

Maine Infonet Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 4 at 1:30 p.m. by Zoom

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Attending were James Jackson Sanborn, Nancy Grant, Bryce Cundick, Daisy Singh, Lori Fisher, Kevin Smith, Ben Treat, and Steve Norman.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

The meeting with Infonet staff in October was discussed. Cataloging was a special concern brought up at that meeting. Nancy mentioned that an intern from the College of the Atlantic last year had concentrated on merging catalog records. The intern identified problem libraries and could work with them to solve issues. James said that duplicate records mainly happen with newly joining libraries. Once we are past the addition of all of the new MaineCat libraries, fixing duplicate records will be part of the consolidation of gains noted as a desirable future goal by the Infonet staff.

Statewide, many catalogers have been replaced by non-catalogers or inexperienced catalogers. This phenomenon is so common that we have reached a tipping point.

Ben noted a concern about merging Portland Public Library's records into the new ILS. PPL has gone away from OCLC, so the URSUS public libraries should know what PPL is using as a cataloging utility. Bryce also sees likely problems with the merging of those catalogs. James said that Infonet does have experience with all of the common issues that can arise with merging catalogs. Still, some cleanup will be inevitable with the URSUS publics' merger into Polaris.

James and I will coordinate inviting a MILS representative to serve on the Infonet Board.

Ben and James from the Finance Committee reported that the accountants have Infonet's books and that the appropriate 990 Form extension application has been filed. James and Ben may begin preparing annual budgets for Infonet.

James reported that the migration of the second batch of MILS libraries is in progress. Rangely will go live on December 12 and will be followed by Vassalboro and Lyman. The Chickadee Library Consortium is live and fully operational.

Colby-Bates-Bowdoin is live with an API from Alma to INNReach. Walk-in borrowing is not yet implemented. Kevin noted that there has been lots of adjusting of workflows. Because of an implementation decision, patron information is not shared between systems; therefore, the workarounds when processes do not work right are different. Instructions for the workarounds have been sent out. Kevin's main word to the wise: Watch the introductory training videos!

James gave an update on the status of URSUS migrations (the academic libraries group and the MSL/public libraries group).

For Minerva, Friend Memorial in Brooklin is live and operating well; North East Harbor will kick off next week; and Prince Memorial in Cumberland anticipates a winter/early spring migration.

Bryce and Ben were at the latest meeting of Library Ecosystems. A goal of that project is a map of who does what where. Seemingly, not many people have been at the meetings, which raises questions about the future of the group. There should probably be a better sense of what the group ought to be working on, someone to clearly lead and guide the meetings, and consistency in scheduling. The next meeting is January 17. This topic led to a discussion about Library Legislative Day.

Nancy moved and Lori seconded approving the Maine Infonet Digital Collections Policy. The motion carried unanimously. This policy mainly pertains to the Infonet Download Library and ComicsPlus. It will also help to give guidance to the group of selectors for the Download Library.

The Van Delivery Task Force should be ready to send out an RFP around Christmastime. There is some consternation about sending out regional RFPs (that is, for four regions). There might be some risks involved. With the Database Task Force, the survey results are being compiled. Next, a set of priorities for each stakeholder group will be developed. This is a huge process. The timeline for the RFPs is definitely challenging.

Lori will attend the Policy Institute next week. She will report any news from there about the e-book licensing issue. Steve talked about the paper he had forwarded after David Smith posted it to MeLibs. Kevin is involved in the legal appeal of the Internet Archive Controlled Digital Lending decision. He will let us know of pertinent developments on that front.

The meeting adjourned at about 2:40 p.m.