Hello nmsalsa,

*** Greetings from the Innovative Users Group in San Francisco ***

I was all day in a SQL workshop. (I also attended a SQL workshop at the 2014 PUG meeting in Syracuse.) The Polaris records are based on so many tables and they're all rich with fields for mining. One has to connect the tables in the correct way: it's all about relationships among the data fields. Plus you have to know how the data are formatted, etc. It makes quite a puzzle, determining what you seek and how to put together the pieces. Let me know of questions complicated or simple that you'd like answered from our database.

Writing SQL queries looks simple but all the logic has to be in the right place. Nothing misspelled!

We worked mostly on searches that involved patron data, item data. I guess the bib and serial records aren't as popular :)

I'll share the slides when I get them.

Today was just the pre-conference day. Tomorrow begins the circus. Over 900 people are registered!

More later!

Brad

Hello SALSA scientists,

From a full notebook:

The best session today was on union catalogs: "Sharing is Daring." The Inn-Reach manager promoted this union catalog application. Polaris now makes seemless connections with Sierra (in use at our 4 big public libraries) and next it will connect to other systems (Ex Libris, Koha, Sirsi Dynix). INN-Reach currently has a complicated, more expensive solution to connect ILS systems (DCB) but these new developments will simply and cut costs. Will we ever have the funds to connect New Mexico? With INN-Reach we could easily expand to sharing with Colorado (Prospector) and Missouri-plus (Mobius).

I attended both the Polaris Tech Services and Patron Services forums. Ready to discuss cataloging workflow, I was disappointed that most of the tech talk concerned the acquisitions module and vendor-supplied shelf-ready workflow stuff. The patron chat focused on holds, renewals, claims, fines. I couldn't interrupt with our request for advice on Internet-only patron accounts, but it should be easy for us to figure out. At both sessions there was blah-blah regarding some sort of Polaris ILL module. (We don't use this module.)

There was a provocative poster on making record sets for map bibs then bulk changing to add LCGFTs (LC genre and form terms). At Michigan State they retrospectively added terms for cadastral, military and geological maps. (Cadastral maps show property boundaries.)

More libraries are moving to hosting. A quick presentation highlighted the pitfalls of running your own server. We are supposed to have hosting service-level agreements for Polaris, Koha, ILLiad, CONTENTdm... wonder what we agreed to?

The keynote speaker gave us a TED talk on the experience economy. Librarians must encourage curiosity, community interaction. Augmented reality is expensive, imperfect. How will librarians give access to the new toys? Then he went off to the enormous convention of gamers, filling Moscone Center with packs of children tinkering with virtual reality. At my hotel they joke that both the gamers and the librarians are a quiet bunch. Shhhhhhhh.

Exhibitors include Baker & Taylor, Backstage, MARCIVE, EnvisionWare, etc. Let me know if you have questions for them.

At the business meeting there was much celebration of the PUG/IUG merger. It took effect March 4th. Many people seem to like the new III CEO. He was all about, lurking in sessions and such.

There are 160 sessions, 20 of which are specific to Polaris. There are 186 Polaris people in attendance.

Breathe in, breathe out, more tomorrow!

Brad

From: Innovative [pr@iii.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:05 AM
To: Carrington, Bradley, DCA
Subject: [NEWS] Innovative Users Group Commences 24th Annual Conference with Notable Boost in Attendance

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Innovative Press Release

For Immediate Release

Innovative Users Group Commences 24th Annual Conference with Notable Boost in Attendance

Emeryville, CA—Innovative Interfaces, a leading provider of library automation software that empowers libraries globally, today announces the kickoff of IUG2016, the 24th Innovative Users Group (IUG) conference held in San Francisco.

This conference brings together libraries from all over the world, with a notably higher number of library professionals in attendance than recent years past. Through March 18th, nearly 950 attendees from 15 countries will participate in over 150 sessions presented by their colleagues and Innovative staff.

The conference begins with opening remarks by Eeva Stierwalt, IUG Chair and Integrated Library System Solutions Specialist at London Public Library. Accompanying Eeva is Don Levy, a media, entertainment, and technology consultant who has been at the forefront of the entertainment industry's digital transformation. Levy will deliver the keynote presentation, addressing the topic *"Wide Open: On Culture, Literacy and the Challenge of Change."*

Engagement and collaboration are front and center at IUG2016, providing attendees with countless opportunities to interact with other library professionals and Innovative staff throughout the three-day event. Among these discussions will include best practices for setting up libraries for success, streamlining workflows, resource sharing, Linked Data initiatives, and product roadmaps across the entire Innovative portfolio.

"One of the most valuable elements of the IUG conference is our ability to network with colleagues and learn best practices that we can take back home to our libraries," said Stierwalt. "We come together to share our success stories, collaborate on areas needing improvement, and truly become one unified group that is passionate about serving our communities."

A fundamental part of IUG is the Crystal Awards ceremony, which celebrates those who have attended 15 IUG annual conferences. The 2016 honorees are: Eleanor Annis, University of Northern British Columbia; John De La Fontaine, Occidental College; Robert Garzillo, Rhode Island School of Design; Andrea Kappler, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library; Sylvia Lee, Washington County Cooperative Library Services; Riin Olonen, Estonian Libraries Network Consortium; Nancy Sexton, Emmet O'Neal Library; Barbara Szalkowski, South Texas College of Law; Lisa Weber, University of Texas at El Paso; and Brad Westmoreland, St Tammany Parish Library.

For more information about the Innovative Users Group, visit the [IUG website](#).

About IUG

The Innovative Users Group (IUG) was formally organized in 1991 as an international organization of member libraries that use Innovative's integrated library software products. The organization is independent from Innovative, and is led by the Steering Committee whose members are elected by the general membership. All members of the Steering Committee volunteer their services to the organization. In addition to archiving all conference presentation materials, the IUG maintains a website (www.innovativeusers.org) that also includes an Online Clearinghouse of member-developed resources including tutorials, scripts, training documents, and promotional materials. These resources represent a level of customer involvement and support unmatched in the library technology arena.

Contact

Emily Bowe,
Marketing Manager,
Corporate
Communications

About Innovative

Innovative (www.iii.com) provides leading technology solutions and services that empower libraries and enrich their users worldwide. Innovative offers one of the most comprehensive portfolios of library automation products on the market today, serving academic, public, national, corporate and special libraries and consortia.

Hello enchanted encoders,

Double doses today of both BIBFRAME and linked data stuff, one a sales pitch and the other a library's experience:
   We gotta get our catalog data visible in Google/Bing/etc. results. And the catalog stuff has to be "actionable" (hold requests etc.) The Zepheira company performed. LC and Zepheira developed BIBFRAME. To convert a database to BIBFRAME and get it exposed to the semantic web Innovative is selling Zepheira/LibHub/Library.Link work. Such an enthusiastic convincing sales pitch!

They've completely converted Denver Public (a Polaris library). Now to wait while Google/Bing gets the BIBFRAME stuff indexed, to wait while other semantic relationships form. Here's how the BIBFRAME triples (relationships) show in the Zepheira Library.Link display. Relationships = subject-predicate-object, e.g. !Kung (African people) -- Medicine is subject of Healing makes our hearts happy.
http://link.denverlibrary.org/
The Library.Link display ain't searchable: it's out there waiting to be indexed. Zepheira is convincing Google/Bing that these pages are credible. You can click on the Resources facets to get an idea of how the relationships work.

Several other libraries are in the LibHub initiative:
http://www.libhub.org/sponsors-partners/

Many librarians chanted MARC is still here for a good while yet! and we need some sort of record profile editor to help with the MARC/BIBFRAME transition. For a long time too many routines will be based on MARC records.

And double doses of resource-sharing stuff: sales pitch/customer experience:
   From the Polaris updates session: INN-Reach is the product that connects Polaris and Sierra ILSs. Other ILSs will connect using an API (soon) or a DCB ("direct consortium borrowing" widget, currently in use; DCB connections require batch loading of database changes.) INN-Reach will enable automatic real-time loading/unloading of bibs and items, plus give non-local patrons NCIP authentication. (Unloading is called "decontribution" to the union catalog.)

With INN-Reach consortium libraries can detail what they want to share, using criteria such as collection, circ status, material type, etc. At any time, for any reason, participating libraries can decline to lend an item. At the borrowing library ghostly bib and item records are created, which disappear when the item is returned to the lending libary.

From the MOBIUS session: Missouri and contiguous states have a union catalog (Sierra) for a consortium of mostly academic libraries.
http://mobius.missouri.edu/
or integrated into local PACs:
http://catalog.wustl.edu/search~/

MOBIUS discussed the cost of resource sharing: value of material lent vs. cost of borrowing multiplied by a fuzzy "community benefit." E.g. how much would the library have spent to actually purchase all this stuff that we got via ILL? Major component of resource sharing cost is courier service! For most books $1.30 to ship via courier or $2.45 to ship via USPS. Borrowing transaction costs: 50¢ in Prospector (Colorado) vs. $20 for traditional (OCLC) ILL. Patrons get hooked on resource-sharing union catalog service. Consortium members share more than collections: they share expertise, services, etc.

If we funded resource sharing and we used INN-Reach we could also connect to both MOBIUS and Prospector. This would greatly expand what's readily available to New Mexicans.

Polaris updates:
    We're on 5.0.385. I think that we need to upgrade with a couple of service packs, to get us to
5.0.615. I met our new sales rep, Maruta Skujina. We have a new site manager (Maureen took a new
job) but our new site manager wasn't at this conference. I'll tell her that we're ready to upgrade when
she is.

Then comes 5.1.

- It will show an item record count in the bib header.
- The "Did you mean" suggestions will be based on what's actually in our database. It will make
  better suggestions for author and it will keep in place whatever search limits the patron had been
  applying.
- 5.1 will permit more customization of receipts.
- In SimplyReports you'll be able to save more detailed search criteria.
- There'll be new bib TOMs (including Atlas) and new definitions for what makes a DVD, a book +
  CD and other TOMs.
- The PAC will have an availablity facet, enabling users to limit by On Shelf.
- Polaris admits its PAC needs redesigning: they're hiring consultants.
- Serials! It will be easier to modify pub patterns.
- In SysAdmin I'll be able to give each library privileges to control its own settings.

I attended an update on Polaris enhancements-- I'll send the details in a separate report next week.

I chatted with Joan Jump, who's here from NM Military Institute in Roswell. There are two librarians
 registered from SFPL (Margaret and Bae) but I haven't seen them. What a crowd!

It's hot! It's humid! Some locals complain about the sunshine: aggravates the allergies.

Tomorrow: TGIF!

Cheers,
Brad

Fellow Polaris Pilgrims,

Friday I attended one more session and then worked all day long to get back to Santa Fe. Lots of spring break travellers filling up the planes and ports!

At the Polaris System Admin forum I finally got good advice for us at the State Library and our task of setting up patron registration for Internet-use-only cards.

- set up a new patron code; it will then show up in the Patron/Material Type Loan Limit Blocks policy table
- material type loan/hold etc. limits = zero
- fines = zero
- pop-up windows will prompt for overrides if patron tries to borrow an item; staff shouldn't override!

There was much chatter regarding patron notifications and how it affects billing. Eye-rolling regarding Polaris indicating that it had "sent" an e-mail. Talk to me if you use patron notification, etc.

And here I am, back in the bureau. Thank you all for running SALSA while I was gone. Thanks to DCA for approving the travel!

Watch out for the tumbleweeds!

Brad

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