

BELLEVUE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

April 21, 2009

Bellevue Regional Library



Board Present:

Doris Burrell, Eric Palo, Andrew Peabody, & Dolores Robertson.

Others Present:

Jed Moffitt, Denise Siers, & Rebecca Tuck (all of KCLS)

Library Board:

Board members officially welcomed Andrew to their ranks. (It seems the City just forgot to tell him when he was appointed back in January!) [Let's get him a name tag now too.]

New ILS for KCLS:

Jeff Moffitt told us about the KCLS development of a new customizing integrated library system (ILS). An ILS automates all library processes in one coordinated system. Books are ordered (acquisition), periodicals are checked in and managed (serials), bibliographic records are created [or imported] describing the items owned in appropriate library codes (cataloging), displayed for the public (OPAC – online public access catalog), and patrons are registered, books checked out, holds placed, and fines issued (circulation) in interlinked modules of the ILS.

KCLS currently uses an ILS from Innovative Interfaces International (III, aka Triple I). III is a large vendor licensing their system to libraries around the world. The advantage of this arrangement is that their professional staff creates, develops, and maintains the software. The problem with going with a vendor like this is that it costs a lot of money and you only get what they decide to sell. Customization is expensive and often not possible. Upgrades to software have to wait for when the vendor gets around to it and they are installed at the vendor's convenience, not necessarily when the library wants it done.

To deal with the problems presented by one size fits all commercial vendor ILS systems, KCLS has chosen to move to Evergreen, an open-source enterprise-class library

automation system. Open source means that it is free and but you have to do your own customization and support. Evergreen (see: <http://www.open-ils.org/>) is used, or in development, by many public libraries in Georgia, Michigan, Indiana, and British Columbia as well as several Canadian universities (Laurentian, McMaster, Windsor, & others).

KCLS is working through the customization of the various modules. Jeff demonstrated the staff circulation module. He showed how the “out-of-the-box” screens have been modified for easier use based on input from KCLS staff. They will soon be contracting with an outside software firm to do the development work on the cataloging module. The goal is to have the complete system customized and ready for use by September 2010. Interfacing KCLS systems with outside products (such as book reviews and book covers) may take a bit longer to get set-up.

For further information on open-source library software see: <http://oss4pl.org/>.

Library Elf:

This is a new service that KCLS just purchased a subscription to. (See: <http://www.libraryelf.com/Libraries.aspx>) At that site library patrons can setup an account that will send e-mail (or text messages) warning you about books that will be due soon and telling you when holds are ready for pick-up. In addition, if the other libraries that you use are registered with the service (such as SPL and Sno-Isle are) you can get a view of all the items combined. Denise said that KCLS will begin promoting it soon.

Look to Your Library:

During the week of May 1 to May 8 KCLS branches will open one hour early and will be doing presentations and workshops on how the library can help with job-search and financial planning/management. (See: www.kcls.org/looktoyourlibrary/).

Light Rail Proposals:

The group discussed the light rail proposals being studied by Sound Transit for downtown Bellevue. (Andrew, who attended a public forum on the proposals earlier today, will send out a summary of what he heard.) Denise asked the Board to consider writing a statement of our opinions of the options that KCLS can include in their comments to the city.

The elevated track option seems to have little support. The three remaining are:

- C2-T: A tunnel that crosses from the Bellevue Transit Center (BTC) to the hospital via NE 6th. This route does not go by the library and would not require any construction by the building.
- C3-T: This tunnel would go north on 108th from the BTC and then east on NE 12th in front of the library. There would probably be a station build over the freeway (called Ashwood/Hospital Station) and the construction impact on the library would be considerable.
- C4-A: An “at-grade” track would run on the street from the BTC up 110th alongside the library and then east on NE 12th with the probable Ashwood/Hospital Station.

(See this site for more information: <http://www.soundtransit.org/x9095.xml>)

Things the Board may want to consider include walking distance to stations and impact of construction on the Bellevue Regional Library.

Library Board:

Nominations for Board officers for the next year are:

- President: Andrew
- Vice President: Doris
- Secretary: Robin

Elections take place at the May meeting.

Schedule of Future Board Meetings and Major Topics:

- May 19 @ Lake Hills - Summer Reading & Elections of Officers
- June 16 @ BRL - Role of Bellevue libraries during area disasters/Emergency preparedness
- July 21 @ Lake Hills - KCLS Foundation
- August – No Meeting
- September 15 @ BRL - Reference Services
- October 20 @ Lake Hills - Library Outreach
- November 17 @ BRL - To Be Determined
- December – No Meeting

The next meeting

Tuesday May 19, 4pm @ Lake Hills Library.