

Executive Director's Report

As the network begins the process to select a new User Experience product that will replace iBistro, the OPAC Selection Committee met to outline the timeline for the project. The first step in the process was to replace the iBistro server. No matter what product the network selects, iBistro will need to operate in the background in order to present user account information and support placing holds. The existing server was more than six years old and reaching the end of life for support from Sun so the our first step was to replace the server. The server was ordered in late October and installed the first week of November. The cutover to the new server should be complete before December 1.

The second step in the process is to ask patrons what types of Internet websites they use and what type of new features they would like to see in a new catalog. By mid-November more than 5600 patrons had responded to the survey. The survey will be posted until the end of November. We also asked for volunteers who would be willing to server on focus groups that will be evaluating the various products available to us and 800 people have volunteered. A separate survey will be sent out to our academic and K-12 members to identify key features they need to meet their unique needs. The results of the surveys will be incorporated into the RFI that will be sent out to potential vendors by early January. At some point in early 2009 selected vendors will be invited to conduct demonstrations of their products. Those demonstrations will be open to staff from our member libraries.

SAILS has also issued an RFP to selected vendors for the redesign of our public website. The basic features of our existing website will remain, such as links to member libraries websites, but the goal will be to improve navigability. At the same time we are going to be working with Overdrive to revamp our Digital Media site. The redesign will be completed at the same time we launch our MP3 (iPod compatible) collection.

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Exec. Director's Report	1,2
MLA PR Award	1
Fun & Informative Videos	2
Bookletters Service	3
Overdrive Redesign	4
Holds Policy Update	4
Upcoming Events	5
Network Statistics	5

MLA's Public Relations Award—Get your entries ready!

All Massachusetts libraries are invited by the MLA PR Committee to submit your best PR materials to apply for the 2009 MLA PR Awards. All categories of PR materials are eligible from all types of libraries. Awards will be presented on May 7, '09 at the MLA Annual Conference in Springfield, MA.



Executive Director's Report

(Continued from page 1)

The Cataloging Services Department will be conducting training in December on the use of the Serial Control Module. If your library has periodical subscriptions and you don't use Serials, it would be a good time to see what it can do for you. The Serial Control module allows a library to automate the claiming process for issues not received, keeps track of what has been received, and includes a clean display of the library's holdings in iBistro. Preregistration is required.

We have also been busy working with our school members to migrate them to the Java Client, provide onsite training in Directors Station, and setting up customized policy lists so that staff only sees policy codes (Item Types, Home Locations, etc.) that is used by their library. We have begun testing the new Family Card functionality and we are working with SirsiDynix to activate the online patron registration capability. There will be much more information about these projects in the coming months. Jorj in PC Support is developing a plan to begin site visits to conduct basic preventative maintenance and update our inventory of computers covered by support.

On a sadder note, the library network has lost two respected colleagues this fall. Both Mary Jane Pillsbury, retired director of the Wareham Free Library and Judy Wallace, director of the Mattapoisett Free Library, passed away after long battles with cancer. Mary Jane and Judy left lasting legacies to their towns in the form of beautiful new library facilities. Mary Jane was one of the founding members of the SEAL Library Network in the mid-1980's and Judy was an active participant in SAILS from the time she became director in Mattapoisett in 2000. Judy and Mary Jane touched many peoples' lives and both will be missed by all who knew them.

YouTube Videos to Review

These are a few videos that have been getting some attention around the state. The first one is of ESL tutors and students talking about their experience of learning English at Jones Library in Amherst. "We had an intern from Amherst College this summer work on recruitment materials for new volunteer tutors. Thanks in part to her work, we had a bumper crop sign up for training this fall, and our waiting list is down to 3 people!" - Bonnie Isman, Library Director.

Watch the video on the Jones Library site: <http://www.joneslibrary.org/esl/>.

The next set of videos are quite funny. The announcement was sent out from Carole M. Myles, Head of Reference & Instructional Services at Assumption College. "The D'Alzon Chronicles are now available on YouTube and from the Assumption College's Library home page: <http://www.assumption.edu/dept/library/libraryindex.html>. The grant funding this project came from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and was administered by the [MBLC]. The instructo-mercials were developed over the 07-08 academic year by video production students in conjunction with Library staff." There are three videos—Part 1 - Pun Intended, Part 2 - Princess of Internal Affairs, and Part 3 - Phantom of Interrogation.

Bookletters

By Melissa Campbell, Director, Plainville Public Library

This is a service provided by [BookLetters, LLC](#), the same people who bring you Book Page. The Plainville Library began our service in June of this year. We started out with the basic features: canned book lists that you can meld right into your existing web site, like the NYT bestsellers and award lists. We also began with a link for our customers to sign up for their specialized book suggestions based on genre. Most lists come out monthly, but you can also sign up for the daily book or chapter. The best part is that people don't have to sign up for the email to read the latest one. You can arrange a link directly to the Book-a-Day or to any topic, for that matter.

We continue to add to our selection of newsletters with personalized lists. Like [Melissa's Book Shelf: So this is What Library Directors Read?](#), which I update after every 3 or 4 books I've read. Book lists are easily created with the ISBN, and if you don't know it you can search for it within their site. We created static lists for [King Philip summer reading](#). All book lists also contain links directly to the SAILS catalog, so if someone sees something they want they can get right to it to place a hold.

But it can be for so much more than just book lists. We migrated our [Monthly Email Newsletter](#) over to BookLetters. It was a listserve, but I forwarded the list of email addresses registered to Bookletters and told them for which list to sign them up and they took care of the batch add. Now people can sign up for the newsletter easily and quickly. Our newsletter can also now be colorful, as we produce it in MS Publisher and forward it to Bookletters who convert it to a jpg for us. So people will see the library information as soon as they open the email, rather than relying on them to click on a link to the newsletter. To utilize the Bookletters information we add a few new book ISBNs to the end of each newsletter.

Now we have added a newsletter for book sale information, and coming soon is a private quarterly newsletter for just Friends of the Library members. It should save some on postage for the Friends, as well as being a nice additional benefit for members. I am sure there are many more things you can do with this software and I am just learning, but the staff at Bookletters is very helpful and if you need anything they are there to guide you through.

Note from SAILS—Seekonk & Taunton are other member libraries using the BookLetters service. Other services to investigate: [NextReads](#) (through Ebsco)—Attleboro Public and [Constant Contact](#) (email service)—Easton Public. If you decide to try one of these services, SAILS will be happy to give you a list of your patron's email addresses, or show you how to do so in Director's Station. If you have any questions, please contact support@sailsinc.org.

Melissa's Book Shelf Is This what Library Directors Read??

Here is what Melissa has been reading lately. It may quite possibly be very eclectic to some. But my tastes range depending on what I feel like reading... and how much time I have on my hands at the local hockey rink. Perhaps you can take a suggestion from here on what you think might be good for you.

Just finished Twilight - before the movie comes out on Friday. Now I know why those teenage girls are hooked on Edward. He is perfect. And if you like Stephanie Plum try out Bubbles, as things just seem to happen around her and to her that make you laugh, as she tries to solve the mystery. And now reading...the Murder with Reservations - I'll have to see if I can relate since I cleaned hotel rooms for a summer.



Twilight
By Meyer, Stephenie
2006/09 - Topeka Bindery
1417755911 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Isabella Swan's move to Forks, a perpetually rainy town in Washington, could have been the most boring move she ever made. When she meets the mysterious, alluring Edward Cullen-- a vampire--her life takes a thrilling and terrifying romantic turn. ...[More](#)



Bubbles Betrayed
By Strohmeyer, Sarah
2005/04 - Dutton Books
0525948643 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In her most engaging tale yet, zany supersleuth Bubbles Yablonsky wows her fans with her investigative savvy and high-energy adventures. ...[More](#)



Murder with Reservations: A Dead-End Job Mystery
By Viets, Elaine

SAILS Overdrive Site Redesign

Last month we purchased a few of the new MP3 format titles so we could get on the development schedule to redesign the SAILS Overdrive site with some new features as well as highlight the new MP3 format before the holidays. The MP3 titles will be available after the site redesign.

Our account manager has also asked the developers to come up with something fresh and new for us. Currently it is a 5 - 6 week turnaround time for format additions and redesigns. All the new features will be added as well as information on MAC support for MP3 content.

New features will include:

- Log in to add titles to a saved wish list
- Easy to read compatibility icons.
- If you like this title, you may also like... suggestions list.
- New featured titles lists:
 - Recently returned
 - Some you may have missed

Search results: Showing 1 - 10 of 2697 < Previous | Next >
Sort by: title | creator | release date | most popular | date added to site

16 Isn't Always Sweet
by Cassandra Carter
From best friend to frenemy to flat-out enemy

For her Sweet Sixteen, Jordan Wright gets rid of the frizzy hair, the conservative clothes, and finally likes the hip new girl smiling in the...

Adobe PDF eBook
Add to eCart
Add to Wish List

Plays on: PC Mac Sum to CD WMA iPad MP3

1906
by James Dalessandro
Every disaster has a story, none more thrilling than this one. Set during the great San Francisco earthquake and fire, this tale of political corruption, vendettas, romance, rescue--and murder--is...

OverDrive MP3 Audiobook
Place a Hold
Add to Wish List

Plays on: PC Mac Sum to CD WMA iPad MP3

First Round of MP3's

Dirty Laundry—Tori Carrington
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes—Collections 1 & 2
I Am Legend and Other Stories
Absurdistan—Gary Shteyngart
Deadly Housewives—Sara Paretsky
Kiss and Tell—Shannon Tweed
The Finishing School—Muriel Spark
Effective Networking—David Nour
A Disorder Peculiar to the Country—Ken Kalfus
His Illegal Self—Peter Carey
The Feast of Love—Charles Baxter
Pride and Prejudice—Jane Austen
The Martian Child—David Gerrold
Killshot—Elmore Leonard
The Devil Came on Horseback—Brian Steidle
Nailing the Job Interview—Susan Leahy
Body Parts—Vicki Stiefel
The 7 Habits of Highly Defective People—Crimmis
25 Things to Say to the Interviewer, to Get the Job
You Want—Dexter Hawk

Policy Update

At last month's board meeting the following policies were adopted:

1. Local Holds Only allowed for items that should not go through the delivery – specific item formats are not allowed to travel through delivery. These include Kits, Playaways, Puppets, and multimedia kits. These item types now allow local holds only. This means your patrons may place holds on these items. However they should be clearly marked that they should be returned to the owning library. You may find your patrons placing holds on these items but selecting a different pickup location. You may choose to edit the pick up location.
2. The RHA will not include patron's name and ID for holds

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Upcoming Events

Detailed descriptions and registration information, are available on the [SAILS website](http://www.sailsinc.org)

Serials Workshop

12/04/2008
 12/16/2008
 9 am to noon, SAILS

Non-print materials discussion

12/10/2008
 10 am to noon, SAILS

SAILS Board Meeting—Officers Only

12/17/2008
 10 am to noon, SAILS

SAILS Closes at noon, 12/24/2008

Adding records using the Java client

1/8/2009
 9 am to noon, SAILS

SAILS Network Statistics

	Oct '08	Sept '08	August '08	July '08	June '08	Total FY09
Total Intranetwork Loans	61,748	60,257	60,406	64,586	58,540	246,997
Total Items Circulated	385,636	377,011	388,823	445,829	359,404	1,597,466
OverDrive Circulation	963	899	936	849	924	3,647
VirtCat Items Borrowed	1,195	1,217	1,028	1,001	649	4,441
VirtCat Items Loaned	557	547	482	673	436	2,259
Cataloging Requests	4,742	4,112	3,258	4,276	4,795	16,388
WebDewey Sessions	99	105	81	86	93	371
MARC Records Added	4,149	4,095	3,796	4,008	4,352	16,048
Patrons Added	4,320	7,148	4,665	3,783	3,563	19,916
Holds	47,727	49,628	45,929	51,382	49,557	194,666
Total MARC	1,050,152	1,047,993	1,044,916	1,046,027	1,042,339	
Total Holdings	3,598,594	3,593,874	3,582,869	3,579,445	3,567,611	
Total Patron	431,345	430,759	426,519	430,604	427,797	
Total Uptime	99.46	99.7	99.89	94.75	99.84	
TumbleBooks	3,081	2,314	1,480	1,708	1,624	8,583