

Wisconsin Regional Innovative Users Group Meeting

January 8, 2004 – 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Raynor Library - Marquette University

The afternoon began with a live web demonstration of Millennium Statistics and an explanation of the difference between Millennium Statistics and Web Management Reports by Ted Fons, Product Manager for Acquisitions, Serials, and Electronic Resources Management from Innovative Interfaces, Inc.

After Mr. Fons' presentation we began the re-organizational meeting. Introductions were made and there were representatives from public, academic and special libraries from Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. We began with a discussion of the reasons why we should re-initiate a regional users group. Suggested reasons were:

- Easier and more convenient to meet
- Not everyone can attend the national IUG meeting
- Regional III staff are available
- Compliments other training opportunities
- Ways to provide access to electronic resources
- Provides an on-line forum for staff
 - to share frustrations
 - ask questions
 - exchange ideas/training materials
- In person encounters mean staff able to:
 - visit area libraries
 - collaborate with WI/IL staff
 - professional development opportunities

Some possible goals for the group for 2004 with accompanying timeline were presented:

- Determine a focus
- Set up forms of communication
 - Create a listserv & website (Spring 2004)
 - Designate Library Contacts (Spring 2004)
 - Schedule a meeting (Spring 2004)
- Distribute survey of III needs (Spring 2004)
- Establish bylaws (Summer 2004)
- Elect officers for 2 year terms (Fall 2004)
- Create working groups (Fall 2004)
- Plan Regional user group program with an III rep (2005)

Jenny Schmidt shared some examples of other regional users groups and the notable features of each.

Rocky Mountain IUG (includes AZ, UT, and NM)

Notable features include:

1. initial survey to assess staff needs
2. relying upon institutional & staff donations (for things like use of facilities, refreshments etc – also, piggybacking with other meetings so the group could meet)
3. focus on staff training
4. forms of communication includes listserv & website

Mid Atlantic IUG

Notable features include:

1. Annual conference (programs & meetings)
 - presentations are often given by multiple staff
 - preconference training seminar (means more than a one day program)
 - presentation materials online

2. Working groups:
 - Communications
 - Conference Planning & Programming
 - Finance
 - Membership
 - New initiatives (group looking at needs and aiding in planning of programming)

Minnesota IUG

Notable features include:

1. Biannual conferences (programs & meetings)
 - good selection of programs
 - concurrent sessions
 - presentations & registration online
2. Membership
 - open attendance to programs
 - waited on formal membership drive

New England UG and NOBLENET

Notable features include:

1. NOBLE Net Swap Shop – sharing of things such as
 - scripts
 - booklists
 - create lists: tips & ideas
 - graphics for Web OPAC
 - training materials
 - suggestions for accompanying software
2. Contribute to National IUG Clearinghouse

We broke into small groups, by the department we work in, to discuss the aforementioned goals and to come up with some ideas for the reorganization of the group. Group discussion of our ideas followed and here are the suggestions that came from this group:

- ✓ Rather than bylaws create a mission statement
- ✓ Send out a brief survey via the listserv to gauge the needs/wants of the users regarding when & how often the group should meet
- ✓ Develop a directory of institutions with a listing of where they are (what modules using, on Millennium or not, etc)
- ✓ Create a listserv & website – use the listserv to gather volunteers to help with next meeting
- ✓ Each institution should share when it is hosting/holding a III training; find out what they're doing
- ✓ Meet once per year to start out – next year we could have an III person present & then panel from area libraries to speak on same topic as III to present personal experiences
- ✓ Suggestion to meet shortly after the National IUG meeting to share information with those unable to attend (it was mentioned that we need to consider the academic calendar when scheduling meetings as some people are on a 9 or 10 month contract and are not working during summer months in order to attend meetings)
- ✓ Create work groups – ask for volunteers to help via listserv & take a leadership role within the group
- ✓ Our focus is Southeastern WI & Northern IL – thought some of the northern WI III libraries would join other regional groups due to proximity to a meeting place. We will remain 'open' to others, however.
- ✓ Create a list of "experts" (similar to Rocky Mountain IUG) that staff can call on for help – identify people with knowledge and skills – a key to this expert list is to be sure that it is maintained on a regular basis
- ✓ Suggestions/additions to the sample survey that Jenny provided; combine WAM/WebBridge/MetaFind; Rapid/Global Update – separate out from Cataloging; Materials Booking; type of library represented as opposed to job title
- ✓ Determine when we want to get a commitment of participation from the libraries

- ✓ Membership, costs? – it was decided to wait to see how things go before instituting any type of charge(s) or do a membership drive
- ✓ Within the first year or so be sure that if we don't have a contact at each III library in the region that we have contacted them by mail or whatever means to let them know of the existence of this group
- ✓ When/if we decide to elect officers (suggestion earlier was a 2 year term) that there be a chair elect position so that person has some experience coming into the position
- ✓ For those attending the National IUG meeting in Boston in April have an informal meeting of the group to work on the next meeting

It was decided that we would initiate a listserv. Bill Topritzhofer, of the SWITCH Consortium in Milwaukee, has offered to create and maintain the list for us. Jenny Schmidt, also of the SWITCH Consortium, has offered to start working on a web site.

Once the listserv is up and running we will then use it to solicit volunteers to help with the web site as well as getting the work groups going as well.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Baker
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