

Draft Minutes
ODIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
November 5, 2007
BISMARCK, ND
ND State Capitol, Pioneer Room

Council members in attendance:

Marlene Anderson, Bismarck State College
Sarah Batesel, Mayville State University
Phyllis Bratton, Jamestown College
Karen Chobot, ND State College of Science
Sheila Collins, Minot State Univ.
Jim Council, North Dakota State Univ.
Rita Ennen, Dickinson State Univ.
Darlene Fairaizl, Mandan Public Schools
Celeste Ertelt, Lake Region State College
Sandra Hannahs, West Fargo Public Library
Donna James, Valley City State University
Diane Nordeng, THOR (Veterans Admin.)
Diane Olson, Trinity Bible College
Doris Ott, ND State Library
Dennis Page, Grand Forks Public Library
Lila Pedersen, UND – Health Sciences
Rhonda Schwartz, UND – Law
Ted Smith, Supreme Court Library
Wilbur Stolt, Univ. of North Dakota
Rachel White, State Historical Society
Jan Wysocki, Minot State Univ. – Bottineau
Tony Stukel, ODIN (ex officio non-voting)

Guests in attendance:

Michele Azar, NDSU
Jeremy Brown, NDSU
Mark England, NDSU
Barbara Knight, UND – Health Sciences
Joan Bares, MedCenter One
Cynthia Larson, ND State Library
Eric Stroshane, ND State Library
Randall Thursby, ND Univ. System CIO

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Wilbir Stolt, chair.

Lila Pedersen volunteered to keep minutes for this meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of August 23-24, 2007 were reviewed. **Approval moved by M. Anderson, seconded by D. Nordeng; motion passed.**

I. Current status of the ODIN-supported library system: strengths and needed improvements (member comments and discussion)

Reports module is poor. Cataloging-OCLC file transfer does not work. Circulation reports, statistics, inventory are poor. Response time is slow. EDI does not seem to work. OPAC reliability is poor. OPAC searching results are variable. ILL requests disappear.

Aleph is too big and complex for a small library. Takes a lot of time to train staff. Takes a lot of time to work through problems. Very little documentation, no “cheat sheets”. Some said documentation has improved a little, but there are inaccuracies. External training at this time is inadequate.

Generally, the comments above were agreed upon by most, but some said they did not think overall the system was quite this bad, and with patience and proper mindset most things would work acceptably.

II. Vision for the future of library systems in North Dakota

R. Thursby proposed some ideas about features of future library systems, such as:

- federated searching across multiple databases
- integration with learning management systems (e.g. Blackboard, WebCT, Desire to Learn; or open source learning management systems such as Moodle)
- collaborative systems, such as Wimba
- open source (which still requires local support and therefore is not "free")
- one size does not necessarily fit all
- Web 2.0 service-oriented architecture built in

Other comments and things to consider from Thursby:

- long-term cost to the state
 - making changes without impacting ODIN or taking money from the "ODIN core"; ("the cost of change is high; how can we take rises we can afford, such as trying out other systems")

III - IV. Discussion of members' desires to evaluate alternatives to the current library system; status of library system options, both vendor and open system

- Opinion was mixed on whether or not to evaluate other systems.
- Thursby commented that we should look at alternatives but without the exploration costing ODIN; it will take a couple of years, and that time will also give Aleph a chance to develop. Federated searching systems, which are still in their infancy, can also be evaluated during that time.
- Thursby commented that ultimately ODIN could decide to use two systems.
- Minot State has been investigating other ILSs for the last two months; they have also been investigating ILLiad.

Stolt said he would request S. Collins to share their findings with the group.

V. Discussion of the Evergreen Presentation of August 24, 2007

Consensus was that Evergreen should be tested by some ODIN member libraries: university system libraries and public or school libraries. Data will be loaded and tested, but day-to-day operations will not be. ODIN staff would write the data loading software.

Stolt will call university system libraries to find volunteers. He will consult with D. Ott on public/school testers. The goal is to identify 4-5 test libraries by the end of November.

VI. Discussion of the NDSU Library's project to solicit proposals for a new integrated library system

NDSU has been developing the RFP. Following is the schedule:

- November 2007: RFP release
- December 2007: vendor demos; vendor responses to RFP
- End of January 2008: selection of system
- February 2008: test data dump
- End of February 2008: live data dump
- March 2008: cataloging and circulation functions

- End of March: live to the public
- April 2008: serials
- May 2008: acquisitions
- Plan to continue ILL on Aleph

Expectations of the new system: Better documentation, Web 2.0 features, EDI, more efficient use of library staff including meetings with IT staff.

NDSU funds will support the new system; and NDSU will continue to support ODIN.

VII. How does and should North Dakota handle ILL with multiple library systems? Will a virtual union catalog facilitate ILL?

The NDSU RFP does not specify ILL.

Most libraries in other systems do not have ILL built in, but rely on external ILL systems (e.g. World Cat Local, ILLiad).

Stolt has some volunteers for an ILL subcommittee and would like more.

OTHER

Marlene Anderson is on the NDUS CIO search committee; interviews are planned to occur in February 2008, with a start date of May 19, 2008.

There have been no volunteers for a link resolver committee.

Some members expressed interest in a strategic plan committee; those interested should contact Stolt.

Next meeting, probably in April 2008.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Lila Pedersen
Pro Tem Secretary