RUG MEETING MINUTES: January 31, 2012

In attendance: Sheryl Augustine (Newburgh); Vicki Biehl (Pearl River); Christy Blanchette (Valley Cottage); Mary Climes (Middletown); Delys de Zwaan (Suffern); Charlotte Dunaief (Cornwall); Naomi Goldberg Honor (Haverstraw Kings Daughter); Brian Jennings (Nyack); Diane Loomis (Tuxedo); Julie Marallo (Nanuet); Carol McCrossen (Washingtonville); Marilyn McIntosh (Monroe); Lauren Moore (Valley Cottage); Karen Ostertag (New City); Jane Reilly (Chester); Leslie Riley (RCLS); Kathy Rose (Pearl River); Jeannie Stiller (Newburgh); Catina Strauss (Monroe); Anne Sullivan (Haverstraw Kings Daughter); Patty Sussmann (Newburgh)

Brian Jennings (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:02.

Minutes from the last meeting were read. Accepted by Katina Strauss, seconded by Naomi Goldberg Honor.

Brian read a message from Jerry Kuntz apologizing for not being able to attend the meeting and informing the committee that he was creating templates for each library so that simple reports could be run by the individual libraries.

SYMPHONY
There will no longer be a Symphony Implementation Committee. Instead, there will be a Symphony Solutions Committee to deal with specific problems we are still having with the new system. Brian Jennings will be our representative to the committee from RUG. Jeannie Stiller also volunteered to be on the committee. Anne Kennedy from Newburgh will be the chair.

Several problems/issues with Workflows and Enterprise were discussed. Naomi mentioned that patrons are frustrated with not having a browse search in Enterprise. The lack of sorting capability continues to be a major concern. Kathy Rose had seen sorting capabilities in other Enterprise sites she’d found online but Sirsi told Jerry K. that although earlier releases (component of e-library) did have the option to sort, it is not available in the current version of Enterprise. Mary Climes asked why we couldn’t use both e-library and Enterprise as we had Aquabrowser and Classic Catalog. Christy noted that this was decided for the sake of uniformity, so that all patrons are looking at the same product.
Christy talked about how there are a lot of workarounds in Workflows and that it is a visually frustrating product. This has caused a lot of frustration from staff. Patrons are used to us being proficient and that is no longer the case. Delys and Christy pointed to the difficulty in finding various seasons of a DVD. They used the example of Midsomer Murders – some seasons are listed under the title Midsomer Murders while others are listed further down in the hit list pane. Karen noted that if you leave Workflows to do something else on the web and then come back, there is a lag getting back to Workflows – very slow. Kathy Rose noted how much better Workflows looks on a wide-screen monitor – it was designed for use with a wide screen and everything fits.

Cataloging issues – We all know there are issues with the way many of the records have been entered, even before we migrated. Delys would like to see a committee that would get together and notify a particular library if errors are found in its cataloging. Naomi thought it would be better to just send a note to a library if you notice an error. Lauren pointed out that the pipe copy field should not include bibliographic information so a lot of the bib records need to be changed by Linda Hendon. Christy thought it would be great to invite Linda to a meeting so we can understand the problems better and know what we can do to help. One suggestion was to have librarians volunteer to help Linda. However, we don’t know if there are enough people with the necessary expertise. Kathy Rose will bring this up at a director’s meeting. It is also an appropriate topic for the Solutions Committee.

Lauren Moore asked if there was a way to improve communication about Symphony issues. She thinks information may be getting lost when some things are being sent to specific group lists and some to others. Christy gave an example of something everyone might not know - the fact that there is no time-out feature on Enterprise. A patron must log out of his account or, even better, close out of the screen entirely. Naomi suggested the possibility of making a weekly list of things we’ve learned to share with each other. Karen thought maybe a Wiki or a LibGuide would be good for this purpose. Marilyn said she would talk to Anne about this issue.

Christy talked about the push from a Sirsi VP and others to use Enterprise at the Reference Desk. The consensus was that it is necessary for librarians to use Workflows at the Desks.

LIBGUIDES
Brian gave a demo of some interesting features of Libguides. He distributed a handout and spoke about ways to create links to books in the catalog, adding widgets for searching databases, creating forms and surveys in Libguides, getting statistics, and building search boxes and links to Libguide content which can be embedded into a webpage. Brian also spoke about Libguides for internal use. Lauren talked about the Local Authors Libguide that she and other member librarians have collaborated on and Leslie asked for volunteers to help create a libguide for ex-offenders.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 13 at Haverstraw Kings Daughter Library

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeannie Stiller
Secretary, RUG