

Draft Minutes
ODIN ADVISORY COUNCIL
AUGUST 23-24, 2007
MEDORA, ND

Thursday, August 23

Council members in attendance:

Phyllis Bratton, Jamestown College
Sheila Collins, Minot State Univ.
Jim Council, North Dakota State Univ.
Rita Ennen, Dickinson State Univ.
Celeste Ertelt, Lake Region State College
Tom Fortin, Fargo Public Library (proxy)
Kelly Hell, Williston State College
Arlene Ott, GF Air Force Base
Doris Ott, ND State Library
Dennis Page, Grand Forks Public Library
Lila Pedersen, UND – Health Sciences
Rhonda Schwartz, UND – Law
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:

Jeremy Brown, North Dakota State Univ.
Bill DeJohn, MINITEX
Dorrene Devos, UND – Law
Edie Discher, Fargo Public Library
Cynthia Larson, ND State Library
Kaaren Pupino, UND - Law
Randall Thursby, NDUS CIO

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Tony Stukel, ODIN director. Lillian Crook, who was elected chair at the April 2007 meeting, has since retired. People in attendance introduced themselves.
2. Lila Pedersen volunteered to keep minutes for this meeting.
3. Tony turned the meeting over to Wilbur Stolt, previous chair, who opened the floor for nominations of chair. He noted that the council does not have a vice-chair as it had in the past, and that perhaps this practice should be restored. Wilbur nominated Lila Pedersen, who respectfully declined. Jan Wysocki nominated Wilbur. Wilbur was elected by paper ballot.
4. The following corrections were made to the minutes of April 30, 2007, which were then approved as corrected:
 - Phyllis Bratton and Lila Pedersen were removed from the list of attendees.
 - The spelling of Lynn (Wolf) from the list of staff in the ODIN office was corrected.
5. ODIN Director's report
 - a. See appended ODIN Director's report. Following are items either not covered by the report or expanded from the report.
 - b. Tony called attention to the ODIN Status Report. This is a new weekly update now required by the NDUS office. It will be posted on the ODIN website.
 - c. Linda Albee has been hired in the new position as trainer.
 - d. Clarification of ODIN electronic lists and e-mail addresses:
 - Mail to ODIN support goes only to 2 people (Ellen Kotrba & Ginny Millette).

- ODINhelp goes to all ODIN office staff; use it for remedy tickets. Tickets should be coordinated within a library so that only one ticket gets sent. The reply ticket goes to the NDUS help desk.
 - ODIN Directors list goes only to the director at each ODIN library.
 - ODINFO list should go to ALL staff at each ODIN library. Directors should check the list on the ODIN staff website at <http://www.odin.nodak.edu/staff/ODINFO.html>. Updates should be sent to ODINHELP@listserv.nodak.edu.
- e. ODIN will have an exhibit at NDLA in Jamestown, and they will do a separate session on reporting in Aleph.
- f. OCLC loader (also popularly but not accurately called “batch loading”): A few libraries are using it and having some difficulty. A particular problem appears to be that when several libraries process the same record, it takes the first few and then does not recognize the records of the subsequent libraries. This is evidence that the consortium design poses problems for Aleph.
- g. Vista: The ODIN office will be testing it with Aleph.

6. ILL Task Force

The task force is studying options to Aleph ILL. Minot State U. and the State Library have ILL staff on the task force. Wilbur is looking for a couple of administrators to add to the task force.

7. MINITEX report – Bill DeJohn

Wilbur expressed appreciation to Bill for his work with the Minnesota legislative initiative, which has benefitted ND libraries. He also congratulated him on receiving the U of Minnesota President’s Award.

Bill reported that the incoming ILL requests are continually going up, probably largely because of the unmediated user request option. However, requests from ND are falling, probably largely because of the quantity of electronic resources available. The courier service transported 916,000 items this past year.

Benefits of MINITEX membership: Many training & CE webinars offered, most are archived – cooperative purchasing – statewide database licensing.

The U of Minnesota migrated to Aleph GUI in June. Positive results: seamless moving between ILL, circ, and cataloging modules – fewer mouse clicks – improved layout and request form – print jobs are simpler – potential supplier list easier. Difficulties: New Interface and layout requires learning – slower response time for MINITEX

Bill shared his observations on national trends:

- Interest in alternative interfaces for the catalog, such as: Primo, and WorldCat Local, which will be out this fall and is cheaper than Primo (Univ. of Washington will be using it).
- ILL staff will go directly to where they can get resources, regardless of protocols that may have been adopted.
- Increase in libraries purchasing by demand as an alternative to ILL (U Minn has started).
- Open source ILS.

8. Aleph upgrade to version 18 – Tony Stukel

Anticipated date: January 2008. The servers have been purchased. The demo database has been installed on the Aleph application server and ODIN will be working with Ex Libris to copy the real data. The basic look and function of the modules should remain the same as the current version 16.02. Report forms will change. Inventory will be new. Local modifications that have been done to

the current version (such as reports, forms, circ overdues) might not carry over. The “upgrade express” software will help identify problems. Other libraries: Univ. of Minnesota is on version 18; MNPALS is on v. 17; SDLN still on v. 16, no info on whether they will be migrating.

9. Work group updates

No reports – little activity since last meeting. Eric Stroshane (NDSL) is new chair of OPAC workgroup.

10. Link resolvers

Wilbur asked those libraries interested in exploring a link resolver for ODIN libraries to contact him. He will assemble a committee to explore link resolvers and comparative costs. ODIN member libraries can use this information to explore group pricing. Libraries currently using link resolvers: the 3 UND libraries are using SFX; NDSU, Dickinson State U., and Medcenter One are using EBSCO A-Z. Minot State U. has compared Serials Solutions, SFX, and EBSCO A-Z and prefers Serials Solutions, although they have not purchased any of them.

11. Federated searching

Wilbur will assemble a committee to explore federated searching services (such as Metalib). Doris raised the point that Z39.50 did not work well for searching across catalogs. Tony’s response was that the new federated searching technology is supposed to be quite a bit better.

Friday, August 23, 8:30 a.m.

Council members in attendance:

Marlene Anderson, Bismarck State College
Phyllis Bratton, Jamestown College
Sheila Collins, Minot State Univ.
Jim Council, North Dakota State Univ.
Rita Ennen, Dickinson State Univ.
Celeste Ertelt, Lake Region State College
Tom Fortin, Fargo Public Library (proxy)
Kelly Hell, Williston State College
Arlene Ott, GF Air Force Base
Doris Ott, ND State Library
Lila Pedersen, UND – Health Sciences
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Kaaren Pupino, UND - Law
Randall Thursby, NDUS CIO
Lamar Veatch, Georgia State Librarian

12. Evergreen demonstration – Randall Thursby & Lamar Veatch

- a. Randall gave an introduction to the demonstration by giving the rationale and background for looking at other software to run ODIN:
 - Aleph is beginning to get “old” and Ex Libris is not aggressive in modernizing Aleph, nor are they responsive to user dissatisfactions and wishes for improvement.
 - The ODIN staff is small, and Aleph requires a lot of attention.
 - NDSU is taking the initiative to explore new systems and will be issuing an RFP (see #13).
- b. Key points from Lamar’s presentation (see also his PowerPoint slides):
 - Evergreen is the open source software that runs the Georgia PINES consortium’s ILS. The Georgia Public Infrastructure Network for Electronic Services includes 265 public libraries in 133 of the 159

counties in the state. After 2-3 years of exploration and discussion and 2 more years of development, the system was brought up in September 2006. Here is the link to their fact sheet: <http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/pines/pinesdatasheet.pdf>

- Any Georgia resident can get a statewide PINES library card at no cost and borrow directly from a PINES library. The item is delivered to their local library.
- Benefits of open source:
 - The source code is available to users and can be modified; hence changes can be made in small increments
 - No licensing fee
 - Equipment to run Evergreen is generic and therefore cheaper than required for Aleph
- Status of Evergreen:
 - Has OPAC, cataloging, circulation, reports
 - True ILL is not part of the system; ILL operates more as a hold-and-delivery system
 - Work is just beginning on acquisitions/serials, in cooperation with Windsor & BC (see below); expected to be operational in summer 2008
 - The 4 developers have formed their own company, Equinox, and PINES contracts with them; a good arrangement because it eliminates conflict of interest issues
 - BC Pines (British Columbia) public library consortium planning to launch in September
 - Univ. of Windsor (Ontario) is planning to migrate
- Key features of Evergreen (Lamar's demo was complemented by a more technical demo by phone/online from one of the developers):
 - To see for yourself, go to <http://gapines.org>
 - Google-like search interface of the OPAC, with spell checking & search suggestions; live circulation data in the OPAC
 - C++ & Perl; PostgreSQL database; Linux OS; Apache webserver; XUL (XML User-interface Language) markup; Jabber message core
 - For more tech stuff go to <http://dev.gapines.org> and <http://open-ils.org>

13. NDUS-NDSU pilot project – Randall Thursby & Jim Council

NDSU is preparing an RFP to send this fall to ILS vendors, plans to select a system and migrate within the next 6-12 months. The selected system for NDSU will be installed at NDSU and will be run along with Aleph. Right now they are anticipating Innovative Interfaces (Millenium) will best meet their needs because it has acquisitions/serials, is more solidly web-based, and is a smaller company and therefore more responsive and quick-moving. The purpose of the pilot project is to test another system and help prepare ODIN libraries for future migration. NDSU will remain a solid, fully supporting member of ODIN. The two systems will be transparent to users. NDSU will continue to add holdings to WorldCat. Randall proposed that an advisory group from ODIN libraries be formed to attend demos and help assess.

The ODIN Advisory Council will meet within the next month or two to further discuss the process, what ODIN libraries' role will be in the pilot, concerns of a multitype consortium like our, the effect on the ODIN office staff, how to present the project to the "outside world", etc.

14. Jan Wysocki moved that the ODIN Advisory Council recognize Lillian Crook (Dickinson State University) for her years of service to the OAC. The motion was passed by acclamation. Doris and Jan will design the recognition.

15. Member library news:

- MiSU-Bottineau: Grand opening of new library building, Thursday, Aug. 30, 1:30 p.m. The Minot State U. President and the ND Attorney General will be guest speakers.

- Fargo Public Library: Old main library has been demolished; the temporary location is a downtown storefront. Groundbreaking for new main library is September 5, and it is targeted to open December 2008. The 15,000 square foot Carlson Branch (south) open mid-November.
- ND State Historical Society: The new building will be finished in October (but unfinished office spaces and no stacks). They are now operating in space in the Heritage Center. Director Gerald Newborg will retire later this fall, as well as a cataloger. Partnering with NDSU in a photo digitization project.
- GF Air Force Base: Expecting to obtain the final approval for the exemption to migrate to SIRSI, thereby remaining with ODIN. They have been a net lender since being on ODIN.
- ND State Library: Received approval for a new training position. They will be adding Webinars to their training formats.
- Minot State U: Creating an Information Learning Commons. The writing center and the computer lab will be combined. George Clark (reference) has retired, and they are in process of recruiting for that position. An evening services librarian is being added.
- Dickinson State U: Director Lillian Crook retired in early August. The evening-weekend supervisor is now full time. DSU is hosting the Theodore Roosevelt Symposium, September 13-15. A prototype of the T.R. Kiosk (containing T.R. papers, etc.) is being installed the week of August 27.
- Lake Region State College: Celeste reports that she is now “full time” in the library, no longer splitting her time between library and teaching.
- UND – Law: New databases: Making of Modern Law, and U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs (both Gale). Hein Online has a new foreign database. An Academic Success collection of book and audio case files for students has been added.
- Bismarck State College: New library blog. B.S. in energy management has been added.

16. A meeting will be scheduled within the next 1-2 months to discuss the ILS pilot project headed by NDSU.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lila Pedersen