

**Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Saturday, January 12, 2008
OCLC Red Suite, Marriott Hotel - 5:30-7:30 pm**

Attending: Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Vicki Miller, Gina Persichini, Anne Beaubien, Beth Posner, Karen Wetzel, Gail Wanner, Dana Dietz, Sherry Willhite, Barbara Preece, Poul Erlandsen

Discussion on purpose of RRS Initiative

The group reviewed the original purpose of the RRS initiative that was developed at the Feb 2006 Forum: “Creating a new global framework service that allows individuals to obtain what they want based on factors such as cost, time, format and delivery. This framework will encompass promoting and exposing library services in a variety of environments.”

The group talked how the purpose has evolved:

- Rethink
- Catalyst for systemic change
- “Think tank” – promote best practices
- Want to inspire a change in attitude in providing services
- The key idea – “allows individuals to obtain what they want” – trying to help get what they want when they want it.

Additional discussion

- The RRS message can be interpreted as saying that libraries are not providing good services. Many libraries feel that they already offer a high level of service.
- Need to be careful about assumptions – consider how the message will be received to avoid a critical interpretation.
- The real mission is to encourage libraries to open up to find new ways to serve not just their current patrons, but all potential users.

Other significant influences were discussed. The ALA ILL code is one – how did it come about and how did it become an accepted set of rules? It was developed out of ALA and it is widely accepted because it was moved through the ALA process.

How can we define a “new code” and become more influential? How can we start a revolution using some of the same channels?

The group talked about the Library Bill of Rights and how we might update it to be a *User* Bill of Rights. If we created a “Bill of Rights” we would need to work with ALA divisions such as LAMA, LITA, State Chapters and ASCLA to achieve “buy-in”. Would like to have it endorsed by ALA and IFLA. The Social Responsibilities Round Table has significant influence and it would help to have them on board.

Some of the messages to convey in a Users Bill of Rights:

- Traditional activities and library rules don't mean anything to users.
- Librarians are the advocate for the user in the electronic world.

Do we want revise the purpose of the RRS initiative?

All agreed that the initiative is not about developing and bringing products to market, but rather about fostering an environment of cooperation and collaboration. A new mission statement was developed and agreed upon by those still in the room:

“Rethinking Resource Sharing. Inspiring libraries. Empowering people.”

Governance

Some key questions are:

- What is the appropriate structure to support the purpose?
- What is working in the structure, what is not?

The original charter was reviewed and discussed.

<http://rethinkingresourcesharing.org/charter.html>

It is clear that current practice has evolved as the needs of the Initiative have changed and that it does not match the original charter. There was discussion about the roles of Steering Committee members and Sponsoring Institutions (activities include things like offering suites at conferences, support for conference calls, financing for project management, listserv hosting, website hosting, etc.). Some current sponsoring institutions are:

- OCLC
- Sirsi/Dynix
- California Digital Library
- Boston Library Consortium
- BCR
- NISO

What does the Steering Committee do?

- set direction for the initiative
- plan the forums
- set the agenda for the initiative and find financing for tactical maneuvers
- hub of communication
- track and report the Initiative's accomplishments

Some changes that could be made immediately:

- Remove PALCI since they are no longer able to provide a member on the Steering Committee.
- Add official positions of Chair, Chair-Elect, and Past-Chair.

Does a Sponsoring Organization automatically get a seat on the Steering Committee?

Some organizations may wish to support the effort, but don't have staff time to devote to

attending meetings (e.g. OCLC funds Project Manager, lurks on RSS Steering list but does not intend to attend Steering Committee meetings).

Who should be eligible to be on the Steering Committee? It is useful to have vendors involved to make sure they are actively following the initiative.

Should Committee Chairs automatically be included? Current practice is to invite them to all meetings to provide updates on Committee activities and to help set direction.

How does the RUSA STARS Policies Committee fit in since it is formally part of the ALA structure? Was the original intent to include the Chair of RUSA STARS on the Steering Committee or the RUSA STARS Policies Committee Chair?

Chair (1 year term)
Past Chair (1 year term)
Chair-elect (1 year term)
Committee Chairs (?)
Project Manager (ex officio)

The group ran out of time and agreed to discuss this topic further via e-mail and conference call.

Forum IV discussion

What is the purpose of the Forum? – The purpose is to inspire libraries. The Preconference scheduled for ALA Annual in June 2008 partially meets this goal. The IFLA pre-conference that is scheduled for Aug 6-7 in Boston also meets this goal. The group talked about partnering with IFLA.

Who is the target audience? – The IFLA pre-conference is aimed at department heads and directors of access services, ILL, and reference. This audience is consistent with the target audience for the next forum.

The group talked about innovative ways to partner with IFLA, specifically capturing the sessions and making them available as a series of podcasts or streaming video on the RRS web site, or using them to create a virtual conference

The group agreed that it would not plan a Forum for Spring 2008, but instead use the ALA and IFLA Preconferences as a discussion forum and as a springboard for an event that would possibly be held in Fall 2008.