January, 6th, 2015

To: Iowa Academy Library Director Colleagues:

The purpose of this message is to share the initial results of the **ILS Task Force** activities.

As an outgrowth of the October, 2014 Academic Library Summit, a task force on Integrated Library Systems (ILS) was established. The preliminary charge to this group included the following:

a. Identify those libraries that are ready to move to a new ILS in the next 3 years.

b. Plan a sub-summit to determine the process by which:
   i. Products would be explored
   ii. A group RFP could be generated
   iii. If all libraries in this group move to the same system, this could serve as a pilot for all Iowa libraries to share an ILS.

The Task Force has conducted an initial conference call. The principle focus of this call was two-fold: first, to share information regarding academic libraries currently engaged in a review and selection of a new ILS; and second, to review the relevancy of the task force charge.

**Current ILS Activities:**

The following is a brief description of current ILS initiatives.

- **Drake University, Cowles Library**, has completed its initial RFI process for potential migration from the currently deployed Sirsi platform. Three candidate systems were reviewed. As a result of the evaluation process, both Ex Libris, and OCLC were considered acceptable, but with some concerns regarding functional components, corporate practices, and integration with other electronic products and services.

Drake will be deferring a final decision, and may join an RFP process being conducted by the Cedar Valley Library Consortium (see next summary point). Drake will make a final decision.
by July 1st, 2015, with a cutover by June, 2016. Contact Rod Henshaw for additional information.

- **The Cedar Valley Library Consortium** has completed an RFI process. They have indicated their intention to move to an RFP process beginning in January. There is discussion of making this an “open process” that would permit other academic libraries in the state to join the process. This approach could provide libraries in the state for a migration pathway, and group purchase terms. For additional information please contact Chris Cox at UNI.

- **The University of Iowa** has selected Ex Libris/Alma. They project a cutover to occur in late spring or summer of 2016. 

  MOST RELEVANT FOR other academic libraries in the State: “In an attempt to be responsive both to the Board of Regents TIER (Transparent, Inclusive Efficiency Review) initiative and the expressed interest for enhanced collaboration that was reflected at the Academic Library Summit, we are pleased to have negotiated the following clause into our agreement, which opens the door to any Iowa college or university potentially taking advantage of the UI discount:

  ExLibris will negotiate similar pricing & terms with additional institutions of higher education within the state of Iowa if such institutions elect to join this Agreement via fully executed amendment no later than December 31, 2015. ExLibris will negotiate separately with each such institution to arrive at pricing and terms that reflect the bibliographic records, unique-e journals, named users and FTE of the institution.”

  For additional information, please contact Paul Soderdahl.

We encourage any library that is interested in pursuing alignment with these activities, to reach out to the contacts that are listed with the various activities.

**Task Force Activities:**

In light of these activities, the ILS Task Force is amending its initial charge to include:

1) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on current ILS developments with Iowa academic libraries.

2) Facilitate both communication and development of groups interested in pursuing collaborative ILS arrangements.

3) Work with the Governance Task Force to pursue a permanent framework for continued development of shared access and discovery (via ILS and other means).

In conclusion, the ILS Taskforce intends to do an additional survey in January of the current status of ILS migration intentions. The purpose of this will be to insure that we connect with both the existing migration activities, and to identify further clusters for collaboration.

Clearly we have an evolving situation in Iowa academic libraries. But the promise is
a convergence of systems and objectives over the next several years. The Academic Library Summit has given us an initial means for sustaining communication. Let’s keep going.

On behalf of the ILS Task Force,

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