

Cornell University Library

Council of Librarians

May 22, 2002

- Ira Revels reported on the Junior Library Fellows Initiative. This program will bring to the Library six high school students of color, juniors and seniors from the local community, to learn about information literacy and Web technology in CUL during the summer. The students will be in the Library from 1 July until 9 August, 9:00-3:00 on Mondays through Thursdays. They will, among other things, tour facilities, receive mentoring, and follow some staff around to learn about what they do. A letter is being sent today from Sarah Thomas to the Council of Librarians, encouraging staff to volunteer to participate in this innovative program this summer.
- Nan Hyland and Holly Mistlebauer summarized and illuminated the report of the Gateway Redesign Planning Group. The full report is available at http://gould.mannlib.cornell.edu/GWPG/docs/Gateway_Redesign_Final_Report6.doc. Nan stressed that the group concentrated on identifying elements of a new front page for the library's web presence, one that both makes an aesthetic statement and facilitates navigation of the library's large, and growing web enterprise. (See page 53 of the report for a schematic of the group's recommendations for how this could be done.) With its work finished, the Redesign Planning Group intends to hand off its findings to an implementation group, formed by LMT, who will implement the new front page. A web designer, hired on contract, a Web Librarian, whose hiring the group recommends, and a half-time programmer, also recommended by the group, will work with the planning group. The planning group recommends a staged approach to implementing the Web site. The target for the first release of the new front page is Fall 2002.
- Pat Schafer, accompanied by Marcy Rosenkrantz and Susan Currie, reported on Cornell's impending participation in Borrow Direct, a partnership with the originators, Columbia, Penn and Yale, and new members, Princeton, Dartmouth and Brown. Borrow Direct will allow patrons at any partner library to search across the partnership's holdings and make requests, independent of library staff, for materials not available for circulation on her campus. Answering questions, Pat later explained that the software would verify that the item is not locally available, but would enable borrowing materials owned by but currently checked out at the home institution. The first iteration will be limited to "returnables," a.k.a. monographs, which should concentrate traffic on humanities and social sciences resources. The objectives are speedy fulfillment (four-days is the current turnaround) and lower cost. Borrow Direct will not replace Interlibrary Services but augment it by, in effect, creating new patrons. The service's software levels the load of borrowing across the entire partnership, which, Pat observed, might actually make Cornell a net borrower. Question and answer revealed several nuances:
 - Software primitivity limits requests to a single volume and prohibits renewals.
 - Lending is not automatic. Staff can detect fragile or rare materials at point of paging, and collections or parts of collections can be exempted from Borrow Direct.
 - The software can detect patron status and refuse service to problem borrowers.
 - Reports on what is borrowed, and from where, are part of the package.

For a look at, if not a use of, functioning systems, see

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/services/borrowing/borrowdirect.html> and
<http://www.library.yale.edu/ill/borrowdirect.html>

Submitted by: *David Block*