Minutes of the MARINet Board of Directors Annual Retreat
Monday, February 5, 2007, 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Robson-Harrington House, 237 Crescent Rd., San Anselmo

Board Members Present: Carol Starr, Chair (Marin County Free Library)
                            Frances Gordon (Larkspur Library)
                            David Dodd (San Rafael Public Library)
                            Anji Brenner (Mill Valley Library)
                            Sara Loyster (San Anselmo Library)
                            Deborah Mazzolini (Belvedere-Tiburon Library)
                            Mary Richardson (Sausalito Library)

Also present: Deb Moehrke, MARINet System Administrator

(Note: Deborah Mazzolini left following item IV.A.)

 I.   **Public Comment Period:** No public present
 II.   **Introduction of Guests:** Marjorie McLaughlin of Innovative Interfaces was introduced.
 III. **Addition to the agenda:** No additions to the agenda.
 IV.   **Retreat Business**
   A. Presentation of Innovative's Encore product—Marjorie McLaughlin.
       Encore was presented via PowerPoint slides, demonstrating some of the primary features of the product, including relevancy ranking, faceted result sets, and federated searching features (if installed as a separate product). Encore was developed in response to Aquabrowser. It is still in development, not live yet anywhere. In contrast to other similar products, Encore will provide information from the catalog in real time.
   B. Discussion by board of new services / system improvement (Encore, Airpac, etc.)
       Following the presentation of Encore, the Board discussed the range of products we might want to consider in the coming year. These include Encore, a federated search product, Pathfinder Pro, and Airpac. Dodd suggested that we monitor the entire suite of Innovative products (as a Board goal) in the coming year, along with those of competitors, both in terms of price and functionality. **We agreed that we would wait for the WebPacPro Task Force's recommendations prior to taking any action,** but indicated that we are very favorably disposed towards implementing spell-check, at the very least, along with WebPacPro. Richardson put together a chart of possible products (attached).
   C. Training: Is There a Better Way?
       Moehrke asked the Board, based upon the current state of training for MARINet, if there might be a better way to plan and conduct training. Currently, Phil Youngholm often designs training sessions, based upon our stated requirements, to which no one comes. Loyster and Gordon indicated that customized training by Phil often works the best. A variety of potential strategies for improving attendance at trainings was offered, including improved marketing of the classes a la Infopeople, including testimonials from those who have benefited from the training. It was suggested that we might develop a matrix of what trainings would best be taken by what staff at what milestones. **It was agreed that we will do another MARINet-wide staff survey on training,** framed positively, to draw out ideas for training needs and preferred methods.

D. Committee Effectiveness: Ideas for Improvement
We discussed our committee-based model, and contrasted it with the model used by the SNAP Consortium, which uses a single Operations Group in addition to its Board, in order to look at needed policies and generate them. After a brief discussion, **Dodd volunteered to put together a draft survey to ask existing committees their views on changing the structure.**

E. Revenue-generating ideas
We discussed two main potential means of generating a revenue stream via MARINet. The first is to become an Amazon or other bookseller associate. **Moehrke will check with Solano County on how they are doing as an Amazon associate.** The second idea was to utilize our e-commerce module to solicit donations. **Again, Moehrke will check on the capabilities of our e-commerce module.**

F. Proquest in 08/09 or explore other options
Currently, we get our ProQuest subscription via North Bay Cooperative Library System. If we went through Califa, the cost would be significantly higher. Moehrke asked if we would want to consider alternate news databases, noting that ProQuest has an exclusive contract with the LA Times, while NewsBank, the competitor, has the Marin Independent Journal. We agreed to ask Joe Cochrane at NBC to find out the cost of Newsbank. **Moehrke will ask him about an estimate beginning next fall, when our current subscription expires.**
We also discussed Infotrac vs. Ebscohost, and considered implementing a trial offered by Ebscohost for the remaining length of our Proquest contract.

G. Review the request fee
We discussed the implications of removing the 50 cent request fee. While our requests may double or triple, impacting shelf space available for requests, we might also realize significantly higher TBR rates. We could limit the number of requests once again to 20; we could charge a "re-stocking" fee for holds not picked up in order to discourage inordinate usage. **We decided that we would return and talk with our staffs about this possibility, and place the issue on the March MARINet Board agenda.**

Respectfully submitted,

David Dodd

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS TO CONSIDER

PRODUCT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS	COST
Spellcheck	Checks spelling	Need webpac pro to do this; can get additional dictionaries for legal, medical, Spanish @ $250 each	$1,850
Patron Ratings (stars)	Patrons enter their ratings	We can do this now. Monterey PL offers it	Free
Community Reviews	Patrons write reviews	staff can edit or delete reviews	16,200
Web Pac Pro	Offers relevancy ranking with key word search (Weighted fields)	Comes with latest upgrade Just need to turn it on. Can flip easily to sort by title, date, etc.	Free
My Record Feed	Patron puts our RSS feed on their page/ receives messages about their holds, checked out items, etc	Need webpac pro to do this; Use in addition to email	12,600
RSS FeedBuilder	We create and send RSS feeds from public catalog. Patron subscribes to them.	Need webpac pro to do this	13,800
Research Pro (was Metafind)	Federated search of electronic databases. Can ask it to search catalog first	Would need a separate one for each library that offers unique databases for its patrons	no price yet
Pathfinder Pro (was Webbridge)	Context sensitive links; starts from searches in the catalog	Might involve more staff time to set up and maintain. Houston Community College uses it	no price yet
Encore	Faceted search product facets, tagging 'clouds', best bets, Similar to Aqua browser	Will work with any federated search product. Searches in real time, other similar products not real time. Still being tested (25 sites) Going into general release Summer '07	approx. 94000

Airpac	Offers catalog via wireless devices such as Internet enabled phones or PDAs. Can search and view items, look at own record, renew or place requests	requires wireless network in library	16200