

Evergreen OPAC Committee.
Thursday, 25 August, 2011

Members Present:

Shauna Borger, Indiana State Library
Becky Brewer, Jackson County Public Library
Laura Brzeski, Morgan County Public Library
Alexis Caudell, Mitchell Community Public Library
Jane Ferger, Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library
Becky Perkins, Greensburg-Decatur County Contractual Public Library
Carly Schull, Westfield Washington Public Library
Derek Tennant, Linton Public Library
Terri Wichman, Jackson County Public Library

Roll

Chair Alexis Caudell opened the meeting with roll taken by introductions from each member.

June Minutes

The minutes were approved as read. Motion-Becky Perkins; Second-Becky Brewer
Note: Shauna Borger will email each meeting's minutes to the entire listserv once they are approved.

Unsuccessful Hold warning box

The group noted there is a need for big, red "X" on that box so people notice the hold was not successfully placed. The present box looks too much like the "successful" box. Shauna planned to check with IT to see if that could just be easily changed.

Strange Word Match Suggestions

There was discussion of the "Did you mean" feature that displays nonsense and doesn't link to any items. The motion was made by Becky Brewer to turn it off. Laura Brzeski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OPAC Freezing

The group discussed this. It was noted that Firefox must be used and newer computers work much faster with this software. Shauna will find the hardware minimums needed for OPAC's and will place that and also the "Recommended" requirements on the Wiki. She will email a link that can be put on the catalog so patrons can read that information at home. She will compile a handout on it in "English" instead of "Tech." Shauna said each library can talk to ENA to ask them to prioritize OPAC IP's, also.

Updated Holdings view, additional space

There was discussion on how the item records look when brought up in a search. Staff at several libraries would like a better separation between records. The motion was made by Becky Perkins to ask IT to either put more space between the records or make the line between the records darker. Becky Brewer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Authority Records

There was a lengthy discussion of searching problems caused by the lack of authority records.

Cataloger Terri Wichman attended to help explain details of Authority Records work in searching. Authority records validate subject headings and makes sure they are correct and fixes problems. I said that we don't know how authority control works in Evergreen and we should check other libraries around the country or worldwide to see if it is being used successfully.

Shauna said Authority Records provides links between bibliographic records and should make a big difference. She and Terri said the catalog committee had decided to hold off on the purchase of Authority Records since RDA was expected to be out already, but the Library of Congress now says that 2013 is a target date, and in reality it may be ready later. The State said they would purchase the records one time. The OPAC committee strongly feels we cannot wait, due to customer service goals. The Committee asked Shauna to look into what other states on Evergreen are doing for authority records and how they are paying for the necessary maintenance of the records. We would like to arrange to purchase very soon, have maintenance, and then in the future when RDA does come out, purchase them.

Meanwhile, searches often have poor results. The group discussed customer service as our goal and that we are losing customers due to bad OPAC service. The committee feels we cannot wait, but need to purchase Authority Records and have plans in place for updates. Terri cautioned that won't solve all search problems. But the group believes it will make a huge difference.

She will also find out if IT could work toward making global changes on records possible.

The group discussed the need for basic catalog training, especially online so staff does not have to travel. The catalogers greatly affect the way items are found and search results. Catalog training should have an outcome of better search results. Shauna will forward this on to the State.

Also discussed were the responsibilities of libraries just coming into Evergreen on policies, cataloging, circulation, etc. Shauna said specifics are talked about in classes before going live. The people can get advanced cataloging classes later.

Database Searching

At this point, Becky Perkins talked about the suggestion that the left bar on the OPAC should contain all subject fields so that in a search the limiters and filters could be used with a certain subject heading. Shauna will look into this possibility. The question was asked why the author asked for does not appear at the top of the search results, and she will research that, also. The committee discussed the need for LEU credit Evergreen Searching classes. Shauna will contact the State Library to look into classes.

Notes for searchers the committee wishes to add to the Minutes:

- People should not use filters on the first search for items.
- Keywords should be used. "Author" and "Title" at the same time work well, if you know them already.

- Some committee members believe the “our branch” results are better than “local library.”
- It was noted we must erase the old limiters before changing our searches to new limiters in the drop-down boxes.
- It was pointed out that changing the search to “from newest to oldest” helps bring relevant results.

Spanish Language support

Buttons and words on the OPAC can be changed to Czech and Russian! They cannot be changed to Spanish, and Indiana has a large Hispanic population. Carly asked if the option of Spanish could be added. Becky Brewer asked if Shauna could look into Japanese language availability, also. Shauna will look into these options and report back to the committee.

Advanced Search Sorting Options

Carly showed that the publication date should be fixed to make sense with the results. The A-Z and Z-A buttons do not change with the search. It reverts back. There need to be dropdown options for publication date in the advanced search screen. Shauna will look into this problem.

Hold Button placement in staff client

The button is now on the far right side and doesn’t appear on many computer screens. After demonstration, Alexis motioned to ask the IT crew if it could be changed to reside on the same line and directly above and in line with the item title. Jane seconded and the committee voted unanimously for this change.

Other Matters

Producing the catalog for mobile access was discussed. Patrons and staff say it is extremely slow to use apps. An Android app is being developed. It was asked if a “mobile” generic version could be created by Evergreen that would work on many devices. Shauna will ask IT to look into this.

Shauna’s Report Back to the Committee from the Previous Meeting

- The OPAC design change from the committee to the records was done. Consortium members have sent messages they like the changes.
- On looking into authority records, based on the last meeting, it was found they would help solve a lot of search problems.
- Shauna will be researching where authority records would fit in with international libraries, including updates, billing, owning and defining them.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Morgan County Public Library on Thursday, 27 October, at 10.00 a.m., if committee members will check their calendars and email Alexis, and most can attend.