

MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project
PAC Steering Committee
Minutes October 24, 2007 9:30 @ ROT

Present: Jennifer Ferriss (SALS), Laura Fisher (MEC), Barb Germain (JOH), Rob Lang (SCP), Michele Largeteau (JA), Barb Madonna (GLV), Sharon O'Brien (MVLS), Robin Pelton (SCP), Diane Robinson (JA), Jason Thomson (JA)

- Discussed “New Stuff” dashboards added to the PAC. The data is updated weekly each Monday morning.
- Discussed the 3.3 PAC:
 - Relevance sorting – in some cases the sort seems strange (for example, “harry potter” lists four Spanish titles first) – JA will log an iTrac – (NOTE: Polaris confirmed that for the harry potter titles, the words “harry” and “potter” appear more times in the Spanish bib records than in the others)
 - It was previously requested that we investigate changing the old books logo at the top. Brendan from SAR did a new logo – to see go to the trainer PAC and log into Saratoga Springs. This led to a discussion about using photos of the member libraries (possibly rotating). Maybe they would like to have “clusters” of rotating library pictures (for example SCP and the branches when you are scoped to SCP and JOH, GLV, etc for those areas). Examples of pictures that Barb G liked are: lanepi.org, www.cobbcat.org, www.memphislibrary.org, rhpl.org, www.lapl.org. JA staff was concerned about the speed of loading rotating images. JA staff was asked to look into this. No change was asked for at this time.
 - New text color for the hover color (red) on the active tab – The dark blue with red text doesn't work for color blind people. JA will experiment with colors on trainer for the committee to review.
 - After narrow your search – consider how to display the expand again icon – would a different image be helpful? – Committee asked JA to add the red X that Jason found for the icon and add a hover that says “Remove” and log an iTrac to allow the Narrow Your Search settings to be selected and deselected from the dashboard.
 - Committee approved the new Large Print icon proposed by Sharon O'Brien, made the same size as the other icons.
 - There was discussion regarding Cancelled Requests – they remain on the patron's account for two weeks. People really don't want cancelled requests to disappear sooner than two weeks because sometimes they are cancelled by staff and need to be activated again. Instead it was decided to change the word “Suspend” to “Postpone” everywhere that it appears. JA will log an iTrac to have a calendar drop down for the Suspend (Postpone) date for a request.
 - Adding the material icons to the Help files - Help and icons need more work. The help links stopped working with 3.3, JA will fix that. The icons for downloadable audio books and www need to be added to the list. JA will work with cataloguers to see if any icons can be removed from the list. It was suggested that we change the Archival materials to a file cabinet. JA will work on these changes.
 - “Find more like this” comes from Novelist and works fine. “Find Similar Titles” is from Syndetics, and since we don't subscribe, the results were inaccurate, so JA disabled this feature in the PAC.

- JA informed the committee that they are unable to find access to the New York Times best seller lists in an RSS or other automatic format for the PAC.
- Adding “Availability” to the Limit By options was demonstrated – it increases the number of items in the dropdown and the committee decided not to implement at this time. JA will log an itrac to allow this to be a check box.
- Jason demonstrated how he can provide a way for libraries to put their own HTML content on the portal page, by branch. It was agreed that JA will document this and share with the member libraries.
- JA reported on the status of itrac with Polaris regarding the PAC:
 - Ability to sort by publication data ascending and descending – added as an enhancement
 - Can we display other fields (call number and volume) from the item record on the patron requests list for item specific requests and volume on the items out list? – waiting on Polaris
 - Change the type of material name in the narrow your search dashboard – Polaris did provide a way to do this, JA and catalogers will have to work on it.
 - Target audience – can we take “Specialized” and “General” off the drop down menu for the advanced search? – waiting on Polaris
 - On Order items dashboard needs to be by branch – added as an enhancement
 - Problems with the “browse” function – could it incorporate the “Limit By” feature – added as an enhancement
- Still on JA’s list for PAC:
 - RSS feeds for New Stuff
 - A check box on the search screen to exclude children’s items
 - Ways for patrons to do a single login to request multiple titles
 - Message when a patron has exceeded their request limit for a particular material type
 - Way to create a dashboard list from a record set
 - Items added report (date range)
 - On Order dashboard
- We reviewed the fields that are displayed in the brief and expanded views in the PAC. Work needs to be done to clean these up.

The next meeting will be in the second half of January. Michele will ask Carol to schedule this meeting at her convenience.