

MERLIN Acquisitions & Serials Control Committee (MASCC)

October 29, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

Library Systems Office Conference Room

Attendance: Committee Chair Brenda Dingley (UMKC), Linda Hulbert (SLU-HSC), Bette Stuart (UMC-Ellis), Suzy Bent (UMC-Ellis), Rebecca Merrell (UMR), Rich Rexroat (UMC-HSL), Rhonda Glazier (UMC-Ellis), Andy Stewart (UMR), Sandy Parkinson (UMC-Ellis), Alice Allen (UMC-Ellis), Jean Parker (SLU-Pius), Robert Cleary (UMKC), Patrick McCarthy (SLU-Pius), Janet Jackson (LSO), Gary Harris (LSO), Hunter Kevil (UMC-Ellis), Richard Amelung (SLU-Law), Janet McKinney (UMKC-LAW), Ellen Grewe (UMSL), Joyce Edinger (UMSL).

AGENDA ITEM #1: MINUTES/RECORDER

Edinger and Grewe of UMSL agreed to take minutes of the meeting. There were no changes to the minutes of the July 30 meeting as posted by Andy Stewart.

AGENDA ITEM #2: ANNOUNCEMENTS/RELEASE 11 REPORTS

Glazier noted that since the installation of Release 11, suppressed records appear in update mode but do not appear in unscoped search mode. Stuart indicated that when an item is chosen from a hit list, the system does not retrieve the expected item; the system only retrieves the scoped locations.

Also, in public mode scoped searches, bibliographic records are retrieved that are from another campus' collection. Dingley will forward the latter problem to Robin Kespohl.

Kevil asked about the procedure for dealing with these kinds of problems. Harris indicated that LSO posts identified problems to the appropriate list and to the coordinators' list. As SLU's coordinator does not work in Pius Library, messages have sometimes not been forwarded to relevant individuals, and SLU may have to designate an additional name to be included on the coordinators' list.

McKinney noted a problem with interactive transfer---the pop-up window alternates between connecting with Laurel and waiting for a response. When she checked in MERLIN on one occasion after this occurred, she found 37 separate bibliographic records and item records had been exported. Amelung also reported problems with multiple bibliographic and item records being exported.

Jackson indicated that all of the above problems are being dealt with. Amelung noted that problems with exporting records occurred prior to the loading of Release 11, suggesting that not all of the problems are related to the new release.

Jackson indicated that something is causing the system to slow. III's Head of Software Support is working on this.

Harris summarized problems with Release 11 to date:

--The system was not recognizing item barcodes. Initially, barcode validation was turned off to resolve the problem, but yesterday barcode validation was turned back on and was again working.

--Attempting to attach "compile hold" records in reserves resulted in an "illegal hold" message; that problem has been resolved.

--The problem of an incorrect record being retrieved when a line item is keyed has been temporarily solved by changing from a scoped environment to an unscoped environment in all applications. LSO WILL SEND A MESSAGE TO ALL LISTS ASKING THAT ANY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WORKING IN AN UNSCOPED ENVIRONMENT BE REPORTED TO THEM. Of particular interest is whether a library is retrieving bibliographic records for which it has no holdings. Rexroat indicated that the masking of other libraries' templates would be useful, as problems with other libraries using their template have occurred. Amelung also reported a problem with another library retrieving one of their item records, revising it, and using it as their own. To help avoid these types of problems, IT WAS AGREED THAT JACKSON WILL DESIGNATE AN ERROR ORDER TEMPLATE AS THE FIRST POSITION DEFAULT, WITH A ZZZ LOCATION AND A SUPPRESSION CODE. Because doing this will result in the entire list being renumbered, Dingley emphasized that everyone needs to write procedures indicating that a particular location should be chosen, not a particular line number. Hulbert requested that LSO send an e-mail to all lists indicating that this change is being made and proposing that this be done for other templates.

--The list of hosts under Read/Write/Marc Records that LSO prepared had disappeared, but has now been keyed back in.

--Harris distributed copies of a memo from Amy First, III Systems Librarian, indicating that SCAT Tables will not work in our multi-campus environment, as the SCAT Table is set up to look for call numbers either in the bibliographic record or in the first attached item record. Harris indicated that Rickerson will look into getting a refund of the money we spent on additional SCAT Tables.

Jackson reported that the percentage of 130 field errors in Autographics government document records is approximately 1%. LSO will therefore go ahead with the Autographics load, as it would cost more to have the load redone than to make the necessary corrections in-house.

Harris distributed Release 11 Notes re: interactive transfer from OCLC Gateway and processing electronic invoices, and information on the approval plan interface.

Harris indicated that new with Release 11 is the ability to stop "create lists" for one second out of every n records during every boolean search performed in the system, in order to stop the continuous operation and let other transactions go through. The option is off now, and if we want to activate it, we need to determine what n is. JACKSON SUGGESTED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT WE ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION ON THE VALUE OF N FROM AN APPROPRIATE III STAFF MEMBER.

AGENDA ITEM #3: LSO UPDATE

Harris indicated that he will be leaving tomorrow and will be back November 10.

Dingley inquired about the LSO move. LSO's new location will be at Locust and 6th Street. The latest information is that the move will take place the week before Thanksgiving, but may be delayed.

Parker asked when the OCLC Gateway will be fixed. Jackson indicated that, although she has spoken with III numerous times about it, she doesn't know when it will be fixed.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL LOADING

Harris reported that we can have multiple load profiles. If two units share the same vendor, they can share a load table. Also, if two units agree on the load profile, they can share a load table even if their vendors are different. Load tables cost \$2,500 each. Dingley asked representatives from the relevant libraries (SLU-HSC, UMC-HSL, UMKC, UMKC-Law, UMSL, and UMC) to remain a few minutes after the close of today's meeting to determine a time when approval load tables can be discussed.

AGENDA ITEM #5: DEMONSTRATION OF III BINDING MODULE---deferred until the afternoon.

AGENDA ITEM #6: SPECIAL LOCATION CODE FOR REJECTED APPROVAL RECORDS

Hulbert suggested creating a location in the order record (perhaps preceded by R, for "reject") that would not scope and would not retain a building location, so that the order record for rejected approval items could be retained without showing. Jackson suggested that using either yW (withdrawn) or yD (discard) in front of the location would accomplish the same result, since items with these codes are not scoped and do not show. That being the case, the Committee didn't see the need to create a new location.

Kevil proposed making additional codes available in the ORD NOTE. Currently only 17 of the possible 32 are available. IT WAS AGREED THAT JACKSON WILL MAKE ALL OF THE POSSIBLE CODES AVAILABLE, UNDEFINED, AND WILL PLACE THE UNDEFINED CODES AFTER THE DEFINED CODES FOR THE FIELD.

AGENDA ITEM #7: POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS

Dingley noted that we have already asked that the ISBN be able to be specified on an order to the publisher.

Kevil suggested an enhancement to verify that all order records within an electronic serials invoice have the same vendor code.

Dingley raised the idea of submitting modification of SCAT table programming as an enhancement. Jackson indicated that we would probably be more likely to get other enhancements because of the way III is programmed, and asked whether the export of data in a delimited fashion to a spreadsheet would accomplish the same end. Harris indicated the ability to export ASCII-delimited files for collection development reports exists with a Web-based system, but we haven't purchased that system yet. JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT THE KINDS OF REPORTS THE WEB-BASED PRODUCT IS ACTUALLY CAPABLE OF PRODUCING.

Dingley indicated that other suggested enhancements should be posted to the list prior to our next meeting, at which time the Committee's suggestions for enhancements will be finalized.

AGENDA ITEM #5: DEMONSTRATION OF III BINDING MODULE

Robert Cleary made a brief presentation on the III bindery module. In the Release 11 manual, bindery operations are covered in record numbers 45319-45850 and pull slips in record numbers 22110-22323.

The next meeting of MASCC will be held on Wednesday, January 28.

Representatives of libraries interested in electronic approval loads met briefly. Dingley will ask Harris to send copies of the current approval load table to the relevant individuals. Agreement on the necessary decisions will be attempted by e-mail; if issues remain unresolved, a brief meeting of representatives may be held during the lunch hour of the next MQCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Edinger
Ellen Grewe
UM-St. Louis