

Notes from phone calls with ILLINET and ORBIS CASCADE, 1/3/08.

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1. First phone call was with ILLINET. There are 10 consortia library systems that use either SirsiDynix, III or Carl as the ILS. These systems have seen growth of internal user sharing groups. Use of a group catalog, circ systems and ILL tools create interoperability between the 10 systems. No statewide library card program or policies are currently in place. No NCIP testing going on.

A courier system has been in place for over 20 years. There are two groups: 1.) Inter-library delivery system, funded by the State Library, where each system determines how to provide for moving materials with that funding; 2.) Academic courier service, also funded fully by the State Library, that has just contracted with Lanter to provide the service. The academic group did their own RFP to select a courier. Most of the libraries in both systems have daily delivery; some have twice weekly or on demand delivery and some utilize mail as the courier method. There are an estimated 4,000 potential delivery spots in the state (6,000 actual buildings). ILLINET moved over 21 million items last year.

The regional library systems receive funding based on population served and?? Delivery is considered a “core service” by the State Library. This derives from a list Illinois developed over 20 years ago that details 8 basic goals for libraries receiving funding. The list focuses on cooperative efforts. List forthcoming from Suzanne.

2. Second phone call was with ORBIS. ORBIS has a governing membership comprised of academic libraries in Oregon and Washington. Their shared ILS is the Summit Union Catalog System, which is III. The ORBIS core group works with many larger groups and projects also: electronic resources to over 60 libraries, Northwest Digital Archives project and the courier system which includes WA, OR and ID. This courier system has 70 drop sites (hubs) and delivers to 270 libraries.

The courier service is viewed as a “utility”. It supports a number of different technology systems to make resource sharing work and it is up to the local libraries and library groups to determine and maintain the tools each uses. Each library and library system can do what they want technically to make things work and can depend on the use of the ORBIS courier system to move items around. There is some home/office delivery of

material happening, though it takes place from the borrowing library to the borrowing patron (the ORBIS courier system is still library to library at this point).

No floating collections being tried right now and no NCIP testing going on. There is some shared collection development. The courier funding comes completely from the individual libraries, there is no central funding. Drop sites are charged a flat fee. The drop sites structure their own billing individually with the libraries they serve as hubs and make their own arrangements for delivery schedules and methods (bags, notices, tracking).

There was a “one card” program that was tried earlier but John was not sure of its status at this point. Believes some larger institutions have taken this on and offered it to their users.

ORBIS has a new courier RFP planning process beginning in FY09, with an RFP issued in FY10. The RFPs for courier services have always included a core group of libraries that must be serviced, then a wider group that would be good to serve. The primary focus is “where do the roads go”: the simplest, most straightforward routes and the options available.