

Exciting News from UUGI

More than 800 customers of SirsiDynix met in Detroit the first week of April to exchange ideas and discuss upcoming software development. The first day of the conference we heard some very exciting news.

Until that moment SirsiDynix has been telling customers that it was no longer going to enhance iBistro and that the only upgrade path was EPS. Most sites were not interested in EPS as it was intended as a means to develop online content rather than provide a user interface to the library catalog and online services. SirsiDynix has reversed that decision and in fact is making some major improvements to iBistro that will be available in August 2008. These improvements will include better navigation of My Account features, the ability to view details of a catalog record from titles listed as checked out or on hold in My Account, new search options that will allow users to search by Accelerated Reader, Reading Counts, and Lexile as well as Interest, Age, and Grade Level. Review My Account will be able to link family cards if the network decides to implement this feature.

SirsiDynix also announced Enterprise – the new “fuzzy” search module that will include features such as “did you mean?” (similar to spell-checking), relevance ranking, and faceted searching. This would be an add-on to iBistro but would provide a seamless interface between this easier searching strategy and user services such as placing holds and viewing account status. The product is in Beta testing and the first version will be for sites that want it to be hosted by SirsiDynix. This may provide an option for the network as we evaluate products for the new user OPAC in 2009.

Features coming in future releases will include the ability for users to create and save “kept lists” from session to session. It is their intent to then allow patrons to use those kept lists as a market basket for placing multiple holds at one time.

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UUGI Report

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There were several other major announcements. SIP2 self-check will be able to be configured to override for holds. Holds Slips will be configurable so it will support vertical printing (good for self-service holds shelves) and the type font can be configured – your patrons' name can be printed in lar type. Spine and book labels will print automatically with a print review. The K-12 webclient will come with a privacy lockdown that will include a staff override. This means that our schools could easily set up a self-check station or allow parent volunteers to man the circulation date without jeopardizing network security. 2009 will be the last year the C client will be supported so all of the SAILS libraries will have to be using the Java Client or K-12 webclient by December 31, 2009.

There was big news about the patron database. Patron records will be converted so the name field will be formatted – there will be a first name, middle name, and last name field. This will support better sorting and searching of patron names.

This was a very positive and successful meeting. If the company can provide the functionality it described Unicorn (soon to be called Symphony with our next upgrade) will provide us with many features for which we have been asking.

Increasing Overdrive Circulation Tips

This month we received a Best Practices handbook from Overdrive that lists a number of tips to increase circulation. Several of these we are already doing, but many are at the library level. Let us know if you've done a successful promotion, and we'll share it with the network in an upcoming newsletter.

- **Subscribe to Maximum Access**—unlimited, always available, no holds, simultaneous access to select audio titles. Currently we have a subscription to 50 titles from Blackstone Audio. Our yearly subscription is ending this month, so the Overdrive Committee is getting together to review the available titles. If your library is going to be doing a community reading program or have titles that are going to be on the summer reading list and you want us to see if these are available in this collection, please email overdrive@sailsinc.org.
- **MARC Records**—Purchase MARC records for your digital content to help patrons locate titles in your catalog. This lets patrons search iBistro for a title and find multiple formats in the system. Overdrive Audio & Ebooks are included with the results.
- **Order Regularly**—Similar to your physical collection, order new titles on a regular basis to give users a reason to visit the site frequently. When SAILS started making small, monthly purchases of new titles a couple of years ago, our circulation increased tremendously and we always have something new to offer. We've also added several popular music titles including Barenaked Ladies, Saffire, Johnny Winter, and Buddy Guy, as well as a number of Harlequin romances in Adobe e-book format, which are almost all checked out!
- **Training**—More than 20 percent of patrons learn about their digital library from a staff member. SAILS

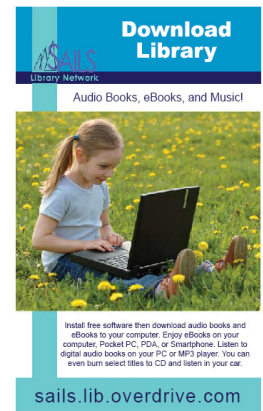
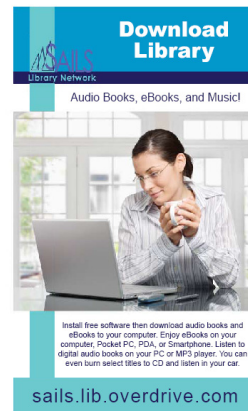
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Increasing Overdrive Circulation Tips

offered a number of sessions last fall with 22 staff members attending. If you are interested in taking a look at the training presentations, they are available at: <http://www.overdrive.com/products/dlr/training.asp>

Also available to everyone, including patrons, is the “digital media guided tour” on each page of the Digital media site—<http://sails.lib.overdrive.com>. This tour is an easy way to have patrons learn how to use the service and not require training by library staff.

- **Promotional Material**—SAILS still has a lot of Overdrive business cards available for you to give out to patrons. Many libraries have placed these inside their audio book cases to alert people to the Overdrive service. Email llessner@sailsinc.org for additional marketing materials for your library to print.
- **Link on library’s Website**—almost all of the libraries in the network are now linking to Overdrive from their Websites. If you would like to update your graphic, there are many nice options at: <http://www.overdrive.com/products/dlr/logos/>.
- **Host an Event/Party**—give away MP3 players (they’re under \$25), do demos or even offer to download titles for patrons at the party. Overdrive may have fun promo materials to give away as well.
- **On Hold Messaging**—”St. Charles City-County Library District (MO) recorded a script promoting their downloadable audio for patrons to hear when they call the library and are put on hold. The digital library circulated hundreds of checkouts in the first week of service.”
- **Library Newsletter**—write an article about the Overdrive collection, maybe featuring information about the new popular music titles available.



Mini-flyer you can print for your library



Workflows Tip—Item Search & Display Wizard

End frustration when using item search & display wizard by opening the wizard right after you log in. The wizard is slow to open the first time you try because it is downloading all the item codes; categories, item types, etc. from the server. It only happens the first time you start the wizard, so if you get into the habit of opening it after you log in, when you really need to use it, it will open quickly.



Target Corporation's Local Store Grants

Target Corporation's Local Store Grants provide funding support in the areas of arts, early childhood reading programs, and family violence prevention. In addition, each store is provided with limited funds for Target Gift Card donations for those communities offering unique opportunities outside the scope of the above focus areas. Contact your local Target store for details. For more info, including how to apply for grants in the areas of art, early childhood reading programs, and family violence prevention, visit the [Target site](#). Deadline is Saturday, May 31.

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Upcoming Training & Meetings

Upcoming Training

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

Searching for Circulation

05/13/2008, 06/11/2008
 9:30 am to noon; 1 pm to 3:30 pm

Adding records using the Java Workflows client

05/20/2008, 06/26/2008
 9 am to noon

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Technical Services Roundtable

05/01/2008
 10 am to noon, Fiske Public Library, Wrentham

PubPac Meeting

05/03/2008
 9:30 am to 11 am

Membership Meeting

05/14/2008
 10 am to noon, Mattapoisett Free Public Library

PC Support Subscribers' Meeting

05/15/2008
 10 am to noon

Next month—*Technical Services Meeting, Circ Users Group Meeting, Virtual Catalog Training, Envisionware Users Group Meeting,*

SAILS Network Statistics

	March '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Dec '07	Nov '07	Total FY08
Total Intranetwork Loans	63,346	60,401	64,682	56,012	54,082	538,522
Total Items Circulated	383,990	364,232	379,189	281,407	347,475	3,275,376
OverDrive Circulation	880	814	859	691	718	6,774
VirtCat Items Borrowed	1,187	1,196	1,092	897	1,079	9,818
VirtCat Items Loaned	607	550	653	460	515	5,264
Cataloging Requests	4,023	3,388	3,507	4,554	3,587	32,683
WebDewey Sessions		94	88		91	754
MARC Records Added	4,980	3,092	3,132	2,952	3,641	31,819
Patrons Added	2,973	3,388	3,130	2,325	3,263	34,446
Holds	50,901	49,686	53,248	37,163	43,526	420,978
Total MARC	999,980	1,001,329	999,147	996,407	994,287	
Total Holdings	3,502,540	3,507,076	3,509,471	3,511,522	3,515,188	
Total Patron	418,728	417,977	430,980	430,394	432,238	
Total Uptime	99.84	99.41	98.94	99.93	99.55	
TumbleBooks	1,709	2,012	2,284	1,842	2,764	15,839