NCIP Conference Call
August 19, 2010

Present on the call

Mary Jackson - Auto-Graphics
Rob Walsh - EnvisionWare (Maintenance Agency)
Mike Dicus - Ex Libris
Eric Leckbee - Innovative Interfaces
Karen Wetzel - NISO
John Bodfish - OCLC
John Barr - Polaris
Dhaval Kotecha - RapidRadio
Kevin Stewart - Relais International (muted)
Gail Wanner (Chair) - SirsiDynix
DJ Miller, Thalia Dickson - The Library Corporation
Randy Cook - The University of Rochester; the eXtensible Catalog Project

Implementer and Standards Updates

Leckbee reported that Innovative Interfaces is actively coding and moving forward with Relais and PALCI.

Bodfish reported that OCLC is planning to donate NCIP Version 2 code to the eXtensible Catalog (XC) project. The code is written in Java and released under the MIT license (which means it may be used in commercial projects without attribution). The goal of this effort is to spark NCIP implementation across the industry by providing prospective implementers with a head start. Those wanting more information should contact Randy Cook at the University of Rochester and part of the XC project or Karen Coombs at OCLC.

NCIP Revision Update

Walsh reported that good progress has been made on the revisions approved at the April 2010 meeting. However, he does not have the updated schema, so two of the approved revisions cannot yet be made. He indicated that the parts of Section 5 in Part 1 of the Standard that describe responses which allow for a problem element or some other required element combined with one or more optional elements remain confusing, and we intends to raise this issue for further discussion at the September meeting. The group also needs to discuss the process it will use to review the revised documents after each in person meeting to ensure that all of the approved changes are correctly implemented. For this set of changes, he hopes the group will divide the Standard into several sections and designate small groups to review each one.

NCIP Forum Update

Barr reported that the NCIP Forum (http://www.ncipnow.com) is available for use. He indicated that he sees no need for NISO to provide any financial resources to fund this effort. He sees it as something sponsored by the Implementers Group, and Polaris is willing, at least for the present time, to subsidize the cost (which is an insignificant amount).
The group discussed ways to publicize the forum to the community. It was suggested that a link could be added to the NCIP website, that NCIP-IG members could promote it in their own user groups or forums, it could be announced in NISO’s Newsline, and it could be published on the LITA-L list. Barr indicated that he will remove the moderator approval requirement so that anyone can register and begin using the site. He sees the forum as becoming a sort of NCIP User Group where those implementing NCIP in real environments (as opposed to vendors dealing with technical and coding issues) can discuss issues and situations that arise (like security). Kotecha suggested that the forum could serve as a collaborative document repository. Wetzel cautioned, though, that we should be mindful of the proliferation of “authoritative” documents, and we might prefer that they be managed in a single location like the NISO website. She suggested that links to those documents could be provided in the forum.

The group agreed to add an item to the September agenda to review the forum and to discuss how the forum should be used and how it should be promoted.

Implementer Registry

Jackson reported that Wanner, Campbell, and she had been testing the NCIP Implementer Registry (http://ncip.dev3.webenabled.net) and making additional minor enhancements. They are very close to finishing their work. She would like to add an item to the agenda for the September meeting to discuss ways to ensure the Implementer Registry is used and does not languish.

Planning for the September Meeting

Wanner asked for a head count of those planning to attend the September meeting. That list includes:

- Rob Walsh - EnvisionWare
- Mike Dicus - Ex Libris
- Eric Leckbee - Innovative Interfaces
- John Bodfish and Tony O’Brien - OCLC
- Robert Gray - Polaris
- Kevin Stewart - Relais International
- Gail Wanner - SirsiDynix
- DJ Miller - TLC

[Editor’s Note: Collette Mak is also planning to attend the September meeting. To date, the only NCIP-IG members who have not yet indicated whether they plan to have a representative in attendance at the meeting are 3M and VTLS.]

Dhaval Kotecha would like to participate by phone in the discussion about the NCIP Forum. Further, Wanner indicated that Bob Daugherty of the University of Illinois at Chicago might also want to participate by phone for portions of the meeting. Daugherty participated in the early stages of NCIP’s development.

Most of those attending indicated they will be staying at the Hyatt Rosemont. Dicus said a shuttle is available to the hotel from O’Hare International Airport, but we may need to arrange for a taxi to take us to the Ex Libris offices each day.
Action Items

Wanner reminded the group to check the action items posted at the NISO website (http://www.niso.org/apps/org/workgroup/z3983maint/members/action_items.php).

Documentation Projects

Wanner reviewed the list of documentation projects.

* Getting Started with NCIP / NCIP for Dummies: targeted at programmers interested in implementing NCIP. Volunteers are needed to work on this project.
* RFP Guidelines: Jackson will have a draft ready to review at the September meeting.
* Core Messages Explained: targeted at librarians interested in using NCIP to accomplish various tasks within the library. Wanner is currently working on a draft.
* Is NCIP Restful?: Stewart prepared a draft that might be considered finished.
* Statement regarding versions: Walsh prepared a draft that might be considered finished.

The group needs to review the last two items to determine where and how to incorporate into the Standard as part of the upcoming revision. Also, these two documents should be posted in the NCIP workroom at the NISO website so all can review.

Next Call

Wanner reported that the next call is scheduled for September 16, 2010, at 1 pm Eastern.