Planning for Our Future LMS

We have been running OLE as our Library Management System since August 2014, along with VuFind as the library catalog. Our installation is complex, since we link to many related applications including Dematic for ASR requests, reserve systems, ILLIAD, Relais for both UBorrow and Borrow Direct, and the campus financial system, to name a few.

The OLE system will continue to be supported in the near term, but will not receive substantial updates or additional functionality. Chicago remains an active participant in the OLE and FOLIO communities and we have many individuals participation in those groups. As part of our planning, we will engage in a comprehensive LMS landscape analysis to better understand the state of the LMS industry, and in particular, future directions.

Fiscal Conditions

We continue to operate under constrained financial conditions, and this has affected both collections and staffing. The collections budget for FY17 was enhanced by the receipt of substantial expendable gift, but even so purchasing has been reduced in all areas. The situation for FY18 will be similar. Our staff has been reduced in size, and we will continue to carefully examine each vacancy to determine the best use of each vacant line.

Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Cooperative Cataloging Partnership

**Participating institutions:** The University of Iowa has now begun active participation in the CCP, bringing the total number of participating institutions to thirteen (Chicago, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Rutgers, Wisconsin-Madison).

**Production:** A total of 1,360 titles were cataloged in the CCP during the period of July 1/16 – May 30/17. These resources were in over 40 languages: Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, English, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Kazakh, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malayalam, Ndebele, Persian, Polish, Pushto, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Shona, Spanish, Slovak, Slovenian, Tajik, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek.

Resources cataloged during the course of the year include monographs, serials, scores, maps, CD-ROMs, sound recordings, video recordings, and visual resources (e.g., posters).

With this profile of production levels, languages, and resource/format types, the partnership is having a positive impact on libraries being able to move materials through processes that will enable timely discoverability and access, both locally and throughout our various resource sharing networks. Many of these resources would not be candidates for
outsourcing, and the partnership is providing a dynamic collections management and metadata provision mechanism for materials that would otherwise likely sit in backlogs.

**Possible expansion of the CCP outside of the Big Ten:** CCP participating institutions have always been cognizant that the more institutions we have participating, the greater the bandwidth for filling gaps and contributing expertise across our libraries. Adding five institutions after the initial pilot (going from eight libraries to thirteen) has had an immediate and dramatic impact on our ability to match needs with expertise and cross-institutional capacity. What the BTAA has accomplished thus far is impressive, but there remain many needs that still cannot be met within the CCP alone. The new Ivy Plus Technical Services Group has expressed interest in talking with the CCP group about possible collaboration, and the CCP group is enthusiastic about discussing possibilities for expansion, though recognizes the logistical challenges of going beyond institutions that can use UBorrow for shipping.

**Published article:** An article on the original pilot and subsequent formation of the partnership has been published in the most recent issue of the ALA ALCTS journal, *Library Resources & Technical Services*. The article is entitled “Strength in Numbers: Building a Consortial Cooperative Cataloging Partnership” and was co-authored by Chris Cronin (Chicago), Mary Laskowski (UIUC), Ellen Mueller (Michigan), and Beth Snyder (Michigan). The final published version of the paper is available through LRTS ([https://journals.ala.org/index.php/lrts/article/view/6311](https://journals.ala.org/index.php/lrts/article/view/6311)), or in the University of Chicago’s institutional repository ([http://hdl.handle.net/11417/305](http://hdl.handle.net/11417/305)).

**Staffing**

Susan Martin joined the Library in September 2016 as the new Head of Acquisitions. Susan came to us from Texas Woman’s University, and has already contributed much to Technical Services and the Library as a whole.

Diane Dallis joined the Library in May 2017 as Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning. Diane was most recently the Associate Dean for Library Academic Services at Indiana University.

Recruitment is currently underway for the following librarian positions: Data Research Services and Biomedical Librarian; Document Delivery Services Librarian; Social Sciences Data and Sociology Librarian; Student Services Librarian (D’Angelo Law Library).

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James Mouw  
Associate University Librarian for Collections and Access  
mouw@uchicago.edu

Christopher Cronin  
Director of Technical Services  
croninc@uchicago.edu