

TECHNICAL SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes

June 2, 1997

Respectfully submitted by Beth Henry, Head, Resource Management -- UF Health Science Center Library

Present: Rosann Bazirjian, FSU; Charles Gordon, USF Health; John Hein, UNF; Beth Henry, UF Health; Susan Heron, USF; Nancy Hershoff, FIU; Martha Hruska, UF; Michele Newberry, FCLA; Jeanne Piascik, UCF; Janice Ross, FSU Law; Shixing Wen, FGCU; Marvin ??, UWF Donna Alsbury, FCLA; Mark Hinnebusch, FCLA; Judy DePew, FSU; Nancy Williams, UF; Denise Bennett, UF

The Technical Services Planning Committee met on the 2nd of June from 10 AM through 3:30 PM at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Several demonstrations, reports, and updates regarding current projects and recent developments related to Technical Services were reviewed by members of the Committee.

The meeting began promptly with a discussion about autoclaiming and about CLARR software written by Gary Strawn at Northwestern University. Nancy Williams demonstrated the innovations of this cataloging toolkit that allows a library to identify, verify and derive authorities from another database at a very fast speed along with a high rate of accuracy. It saves authorities/cataloging staff many time-consuming and repetitive tasks. No adaptation of NOTIS is required to use CLARR.

Ms. Williams illustrated some of the useful buttons and properties of CLARR and also addressed the hardware and software requirements necessary to operate CLARR. CLARR runs in the Microsoft Windows operating environment and connects to both NOTIS and OCLC via a terminal emulator. A recent enhancement to CLARR identifies subject headings with subdivisions, which need to be 'globally flipped'. CLARR generates a printout that the library can then act on. CLARR is currently being tested/used at the University of North Florida, the University of Central Florida, and the University of Florida, the University of South Florida, and Florida State.

Mr. Strawn, the author of the software will be in Gainesville next week to meet with library staff to talk about issues and needs for CLARR software programs/tools for UF and the SUS.

Martha Hruska presented the SUS Digitization Discussion Group update from Erich Kesse. This group is still in early development and has been working on establishing its membership, a list-serve, and a web site. Once the committee is up and running, the members will inventory SUS digitization projects, standards, external resources, and make recommendations to the Technical Services Planning Committee. When the web site is established, the URL will be posted to the TS Planning Committee.

Judy DePew reported on the SUS Government Documents Task Force. This group has been examining the possibilities and consequences of changing vendors from OCLC GovDoc Tape Load Service to MARCIVE Ongoing GPO Database Service. The MARCIVE service incorporates additional benefits and features that would increase both efficiency and value of government depository documents bibliographic records. An uncertainty concerning the possibility of becoming an OCLC tape loading library and thereby incurring the associated increased charges and costs exists. There was some discussion of this. It was noted that an additional feature of the CLARR software (FULoader) could be used to update SUS holdings on OCLC and to add the OCLC number to the MARCIVE record. There was also discussion of the nature and amount of programming that this switch of vendors would require of FCLA, whether and how this work would be prioritized. The group was surveyed to determine support for the TF recommendation to switch to MARCIVE. All the libraries present supported the change, with the understanding that its implementation still needed to be worked out. It was noted that the FCLA programming work could be considered 'production' support, once the decision on MARCIVE is a firm one.

Denise Bennett reviewed for the Committee the progress of the Format Integration Task Force. She explained what format integration is and why it is happening. Ms. Bennett suggested that Format Integration is an opportunity for SUS libraries to review their tags and tag displays. There is a need to work together for more consistency of OPAC labels across all formats and, with the increased patron access via the Internet, an increased need for consistency across institutions. Making the labels as up-to-date and uniform across formats and across libraries will help reduce patrons' confusion when they search different library catalogs.

John Hein talked about his use of FCLA's DB2 tables to generate reports and to update very specific information about the University of North Florida's collection. Using a relational database, the data from NOTIS can be used to present as broad or as narrow a table as the librarian desires. The data can be manipulated and presented for functional use to evaluate collection management, development and maintenance. Mr. Hein used the DB2 data to make an inventory of one small range of materials by call number. The list can then be carried to the shelves in order to compare and verify the accuracy of bibliographic records to actual holdings. Technical Services staff are thus better able to correct and to update the catalog to reflect library holdings. CM staff would be better able to make weeding decisions, since these lists could also include circulation information from item records.

After lunch, the meeting resumed with a brief update from Nancy Williams on the FULoader feature newly developed in CLARR which sets holdings on OCLC. Ms. Williams reported that the program had been successfully tested at UF in the last month for approximately 11,000 MARC titles acquired from Yankee Book Peddler (UF's approval vendor). The program processed 1,000 records in an hour, far better than a manual average of 40/hr.

This was followed by a presentation from Donna Alsbury (FCLA) on ARROW: Ad-Hoc Report Request over the Web. The FCLA DB2 tables are now accessible to those users validated to access them. The usefulness and value of these tables for report writing by SUS libraries was clearly demonstrated

previously by Mr. Hein's report. Both custom reports and predefined reports can be retrieved from the DB2 tables. These reports can be managed using PC clients to format the data. At the present time, most of the data concerns library acquisitions. However, the data can be used by library managers in many other departments. FCLA members requested advice from the committee regarding what aspect of the ARROW project would most benefit member libraries: working on either the development of real-time reporting or the item report - which should have the higher priority? FCLA members also commented on the status of the 2000 year problem and their efforts to resolve this difficulty.

Judy DePew provided a Webluis Task Force update. Mark Hinnebusch then gave a demonstration of the 'Webtech' site currently in development. FCLA asked for volunteer testers using differing browsers and different computers to provide feedback and input to FCLA as this Webtech site evolves. The TS Planning Committee will recruit volunteers from all the SUS libraries to participate in a Webtech discussion group. Issues requiring consensus will be forwarded to the TSPC for decision.

At the close of the meeting, there was a discussion regarding future needs and directions of SUS Libraries Technical Services. One issue noted was use of URL's on catalog records. Martha Hruska noted that UF will be drafting guidelines, and she offered to forward these to the TSPC as they are put together. The SUS Libraries' initiative to begin the search for a new library system was also discussed. Members of TSPC agreed to begin the effort to specify requirements for serials checkin, binding, and acquisitions modules, modules which have long been identified by this group as priorities for major improvement. It was noted that the task force to be appointed to investigate a new system would inevitably include one of the TSPC members knowledgeable about acquisitions. That person could thus coordinate the requirements gathered and submitted by each of the libraries. It was also pointed out that many of the requirements, especially in the area of management information, could be useful to enhance the existing system as DB2 developments continue to be as well as to demonstrate what features, modules, and properties any new system ought to have.