

ILS Coordinators Meeting - April 1, 1998
Minutes edited by Robin Kespohl

PRESENT: Janet Jackson (LSO), John Huang (SLU Pius), Bob Heyer-Gray (UMR), Helen Spalding (UMKC), Robin Kespohl (UMC), Gary Harris (LSO), George Rickerson (LSO), Randy Diamond (UMC-Law), Dennis Krieb (SLU-HSL), Nancy Stancel (UMKC-Law & Recorder).

1. LSO Update:

A. RAID 5: Gary Harris reported that the RAID cabinet is in transit to LSO. III has done a lot of pre-configuration to the drive and mid-release 11 enhancements have been incorporated. We do not know if the III configuration has the UM profile settings or if it has just the generic default values. The software does have a new operating system. Gary will call III and ask about the settings on the RAID 5 system.

Setup of the RAID 5: Scenario

7 The RAID 5 cabinet will be delivered to LSO.

7 The DEC technician installs a comptroller and cable between the Laurel server and the RAID machine (estimated 15 minutes of downtime).

7 Full backup of MERLIN. (Mondays and Thursdays at 2:00pm is the usual time.)

7 III technician transfers our data from backup tapes on to the RAID disk (7 to 8 hours, no downtime).

7 III brings down the system to copy all new transactions since the backup (30-45 minutes of downtime).

7 LSO will reboot our system from the RAID cabinet.

7 DEC technician will come back to remove the old drive from the Laurel machine (one hour downtime)

7 George was asked if there was any reason not to do the installation during intercession. No, but he would like to install it as soon as possible to protect us from disk failure. John Huang asked if the cache may be slow on single RAID disk. George stated that the only analysis on the decision to purchase the RAID 5 system was its ability to backup the system in case of a disk failure. III assures us that the performance time will actually improve. George will post the web site address of DEC for John to investigate the cache question.

*** Editors Note: See Gary Harris' e-mail Raid Installation 4/3/98 for the revised schedule.***

B. INN-Reach Status Report: The INNReach server will be installed this Friday. III will load a set of test records (TestPac) to evaluate the profile and load process. The MIRACL Circulation Task Force meets on April 17. Its profile is due to INNOVATIVE on May 1. The MIRACL Circulation Task Force includes the MERLIN Circulation Committee members.

7 Fines: There is discussion about how fines will be handled in MIRACL. It is not practical to try to fine a patron at one campus when the item(s) has been circulated from a different campus. This is a policy issue that needs to be addressed.

7 MIRACL loan periods and renewals are still under discussion.

7 Helen asked if we could suggest the MIRACL group discuss their issues on its listserv in order to expedite the meeting. George thought that this was a good suggestion and will pass along this request.

7 How long is the MIRACL TestPac period? George does not know yet. The

issues are actually simpler for MIRACL because with MERLIN we had to deal with conversion issues. Robin reminded the group that there needs to be a wide variety of records tested in MIRACL, especially serial records.

C. MOBIUS: For the statewide project the memoranda of understanding has been revised and will be the version used through April 16. Dr. Kala Stroup (CBHE) will send a letter to each president of public and private educational institutions in Missouri encouraging each president to sign off on the agreement.

7 Helen asked if UM legal counsel has looked at the memoranda of understanding yet. UM legal counsel has not seen it.

7 The Missouri House appropriations bill requests \$3.4 million in one-time money with a commitment of the same amount for the next 3 years. The Senate bill includes the Governor's recommendation of \$10.2 million in one-time money.

D. Other:

7 URL checker: MARC tag 856 allows for the link between a MARC record and an Internet URL. Before a URL checker can be used to verify the web links, data extracted from MERLIN needs a lot of massaging. Mike Corlee has volunteered to write a PERL script that can massage the data. MQCC will work out the division of records that need updating of the URL.

7 Between January and March 1998, there were over 7100 circulation transactions between 4:00-5:00am. This curious figure may be due to the system updating circulation transactions on overdues rather than patrons accessing the system at that hour.

2. Authority Control RFP: When the original RFP was issued it was for Authority Control and Table of Contents enrichment services. BNA was the only respondent because it was the only company that offered both services.

OCLC has purchased the Authority Control service from BNA and processed some test records for us. OCLC has not been impressive in its delivery of the BNA product. For example, OCLC is not able to produce a "No Hits" list. We will be sending out another RFP for authority control services.

MQCC supplied the mandatory and desirable requirements. MQCC should do the evaluation and recommendation of the service to purchase. George will ask for the Directors' approval of the RFP process at tomorrow's meeting. He would like to have the task finished by the end of the fiscal year.

7 We have done no vendor authority control or TOC enrichment on the database since October 1997. It was agreed that we should send the records to BNA for TOC without waiting for authority control. We have not pre-paid the authority control contract, we pay per transaction.

3. SCAT tables: George had nothing to report on this topic.

4. Simultaneous users: George distributed a list of login groups that had peak usage of less than 30% of the number of licenses assigned to them and a list of logins that have not been used at all. About one half of the login groups have had denials issued. The most extreme case is a Columbia campus login group (17 licenses) which posted 200 login denials in a one hour period, several days in a row. This has been reported to III.

Discussion followed on how the statistics are gathered by Innopac and what to determine the significance. Hard-wired devices (printers and dumb terminals) do not show up in login statistics. System-wide, there are 740 simultaneous users (71 are hard-wired terminals). Each of us needs to

review our login groups and make any necessary adjustments. The goal is to get the total number of logins assigned to login groups down to 669 (we over allocated to 741). The total originally assigned to each unit should have the hard ports taken out of the count. We probably have 200 more licenses than we really need. Licenses are very expensive and for those we eliminate we can stop paying maintenance on them. SLU bought 240 licenses but they probably only need 100. If the system moves to a complete client/server environment, it would be possible to reduce the number of licenses even more. George requested the Coordinators look at the login statistics again in three months.

5. Paid Enhancements: The following enhancement list has been prioritized by the ILS Coordinators. The list is in priority order with letter A. being the most critical enhancement. George will do a fuller description of each enhancement and speak with an III representative to see if any of the enhancements are on development agenda. He can then give the Directors a sense of whether the enhancements are do-able. MERLIN committees will need to re-start the enhancement process next March, at which time ILS Coordinators will want 2 enhancements from each MERLIN committee.

- A. Checkin display enhancements --Un-funded request from last year.
- B. For Acquisitions: Allow the user to designate which ISBN number should be transmitted electronically, instead of the automatic transmittal of the first-occurring ISBN. -- MACQ
- C. Have the "V" option more obvious at the bottom of the screen (configurability of menu options, order in which item display). -- MRSC
- D. OPAC Export Format -- bibliographic and summary records for active and inactive check-in records. If no summary statement, then item records would be listed. Lengthy items will almost always have summary statements. The idea is to display call numbers on exported records. -- MRSC
- E. For Serials: the electronic invoicing function should automatically verify that all order records posted have the same vendor code. -- MACQ

These will not be forwarded to the Directors at this time.

F. Increased indexing of headings. There needs to be an analysis done as to what the effect of increasing the character string from 75 to 125 characters would be. Headings reports generate many duplicate entries because only 75 characters are read. The cost to go to a 125 character string is \$12,400. MQCC

G. Gale's Super LC Classification Schedules on CD ROM. The ILS Coordinators did not feel that this type of enhancement should compete with funds for MERLIN enhancements. It may be that we may want to fund this type of request, but not as a MERLIN enhancement request. -- MQCC

Miscellaneous Discussion:

7 New Products purchase: Coordinators need to develop and implement a request and evaluation process for new products mirroring the enhancement process so requests can be considered in budget development.

7 III Authority module: We did not purchase the module because it is only capable of validating headings interactively, at the time of cataloging. This process is impractical for many of the cataloging units. In addition, the III module does not handle MESH headings.

7 Millennium software: As a package it would be a complete replacement for all character based functions in III. This would be future decision for

enhancements.

7 Web Access Management product: LSO is not considering it for purchase as a proxy server.

7 Web Management Reports and ILL Module: IUG attendees are encouraged to attend sessions on these two modules for future discussion.

7 IUG Conference: Kathleen Schweitzberger and Laura Gayle Green (UMKC) are presenting a paper on III training at IUG. The paper incorporates cross-functional training. Core competencies are taught in sequence as a 15 hour program. This is a comprehensive treatment that is taught by a combination of technical and public service staff who are able to understand and explain the integrated nature of the III product. George liked this approach. He and Ralph Caruso have had discussion about training issues and how LSO can include a training component in its staff and budget patterns. We have not historically invested much time in maintaining knowledge about our systems (only buying them).

7 ILL module: George believes that we need to seriously explore use of the ILL module. The Library Directors have long had the goal of expediting the process and reducing the cost. That was the purpose of our purchasing III's Interlibrary Loan module at the outset. Certainly, the first iteration of the product was not useable for us. It may be useable now and we need to consider how to help the ILL committee do a thorough analysis of the product in-house. We also purchased "Product 701" which is an interface with OCLC which could eliminate a dual system of ILL. The UM system actually has 11 ILL units, and SLU purchased 4. The MIRACL institutions are starting a comprehensive analysis of the III process on April 23rd, III will be attending as our principal technology partner. The ILS Coordinators asked that Robin attend the next ILL meeting, it may help the ILS Coordinators to understand what questions and concerns the group has about the ILL module.

7 Next meeting: Changed to May 27th from June 3rd.