

Maine Infonet Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. by Zoom

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

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

Diana Furukawa was introduced as a potential board member, representing MILS. Welcome, Diana!

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

The Finance Committee met and reviewed early drafts of the budget and other reports. The annual Form 990 has been received from the accountants. All of Infonet's activities must fall into the categories of activities spelled out in Section O. Motion by Kevin, seconded by Bryce to file the Form 990. Motion carried.

James reported that the Northeast Harbor Library went live on Minerva in January. Prince Memorial in Cumberland is still scheduled for a migration to Minerva in the spring. Rangely Public Library went live on MILS in December. The Vassalboro and Lyman libraries are scheduled for migrations to MILS in February.

Colby-Bates-Bowdoin are live in MaineCat, with full requesting and lending of ILL again.

James will attend an INN-Reach Customer Advisory Board meeting on February 14-15 at which Clarivate/III will lay out a roadmap for the future of INN-Reach. James talked about his worry that there might be an agenda to move INN-Reach users to the Ex Libris sharing software (Rapid Returnables). Kevin said he had spoken with someone at Clarivate, and there had been no hint such a change was in the works. Steve talked with representatives of Clarivate and III at the recent LibLearnX conference and stated how important INN-Reach was to MaineCat. The representatives there seemed pleased to hear those comments gave no clues that changes might be coming.

Migration to Alma is underway for the URSUS academic libraries, with go-live scheduled for June 2024. The new version of Alma includes an API for walk-in borrowing. A sandbox server is up and running. Alisia sent in the configuration spreadsheets, which were massive. Going forward, Infonet staff will try to simplify and make cleaner all of these rules. An "Intro to Alma" workshop will be offered to those libraries.

There is a tentative timeline for migrations for MSL and the public libraries, with migration services starting in November, test loads and training in late 2024, and going live in early 2025.

Allegedly, all of the migrations and configuration spreadsheets and API's and timetables have inspired a new organizational motto: "Maine Infonet: More complicated than Anticipated!"

A privacy policy for Infonet was discussed. Minerva and MILS already have such policies or best practice guidelines. Ben stated that it would be good for Infonet to create a privacy policy, while recognizing the "sovereignty" of member consortia. Starting in early April, Lori will help with this effort. She stated it would be important to get it done by the end of this Fiscal Year. Lori said the policy should be sure to cite the Maine statute on library privacy. The policy should also state what personal information Infonet can disclose. James said that the State Attorney General advised several years ago (following a concern from a Thomas Memorial board member) that "administrative use" meant that libraries can view other libraries' patron records but cannot disclose other libraries' patron information. Lori encouraged Ben to be part of the working group. Kevin volunteered to head up a committee and get it started. Nancy will help, also.

In a related vein, James announced that there is a new Policy Hub for Infonet policies on the website.

Proposed legislation in Tennessee regarding e-books was discussed. A couple of provisions of that bill that were especially liked: that a contract or license between a publisher and a library must not 1) require the library to acquire a license for any electronic literary material at a price greater than that charged to the public for the same item, or 2) restrict the total number of times a library may loan any licensed electronic literary material over the course of a license agreement, or restrict the duration of a license agreement, unless the publisher also offers a license agreement to the library for perpetual use without such restrictions, at a price that is considered reasonable and equitable as agreed to by both parties. Lori can ask Jamie Ritter (in Tennessee now) about this legislation at an upcoming meeting.

The MSL Database and Van Delivery Task Forces have done their jobs of helping to prioritize those respective services. Lori is working through the red tape to get things done. With delivery, policies need to be standardized. She hopes the RFP's can move ahead smoothly and the services can be in place by July. She is working on a Pre-Qualified Vendor List so the process can move ahead efficiently once the databases are chosen. The low bidder has to be chosen once the RFP's go out.

There was consensus that a preconference sponsored by Infonet at the MLA conference in May would not happen this year.

A recent story about the Blue Hill Public Library in the New York Times was noted.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Maine State Library.