Online Dakota Information Network
Minutes of Meeting - Draft
October 20, 2005

DRAFT

Attending: Karen Anderson; Marlene Anderson; Phyllis Bratton; Karen Chobot; Lillian Crook; Celeste Ertelt; Darlene Fairaizl; Larry Greenwood; Kelly Hell; Arlene Ott; Doris Ott; Lila Pedersen; Wilbur Stolt; Tony Stukel; Rachel White; and Jan Wysocki

Guests: Joan Bares; Gary Johnson; Cindy Larson; Jane LaPlante and Susan Podrygula

1.   Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.   Agenda approved.

3.   Minutes of May 5, 2005, meeting approved.

4.   ODIN Director's Report – Tony Stukel:
   a. Discussed Patron Loader and difficulties identifying fields in ConnectND database to download into ALEPH. ODIN must understand and use fields according to the way that ConnectND converted the name and address data from the NDUS legacy system. It isn't clear what address should be downloaded for any given campus. There are many addresses from which to choose.
   b. The OCLC loader is not ready. Time has been spent on ILL, service packs, re-indexing, ConnectND and reports. Tony expects the OCLC loader to be ready soon, but cannot give a date.
   c. ODIN is working on loading Aleph Service Packs that are expected to improve ILL and fix problems in Aleph. ExLibris has issued a large number of service packs and ODIN is trying to catch up and load as many of the past service packs as possible. The large number of them is slowing other work. The goal is to have the service packs in production in November. In the future ODIN will try to install service packs as they are issued from ExLibris.
   d. ODIN has received 2114 "Remedy" tickets since October 1, 2004 when ODIN began using the Remedy help desk system to manage problem reporting. ODIN libraries noted issues with the remedy ticket system:
        i. You cannot submit the tickets with one mouse click – it confirms action on second click.
        ii. You must close out the browser to submit another ticket.
        iii. If you take too long to submit a ticket the Remedy session may time out. If this happens you will loose the text you have been writing. It is suggested that if you have a complex problem that you write the explaination in Word or Notepad or whatever you use on your PC and then copy and paste the text into the Remedy box.
      Tony will put out email about the problems with the remedy tickets.
   e. Tony discussed the requirements for all North Dakota projects of $250,000 or greater.

       i.   All such projects must follow prescribed project management procedures.

      ii.   The requirements will add a level of structure and overhead to future projects.

    f.   Some ODIN libraries will be receiving a questionnaire relating to the ALEPH project. This is an aspect of the project management procedures.

5.   Using the ODIN Test Server - Tony noted that there is a test server is used for many testing functions:

    a.   During the implementation it was used to test convert the PALS data and to validate the setup of all ODIN libraries.

    b.   It is used to test the installation of Aleph Service Packs or SPs. The SPs are distributed at least monthly by Ex Libris and contain changes and/or fixes for the Aleph software. All SPs are installed on the Test Server first before being installed on the Production Server.

    c.

    d.   was created to analyze changes in tables and introduction of new functions rather than have them affect the production server.

    e.   Tony noted there will be a need for a separate client to "point" to the server since some of the library's activity on the test server may result in changes.

6.   Future Directions

    a.   Hardware Changes

Tony discussed the need to upgrade the current hardware that was acquired at the beginning of the ALEPH project. The current hardware was acquired from HECN as part of a "deal". While it served its purpose in supporting the ALEPH system at the beginning, it is older equipment. Within the next 4-6 months Tony expects to work on acquisition of a new server, discs, and tape drive. Funding for the new equipment will come from funds in the ODIN account.

    b.   Training

Training continues to be a major issue among the ODIN libraries. Work groups have been established to assist the ODIN Office and member libraries with problems and future development of the system, but the libraries do not think they have been adequately trained to understand ALEPH and what it does. Tony noted that Ellen was touring selected ODIN sites providing training for ILL. Libraries want more training to

       i.   validate activities

      ii.   understand documentation

     iii.   understand tables and how they impact the system

     iv.   customize individual systems

    c.   ALEPH System Reports

There has been some progress with ODIN libraries and ODIN staff developing some reports, but ALEPH report functionality is weak. Tony reported on a discussion group convened in Grand Forks before NDLA to discuss the new ExLibris report product called ARC. ODIN members found the proposed product did not provide the functionality needed in the consortium. Tony reported that other large shared systems organizations were coming to the same conclusion. ODIN libraries and staff will have to create their own reports. Tony will monitor

developments among the large ALEPH consortiums in hopes of finding solutions common to all the large multi ADM ALEPH users.

d. SFX/Metalib

Members discussed the possibility of implementing SFX and Metalib. Tony noted the contract allowed for the purchase of the products, but they would be separate software implementations requiring additional staff and equipment. It is not clear whether a consortium implementation of these products was the best strategy and additional ODIN staff would have to be hired and trained. ODIN libraries felt training and implementation of the current ALEPH system should be the priority for ODIN.

e. New Version of ALEPH

Version 17 of ALEPH is available for installation. Version 18 should be available in the spring/summer 2006. There will be some significant changes in ILL in Version 18. Tony is considering moving directly to Version 18, but wants to know more about the upgrade path before making a final decision. This communication will reduce misunderstandings and establish real expectations for the proposed initiative.

f. Adding Libraries to ODIN

Should ODIN continue to add libraries to the consortium? Most representatives believed new libraries would be good, but suggested ODIN explore options that would not require small libraries to use all the ALEPH functions. There may be some organizational opportunities with the North Dakota State Library.

g. New Funding Formula

ODIN has been using a modified funding formula based upon 2003 data from the PALS system. Because ODIN did not know what sort of statistics and reports would be available in ALEPH, it has used this base for three years. The Advisory Council Chair will appoint a task force to propose a new funding formula.

7. ODIN Staffing

ODIN libraries continued to express concern about the need for more training and support. Tony noted he had again submitted proposals through the NDUS system for additional staff. The ODIN Advisory Council requested a proposal for additional ODIN staff to be considered at the Spring Meeting.

8. ODIN Working Groups

Wilbur Stolt reported on the establishment of new ODIN Work Groups. The following groups have been established. The Council established the following User Groups

1. Acquisitions
2. Cataloging
3. Circulation
4. Interlibrary Loan
5. Systems Librarian

A sixth work group for the OPAC has not yet been organized. Wilbur said he would work on organizing this group after the meeting. Each group has a page through the

ODIN staff page. The Charge for the Work Groups was distributed and discussed at a NDLA session.

9. ODIN Representation at the North American Aleph Users Group (NAAUG)
ODIN has sent representatives to previous NAAUG meetings and the intent of this agenda item was to discuss how ODIN would select representatives to future NAAUG meetings. Gary Johnson from SDLN and the NAAUG Steering Committee reported that changes in representation within the organization were under consideration and would be announced. The group decided to delay discussion until the new delegation of representation was announced.
   a. Tony was encouraged to develop a funding proposal to support additional staff for the ODIN Office. The Advisory Council believes training and support for the system requires additional staff. In the recent session, the State Legislature did not fund the proposal for an additional ODIN staff member. The Council believes staffing is critical to the success of ODIN and will consider additional increases to support this.

10. Statewide Databases
Doris Ott reported on the new databases made available through the legislative allocation. They are:
   1. Ancestry Plus
   2. Health and Wellness Resource Center
   3. Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center
Additionally, OCLC WorldCat would be available only to those libraries paying a portion of the cost. A formula has been developed for school and public libraries. Most academic libraries will pay double what they paid last year. UND, NDSU and the ND State Library will provide additional funding to insure WorldCat is available in North Dakota.

11. The ODIN Advisory Council acknowledged the service of Larry Greenwood, Director of the Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University. Larry will retire at the end of December 2005.

12. Meeting Adjourned 4:10 p.m. CDT