MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
Resource Sharing Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 7/10/14   **Location:** MHLS Auditorium

Committee members attending:

☐ Sally Alderdice & Karen Garafalo (Columbia)

☒ Daniela Pulice (Dutchess)

☒ Gloria Goverman (Dutchess)

☒ Linda Deubert (Greene)

☐ Jeanne Buck (Putnam)

☒ Julie Dempsey (Ulster)

☒ Amy Raff (Ulster)

☒ Robert Drake (MHLS)

Staff Attending: Merribeth Advocate, Tom Sloan
Others Attending: Tom Lawrence (PPLD), Janet Huen (PPLD), Carole Rodriguez (BEK)

Agenda Items:

1. The issue of Individual Staff Logins was immediately discussed. Refer to Action Item #1

2. The issue of Encore Databases was tackled next. The discussion was twofold, whether to allow Gale Virtual Reference Library to show in the catalog, when only 4 out of 9000 articles are available full text, and whether to allow any databases that are not owned system-wide to be reflected in the OPAC. The first part was quickly decided to not include that database. Refer to Action Item #2 for further database discussion.

3. There had been a request to reorganize the facets on the tab which searches databases, however it was decided that since the more desirable result is to have a third tab which searches databases only, no action is required at this time. The committee stressed that, when it is possible, a third tab should be added that allows the searching of just the databases.

4. Many libraries are concerned that the Recent Searches tab remembers what patrons have searched for, even on the public catalog. Refer to Action Item #3.

5. There have been reports that the ability to Genre Search is missed in the current catalog. In order to address the Genre Searching as a cataloging issue, the committee would like to refer this topic to Central Library/Collection Development.

6. The button which tells patrons an article is able to be viewed full text is called the One Plus Button and it currently says "View Full Text from the Gale Cengage (or other database name). This can be problematic as too much verbiage is confusing to the patron and in some cases incorrect as the article is in more than one database.

7. Currently, if a patron logs into the OPAC, either from home or in the library, they remain logged on for thirty minutes of inactivity. This is worrisome as some patrons may walk away from the catalog and forget to log out.

8. In the current OPAC, the only additions we can make to the homepage would be to add three links above the logo and 6 links on the bottom right.

Action Item #1

Background: Prior to the adoption of Sierra, the Directors Association voted to assign individual log on initials for each person using Sierra.

Issue: Once the switch from Sierra to Millennium was made and the system migrated to the Cloud, it was discovered that log in time was significantly slower than previously. Roughly a third of member libraries then began to treat one individual login as a de facto group log in.

Recommendation: The Resource Sharing Committee recommends that a group login with very limited permissions be created for those libraries that want it, with the understanding that if the technology ever allows for more seamless switching between logins, this allowance be revoked. The wording for the proposed Resource Sharing Policy should be: For the library who chooses to utilize a group login:

1.   Group Logins may only have such permissions as designated and periodically reviewed by the Resource Sharing Committee and viewed below in Appendix A.
2.   Group login passwords are changed upon the departure of any individual with access to the login.
3.   Any loss, damage or issue arising from, related to, or prompted by the usage of group logins shall be the liability of the library using group logins.
4.   Any change to the ILS that facilitates rapid and effective switching of users shall prompt the immediate discontinuation of group logins.

Action Item #2

Background: While most databases are purchased as a group buy, some databases are purchased by only 1 or 2 libraries or a county). Currently these databases are not searchable in the OPAC although they are listed on the HomeAcess County pages of each library.

Issue: Libraries that own these databases would like to see them searchable in the catalog. Current Resource Sharing practice is not to do this.

Recommendation: The Resource Sharing Committee recommends that these databases be included in the catalog, provided the library can obtain a licensing agreement that allows these databases to be searched remotely by patrons of non-subscribing libraries.

Action Item #3

Background: The current iteration of the OPAC remembers what patrons have searched for, even when they choose not to log on to the system. On the bottom left hand side of the OPAC is a column entitled Recent Searches that lists what patrons have looked up.

Issue: Many libraries are concerned about patron privacy and the fact that patrons may not be aware that their searches are saved.

Recommendation: The Resource Sharing Committee recommends that this field be removed. Patrons who wish to have their searches remembered on their personal computers can turn on the AutoFill Function in their Browser (and most browser defaults have this on).

Action Item #4

Background: Now that there has been some time to get used to the new OPAC, libraries have requested a number of cosmetic changes. The Committee recommends the following:

1.   The committee recommends that Genre be included for now in the Subject facet and, when possible, separated out into its own Facet.
2.   The committee recommends that the One Plus Button be changed from "View Full Text from the Gale Cengage (or other database name)" to "View Full Text" and eliminate the database name.
3.   The committee recommends that patrons be automatically logged out of their session in the catalog after ten minutes of inactivity, rather than the current default of thirty.
4.   The committee recommends adding links to Hudson Valley Reads and a link to NEW materials, as used to be available in the classic catalog, on the bottom right hand corner.