6. MnLINK Gateway Update Report

The MnLINK Gateway Update report by Becky Ringwelski is attached as a separate document. I have also attached a six month report of the MnLINK Gateway activity to give you some sense of the volume of requests being borrowed and loaned among the participating libraries.
Minitex Policy Advisory Council Meeting
Agenda Item #6 - MnLINK Gateway Update
Friday, March 6, 2009

**MnLINK Gateway RFP Process – Single Source Procurement**
We have been advised by Mary Lou Dresbach, Director of Community Outreach, Human Resources and Agency Services of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education that it would be worthwhile to pursue a single source procurement for the MnLINK Gateway software. We have filled out the necessary paperwork and are awaiting next steps in determining whether this will be successful.

The arguments we used in requesting consideration of a single source for this application are:

- The setup and configuration costs to implement the MnLINK Gateway. These were one-time costs for software licenses, SIP authentication with ZPORTAL and payments to the server sites for purchase of Z39.50 hardware and software.
- The enhancements that were added to the software to customize it to fit the resource sharing needs in Minnesota and of the MnLINK Gateway libraries. This includes a variety of items including; double authentication to allow for alternate pick-up locations from the home library, request transfer to allow PALS users to use the MnLINK Gateway to request materials and the recently added Amazon price/date check to allow for purchase on demand of interlibrary loan materials.
- The current MnLINK appropriation of $400,000 covers the current payment to OCLC of around $194,000. This covers the maintenance and hosting services for the software. There are not enough funds to cover configuration, customization and setup charges for a replacement system.

If the single source bid is not successful we will proceed with the RFP process that will be concluded by spring 2010.

**SirsiDynix and NCIP**
During meetings conducted at the American Library Association mid-winter conference we learned that SirsiDynix has NCIP (NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol) available for Horizon 7.4.1 and above, Unicorn 3.1 and above and Symphony 3.2.1. Libraries that are on one of these versions of SirsiDynix software have the capability of adding NCIP to significantly reduce staff time in processing interlibrary loan requests. SirsiDynix is currently working on a consortial pricing model for the NCIP server software that they expect to share with customers soon. Fourteen of the twenty-four MnLINK Gateway server sites are on a SirsiDynix ILS.
**NCIP Gateway for ILS systems that Do Not Support NCIP**
OCLC has developed an NCIP gateway that mimics NCIP functionality for interaction between the MnLINK Gateway ZPORTAL/VDX ILL system and the ILS circulation system. The NCIP gateway is meant to be used by libraries that have an ILS system that does not support NCIP. This is currently being used by OCLC Navigator implementations that have an Innovative Interfaces automated system. We have placed the MnLINK Gateway III sites on the list of those who would be configured to use this functionality when it becomes available to us. There is a queue for configuring the NCIP gateway for each site. The current timeline for this is fall 2009. We have seven MnLINK Gateway server sites using the Innovative Interfaces ILS. This would mean substantial staff savings in processing requests.

**ZPORTAL/VDX Version 4.0 Upgrade Schedule**
We recently obtained access to the latest alpha release of version 4.0 of the ZPORTAL/VDX software. The user interface has been retooled to have the look and feel of the WorldCat.org website. In addition to the revised user interface there are improvements that will streamline the process for staff such as use of the “enter” key for actions rather than the need to advance using the “submit” button. This version also includes an e-mail entry option for users that would allow for automated updates of status changes on their requests. The e-mail address may be able to be pulled from the ILS depending on the configuration that is in place.

The process for the upgrade of the MnLINK Gateway software to version 4.0 calls for loading it on our trial system once there is a beta version available. If the testing of that goes well the implementation would occur in May 2009. We’ll be keeping the server sites posted as we receive more information on this.

**MnLINK Gateway Statistics for July – December FY’09**
The six month request total for the MnLINK Gateway is at 285,389 this compares to 235,861 over the same period last year. This represents a 21% increase in borrowing traffic. The six month statistics for lending requests totaled 296,469 compared to 271,594 over the same period last year. This amounts to a 9% increase.

**ISO Testing between MnLINK Gateway VDX and Aleph Interlibrary loan Systems**
Testing of the ISO functionality between the PALS Aleph ILL system and the MnLINK Gateway VDX ILL system has been successfully completed. We are now putting this capability for the two interlibrary loan systems to “talk” to one another into production for four locations. Minnesota State University, Mankato will exchange requests with the Traverse des Sioux Regional Library System and Saint Cloud State University will be exchanging requests with the Great River Regional Library system. This arrangement will take advantage of the local delivery that is already in place among these pairs of libraries.

**MnLINK Gateway Operations Meeting – February 5, 2009**
This meeting was held by webinar. There was discussion of setting up a policy for all MnLINK Gateway sites that would limit the number of active patron requests to ten or another number that could be agreed upon. The reason for the change would be to mitigate the request traffic given reductions in funding that libraries are facing. After much debate it was determined that this topic would be brought to the June meeting for further discussion.

A Facebook search application for the MnLINK Gateway is being reviewed with a recommendation on implementing it coming from a subcommittee that was formed.