

AFFINITY GROUP MEETING
Seattle University
January 19, 2007

Attending: Charlene Baldwin, Chapman University; Liz Salzer, Santa Clara University; Kate Hickey, Elon University; Michael LaCroix, Creighton University; Kris Brancolini, Loyola Marymount; John Stemmer, Bellarmine University; Liz Chabot, Ithaca College; John Popko, Seattle University; John McGinty, Loyola/Notre Dame; Lewis Miller, Butler University; Eileen Bell Garrison, Gonzaga University; Rick AmRhein, Valparaiso University; Beth Hammond, Mercer University.

Meeting began at 3:00 p.m., Friday January 19, 2007.

Introductions were combined with an informal discussion of building projects (new and renovation).

After introductions, discussion took place on a number of items related to the statistical survey. The first item was a question on whether to include law and medical libraries data (for universities that have law and medical schools). The decision was made to not include information from libraries that are separated administered.

Question was raised about reporting situations in which the physical book is in another library, but bibliographic records are in your catalog and a user can receive the book from the other library within 24 hours. Should these records be included in your total bibliographic record count? Decision was made to not include them, but to report only those items in your physical control. However, since this may become an increasingly common scenario, a line will be included in the statistical report for consortia holdings.

Question was asked about where to report one time costs for electronic materials (e.g. J-STOR). Since this figure is usually only a small part of total costs, just report as a part of total electronic serials cost.

Consortium funded databases present a problem for many members. We are asking for the amount of cost avoidance and this is often difficult to ascertain. Often, this will be an estimated dollar amount. Few, if any of us have an exact figure.

Some people are concerned about not being able to provide particular items of data. If it is something that you do not normally collect and thus you cannot provide a figure, just leave the item blank. All of the other data that you do submit is valuable, so leaving out one or two items does not detract from the value of your submissions.

The discussion moved on to information literacy testing. Most people are more comfortable with the SAILS test than with the ETS test which is more technical and computer literacy oriented. Question was raised as to whether or not SAILS is accepting

new sites. *After note: SAILS did two presentations at midwinter, so it appears they are.* It appears there is a lot of interest in the Affinity Group. Call will go out on the list serv for someone to organize and coordinate the effort with the possibility that testing could perhaps take place as early as this coming November.

Final item of discussion was on the Title Analysis offered by OCLC. It appears that a group title analysis can be done for a little less than \$1,200 an institution. There are limitations to this approach, but each institution still has the option to purchase an individual Title Analysis directly from OCLC. There are pros and cons to each approach and as a result, some institutions may want to do both (individual and group). A report on the Utility and Limitations of WCA written by Luke Swindler, Social Sciences Bibliographer at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill will be posted separately on the Affinity web site. While reflecting the personal opinions of Luke, it gives a lot of good insight into the product. It appears there is a lot of interest in the Affinity Group. A call will go out on the list serv for someone to organize and coordinate this effort with the possibility that the analysis could be run this summer or fall. A spreadsheet produced by OCLC will be posted separately on this web site that shows the WorldCat holdings of each Affinity school.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 and members moved upstairs to join the joint consortium reception hosted by John Popko and members of his library staff. After the reception, ten Affinity Group members walked to a nearby Asian restaurant for a delightful dinner. The food, the service, the conversations, and the companionship all combined to make it a memorable evening for everyone. Photos from this dinner are posted elsewhere on this site.