Collaborative Technical Services Continuity Report
Collaborative Technical Services Team
Aug. 13, 2014

Continuity of Membership

A number of members of the CTST Team as well as its working groups feel the need to step aside this July as their terms lapse. However, some of the team are willing to continue through January 2015. We are currently working on filling the vacancies we have left. Once assembled, we recommend the Board identify a member of the CTST to continue on the Collaborative Workforce Team and serve as a bridge between the two teams.

Continuing the Work

There are a number of current and future projects and policies which cannot lapse. These include:

· 	Alignment of cataloging practices
· 	Establishing practices and policies for shared record loading
· 	Managing record maintenance in the Network Zone
· 	Training on practices and procedures in all areas; currently focusing on cataloging.
· 	Policies and training on RDA
· 	Policies and training on handling of monographic series
· 	Determining how we manage authority control
· 	Working towards managing e-resources in the Network Zone (on the COE list)

All of these relate directly to the work staff in Alliance libraries do every day in the system we all now (or will soon) share

Continuity for Working Groups

Alma is a complex system which our consortial environment makes even more so. CTST and its working groups are establishing the conceptual foundation of the Alliance's collaborative work within that complexity. It is important for working groups in these specialized areas to continue beyond January 2015. The scope of CTST has been broad and the scope the Shared Workforce is broader. It will be important to have specialized and focused groups within the new structure. Experience with our shared environment up to this point indicates that questions on policy and procedure will continue to be asked and answers expected. Therefore we feel that continuity in group roles, responsibility and membership are necessary to ensure consistency as we move forward together.

There is a need for reorganization within the current working groups. These groups were created from a "Millennium mindset" and Alma works very differently. In particular a reassessment of the grouping around Acquisitions/Serials/Electronic Resources would be useful and CTST has done some thinking around that change.

We are concerned that within the new structure there is no mention of continued growth and development of Alma. The "...development and use of Summit, Primo ..." is specifically cited

as a responsibility of the Discovery and Delivery Team, however, there is no equivalent statement anywhere regarding Alma. Development and use of Alma needs to have equal priority and should be a clearly stated, specific responsibility within the organizational structure.

Beyond January 2015 the Collaborative Workforce Team and its working groups will need to include individuals with expertise in technical services, systems and collections. Many of the questions which CTST has addressed in the past years have strayed into the systems and collections areas. Future working groups will require a strong mix of individuals in these areas to meet the expectations of the future.

Conclusion

CTST understands that the Alliance intends to continue its work through January 2015. We wanted, however, to express how essential we feel that continuity is. Reorganization can freshen and rejuvenate an organization, but it can also stall essential technical work needed to achieve an organization's overall goals.