



BC ELN Steering Committee Business Meeting Minutes November 21st, 2016

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown

4:00pm – 5:00pm

In Attendance:

Jonathan Bengtson, University of Victoria (Chair)
Sheldon Armstrong, University of British Columbia (Alternate)
Gwen Bird, Simon Fraser University
Natalie Gick, *Simon Fraser University Officer*
Kim Isaac, University of the Fraser Valley, *Regional Universities & Institutes with 4-year programs*
Shirley Lew, Vancouver Community College, *Urban Colleges*
Scott Marsden, Alexander College, *Associate Members*
Brenda Mathenia, Thompson Rivers University, *Small Universities*
Lisa Petrachenko, University of Victoria
Shahida Rashid, College of the Rockies, *Rural Colleges*

Ministry of Advanced Education:
Andrei Bondoreff (Alternate)

Guest:
Ross Tyner, Okanagan College, reSearcher Subcommittee

BC ELN Staff:
Anita Cocchia
Sunni Nishimura
Leigh Anne Palmer
Cristen Polley (Recorder)

Regrets:

Heather Berringer, University of British Columbia
Kate Cotie, Ministry of Advanced Education

1. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was adopted with Item 4. Common Suite – Next Steps moved to Item 6.

2. Vice-Chair Election

J. Bengtson outlined the terms of office of the Vice-Chair position. K. Isaac was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation, to begin the term immediately.

3. Strategic Plan 2016-2021 – Endorsement

At the morning's All Partner Meeting (APM), Partner Libraries considered the final draft of the BC ELN Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and recommended that it be brought to the Steering Committee for endorsement.

J. Bengtson confirmed with the Committee that there were no further changes. K. Isaac thanked the BC ELN office for their work on the Strategic Plan.

MOTION: To endorse the 2016-2021 BC ELN Strategic Plan as presented or with minor changes as discussed at the All Partner Meeting.

Moved: B. Mathenia

Seconded: G. Bird

Motion carried.

ACTION: The BC ELN Office will distribute the endorsed Strategic Plan.

4. BC ELN Budget Process 2017/18

A. Cocchia summarized past BC ELN budget processes. In the past few years, the BC ELN budget process has been based on the submission of an accountability document, now called the Innovation & Success report. The report communicates BC ELN's value to the post-secondary system, outlines finances for the previous year, and is submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED). Annual reports for individual services, called Actions & Achievements, are produced for AskAway, WriteAway, and now Arca and OutLook OnLine (OLOL).

A. Cocchia asked if either AVED or the Steering Committee had feedback on this approach.

A. Bondoreff confirmed the report provides AVED with quantitative and qualitative information it needs in a readable format and encouraged BC ELN to continue to communicate the value BC ELN brings to the province.

A. Cocchia outlined a timeline for Innovation & Success 2016. The Office will send a draft report for review to the Steering Committee mid-January, incorporate feedback, and submit it to AVED by the end of January. Following this, the Office will begin work on Actions & Achievements and aim to release them in late spring. A. Bondoreff approved this timeline.

A. Bondoreff confirmed that there is no additional funding available from AVED at this time but added that this is always subject to change.

5. reSearcher Update and Next Steps

The reSearcher Subcommittee, comprised of S. Lew and R. Tyner and supported by the BC ELN Office, provided a summary of findings from their investigation of reSearcher and potential options. G. Bird and N. Gick offered to recuse themselves from the discussion but the Committee deemed this unnecessary.

Meeting with Simon Fraser University (SFU)

The Subcommittee met with SFU Systems staff, including Brian Owen, AUL for Library Technology Services & Special Collections. The Subcommittee learned that reSearcher software is considered end-of-life and would be labour-intensive and costly to update. The greatest reSearcher-related cost for SFU is maintaining the CUFTS knowledgebase, which involves the work of a number of SFU employees. The current software configuration does not lend itself to a distributed approach to knowledgebase updating, as updates must be performed at the command line rather than via user interface.

reSearcher Needs Assessment

A reSearcher needs assessment was distributed to all Partner Libraries who are current users of reSearcher. 18 libraries participated. 14 libraries stated that they are interested in BC ELN pursuing options for a community-supported solution to the services reSearcher offers, with 13 of those libraries expressing support for a consortially-licensed solution. 10 libraries expressed concern with SFU's proposed timeline.

Consultation with Potential Service Providers

The Subcommittee consulted with the following potential service providers: TrueSerials, EBSCO, and OCLC.

TrueSerials is a US-based company that hosts and supports the reSearcher software for a number of academic library customers. They have indicated that they will continue to provide this service after SFU has stopped supporting reSearcher and that they will be putting additional staff time into maintaining the knowledgebase once SFU has stopped. They expressed interest in having BC libraries as customers. It is not clear if they can support all components of the software.

EBSCO's Full Text Finder (FTF) and Holdings Link Management products provide some, but not all, of the functionality of reSearcher. The services are currently bundled into the cost of EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) licenses but pricing discussions have not yet occurred. FTF is also available as a standalone to non-EDS customers.

OCLC WorldCat's link resolver, A-Z, and knowledgebase functionality are tied to the WorldCat discovery layer. Electronic resource management (ERM) and requesting functionality are available separately.

The Steering Committee agreed that OCLC WorldCat will not be considered at this time as the desired functionality is inseparable from the WorldCat discovery layer. The Steering Committee

felt that there was not sufficient interest in review of a discovery layer until investigation of TrueSerials and EBSCO's FTF occurs.

The Subcommittee had a brief conversation with BC Libraries Cooperative, who are open to exploring a community supported solution on a cost recovery basis.

The BC ELN Office consulted other Canadian consortia but found no solutions beyond what has already been suggested.

Discussion

The Steering Committee discussed options and possible next steps.

G. Bird confirmed that SFU is not able to extend the August 1st, 2017 deadline for decommissioning reSearcher, but there is a sincere desire to assist with smoothing the transition for libraries.

The BC ELN Office was tasked with investigating the two most viable options, TrueSerials and EBSCO's Full Text Finder, and providing Partner Libraries with more information on costs and functionality.

ACTION: The BC ELN Office will investigate the two most viable options: TrueSerials and EBSCO's Full Text Finder and report back to partner libraries.

6. Common Suite – Next Steps

Based on the morning's APM common suite facilitated session, the Committee discussed various issues and next steps:

- The BC ELN Office will generate and release a report based on the November 21st, 2016 APM common suite discussion.
- Partner Libraries will make the final decision on a common suite. How the decision will be made (e.g. unanimous, consensus, etc.) remains to be decided.
- The current common suite license expires in June 2017, with an optional third year that BC ELN will take. All current participants will remain on the license for this third year.
- The BC ELN Office will begin investigating common suite possibilities to bring to the Steering Committee for direction.
- Maintaining a BC ELN subscription to Academic Search, even if it is not part of the common suite, requires investigation.
- The impact of any changes to the Academic Search license or to participating libraries will be communicated to Partner Libraries. Transparency is a high priority.
- BC ELN has not spoken to EBSCO about their Ultimate products and would only consider speaking to them at the direction of Partner Libraries.

It was decided the Steering Committee would meet via teleconference in late January or early February.

ACTION: The BC ELN Office will generate a report based on the November 21st, 2016 APM common suite discussion. The report will include possible next steps and be presented to the Steering Committee for feedback and then shared with Partner Libraries.

ACTION: The BC ELN Office will schedule a Steering Committee teleconference meeting for late January or early February.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place in late January or early February via teleconference.