

TSPC Quarterly Report

March 2, 2006

The Technical Services Planning Committee met in a conference call on Jan. 11, 2006. This report is based on the discussion and recommendations at that meeting and on subsequent email interactions.

1. Authorities Subcommittee

The Subcommittee met on November 10 and made eight specific recommendations on improving authority control processes in Aleph. One is to have a separate training workshop on authority control for staff in the SUL institutions. Following further discussion with FCLA, the thought is to have this workshop in fall 2006 after all the Phase 3 libraries are up and working in Aleph. A proposal will be made to the TSPC at a future date.

2. CAGER Subcommittee

The Subcommittee elected Kimberly Montgomery of UCF as vice chair / chair elect for 2006-2007 and this was approved by the TSPC.

CAGER's next major project is a set of guidelines regarding metadata records supplied with new resource purchases, or as a separate purchase. The subcommittee is re-evaluating the projects previously undertaken – local guidelines for cataloging electronic serials and databases. There is some consensus that national standards have now emerged, and local standards may, in part, be “re-inventing the wheel”.

3. Topical summit meeting

The TSPC is charged to plan a Metadata and Cataloging summit with the DDAC and make a proposal to the CSUL. Susan Heron of USF volunteered to coordinate planning with the DDAC on behalf of the TSPC. Preliminary discussion is underway, but the DDAC is also involved in planning the SFX/MetaLib summit so scheduling the dates for both summits is a separate issue for them.

4. TSPC priority issues for 2006

The TSPC reviewed the priority issues identified at its meeting during the November Joint Meeting.

- **Training documents / SWIKI:** The SWIKI is up and running. A number of documents have already been posted, including information on Aleph 16, 17, and 18, various documentation and training aids, and “how to” information on reporting and other specific Aleph functionalities. FCLA has also added a link to the SWIKI from the TSPC page on the CSUL web site.
- **Electronic Resource Management (ERM) evaluation and planning:** This concerns the implementation of the Verde product by those libraries who will purchase it. This issue concerns both the TSPC (acquisitions) and the CPC (ERS Subcommittee). Therefore, a task force including members from both groups would be the most effective way to coordinate the process.

Recommendation: A task force including members of both the TSPC and the ERS Subcommittee of the CPC should be created and charged to coordinate the planning for and implementation of Verde at those libraries who will acquire Verde.

- **Metadata and digitization:** The Metadata and Cataloging Summit currently being planned for jointly with the DDAC will be the primary effort to consider this key issue in 2006.
- **OCLC WorldCat Collection Analysis (WCA) project:** The TSPC is interested in any potential impacts on technical services from the CPC's project to evaluate SUL collections using OCLC's WCA product. Dan North is in contact with the CPC and will keep the TSPC informed of any developments that may be relevant.
- **Technology:** The TSPC will explore use of videoconferencing software and other technology for training, product demos, meetings when warranted, etc., to permit broader sharing of information across our libraries and to save travel costs where a face-to-face meeting may not be necessary. A small group (Dan North at UWF and Cecilia Botero and Jason Fleming at UF) has begun testing various videoconferencing products and hopes to identify some for testing by the whole TSPC. Bi-directional audio is essential. The market is in active development and every product is being upgraded. A good free product is Skype, but it only allows four participants. An upgrade to 50 participants is planned. Ultimately the TSPC may recommend a cost-effective product to the other committees and the Directors. These products can also be useful for many other applications within the SUL institutions.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan North, Chair