

Discovery Working Group Meeting

University Librarian's Conference Room

August 16, 2016, 2:00pm

Present: Stephanie Bartz, Vibiana Cvetkovic, Judy Cohn, Joseph Deodato, Rebecca Gardner, Christie Lutz, Chad Mills, Gracemary Smulewitz, Ela Sosnowska, Bobbi Tipton, Yingting Zhang

1. Review and Discussion of Charge

The working group is charged with the task of identifying user needs and expectations for library discovery. "Discovery," broadly stated, refers to ways in which users find and access library collections. As the volume and variety of content acquired by the library continues to proliferate, the need to provide a simple, intuitive point of access has become paramount. Accordingly, the goals of the working group are to:

- Analyze and understand user needs and expectations (especially those expressed in the 2016 LibQual survey)
- Review peer and aspirant websites to identify best practices
- Evaluate and make recommendations for improving RUL's current system architecture

It was noted that "discovery" is a broad concept that involves many interrelated parts including the Libraries' website, catalog, subscription databases, knowledge base, and link resolver. Accordingly, Cabinet has suggested two starting priorities:

- [1] The need for a single search interface for locating eBooks regardless of provider
- [2] The need to improve the functionality of the link resolver

Several questions arose during discussion:

- *Are we discarding our previous discovery implementation plan and starting from scratch?*
It was noted that the Rutgers Libraries' do not currently offer a bona fide discovery layer, but there were plans to create one using VuFind. The original plan was to have a phased implementation of VuFind that would eventually include its integration with EBSCO Discovery Service. Are those plans now being aborted?
- *Is the group's function merely to define user needs or to work on improving our existing infrastructure?*
It was suggested that the group focus on defining the ideal user experience rather than the day-to-day operations of existing systems. However, the starting priorities seem to suggest at least some work to improve existing products. Furthermore, it may be difficult for the group to make useful recommendations without understanding how our existing systems function.
- *What is this group's relationship to existing groups that work on aspects of discovery (LCC, VuFind Implementation Team, Web Board, etc.)?*
The Libraries' current discovery environment is made up of a variety of interconnected systems whose operations are governed by other working groups. Decisions made by

