Small Libraries Group

Naaug 2003

The NAAUG Steering Committee asked me to chair a session entitled "Small Library Discussion Group". The following institutions participated in the meeting: Iowa Historical Society, MNLink, AstraZeneka, MALC and JTS. In addition members of the ExLibris staff participated.

Prior to the meeting a request for discussion topics was sent out and we received a number of responses which were the basis for our discussion. The questions were:

1- How does a small library handle configurations and upgrades for bother server and clients when there is not a staff member solely assigned to the project.

2- At the NAAUG meeting there are tracks for different modules, in a small library there is one person involved in multiple modules in addition to the server, etc. How do you manage that?

3- How does ExLibris define a "small library"?

4- How does ExLibris deal with the limited resources (staff and financial) available to small libraries?

ExLibris took the opportunity to announce a new package which they are marketing to small libraries. The default tables will be set and packaged for installation. It is an "out of the box OPAC". There would be a "wizard" to guide the user through set ups for circulation which will be the only module where changes can be made. ExLibris is also offering services to do systems administration work for small installations who manage and will be a remote service provider.

There was discussion as to how small libraries within a consortium operate. The central consortia office locks down the set up after the original set up with the small library. The small library then will not have to make changes.

Training for small libraries:

        ExLibris suggested the use of the Interwise software for remote training or participate in group training either regionally or at the ExLibris office.

        It was suggested that either a pre-conference or post-conference training session be available at the time of the NAAUG meeting. It would targeted to new staff and/or those performing upgrades for the first time. Other options discussed were a self-paced PC training. ExLibris also mentioned that they sell a day of telephone consultation.

Marketing to small libraries: ExLibris is beginning to market to four-year colleges and to community colleges in the US.

What is a small library? ExLibris indicated that they consider a small library as one with 10 or fewer FTE's.

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new/www.naaug.org/archives/2003/naaug-
cd/LTJSSteinberger/Small Libraries Group-
NAAUG.doc

There was strong interest in continuing the discussion and a number of people from other small institutions who did not attend the session expressed there interest in keeping this discussion alive. Perhaps a listerv would be useful.