

Technology Advisory Group 29 November 2006

The meeting was held at Cass District Library. The following people were present:

Linda Koch	Allegan	Ann Greene	Eau Claire
Sharon Holloway	Benton Harbor	John Mohny	Paw Paw
Kristina Knezic	Berrien Springs	Dawn Holtman	Plainwell
Tim Wiggins	Cass District	Julie Somers	Portage

Also present: Gail Powers-Schaub- SMLC Director

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim Wiggins. The following libraries are on the schedule to join MELCAT in January: Cass District; Kalamazoo Public; Portage District; Plainwell; and St. Joseph. There will be training held at Portage on 12 /12 and the go live date is 1/16.

Discussion on MELCAT followed. The book bands are available on the MLC website and can be downloaded. Cass has decided to allow “visiting patrons” which is an option.

The libraries that are joining MELCAT should be removed from Agent lender strings, but their holdings will still appear in Agent. If you need to borrow a book from one of these libraries, using an ALA form is one option.

The blue bands and stickys that SMLC is currently using should continue to be used. But libraries should be aware that they may start seeing the MELCAT bands.

The ILL Procedure booklet has been shelved as no one could locate the actual procedures in a written form.

Gail wondered if SMLC wanted to continue to add holdings to OCLC. She was advised to ask this question via Newsnotes. She asked how we cataloged holdings and was told that we copy catalog when possible. When it is not possible, we generally catalog the item ourselves.

It was suggested that the MELCAT Taskforce stay in place and people can rotate on and off as they come up to joining MELCAT. As they join and all is working, they can move off.

Benton Harbor plans to barcode their holdings and then add them to MELCAT without going into an automation system first. Climax is thinking of automating. Sodus is paying to have their records converted to MARC instead of doing it themselves.

MLC is hosting “The Library rebooted” workshops featuring subjects such as Blogs, Wikis, IM among other things. Tim has been attending them and thought they were very good. One of the interesting uses of IM was for online Reference. A link from a

reference page on the library website would go to meebo.com which pulls together several IM sources and sends the message on to the reference librarian's computer. Tim will demo this for us at a future meeting.

A lot of libraries are starting blogs. Tim said it was a good idea to have them moderated, so that when someone adds something to the library blog, it is approved by a member of the library staff before it appears on the website.

Someone wondered if any libraries were using MySpace.com for any library related use. None of us in attendance knew of anyone doing this.

Tim told us about their wireless Internet access for patrons. They use a Linux based system called PublicIP. It uses a wireless router along with a cpu tower that has 2 network cards.

SMLC is going to have a workshop on holding gaming tournaments and programs at the Library. A lot of the bigger libraries are doing this.

Our next meeting will be the last Wednesday in February (2/28) at 10 AM in Cassopolis. Future meetings will be held in April and June.

Minutes taken by,

Ann Greene