



## **HRLC Technology Committee Meeting Minutes April 18, 2005**

**Present:** Mary Martin, Chair - Morris County Library; Suzanne Blecker - Sparta Public Library; Kim Grohs - Sussex County Library; Michelle Kowalsky - Whippany Park High School Library; Nancy Madacsi - Centenary College; Joanne Roukens - Highland Regional Library Cooperative; Valerie Smith - Roxbury Public Library; Kurt Wagner - William Paterson University, Cheng Library; Karen Yannetta - Bernardsville Public Library; Rosemary Francone - Hunterdon County Library (recording)

### **Committee Members**

Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM. She welcomed Rosemary Francone to the meeting.

### **Corrections to minutes, March 7th**

As there was no confirmation from Mr. Mike Rasimowicz, Hunterdon County I.T. Department, concerning committee membership, the reporting of his membership in the March 7th minutes was premature, and it should be removed from the minutes.

### **Blogs**

A number of attendees requested a reinvitation to the [HRLC Technology Committee Blog](#). Mary will do the reinvites. Some clarification on the purpose of the blog was requested. For the members of the committee, it currently serves as both a learning tool (to explore functionality and potential uses) and a newsletter (to disseminate and share information amongst ourselves). Extending blog participation to regional members will develop as a more broad reaching objective evolves, as a result of the group's participation.

It was mentioned that a blog's continued usefulness is dependent upon its update frequency and participation levels. As we each only have so much time to devote to reading them, a blog's relevance increases for its readers only with regular and periodic entries and comments. Therefore, a blog's degree of functionality will determine its path.

There is a free [Blogging Roundtable](#) scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 3:00-5:00 PM, at the HRLC Office in Denville. Six are currently signed up. Suzanne and Michelle are ready to go.

### **JerseyClicks and Federated Searching**

Suzanne attended a demonstration by Scherelene Schatz about using Auto-Graphics as your federating searching platform. Suzanne's impression was that it was cost effective, but others in our group did not get this impression from their Auto-Graphics quotes. Suzanne informed the committee to request the "NJ package." Pricing should include a base price and a per database cost. Suzanne will email information to those interested.

Negotiations for the inclusion of RefUSA into the [NJ Knowledge Initiative Program](#) and JerseyClicks have not been finalized. Some confusion about Proquest NY Times Historical's inclusion was expressed by Karen. Joanne mentioned that the costs were high and that would exclude this product.



Most ILS vendors offer a federated searching platform, but it usually costs extra. For instance, Dynix partners with WebFeat ([www.webfeat.org](http://www.webfeat.org)) and Voyager has a product named ENCompass. Kurt mentioned that Wm. Paterson will be deploying [Endeavor ENCompass](#) soon. There were a lot of issues to incorporate into the setup of the product. We should keep in mind that the goal of federated searching is to make things easier for the end user, not the professional librarian. End users want quick and dirty searches, like they can do in Google. Most federated search products can set up databases by topic, in related groups, as illustrated by JerseyClicks retrieval sets. The Information Services Committee looks into JerseyClicks as well.

### **Free Internet access via cable companies**

Kim mentioned that it is best to incorporate free access into a contract at the time when the cable company moves into an area. Joanne mentioned that the [wireless list](#) on the HRLC website will provide information as to who has wireless set up in your area. There's a brief mention of NJ cable companies that provide free access to libraries at the New Jersey Cable Telecommunications website: <http://www.cablenj.org/about.asp> It's possible if you contact this organization, you might be able to find out if a cable company in your area offers this.

### **[HRLC Annual Membership Meeting](#)**

At the meeting, to be held May 26<sup>th</sup>, Norma Blake will give an update on the state initiatives and Mary Martin will speak about what our committee has done and will be doing. She will be sending out a draft for your comments.

### **Resource Sharing**

#### **NJLA**

Joanne shared her comments from [Jessamyn West's](#) NJLA presentation "[Ten Tech Tools for Librarians.](#)" She summarized that technology provides us with new ways to problem solve, and emphasized three ways we should be relating to technology:

#### **LEAD & GUIDE**

We don't want our patrons thinking "*Technology is hard, even the librarian doesn't get it.*"

#### **PLAN & CHOOSE**

We want to think carefully about every subscription-based endeavor that nets us ownership of nothing.

#### **ASSIST & ENABLE**

We want to understand what we offer and help patrons understand technology just like we help them understand our other offerings.

### **E-books and Digital Audiobooks**

The topic of e-books was brought into the discussion, along with digital audio books. Digital audio books could be very popular, especially with the right marketing push. [Audible.com](http://Audible.com) and [NetLibrary](http://NetLibrary) were two providers mentioned. Apparently Bernards Twp Library has recently started offering digital audiobooks to their patrons. Members expressed a keen interest in this and encouraged an HRLC consortium agreement on this form of service. Joanne mentioned a blurb in Library Journal about a library in New York that circulates iPod shuffle devices to their



patrons. For more info, check out <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA512183>. (Apparently, Apple stores provide discounts to public libraries, which is something to keep in mind.)

Kurt mentioned that the use of ebooks is especially useful for high-turnover topics such as computers and technology. They are also good for quick reference. They are less useful for novels.

[Cnet](http://www.cnet.com) was mentioned as a good site to explore for product reviews and tech “buzz.” Joanne mentioned an article about the demise of PDAs that she read on Cnet—it can be found at [http://www.cnet.com/4520-6033\\_1-5690219.html](http://www.cnet.com/4520-6033_1-5690219.html).

### **Instant Messaging**

According to a Pew Internet study, 53 million adults use Instant Messaging daily. Jessamyn West mentioned the possibility of using IM for your library. You could set up an account with the three major systems: Yahoo, MSN and AOL; then download and use Trillian to read IMs from multiple systems in one interface. She also suggested printing up business cards with your IM screen names and a note saying “Add us to your buddy list! We’re online 1 – 3 pm” (or whenever you monitor it). The advantage of this is that it is outreach directly to your own users, as opposed to Q&A NJ which is great, but isn’t necessarily serving your users.

We discussed the possibility of holding a roundtable on **Instant Messaging** and its possible uses in libraries. We may want to look into this further at another meeting.

### **Computers in Libraries – March 2005**

Kurt shared his comments from his visit to the [Computers in Libraries Conference](#) in Washington, D.C. Mary will include his Notes and Summary with the minutes. He attended Michael Stephens and Aaron Schmidt’s [Collaboration & IM](#), Marshall Breeding’s *Academic Libraries and Technology*, and Gary Price’s *Speciality Engines*.

### **New search tool**

A9 ([www.a9.com](http://www.a9.com)) is a joint effort between Google and Amazon. You can search the Web and inside Amazon. It is a “learning” search tool.

### **Upcoming conferences:**

[InfoLink Tech Day](#), Mary Wilson will be attending this year.  
[Book Expo](#), a book publishers convention that many librarians attend.

**Next meeting: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 @ 2:30 PM at HRLC**