SAILS Network News

Library Network

Executive Director's Report

On Sunday, November 5 SAILS successfully upgraded its Unicorn software to the latest version. SirsiDynix had assigned a systems analyst to work with us preparing the servers for the upgrade and he also performed the upgrade itself. The installation completed in less than 12 hours and we did not experience any major problems. The management staff came in on Sunday, November 5th to prep the system for use on Monday and to remotely upgrade PC's for those libraries with PC Support who had indicated they wanted the service. We did note that computers running Windows 98 did not upgrade smoothly. This release is not intended to be run on Windows 95 or Windows 98 (staff client) so libraries that still have staff computers with these operating systems must either update the software or replace the equipment. Microsoft is not supporting either of these products and neither can SAILS.

The week following the upgrade there were a few reports that were not working as we expected and some oddities that popped up but we had very few problems. Because we had 2 SirsiDynix consultants on site Nov. 6-8, we were able to have reported problems fixed immediately. They spent time reviewing our system and recommended some things to do to speed up our backups or improve procedures. We were able to spend 1 full day working on the Java client.

At the October directors meeting it was reported that the recommended memory requirements for the Java client on GL 3.1 had been increased to 1 GB and that very few if any libraries met that requirement. During our post-upgrade call we received assurances that the minimum requirements should be sufficient and that we would only need to upgrade computers to 1 GB if there were serious performance issues.

We also discussed Microsoft's upcoming release of their new operating system, VISTA. Please note the following:
- The minimum memory requirement to run VISTA is 1 GB and it is likely that if you run the Java Client on it you will need 2 GB.
- The classic staff client that all the SAILS libraries are using has not

iPod and MP3 Player Ownership

While an iPod or MP3 player is not necessary to listen to or view podcasts, the proliferation of mobile media gadgets has helped fuel the demand for digital content that can be both time-shifted and place-shifted for listening and viewing on-the-go. According to our February-April 2006 survey, 20% of American adults and 26% of internet users report ownership of an iPod or MP3 player. Young adults, those with broadband access and parents are considerably more likely to have an iPod or MP3 player. *(from the Pew Internet and America Life Project)*

Executive Director's Report

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run successfully on VISTA and SirsiDynix is not sure if it ever will. We urge libraries not to jump to VISTA as an operating system until we get further information on how well it runs with Unicorn.

By the beginning of December all SAILS staff members should be using the Java Client exclusively so we can get a better feel on how it works. We will be attending some web based training on the new client to determine whether this type of training will be suitable for SAILS. We have set up a very preliminary timetable for implementing the new Java client but that will not be firm until we have more experience using it. We hope to have the new Member Services Librarian position filled by the end of December and that person will be playing a major role in developing a training program for the new client.
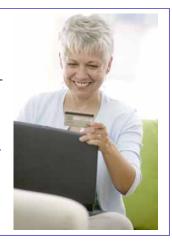
We are well on track for the telecommunications infrastructure upgrade. The new T3 line has been installed to the SAILS office. Libraries that are getting higher speed lines are now being visited by Verizon engineers to determine whether there are facility issues that need to be addressed. We have been assigned a project manager who will oversee the implementation from start to finish and she was able to spend a half day visiting with me to review how things will proceed.

Staff members have been working on several projects. Laurie has been working with SirsiDynix to make some internal changes to iBistro to improve its operation. She has also been working on the redesign of the SAILS' website. Steve has completed the installation of Envisionware at the sites who purchased this product in late FY06. Claudette has returned from her medical leave and the Cataloging Department has been focused on keeping up with cataloging requests and original cataloging. General office operations were slightly interrupted when all of the lighting in the offices was replaced but the difference made any disruptions worthwhile.

I expect next month to be able to provide more detail about the timeline for the telecommunications upgrades and I hope to make an announcement about the Member Services position. We will be closing the office for a few hours on December 15th for our annual holiday luncheon and gift exchange. In addition we will be closing the office at noon on December 22 for our Christmas Eve holiday.

Seniors and the Internet

Age is a strong predictor for whether someone has internet access. Just 32% of Americans age 65+ are online. However, as Baby Boomers age into the 65+ demographic, they will most likely keep their internet connections and bring their propensity for search and online communications with them. Any system being designed for consumers should take advantage of two trends: the centrality of search and the importance of peer advice (whether via email, social networking sites, blogs, or other emerging technologies). Both trends are likely to grow in influence as the population ages.
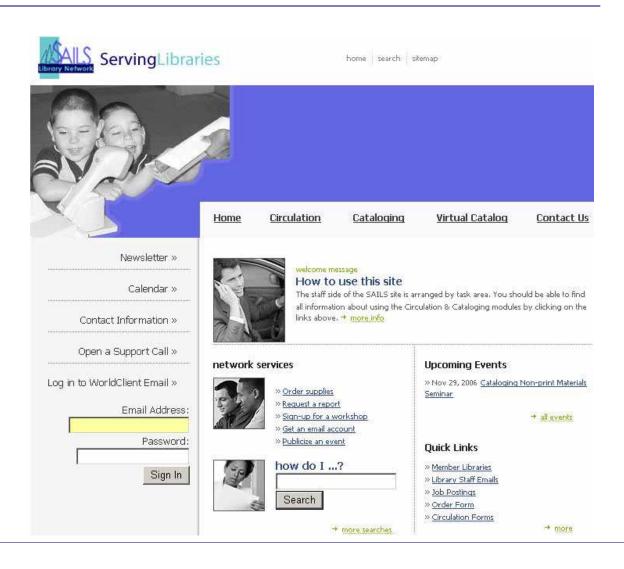*(from the Pew Internet and America Life Project)*

SAILS New Website—Coming Soon!

With the help of the recently created "Website Advisory Committee", SAILS has been working to update our website. The major emphasis is on the staff side of the site, used primarily as a tool for you, the library staff, to place requests for reports & supplies, submit errors, contact the SAILS staff, and also find information.

The last piece—finding information—is the part that needs the most work. We're trying hard to organize the information you use most and make it easily accessible, while not removing the less used materials, such as detailed manuals, policies, and meeting minutes.

The approach for the circulation side of the site is process-driven. We've identified areas where you need immediate information—for example, how to pay a bill for an item that isn't owned by you, and put it up front, under a "circulation desktop". The items that don't need to be found at the time of use (when a patron is standing at the desk in front of you) will also be available, but further down the link trail.

We are also working on the patron-side of the site, but mostly this is cosmetic and won't change the functionality. We will be updating the wording to try and make it less library-ese. Please take a look at the screenshot below. This is still very much a work in progress, but we hope to get it unveiled by the beginning of the new year. The current site will be available while everyone is gets used to the new site.

Behind the Screen Conversations

Christine Dargelis, Assistant Director of the Middleborough Public Library, and member of the PubPac Committee, has kindly offered to represent SAILS at the Behind the Screen Conversations meeting on December 4th. She will listen to and ask questions of vendors whose electronic databases have been on trial (CODfest--Commercial Online Databases Festival of Trials) since November. Library staff were invited to try and survey the free databases [http://mblc.state.ma.us/books/magazine/codfest.php].

If anyone has concerns or specific questions on topics of access, content, navigation, or policy regarding the online resource packages offered by the vendors, please don't hesitate to let Chris know. She will make sure to voice these questions to the vendors during the Q&A session, so that we will have a better understanding of how the products will meet our needs if licensed for the FY07-FY12 year.

Please contact Chris with any questions or comments at: cdargeli@sailsinc.org.

Grant Opportunity—Community Improvement Programs Funded

The Citigroup Foundation supports nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S., and internationally, with emphasis on locations where Citigroup companies do business. Citigroup's family of companies includes Citibank, CitiFinancial, and Smith Barney. The Foundation primarily provides grants and technical expertise to organizations that help people improve their lives, businesses grow, and communities prosper. The Foundation's three main grantmaking categories are: Financial Education; Educating the Next Generation; and Building Communities and Entrepreneurs. Applications are accepted throughout the year; however, those submitted early in the calendar year have the best chance of receiving funding. Visit the website listed above for more information.

Virtual Catalog Policy Reminder

It has come to our attention that some libraries in other networks are not adhering to the loan rules agreed upon by the Virtual Catalog Advisory Board. The policy allows for two weeks in the delivery to the borrowing library, a 28 day checkout to patrons, and two weeks back to the owning library. This is 56 days that an item is potentially away.
When you ship an item in the Virtual Catalog, our system checks the item out to a dummy URSA patron for 56 days, as the policy states. If you go back into our system and modify this due date, the borrowing library must then modify the due date on their end when they check it out to their patron. This is assuming they know the modified due date, because the only place it would appear is in our system, which they don't have access to, or if it was written on the VirtCat book band. Depending on what the modified due date is, delivery delays may not have been considered.
For these reasons, please do not modify the due date for your items shipped through the Virtual Catalog. This issue will be discussed at the next VC Users Group Meeting and possibly a change in the policy will come of it, but until that time, let the system work the way it is intended to do. ~ Laurie (llessner@sailsinc.org)

SAILS Staff

Debby Conrad, Executive Director
dconrad@sailsinc.org
(508) 946-8600 x211
AIM Screen Name: DKC101652

Laurie Lessner, Manager of Electronic Services
llessner@sailsinc.org
(508) 946-8600 x214
AIM Screen Name: laurclW

Jennifer Michaud, Network Cataloger
jmichaud@sailsinc.org
(508) 946-8600 x215

Jorj Pitter, PC Support Specialist
jpitter@sailsinc.org
(508) 946-8600 x219

Kristin Slater, Manager of Bibliographic Services
kslater@sailsinc.org
(508) 946-8600 x213
AIM Screen Name: Baloo2782W

Claudette Tobin, Cataloging Associate II
claudette@sailsinc.org
(508) 946-8600 x216

Steve Wilson, Systems Manager
swilson@sailsinc.org
(508) 946-8600 x212
AIM Screen Name: stvhaggis

Upcoming Training & Meetings

Upcoming Training
Detailed descriptions and registration information, are available on the SAILS website.

Beginning Cataloging Training (Full)
12/14/2006
9 am to noon, SAILS Meeting Room

Cataloging Non-print Materials Seminar
01/31/2007
9 am to noon, SAILS Meeting Room

Upcoming Meetings & Events

SAILS Board Meeting—Officers Only
12/20/2006
10 am, SAILS Meeting Room

SAILS Offices Closed for the Holidays
12/22/2006—12/25/2006
01/01/2007

Circulation Policy Committee
01/05/2007
9:30 am, SAILS Meeting Room

Circulation Meeting
01/09/2007
10 am, SAILS Meeting Room

Technical Services Meeting
01/23/2007
10 am, SAILS Meeting Room

PubPac Committee Meeting
01/25/2007
1:30 pm, SAILS Meeting Room

SAILS Network Statistics

FY06-07 Overview	Oct '07	Sept '07	Aug '07	July '07	June '06	May '06	Total FY07
Total Intranetwork Loans	55,892	56,840	63,481	58,666	55,782	60,272	234,879
Total Items Circulated	373,614	356,456	419,288	412,360	380,167	374,577	1,561,718
OverDrive Circulation	537	557	576	589	440	409	2,259
VirtCat Items Borrowed	1,199	1,199	1,270	1,129	985	1,259	4,797
VirtCat Items Loaned	635	561	518	515	439	572	2,229
Cataloging Requests	2,857	2,857	2,948	2,518	2,359	3,023	11,180
WebDewey Sessions	92	95	102	86	107	110	375
MARC Records Added	3,497	3,497	4,256	3,576	3,951	4,066	14,826
Patrons Added	4,125	7,243	4,235	3,024	3,099	2,306	18,627
Holds	43,138	41,864	45,261	43,938	41,708	42,811	174,201
Total MARC	964,634	962,085	959,615	957,002	955,666	953,565	964,634
Total Holdings	3,448,264	3,441,363	3,434,261	3,420,815	3,417,415	3,403,777	3,448,264
Total Patron	543,654	540,731	535,599	537,501	535,841	534,543	543,654
Total Uptime	99.49	99.9	98.2	99.11			