

**Florida Library Association Conference
State University System Interest Group
Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2003**

Submitted by Brian Falato, Interest Group Leader

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Brian Falato. He reported that the vice-leader, Vivian Hall Royster of Florida A & M, was unable to attend the conference because of a death in the family. Nominations were requested for the post of vice-leader/leader-elect for 2003/2004. Steven Fuquay of the University of Florida volunteered and was approved. Discussion next turned to a possible name change for the Interest Group, as the State University System no longer existed as an entity. The name State University Libraries Interest Group was proposed and the choice was seconded. There were no other names brought forth and State University Libraries Interest Group was unanimously approved as the new name for the Interest Group.

Presentations were next made by representatives from the state university libraries committees, and then by staffers from the Florida Center for Library Automation.

Technical Services Planning Committee

Allison Howard made the presentation. She stated the TSPC and the Public Services Planning Committee will form a joint committee on indexing. An authorities sub-committee was given its charge: (1) to serve as an open forum for authority control; (2) to promote authority control policies; (3) to promote long-range planning on authority control. The Task Force on Cataloging and

Access Guidelines for Electronic Resources has brought proposals on electronic resources to TSPC for the Committee's review.

Digital Services Planning Committee

Elaine Henjum presented for Lucy Patrick. There are 31,000 titles and 300,000 pages in PALMM now. An LSTA grant has allowed 600 previously uncataloged manuscript collections to be cataloged. Agreements are being formalized with institutions not part of the state university libraries so that metadata from PALMM can be shared with catalogs outside SUL institutions. Elaine also talked about SFX (which will provide linking capabilities between databases and MetaLib (which is a web portal that will provide customization and searching of multiple databases). A task force has been established to implement these. The implementation schedule is unrelated to the timetable of the ExLibris library management system.

Public Services Planning Committee

Meg Scharf presented on behalf of Carol Turner. She mentioned that the New College and Florida International University' law school now have representation on the PSPC. The OPAC web subcommittee received its charge in December 2002. Rich Bennett is chair. PSPC members are undergoing MetaLib training. State university library directors have asked PSPC to review fine amounts and policies/procedures.

Electronic Collections Committee

Subscriptions to electronic resources are based on FTE enrollment at the state universities, so institutions such as Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida Atlantic University that have had large increases in FTE will see a correspondingly large increase in their subscription fees. Increases based on FTE are in addition to the

across-the-board price increases publishers levy. ECC has been reviewing electronic subscriptions and renegotiating contracts. Subscriptions to some databases were cancelled and others were moved to different vendors. Some new subscriptions have been purchased because of the cutbacks on others. Many companies are moving away from shared access, although some are still offering it. Databases will be moving off WebLuis because the load to the system is too great. ECC is reviewing its charge in the light of the creation of the Collection Management Committee.

Collection Management Committee

Jeannette Ward (in lieu of John Ingram) made the Committee's first presentation at FLA. The CMC's first meeting was in May 2002. The Committee will investigate, plan, and implement cooperative collection development among state university libraries. A subcommittee will build a "dark archive" of print versions of electronic subscriptions. The CMC will also be involved in choosing materials from the various libraries' Special Collections departments for digitization.

Florida Center for Library Automation

Jim Corey of FCLA reported that the new LMS from ExLibris, ALEPH, will not go into production this summer at the University of Florida, University of North Florida, and University of West Florida, as was previously planned. FCLA staff continues to face data errors in the implementation of ALEPH, and the correction of these errors is very time-consuming, requiring much communication with ExLibris as to reasons for the errors and possible fixes for the problems. It is hoped that any unresolved problems can be settled by December 2003. However, the switch to production would still be delayed until summer 2004. The University of Florida did not want to be using a new LMS when the crush of catalog usage began early in the spring semester.

UWF and UNF did not want to make the switch to production until UF had already done so. It is not known how this affect the implementation schedules for universities in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the switchover to ALEPH. A representative from the State University of New York system told Jim that new problems can crop up when a second or third wave of libraries is switched over.

Top 10 reasons to delay the switch to production with ALEPH

Lydia Motyka offered this list (with apologies to David Letterman):

10. Backup and recovery procedures are delayed.
9. Interfaces to outside financial services have not been tested.
8. ALEPH reports have not been thoroughly tested.
7. Batch data loaders have not been set up and tested.
6. Printing of reports and notices has not been set up and tested.
5. Batch and background jobs that update data have not been thoroughly tested.
4. Adjacency searching is not working in ALEPH 15.2.2. A fix is promised for version 15.2.3.
3. Programs to load serial publication patterns have not been made available by ExLibris yet.
2. Bibliographic and authority linking to shared Library of Congress and Medical Subject Headings files are not ready.
1. System performance has been unacceptably slow in some libraries that have implemented.

Lydia said that the real number one reason for delaying switch to production is that FCLA did not want to embarrass other libraries that had switched to ExLibris and had not made their original target dates for the switch to production. FCLA did not want to show them up by meeting its original target date.

Following the presentations by Jim and Lydia, questions were taken from the floor. Then a final presentation was made by Brian Falato, who shared some thoughts from Rich Bennett (unable to be

at the conference) regarding the University of Florida's experience so far with the switch to ExLibris. Rich mentioned in his note that the implementation will have a steep learning curve and that the universities are very fortunate to have FCLA staffers wrestling with all the technical infrastructure issues. ExLibris has provided UF with acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, serials and course reserve functional training. Rich praised the ExLibris documentation on the functional training and said it can be easily customized for local use. UF has provided the prerequisite training to all library staff, customizing the session with UF examples and delivering it in 90 minutes. Rich expects some specific functional training in areas such as acquisitions will be accomplished during the 4-6 week period when the NOTIS catalog is frozen and records are being loaded into ALEPH. UF has created a web page for the ALEPH implementation at www.uflib.ufl.edu/lms/ and Rich invites those outside UF to look at it.

As no one had anything further to add, the meeting was then adjourned. About 35 people attended.