

PCC Standing Committee on Automation

Sunday, June 29th, 2008, 12:30-2:00
Marriott Anaheim, OCLC Blue Suite

Present: Adolfo Tarango (chair), Robert Bremer, Gary Charbonneau, Jane Grawemeyer, Jim Mouw, Gary Strawn, Bob Thomas, David Williamson

Adolfo will be sending out a call for new members. Current members are urged to help recruit.

The committee discussed the proposal to review and possibly revise its charge. There was a consensus that the existing charge was satisfactory and generally conformed to the relevant comments from BIBCO/CONSER. Adolfo will submit the unamended charge to Rebecca as a final draft, to go to PCC for comment and then to PoCo for final approval.

The committee then discussed the PCC PURL server. Per the meeting agenda, "OCLC has been upgrading the OCLC PURL server software, however, the PCC PURL service runs on a separate machine and is managed by a different group, so an upgrade to the PCC server will not necessarily happen. BIBCO/CONSER members use the PCC PURL server to create PURLs for open access resources so that they can be maintained centrally by contributing institutions. Users are seeking support to lobby OCLC to insure the PCC server is upgraded expeditiously." The question was raised whether the committee should submit a formal proposal to PoCo to address the issue. Jim Mouw suggested that PoCo ought to go to OCLC and ask what they might propose. Robert Bremer responded that having the request come from a high level, with an explanation as to why action was needed, would help to bring the matter to the attention of OCLC management. Jim will bring it up with PoCo. Adolfo can contact people to get additional information as required.

The committee then turned to the question of PCC PURLs for licensed resources. Per the agenda, "The use of PURL for open access resources has proven beneficial to PCC members, would similar benefits be gained in using them for licensed resources, especially in light of WorldCat Local developments?" Robert Bremer thought that the problem would likely be taken care of by other services such as Serials Solutions. It would work better for WorldCat Local to have maintenance done centrally rather than in individual databases. It was decided to table this issue until we know how OCLC will deal with the PURL server issue and how the WorldCat Local situation will shake out.

Jim Mouw brought up the question of RDA. Is there an SCA role in this area? Jane Grawemeyer stated that it would be very helpful for SCA to identify for vendors the logic of what needs to be done. The committee might have a good view of what changes are important and what are merely cosmetic. Someone suggested that this issue should be referred to a joint task force of Standing Committee on Automation and Standing Committee on Standards. It was decided that a recommendation will be taken to PoCo to set up a group to investigate the automation changes required as a result of RDA and to advise vendors of best practices.

Jim Mouw mentioned libraries wanting to be able to take advantage of changes to records in the OCLC database after those records have been downloaded into their local databases. He felt that PCC should have a seat at the table when decisions are made about what should happen. Bob Thomas said that it would be helpful to get notifications that just included fields changed or added. Jim will take this issue back to PoCo.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Charbonneau
July 7th, 2008