

MARINet Board Special Meeting – Minutes

Online Meeting June 9, 2022

Approved by the MARINet Board on July 7, 2022

Present: Henry Bankhead, Franklin Escobedo, Lana Adlawan, Jessica Trenary, Dan McMahon, Linda Kenton, Crystal Duran, Abbot Chambers, Chantel Walker, Anji Brenner

Meeting convened by Chair at 11:33 a.m.

This special meeting of the MARINet Board is being held so we can have a demonstration session from the makers of Aspen, an open-source-based library catalog.

The Aspen Reps are Bill Kessler, Nate Curulla and Jessie Zailo, who work for Bywater Solutions Inc.

Bill: Aspen is a Discovery layer, makes e-content available along with physical content. (Overdrive, Hoopla, Kanopy, other archives.) They can set up a single interface or different interfaces for each library.

Nate: Open-source technology can provide lower cost technologies for libraries. The customers are library partners. Everything is included in support. About 3,000 libraries now using Koha. Aspen started in 2014 with a product called Turning Leaves. Their key goal is that service should be better. Quality and functionality is above any other product on the market now. Staff is 85% librarians, “of librarians for librarians.” Aspen Discovery works on any ILS.

Jessie: The first site we’ll demo is <https://wvls.aspenddiscovery.org> (Sierra ILS)

Features pointed out:

- Browse Categories: at the top, they are curated lists.
- Allows holds from Overdrive etc. directly.
- Predictive text.
- Available now, available online filters.
- Records for different formats grouped together (FRBR-ized)
- “Explore More section,” options outside of traditional catalog. Events, other Resource pages, lists.
- Book jackets can be from Cozy server, Content Café or Syndetics. Cozy grabs from open source jacket db. Similar titles, pulling from Aspen Discovery. Other options, NoveList, GoodReads, Staff View.
- Self Registration, can tie into ILS.
- Suggestion for “While you wait?” (While placing holds.)
- Placard, used for items without MARC record. (Programs, events. Can be branch or library specific.) Ex is one for Mango, keyed to any search for any language. Triggers or keywords.
- Side loading of records for Overdrive, Hoopla, Kanopy, Axis 360 and Cloud.
- Aspen Discovery App
- Librarian login, Aspen Admin button on left. Set end date on any object created. Can be specified as to which libraries will display the object.
- Using Freeze for pause holds. Buttons to cancel all, freeze all, thaw all. Export to Excel.
- Reading History, sort by date, search and sort.
- Fines and messages section, 5 or 6 different e-commerce options.

- Linked accounts, way for users to opt in with sharing their info. (No link on ILS side.) People need to know username and password of any account they want to share.
- Threshold for online payments is set in Aspen
- There's a don't recommend button.
- Barcodes in app, including linked cards. Pickup locations, contact info (from ILS). Users can update information if we allow it.
- Search history, saved searches created automatically.
- Staff can have lists show up in circ results, can upload lists "cover" for these
- App can be customized for small fee +/- \$500.

Uintah County Library is using the Web Builder feature of Aspen. Users can create web pages. (The entire library website is on Aspen Discovery.) There is integration with Library Market's Library Calendar. Uintah County has almost every option implemented.

Everything they're showing exists now, and is for the basic support cost.

Jessica asked if we could see a larger example of reading history, as that's where the issues come up.

Implementation: all live at once, or particular libraries? 4 to 6 months. Could be 8 weeks at fastest. They set up their server and the ILS connection first so it's actually visible quickly for staff. They record the implementation meetings and post them in case anyone misses one.

Item updates take place definitely within 5 minutes, normally within 1 or 2 minutes.

Response time is partly about the servers allocated for each customer. They try to overpower their servers.

Meeting adjourned at 104 p.m.