

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 2, 2002

[In these minutes: Welcome, Digital Library Resources]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Phil Goodrich, Chair, Jeff Johnson, Eric Celeste, Linda Jorn, Yosef Cohen, Josephine Crawford, Nancy Herther, Robert McMaster, William Peterson, April Schwartz, Jacob Elo, Ashutosh Jaiswal, Ryan Osero

REGRETS: Stephen Cawley

ABSENT: Mark Bellcourt, Stephen Downing, Thomas McRoberts, Haesun Park,

GUEST(S): Jerilyn Veldof, Janet Arth, Rebecca Moss

OTHER(S): Bernard Gulacheck, Nancy McGlynn

I). Professor Goodrich called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and requested members and guests introduce themselves.

II). Professor Goodrich turned the meeting over to Eric Celeste, Associate Director, Library Administrative Services, who provided the Committee with information on the University's Digital Library efforts.

A Digital Library is about:

- Electronic resources
- Services and guidance typically provided by librarians
- Access - physical and technical – it is important for physical technology to be present in a library's physical space because electronic resources are not sufficient to cover all aspects of research needs. Technical resources such as wireless need to be available as well.

Ultimately the Digital Library is about serving the Library's mission. Currently the biggest challenge faced by the Digital Library is how to emulate the services and guidance that librarian's typically provide in a physical space to an electronic environment.

Electronic licensed resources will be able to be shared with the coordinate campuses along with the ability to deploy on-line, real time chat services across the campuses. A concern regarding on-line services nationally is lack of expertise in other locations and resources not being licensed the same way. As a result, other locations may be unable to guide users to the correct resources.

Each campus, on the other hand, is more or less responsible for their own physical access.

An issue for the Twin Cities campus is inadequate technology to handle its new resources e.g. the library's computers are too slow to run WebCT and its printers are too slow. To upgrade technology, funds will need to be taken out of the budget that would typically be spent on staff salaries and collections both of which are vital to faculty and students. In order to upgrade technology, the Libraries will need to put this in their compact plan

and work with the administration to make the Libraries a priority.

InfoPoint is a digital reference service on the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus that originated as part of a distance-learning grant. InfoPoint was implemented in 1997 as a way for remote users to obtain information services through a single point of access.

Rebecca Moss, Director of Visual Resources, Department of Art History, provided members with information about what the University is doing in terms of digitizing images. As the Department of Art History's collection of digital materials grows, the next step is to develop a procedure for sharing this information not only within the University but regionally and nationally. Another consideration is to avoid duplication when digitizing materials. There is no need for an institution to digitize its entire collection when other institutions have already digitized the same material. The Libraries and other archive communities are developing standards that allow different groups around the world to harvest Metadata, defined as 'data about data'. By building their own searchable databases they are able to locate resources elsewhere.

The Art History Library is trying to digitize everything that is currently being requested in slide form in order to have new slides and good descriptive material so it can have a robust collection. Anything can be scanned but if good information is not attached it is virtually useless.

Although this portion of the discussion focused on one type of data the Libraries are interested in digitizing all kinds of data. It is the goal of the Libraries to capture information that is already learned in digital form on campus and ensure that this information is shared and retrievable.

Next, Jerilyn Veldof, Assistant Librarian and Janet Arth, Librarian shared information on MNCAT, a second-generation on-line database of catalogued materials. MNCAT is another single point of access to library materials and is state funded by MNLink and HESO (Higher Education Services Organization).

MNCAT will roll out new and exciting features on July 1, 2002. Selected features that will be available are:

- Detailed information on a library's collection.
- Access to personal library borrowing record.
- Improved search screens with increased options for limiting.
- Ability to browse MNCAT resources alphabetically by author, title, subjects and call numbers.

Undoubtedly the new system will have an impact on researchers on campus e.g. a different interface with new features and better functionality. Issues that are being addressed include making sure the new system is useable and that the changes are communicated to faculty, students and staff. Currently, feasibility tests are being conducted with students and there will be faculty testing as well. Another issue is how should all these changes be communicated. A draft communication plan was shared with the Committee outlining the following ideas:

- Use OIT newsletter as a means of communication.
- 'Library Line' on MNCAT.
- E-mail to DDD list.
- An article in the Brief.
- Articles and ads in the Daily.
- Story in the Kiosk.
- Campus-wide e-mail.
- Web site on the Lumina page called "What's New".
- Workshops for students.
- The on-line tutorial called 'Quick Study' will be updated to let people know about MNCAT's new

features.

It is the Library's goal to have as few disruptions as possible when implementing MNCAT. Currently, decisions are being made as to how much and what information should be disseminated about MNCAT in terms of what features will be the most valuable to faculty, students, staff and graduate students.

For more information visit the following URLs: <http://www.lib.umn.edu> or <http://www.lib.umn.edu/about/aleph>

III). With no further business, Professor Goodrich adjourned the meeting. Immediately following the meeting members were invited to take a guided tour of the newly renovated Walter Library.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate