

**Public Services Planning Committee of the SUL**  
**Quarterly Report to the Council of State University Libraries**  
**Submitted by: Rebecca Bichel, PSPC Chair, 2007**  
**February 12, 2007**

**Table of Contents**

PSPS Report and Subcommittee Summaries	Pages 1-3
Subcommittee Reports	Pages 4-13
Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Subcommittees Joint Report	Pages 4-9
Information Literacy Subcommittee	Page 10
OPAC Subcommittee Report	Pages 11-13

**Overview:**

The PSPC had an in-person meeting at the University of Central Florida on Monday, December 4, 2006. The group has had no teleconference call meetings since the previous committee report submitted November, 2006.

A membership listing is posted: <http://www.fcla.edu/csul/pspc/pspcpgnew.shtml>

**Upcoming Issues:**

- The CSUL Directors approved PSPC's request for a 2007 Summit on Government Documents. Planning will begin during the February PSPC teleconference call.

**Discussion Items from December 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

- Information Literacy Initiatives –Elizabeth Killingsworth of UCF's new Information Literacy and Outreach Department presented an overview of the University's Quality Enhancement Plan for Information Fluency and the Library's plans and activities supporting information literacy. This was followed by a discussion of other universities' information literacy initiatives.
- Endeca – Michele Newberry (FCLA) updated members on the implementation of Endeca and answered questions.
- Second Life –Davina Hovanec of UCF presented an overview and demonstration of Second Life. She showed the group Info Island and other spaces within Second Life. Info Island is a Second Life project founded by the Illinois Alliance Library System and OPAL to expand the library presence within Second Life. It sponsors book chats, virtual reference and other services provided by librarian volunteers from around the world. Nancy Cunningham (USF) discussed the USF libraries' participation in Second Life and shared comments on the buzz in the professional

literature regarding the potential for Second Life and similar concepts for library instruction, reference and more.

- New Library Spaces – The group looked at photos of recent renovations at libraries at the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and Emory. Group members discussed recent and upcoming renovations at our libraries and how these reflected new expectations for library environments and services.
- Future Directions for PSPC – The group brainstormed agenda items for 2007. There was support for further discussion of the evolution of library spaces and services, including Learning Commons, and how this impacts public services staffing and planning. The group extended their thanks to Phyllis Ruscella for her leadership of PSPC.

### **Subcommittee Summaries:**

**Circulation Subcommittee – Lori Driscoll, chair**

**InterLibrary Loan Subcommittee -- Kristine Shrauger, chair**

- The Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Subcommittees held a joint meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> at UCF. The full minutes are included at the end of this report. Below is a summary.
- Jennifer Kuntz (FCLA) provided a PowerPoint presentation of Aleph version 18. The group discussed functionality of ALEPH and Endeca, and issues with unmediated borrowing, including RAPID, an ILL system for unmediated requests for articles. A task force was formed to review and revise (if needed) the SUS Interlibrary Loan Guidelines. That task force will report back to the ILL subcommittee.
- The group also discussed:
  - Assessment of ILL
  - Global Information Framework - a consortium of Japanese and North American libraries interested in expanding access to materials by creating a seamless workflow between the ILL software used in North America and Japan.
  - Mentoring and training for new staff within the SUS
  - Document Delivery
  - ILLIAD Conference – The first Florida ILLiad Users Conference was held on December 7th and 8th.

**Information Literacy Subcommittee – Nancy Cunningham, co-chairs**

- The Information Literacy Subcommittee has been meeting monthly via teleconference with the purpose of sharing information, experience, and professional trends on a variety of issues relating to library instruction and information literacy.
- Kristy Padrón (UWF) and Carole Hinshaw (UCF) led a discussion on assessment techniques and instruments.
- Elita Kalma and Stephanie Brenenson gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on embedding librarians in online courses.

- Members will present at FLA's annual conference, "*Information literacy in action: Florida academic libraries share their stories and best practices*". The session will take place April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 12:00. Presenters will be Nancy Cunningham, Carole Hinshaw, Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Bill Modrow and Stephanie Brenenson.
- The full report is included below.

#### **OPAC Subcommittee -- No current chair**

- In the absence of a current chair, Rich Bennett submitted the subcommittee quarterly report.
- The FCLA Endeca Union Catalog prototype was announced to the LIBOPAC-L listserv on December 4th. This Union Catalog view is available at <http://catalog.fcla.edu>.
- The subcommittee developed two supplemental tools to assist in introducing SUL staff to the FCLA Endeca OPAC:
  - An FAQ page at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/sulopac/endeca/faq.html>. This primarily includes information about the FCLA Endeca project rather than information about how to use the FCLA Endeca OPAC itself.
  - A brief tutorial at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/sulopac/endeca/tut1/start.html>.
- 229 SUL staff members are now subscribed to the LIBOPAC-L (State University Libraries OPAC Interface Discussions) forum.
- While FCLA has benefited greatly from the work shared by North Carolina State University for their Endeca OPAC, there remain many issues relating to the development of the FCLA Endeca OPAC that need discussion if it is to be ready to serve as the primary SUL OPAC by the time the upgrade to Aleph v.18 occurs in each SUL this summer or fall. As subcommittee leadership changes, the roles of the PSPC OPAC Subcommittee and FCLA staff in leading and coordinating these OPAC discussions should be reviewed. The roles of LIBOPAC-L and the new FCLA Endeca blog in ongoing discussions also need to be clarified.
- A replacement subcommittee chair has not yet been identified.

**Copies of individual subcommittee reports are below.**

**Minutes for the Joint Circulation (SUS-CIRC) and Interlibrary Loan (SUS-ILL)  
Librarians Annual Meeting**

**December 6, 2006 at the University of Central Florida Library  
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Attendance:**

Douglas Hasty, FIU, Circ & ILL  
Nancy Hershoff, FIU, Biscayne Bay Campus, Circ & ILL  
Jan Stone, FIU Law, Circ & ILL  
Bridget Turnipseed, FSU, Circ  
Velma Smith, FSU, ILL  
John Lutz, FSU, Law, Circ & ILL  
Lori Driscoll, UFL, Circ  
Michelle Foss, UFL, ILL  
Lisandra Carmichael, UWF, Circ  
Priscilla Henry, FAMU, Circ & ILL  
Teresa Van Dyke, FAU, ILL  
Robb Waltner, UNF, Circ & ILL  
Jennifer Kuntz, FCLA  
Marilyn Burke, USF, Circ & ILL  
Kristine Shrauger, UCF, ILL  
Geraldine Collins, FGCU, Circ & ILL

**What do we know about Endeca and v.18 of Aleph?**

Jennifer Kuntz (FCLA) provided a PowerPoint presentation of Aleph version 18. Major points of the presentation:

- Circulation Client – highlights of her presentation and main points:
  - Demo currently available to everyone
  - Each institution has small database developed for demonstration and previewing
  - Looks a lot like the current various versions throughout the SUL
  - Version and user info display at top of the screen
  - New icons located in the lower left-hand bottom of the screen
  - No ILL function; this is an additional cost and would involve SUL-wide approval
  - Icon for tables
  - New Item tab at the upper left-hand
  - No separate task manager module; incorporated into each function, with new features including print preview, etc.
  - Significant changes in the Administration tab, such as Item Booking, etc.
  - Open hours feature – create regular and “exceptions” schedule; produces only in test – must notify FCLA to move to Production
  - Patron tab – basically the same; ability to directly email patrons is a new feature
  - Circulation log – define actions to be logged, then define actions to be in printed report
  - Item history – more records and information, more specific
- Go to the “Library Services” FCLA webpage located at <http://www.fcla.edu/libraryservices/index.html> for training documentation, for ALEPH versions 16 and 18; password required to access this information
- FCLA will make sure all templates will transfer to version 18 correctly
  - Patron loads and cash exports – FCLA needs full test databases before these can be transferred:
  - Patron loads – new additional fields
  - Cash exports – new functions and procedures that require more detail management of version 18 transfer

- Endeca – search engine created by North Carolina State University; overlays the ALEPH OPAC
  - FCLA has complete control over the display; go to <http://catalog.fcla.edu> for a preview
  - Provides these features:
    - Narrow results by
    - Narrow by call number
    - Search results for all SUL institutions
    - Status of material per library
    - Sorting preferences
    - Union catalog is now in production; individual catalogs are still being developed

### **Working with FCLA**

- *FCLA looking for some guidance on priorities; but support and upgrade is taking most of the FCLA time. Hence, new items, new capabilities, are taking a lower priority right now.*
- *FCLA is purchasing a self-check machine to test in background; will require separate license (more money) from Aleph. Can still do testing with demo version without extra charge, however; just cannot test the real system without the new self-check machine.*

### **Advanced booking?**

- *FSU, UF, a few others interested in developing this capability*
- *Version 15 had this capability, newer versions have enhanced capabilities for this....at extra cost. May be demo by Chris Holly of ExLibris on item, etc. advanced booking functions.*
- *Reports and the data-warehousing project*
- *FCLA is working on building call number table to allow for ARROW reports based on call number ranges.*
- *Donna's project: must pull all tables with call numbers in them and reconcile.*
- *Circulation statistics items have been added, since ALEPH's statistics aren't very useful to us.*
- *Francisco Partners has just bought both ExLibris and Endeavor---could be an interesting marriage. And, hopefully, an improvement.*
- *General retrieval form for circ stats right now----ugly, useless, and it doesn't work well. FCLA can get some reports, data that we can't; but it is special effort on FCLA's part to get those on a case by case basis.*
- *Templates—how can we get support for configuring them? Ellen has done most of the template customization and has good turn around record.*
- *Training—what kind of training can librarians in the field expect for v.18 of Aleph? Can look at data fields in XLS creator and build your own, but danger of overriding someone else's template. So....FCLA is keeping this available.*

### **Patron Un-mediated Borrowing (Circ & ILL issue)**

- *Joint task force has not met in a while and there are many options in various stages of development. This may be a good time to discuss this issue and see where we want to go with it next.*
- *Changes in system since this question arose leave us not sure where we are with this.*
- *Endeca, with its list of records, can assist this since an order would be placed for a specific record; instead of just sending a query for a particular title and not knowing from whence it might come.*
- *CSUL is not particularly excited about this,*
- *ExLibris has PDQ—patron direct query---allowing this type of borrowing...but it's not the model that FCLA thinks we need, though FCLA asked to be involved in development project.*
- *Pros and cons on this---not all libraries are convinced that this is a good thing and that they want it.*
- *OCLC is trying to develop a way to do this; Montana State has been involved.*

- *Missouri has MOBIUS; but cannot borrow from another library if item is in own library and not checked out. There is a load balancing table to even the burden among libraries. Book sent to a library for patron to pick up---not directly to patron.*
- *Sticky issue: for periodical articles, patron must provide a good cite to the article. Often a problem.*
- *How do we keep patrons from ordering direct and then also ordering through ILL?*
- *Will this place excess (and likely duplicative) burden on circulation staff? [Libraries generally do not run ILL through circulation. Law libraries are even less apt to do so.]*
- *So....perhaps we wait for version 18 to see what capabilities this may give us.*
- *Could we dumb down the borrowing process to allow this to be a system that could be monitored by less trained (than ILL) staff? Could this save money? Could we give patrons far more options for places to borrow?*
- *Where this has been done, ILL stats have not decreased, even though far more other library borrowing is done.*
- *Accountability issues---many things get lost, so that libraries at the end of the year were billing each other for many lost books.*
- *Consensus seemed to be that we are better off continuing to run through ILL procedures for better accountability, better service (proximity issues), and the ability to handle specific issues on case by case basis.*

## **RAPID**

The discussion for RAPID, an ILL system for articles with unmediated requests has a start up cost of \$52,000 with an annual cost of \$36,000 per year per consortium brought some questions. This service is supposed to deliver articles within a 24-hour turn around time. Kristine prepared an informational handout concerning RAPID which explains the system.

The discussion was brief, one question was asked, "Can the pod join others outside of the state?" and that was answered in the affirmative.

Discussion centered on costs and how this would impact ILLIAD, whether or not it was worth the cost.

## **Basic Rules of SUS ILL/CIRC Policy Review**

ILL- Reciprocal Direct ILL Services for SUS Students, Faculty and Staff  
<http://www.fcla.edu/csul/pspc/illsub/SUSILLGuidelines.htm>

ILL- SUS Interlibrary Loan Guidelines  
<http://www.fcla.edu/csul/pspc/illsub/SUSInterlibraryLoan%20Guidelines2.htm>

CIRC- Borrowing Privileges Agreement Information  
[http://www.fcla.edu/FCLAinfo/sus/borrowing\\_agreement.html](http://www.fcla.edu/FCLAinfo/sus/borrowing_agreement.html)

Printouts of the three policies listed above were distributed. Marilyn Burke noted that USF—Lakeland will be added as new symbol very soon.

Douglas Hasty observed that "GC" last revised the SUS Interlibrary Loan Guidelines in 1998; hence they are ripe for another look.

Doug then moved that a group of 2-3 from this committee revisit and, as needed, revise this policy, and bring back the results to this joint committee group for discussion. Motion was seconded by Marilyn Burke. Discussion of the motion included the following:

- Marilyn also suggested that links to this policy be added at appropriate places in all participating SUS libraries. Also, ILL phone numbers and other contact information (but

- not staff names, necessarily) for each institution should be readily available on the website which posts the policy.
- Robb opined that we may want to look at revising the spirit of document, not just the technical aspects.
  - When question arose as to what might be remiss with the guidelines, Doug explained that the current document didn't meet needs, since many didn't even know about the document at last year's meetings. The guidelines need to be readily available for all participants: with live links and other mechanical updates.
  - Among other things, definition of distance learner may need to be clarified.
  - Standards for providing services to distance learners should also be clarified---e.g., when to mail books to a learner's home; when not to do so; when to use which carriers for delivery---USPS, UPS, FedEx, DHL; who pays cost of shipping; when lending library will mail direct to another library's patron's home address.

Motion carried.

Douglas Hasty, Michelle Foss, and Geraldine Collins will constitute the task force to revisit the guidelines. This group will report back to the ILL committee in April. Other committee members with comments, questions, or suggestions should contact one of these task force members. Douglas will post a draft of the document, complete with live links in living color, on his website for beginning consideration.

### **Assessment & Evaluation of ILL Services**

Robb, Merilyn, and Doug will lead the discussion

- *LibQual has been used by some. Survey Monkey and WebSurveyor have been used by some libraries to create their own assessments.*
- *Participation in surveys is difficult to attain in helpful numbers without providing some kind of bribe.*
- *Really need to get good questions---maybe work with professional survey drafters.*
- *Need to ask relevant questions.*
- *Questions that really deal with things we need to know---usefulness of the service, how often service is used, how well it worked: turnaround time.*
- *Trying to tap user's mind for some of his/her experiences have been less than successful.*

### **GIF, Global Information Framework**

This is a consortium of Japanese and North American libraries interested in expanding access to materials by creating a seamless workflow between the ILL software used in North America and Japan. OCLC IFM is used to simplify payment transactions. The North American Coordinating Council (NCC) on Japanese Library Resources is coordinating this effort. See <http://www.nccjapan.org>. If you are interested in learning more about the project or if you want to fill out a registration form, see <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ncc/ildd/gifproject.html>. It is free to join. Also, an event is being planned for March 12, 2007 at Library West, University of Florida. The workshop is "Electronic Resources in Japanese Studies." It is geared for librarians and faculty who use materials from Japan. The NCC, the Japanese Foundation, and UF Libraries are sponsoring the event.

### **Mentoring**

Alternative staffing concepts:

Making ourselves available as mentors for new employees not only from within our own university but across the entire university system. Also creating a master list of who, within the universities library system, does what so that it is easier for someone to get to the right person to ask a question.

Also mentioned was the idea of field trips: Librarians would visit other libraries to see how things are done there.

Listservs are now closed. Before they were closed, there was reluctance to post some items.

### **Document Delivery**

USF uses Pronto - to scan articles delivered to the desktop. Pronto has separate staff than ILL but workers are cross trained. Some are sent electronically to the desktop. Process is usually same day. Pronto is used for local materials, kind of like a super Kinkos.

Federal Work study students can sometimes be used to fill document delivery positions.

FLEX - Faculty Library Express Delivery

Drops documents into BlackBoard for Faculty

10. Conference – ILLiad and IFLA

### **ILLIAD Conference**

The first Florida ILLiad Users Conference will follow this SUL PSPC Circ/ILL Joint Meeting on December 7th and 8th. ATLAS Systems is sponsoring meals, breaks, and a door prize in exchange for the opportunity to register participants for ILLiad training sessions. The low \$30 registration fee includes meals; arrangements were also made with the Holiday Inn to offer special rates. There are 39 registered attendees; of these, seven were from out-of-state and one was from West Africa. The intent is to expand the conference next year and broaden the focus to resource sharing issues, with more speakers and sponsors. The 2007 Resource Sharing Conference Committee volunteers are [please check the sign-up sheet to verify]

Teresa	FAU
Lisandra	UWF
Bridgett	FSU
Michelle	UF
Doug	FIU
Kristine	UCF
Robb	UNF

There was discussion about whether or not it should be held at UCF or USF. This was followed by a discussion of whether or not the next joint meeting should be scheduled the day prior or on a different week in December. UCF, USF, and UF have all offered to host the joint meeting but further discussions will need to take place to set the date and location.

### **IFLA 2009 ILL Conference Bid for Orlando**

Requires: international airport, city of international interest, facilities, all of which Orlando can accommodate. It has never been hosted in the US. Considering the Contemporary Resort at Disney in late October of 2009 Application due January 15 - Doug and Kristine are considering working on the plan and application; sought approval to submit on behalf of the SUL (need CSUL approval). Conference organizer could be hired and paid from registration fees. No cost to the schools to host (except staff time); fees from vendors and registration

### **Goals for the Coming Year**

Circ: Lori Driscoll will be the next chair.

ILL: Kristine Shrauger will continue as chair for 1 more year with Michelle Foss as chair-elect

The Florida ILLiad and SUL ILL/Circ subcommittee meetings for 2007 will be determined at a later date:

- decisions forthcoming on the location & dates of both meetings
- Agenda for both committees next year will be the continuation of what was discussed during our 2006 meeting:
  - Mentoring
  - evaluation and assessment (both of what the libraries are doing, and how we provide services to patrons)
  - reviewing ILL guidelines (task force of Douglas Hasty, Michelle Foss, and Geraldine Collins)
  - ILL: unmediated vs mediated borrowing

**Council of State University Libraries, Florida**  
**Information Literacy Subcommittee of the Public Services Planning Committee**

Quarterly Report  
Submitted by Co-Chair, Nancy Cunningham  
February, 2007

Since the last quarterly report was submitted, the Information Literacy Subcommittee has been meeting monthly via teleconference with the purpose of sharing information, experience, and professional trends on a variety of issues relating to library instruction and information literacy.

Carol Hinshaw announces that she will leave the committee at the end of the term. Renee Montgomery will be the new UCF representative, starting in January.

During the November meeting, Kristy Padrón (UWF) and Carole Hinshaw (UCF) led a discussion on assessment techniques and instruments.

During the January teleconference meeting, Elita Kalma and Stephanie Brenenson gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on embedding librarians in online courses.

Members discussed the upcoming PSPC Subcommittee presentation at FLA's annual conference, "*Information literacy in action: Florida academic libraries share their stories and best practices*". The session will take place April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 12:00. Our presenters will be Nancy Cunningham, Carole Hinshaw, Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Bill Modrow and Stephanie Brenenson. Other members may also participate but should contact Nancy as soon as possible.

## OPAC SUBCOMMITTEE QUARTERLY REPORT

February 9, 2007

Rich Bennett

SUL PSPC OPAC Subcommittee Chair (through 2006)

Following initial OPAC Subcommittee preview of the FCLA Endeca Union Catalog prototype in November, its availability was announced to the broader LIBOPAC-L listserv on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This Union Catalog view is available at <http://catalog.fcla.edu>.

The subcommittee provided two supplemental tools at the time to assist in introducing SUL staff to the FCLA Endeca OPAC:

1. A FAQ page at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/sulopac/endeca/faq.html>. This primarily includes information about the FCLA Endeca project rather than information about how to use the FCLA Endeca OPAC itself.
2. A brief tutorial at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/sulopac/endeca/tut1/start.html>. This was created to help lead SUL staff through most of the basics of navigation using this new OPAC approach in a structured way. *NOTE: This tutorial has not been updated to reflect any changes since December.*

229 SUL staff members are now subscribed to the LIBOPAC-L (State University Libraries OPAC Interface Discussions) forum. This includes public services, technical services, and administrative staff from throughout the SUL (including members of many other interested CSUL committees and subcommittees), all key FCLA staff, etc.

At its meeting in December, CSUL discussions about the timing of upgrading Aleph to v.18 resulted in a decision to make Endeca the primary user interface for the SUL OPACS by the time the Aleph upgrade occurs. While there will still be an Aleph OPAC, the v.18 OPAC will not be identical to v.15.5 largely because the customized javascript FCLA did for 15.5 doesn't upgrade and FCLA will not be re-writing it. This will mean that the Aleph OPAC will change once a SUL has upgraded. For some SUL, this may be near the beginning of or in the middle of Fall term, so introducing Endeca will provide library staff a relatively stable Endeca OPAC interface early enough to develop training materials, etc. The announced plan is for individual Endeca OPACs to be made available to the staff by early 2007 and to the public by the start of summer term. A 12/21/06 message from Michele Newberry to LIBOPAC-L and FCLLIST explained the concurrent planning for the upgrade to Aleph v.18 and its relationship to the Endeca OPAC development.

The CSUL meeting minutes also indicate "To facilitate this process, an open website, swiki or blog should be utilized so that all information can be made available to the OPAC Subcommittee and all other interested parties." This FCLA blog at <https://sblogs.fcla.edu/index.php/endeca> (Aleph userid/password required) was announced to FCLLIST and LIBOPAC-L in mid-January.

On 1/16/07 FCLA also announced to FCLLIST (which includes some additional SUL staff not on LIBOPAC-L) the availability of the Endeca Union Catalog prototype. It was suggested there that people forward questions, issues and ideas to their OPAC Subcommittee members so that they can bring them to the table for discussion.

Some discussions about the Endeca OPAC initiative are also known to be occurring in other CSUL committee or subcommittee forums as well.

There have not yet been any discussions about precisely when the FCLA Endeca Union Catalog might be made available to users. Prior to any release to the public it will likely be important to have identified any significant problems; this would seem to require some "stress testing" during which many SUL staff might be asked to participate during selected periods so that the reality of

many people performing searches concurrently can be assessed. It seems important for the system response time to be fast when introduced.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE AND OPAC DISCUSSION LEADERSHIP TRANSITION**

In January 2007 UF Smathers Libraries decided to change its OPAC Subcommittee member (who had also been serving as chair of the subcommittee). To wrap up his service on the OPAC Subcommittee (and its predecessor WebLUIIS Task Force), Rich Bennett prepared an SUL OPAC PLANNING TIMELINE 1997-2006 at [http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/sulopac/opac\\_timeline.html](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/sulopac/opac_timeline.html).

While FCLA has benefited greatly from the work shared by North Carolina State University for their Endeca OPAC, there remain many issues relating to the development of the FCLA Endeca OPAC that need discussion if it is to be ready to serve as the primary SUL OPAC by the time the upgrade to Aleph v.18 occurs in each SUL this summer (or fall – depending on each institution's upgrade schedule). **As subcommittee leadership changes, the roles of the PSPC OPAC Subcommittee and FCLA staff in leading and coordinating these OPAC discussions should be reviewed. The roles of LIBOPAC-L and the new FCLA Endeca blog in ongoing discussions also need to be clarified.**

**A replacement subcommittee chair has not yet been identified.**

On February 7, 2007, FCLA's Josh Greben sent the following message to the OPAC Subcommittee listserv:

"In the interest of getting the Endeca catalog ready for the May 1st 'go live' date, I have posted a blog that outlines all of the features needed to replace the Aleph OPAC, and additional functionality that is currently being planned for the new catalog. This blog is being used at FCLA as a working list of things to do. The blog is available at <https://sblogs.fcla.edu/index.php/endeca>. You will also see a 'Linkblog' section with sites that you might find useful.

As a first step, it would be helpful if each of the committee members would look over the outline and briefly comment about things that you do not see listed that you think is necessary functionality for the May 1st deadline. Please also comment on things that you would like listed as "after May 1st" enhancements to the catalog. Please leave these comments on the Endeca blog using the comments link at the bottom.

Once we have a more or less comprehensive list, the next step will be to discuss issues related to implementing these particular features as they come up for inclusion. We can discuss each of these features via the blog. I will post a new blog entry concerning the issue, and we can comment on each of them. As we discuss them, I will summarize the issues on the main blog entry and provide technical information as necessary. General points of order, or issues that do not concern a particular catalog feature can be sent to the SUSOPAC list or discussed during conference calls.

To help you assess the functionality of the catalog using your own data, there is a link on the blog to catalogs for the individual libraries. When using your own library's catalog, please keep in mind that all of these, and the Union Catalog, are still works in progress, and some features that you see may or may not be technically possible to implement on a full scale in the "May 1st" catalogs. For example you will see a headings browse function in the individual catalogs that is not in the union catalog. Implementing this particular feature as it is will have negative system resource implications. These are the kinds of issues that we need to discuss.

To get things started would it be helpful to schedule a conference call? How is the week of 2/19 - 2/23? Otherwise we can continue by posting relevant comments to the blog. I hope that this will be helpful."

Rich Bennett  
Former OPAC Subcommittee Chair (through December, 2006)