

Present: Melissa Belvadi (chair), Ellen Eliceiri, Denise Gentile, Fred McKinney, Denise Pakala, Joe Rogers, Jean Rose

Ellen presented and solicited feedback on the logo designs A – E.

Melissa outlined the major areas/screens needing design decisions.

After looking at many sample III sites, the group agreed to the following design principles:

- Prefer fewer major choices at top, segregate less-used indexes further down/elsewhere (and avoid calling them "advanced" – intimidating)
- Prefer scroll down to extra click in placing information beyond opening screenful
- The Archway-style "mouseover" information is desirable for extra information, but javascript should not be used for critical functionality
- We can assume a fully graphical web browser (do not have to design primary screen for Lynx, would be nice to provide alternate text-only; "alt" should be used with graphics)
- Speed of load over a traditional modem should be a factor, the group needs to set specific load-time benchmarks (for 56K modem) in a future meeting
- 640-480 resolution screen should be assumed in designing what fits on "first screenful"
- Text links should be kept the traditional blue-with-underline
- Fonts should be left to client-side defaults to provide maximum user control
- Color contrasts between foreground/background should be high – meet needs of color-blind users
- We would like to fit links to all 9 institutions' scopes on the main search screen, possibly arranged surrounding the logo.

Questions that need to be answered before development can proceed significantly further:

- Which indexes will we have to make available?
- Will scope be locked?
- Is uniformity at the local-scope level among the cluster members' main search screens desired by the Directors?
- What is the size/shape of the final logo?

Other points raised include:

- Importance of "Bridges" name prominently on local-scopes – patrons need to know because of both visiting-patron issues and Union "request" screen prompt (may change?)
- Desirability of uniform appearance between cluster-scope and Union was discussed, and deemed not necessary overall, but close parallels of index names highly desirable
- The keyword search screen can be made significantly different (with special options) from the other index search screens; this needs to be examined in more detail and in the context of the forthcoming "advanced keyword" function (which is not expected by our 'live' date).
- Some discussion ensued as to how the choice of indexes will be made. Ellen offered to host an informal meeting of reference librarians to get discussion going on this issue.

It is our recommendation that we not meet further until the answers to the "Questions" above are answered, so no further meeting times were arranged.

Addendum 11/15/00: As a result of this meeting, Fred McKinney has created a mockup of a main search page for comments and ideas: <http://www.fidnet.com/~fredmck/bridgesmbcdemo/>

