

PAS Technical Group Meeting
December 9, 2021
9:33am - 10:41 am
Virtual

Attendees: Lisa Bigelow (WLK), Arianne Carey (Niles), Phil Collins (NBK), Ann Finstad (GCK), Meg Golembiewski (PHK), Jason Katsion (DUK), John Lavalie (DPK), Debbie Luetscher (HUK), Liz McClain (GCK), Melissa Morgan (WNK), Becky Oberhauser (CPQ), David Pettersen (PRK), Sean Plagge (DUK), Lori Preston (PRK), Mona Reynolds (CPQ), Courtney Schroeder (MGK), Jo Smolzer, (HUK), Pam Strain (MJK), Nancy Weber (CLK), Kathleen Weiss (CCS), David Whittingham (DPK), Debra Wischmeyer (CCS).

Link to meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/PnQpsFTpTcs>

1. **Call to Order**

Motioned by Liz McClain (GCK), seconded by David Whittingham (DPK).

2. **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting**

No corrections to the September 16 minutes were proposed. Motion to approve by Phil Collins (NBK), seconded by Mona Reynolds (CPQ).

3. **Additions to the Agenda**

None.

4. **CCS Staff Reports**

a. Polaris 7.0 Update

K. Weiss (CCS) stated that CCS upgraded Polaris to version 7.0 on the morning of December 9.

Within the Polaris Upgrades and Reported Issues page of the CCS website

(<https://www.ccslib.org/polaris-upgrades-and-reported-issues>), she pointed out that there

is a *What's New in 7.0* guide available, as well as an online training course for Technical Services staff, focusing on cataloging in Leap. Additionally, this page features a Reported Issues table to display any possible or confirmed ILS bugs reported by member libraries.

b. LC Replaces “Illegal Aliens” Headings

K. Weiss (CCS) explained that a topic of discussion in CCS catalogers groups is the fact that Library of Congress replaced the subject headings for “illegal aliens” in November 2021. She directed our attention to an *American Libraries* article on this topic (<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/library-of-congress-changes-illegal-aliens-subject-heading/>), which listed the replacement terms, which are “noncitizens” and “illegal immigration.” K. Weiss explained that CCS will continue to use its own replacement terms—which do not use the word “illegal”—when cataloging and adding subject headings. The full list of replacement headings can be found within the CCS Catalogers wiki.

c. Homosaurus Subject Headings

K. Weiss (CCS) highlighted Homosaurus (<https://homosaurus.org/>), an international LGBTQ+ linked data vocabulary resource. Homosaurus provides supplemental terms when cataloging materials relevant to LGBTQ+ topics. When catalogers find terms within Homosaurus that might be suitable supplements to what is provided in MARC records, they open a CCS ticket to request that that the term be added. Rachel Fischer (CCS) has created a list of all of the terms that have been added since CCS began using Homosaurus. (The list can be accessed here: <https://ccsliborg.sharepoint.com/:x:/s/CCSTraining/EZ8DEsou-rdLgQ3PHR9iSaIBu-Vk0CRMB7u4qYr1T8RUCQ?e=1J7yPs&isSPOFile=1>) As an example, a search for LGBTQ+ biographies in the PowerPAC will now return seventy titles that match that subject search.

d. Vega Discover Usability Testing

K. Weiss (CCS) provided an update on the ongoing CCS partnership with Innovative, in which we conduct testing of Vega Discover with six beta libraries. K. Weiss explained that four of six usability test sessions have been completed, with patrons from Algonquin, Cary, Fox River Valley, and Lake Villa. In these test session, patrons are prompted to complete particular tasks within Vega Discover and provide feedback on the experience. In January, CCS will publish a report that summarizes the findings of those usability tests.

5. **Old Business**

None.

6. **New Business**

a. Placing Multiple Holds on a Single Title in Leap

Liz McClain (GCK) shared her experiences with placing numerous holds on an individual title, which can be tedious work. K. Weiss (CCS) demonstrated a possible solution. Documentation on this process is available on the CCS website, along with a YouTube video demonstrating the process: <https://www.ccslib.org/training/hold-requests-multiple-patrons-one-title> The general process is to create a patron record set of the hold recipients, and then use the Create Multiple Holds function to place a title hold that will apply to all members of the patron record set. David Whittingham (DPK) shared that Des Plaines is currently utilizing this holds function, and that it “works seamlessly,” pointing out that the holds are assigned randomly to the patrons in the record set.

b. Vega Discover v. PowerPAC: Search Results Relevancy and Ranking Activity (Kathleen – CCS)

K. Weiss (CCS) introduced an activity in which the meeting participants could help determine whether Vega Discover search results are comparable with PowerPAC for relevancy and ranking. The meeting participants were broken into small groups, who completed searches in each of the two catalogs for the five most popular search terms used by CCS member library patrons in November 2021. As part of the PAS activity, the search results were assessed by the group members and submitted in a webform, which allows CCS to send suggested improvement to Innovative for Vega Discover. D. Wischmeyer (CCS) explained that Innovative is hoping to combine relevancy and popularity into a single sorting option in Vega Discover. The PAS group collectively discussed the outcome of the relevancy and ranking activity, noting that there were divergent ranking results in some cases. For example, one group had Frank Herbert’s *Dune* come up in the first position, while other groups had that title in lower rankings.

7. **Adjournment**

Motioned by Arianne Carey (Niles), seconded by Mona Reynolds (CPQ). Meeting adjourned at 10:41 am.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022 (Virtual)

Minutes by Jason Katsion (DUK)