends a layout like LANCE's to compromise for providing extra information. Hardy's comment:

"Aside from the two concerns already mentioned, my chief concern with using rollover images on the WebPAC is that each rollover image is actually two separate images. If you intend to use a rollover image as a link to each searchhelp page, then we are talking about roughly 32 images (~16 indexes x 2 images per rollover). If each scope within the cluster wishes to change these rollover images to match their individual opacmenu page design, then we are taking about potentially 256 images (32 images x 8 scopes). Managing these individual files will be time-consuming, and prone to error. Also, III places a limit on the number of files that may be placed on a WebPAC server. While this limit can be increased, we've never asked for that big of an increase. Therefore, if the cluster would like to implement the

use of rollovers, I would request that the cluster agree to a single set of rollover images to be used by each scope.”

- No rollovers in the toolbar.
- Stylesheets do not work.
- Another III customer, SAGE (URL in Design Notes handout) has a particularly effective layout (except for the use of rollovers).
- Don't use frames.

Questions that need to be considered by the design committee (or directors as appropriate) include:

- Do we want to use the QuickSearch functionality he demonstrated, for the opacmenu? (Scope-level decision)
- Do we want to use the toolbar header he demonstrated? If so, what graphics and links do we want in it? (Scope level, although he asks that the designs not be too different from each other). Hardy's comment:

"It's helpful to think of a navigational toolbar as a remote control: it is undesirable for a remote control to change shape or size in your hand every time you press a button. It is also undesirable for the buttons to rearrange themselves every time you press them."

- What kind of button design do we want to use? (Cluster level as a matter of practicality for him to manage the files). Hardy's comment:

"There might be a little confusion here, so I will clarify: when we at MCO talk about buttons, we are talking about the buttons that the WebPAC places on a dynamically-generated search results page. III only allows for one set of buttons for the entire WebPAC, so the design of the buttons must be a cluster level decision. Other image files that are used on the WebPAC, such as logos, or rollover images, can be different for each scope. However, as a matter of practicality, should the cluster elect to use rollover images for other graphics, I would request that a single set of rollover images be used for the entire cluster. "

- What content do we want in the footer? (Scope level)
- Do we want to design scopes to resemble each other? (Scope level)
- What content do we want in the search-help screens (Scope level)
- How do we want the patron information screen to look (Cluster level)
- What least browser type and version do we want to design to (Scope level). Hardy recommends a cluster-level decision.

Do we want to meet Bobby standards for accessibility (Scope level) – Bobby is a set of standards for web page design that are accessible for patrons with a wide range of disabilities and assisting devices. Hardy's comment:

"I recommend a cluster-level decision for this question. I feel pretty strongly about this issue, and would urge anyone who is interested in the topic of accessibility to visit <http://www.cast.org/bobby/> "

Robin noted that:

- We do not have to have any of this decided by testpac – we could use the vanilla interface for that, but if we get changes to Hardy in time (Friday before testpac) they could include them
- Directors need to decide if they wish to turn the electronic reserves functionality on – it was purchased but may not meet the copyright law needs of most libraries

Hardy requested that the logo file be provided to him in a vector format (e.g. eps, ai, wmf, pdf, psf, psd, psp) rather than a GIF.

Action: All nine members will produce an initial suggestion for the Title index "help" information, from which we will build consensus on how to layout all of the "help" pages. This is due at our next meeting.

The next meeting of the webpac design committee is 2-4pm March 1 at Maryville.