

E-mail responses regarding tracking MOBIUS packages

From: MOBIUS Access Advisory Committee forum on behalf of Scott Britton
Sent: Thu 10/26/2006 12:53 PM
To: MAAC-L@PO.MISSOURI.EDU
Subject: Re: [MAAC-L] Call for agenda items for our Wednesday, November 8, 2006 MAAC meeting.
Topic: Tracking items in the courier system

At the last meeting we discussed the courier forms and also mechanisms to track items in the courier system (not just packages). I received responses from several institutions that were electronically tracking the items in each bag. Systems ranged from Notepad to Access.

I would like to discuss an Access option for tracking items. If I have time and can get help from SEMO who sent their Access solution, I may be able to demonstrate something to the group. If I can't get a demo together, we can at least discuss what functionality we would like in a system, and if Access is the best program to use.

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From: Lambert, Joshua D
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 7:23 AM
To: Adams, David L; Dugan, Charlotte A
Subject: RE: [MAAC-L] Call for agenda items for our Wednesday, November 8, 2006 MAAC meeting.

I don't know exactly what functionality they are wanting but Meyer Circ has a system in place that seems to do what we need. It's really simple and uses what people know. They create a new MS Word file every day that lists the date, institution code, barcode of bag, barcode of all books in a bag. That's all the info we need and all the files in the folder can be searched using Window's built in search mechanism. If it were my idea I would have used notepad rather than Word but Word is what circ is most comfortable with.

That's one aspect of tracking (individual books) but I thought 1st Choice was supposed to have an online package tracking mechanism that would tell me where a bag was? Did that ever come about or do I just not remember correctly?

I'll look at some of the policies but I don't know of any problems with the current ones. I'll ask circ.

Joshua

-----Original Message-----

From: Adams, David L
Sent: Thu 10/26/2006 3:39 PM
To: Dugan, Charlotte A; Lambert, Joshua D
Subject: RE: [MAAC-L] Call for agenda items for our Wednesday, November 8, 2006 MAAC meeting.

At this year's MOBIUS Conference Mark Warenbrock asked if I had any spare programming time to put together an item tracking system that could reside on the MCO server as part of the label creation page.

>From discussions with Beth Fisher when she was here it sounded like
>such
a thing might be an option once MCO sorts out their whole web server upgrade options.

By having MCO provide something it would have uniform recording of information and be accessible to them when they have to deal with 1st Choice.

David

From: Adams, David L
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 8:14 AM
To: Lambert, Joshua D; Dugan, Charlotte A
Subject: RE: [MAAC-L] Call for agenda items for our Wednesday, November 8, 2006 MAAC meeting.

> That's one aspect of tracking (individual books) but I thought 1st
> Choice was supposed to have an online package tracking mechanism that
> would tell me where a bag was? Did that ever come about or do I just
> not remember correctly?

They only track bags, not the content.

> I'll look at some of the policies but I don't know of any problems
> with the current ones. I'll ask circ.

The minimum need is for each institution to keep track of what goes into each bag which is what a majority are doing with either notepad, Word, Excel, etc.

I think some mechanism that was part of the label creation process where you select the "to" and "from" institution, scan the bag barcode, and then scan each item as it goes into the bag (with a free-text option of non-barcode items) would be helpful. I know that some libraries like to preprint labels but some uniform recording and centralized data collection would make claiming and statistics gathering easier.

Just my two cents.

David