



### ***In my opinion...***

Summer is vacation time, and it apparently is affecting responses on some of our outstanding issues with SirsiDynix. I've been trying for two months to get answers about why the "Notify Users of Favorites" report isn't working. As a patron, I'd love to get an email that notifies me when the library has added a title by my favorite author or favorite subject. A few other issues that aren't critical have also been languishing.

At least the critical problems are getting resolved in a timely fashion, such as the glitch in the display of "Most Popular" items on the home page in e-library. That was plain old-fashioned human error. Somehow, I feel comforted when it is just someone who put up a link or a page that wasn't ready to go yet rather than a problem hidden in a labyrinth of system coding. Everyone makes mistakes. Some are just much more visible than others. (Yes, one time at PALS I brought the system down accidentally.) But, Sirsi identified and corrected the problem, and were honest in admitting "user error", but that had to be a really bad day for the Sirsi employee who made the mistake!

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### **NoveList Beta**

NoveList will be implementing a new look to their website sometime this summer. To get a sneak preview, click the NoveList link from e-library, and then click on "Try the Beta version of the new NoveList". It's got a lot more visual pizzazz, with book jackets, quick summaries, and recommendations, yet it is a cleaner, less cluttered screen. Give it a try!

# Automation Altogether

*Traverse des Sioux Library System*

## Sirsi News



A major upgrade to Symphony is planned for this fall. According to preliminary information, it will include new "power user tools", consortia holds enhancements, additional report output options, changes to the On-shelf Hold report, and display and search enhancements. Details are not yet available.

A year from now we can expect even more dramatic change in the system when version 4.0 is released. 4.0 will include need to include changes to accommodate RDA and FRBR. RDA ("Resource Description & Access) is an acronym for the new cataloging rules. FRBR ("Functional Requirements for Bib Records") describes a model for pulling together all aspects of a particular title, regardless of format—like the title *Twilight*, whether in print, paperback, large print, audio book, graphic novel, or DVD. Full implementation of this model will require significant changes in the structure of the database and the way information is retrieved.

SirsiDynix is consolidating all management and support to Provo Utah, the home base of the former Dynix company. Employees are being asked to move from Huntsville and St. Louis. There is concern that many long-time employees of Sirsi will not be willing to relocate. Shortly after the merger of Sirsi and Dynix, there was an exodus of quality support people to other industries in the Huntsville area, which is known for its high tech and aerospace industry. This relocation may cause others to leave.

According to SirsiDynix, there won't be staff cut-backs. In fact they plan to add staff to provide round-the-clock support, although that means training a new group of people. I've worked with a couple of new people—one for NCIP issues and one with Web Reporter. Both were teamed with an experienced person and given time to truly research the problems.

Sirsi will also be adding more *Library Relations Managers* (our LRM is Julian Terry) so that every customer can be assigned to one. We have been fortunate in having had a LRM for several years now. Julian has been essential in getting action for cases that are languishing or escalating service complaints.

## Changing the subject



Every now and then, Library of Congress makes a major change in their subject headings. The term *cooking* will replace the old subject term of *cookery* (finally!). This will affect many hundreds of records in our database as we have a lot of books on cooking. The change of terminology will happen when we do our annual authority control update in late July or early August. Thank goodness for automated authority processing that can automatically flip all those headings for us!

Also, catalogers will begin adding a "genre" term of *cookbooks* to bib records. For examples, patrons will be able to pull up titles by typing in a keyword search of *diabetes and cookbooks*. The addition of the subject word *cookbooks* to bib records will happen as we add **new** recipe books to the database. Until more titles have the genre heading of *cookbooks*, the best method to find those specific types of cookbooks would be to search it as *diabetes and recipes*.

The authority update and the database rebuild to integrate subject changes involves some down time, so we'll let you know as soon as we set a date.

## July websites

**BookArmy book review (social net):**  
<http://www.bookarmy.com/>

**Prescription coverage:**  
<http://www.destinationrx.com/>

**Legislators in the news**  
<http://legistalker.org/>

**Food storage and shelf life:**  
<http://www.stilltasty.com/>

**Job search aggregator:**  
<http://www.simplyhired.com/>

**Free software alternatives:**  
<http://alternativeto.net/>

**Family guide to video games:**  
<http://www.whattheyplay.com/>



## Q&A

**Q:** When you can't find a title that's on your On-shelf Hold report, should you mark it MISSING right away or continue to look for it for a few days first?

**A:** Definitely mark it missing so that the hold can be fulfilled by a different copy if one is available. But, also continue to look for the item. If you find it, discharge it to clear the "missing" status. If the item is still needed to fulfill the hold, the system will tell you.

**Q:** How should the birth date be entered into the user record?

**A:** Use the demographics tab birth date field. Click the gadget next to the field to help you. For example, if you type in the birth date as 5/6/2000, and then click the gadget, it will have May 6<sup>th</sup> 2000 showing on the calendar. Click OK and it fills the field in correctly as 05/06/2000. You don't need to manually enter the birth date field in extended info tab any more. About two years ago Sirsi added the demographic tab with a fixed format birth field, so the birth date field on the extended tab is obsolete.

## Holds and pipe z



Thanks to a question from TBS, we've learned a lot about how holds are filled when a call number has a pipe z.

The pipe z is used in a call number to distinguish different issues (like a magazine), years, parts, or editions. For example, the bib record for *Mobil Travel Guide Southwest* has call numbers that include dates for different publication years in the annual series. The pipe z in a call number triggers the system to prompt the patron to select a particular year in the series. The system groups all those with identical call numbers together so that when a patron selects, for example, 2008, the hold will be fulfilled from any library that holds the 2008 volume according to that grouping. It will not fulfill your hold with a 2006 copy, only one of the 2008 copies. In e-library holds work as expected.

However, if you placed a hold for that 2008 volume in WorkFlows, it seems to treat it like a copy level hold, even though you have it set to a title level hold. For example if you happen to select a 2008 copy that is currently checked out, the hold won't be fulfilled by one of the other 2008 copies that are available in the region, as it does in e-library. We'll continue testing to confirm this scenario.

Another example is a DVD with a separately barcoded user guide under one bib record. In e-library you'd be prompted to select both the DVD and the guide (assuming the guide had a pipe z to distinguish it from the DVD) if you wanted both. In WorkFlows, you'd have to place a hold on the DVD, and then place a hold on the guide. In this case, it's just easier to place the holds in e-library than in WorkFlows.

So, be aware that if you are placing holds for a title that has multiple issues, years, parts, or editions, you might find it more efficient to use e-library.

## Old Books



We still have over 5,000 brief MARC records that migrated over from the PALS circ system. (We originally started with about 88,000, so the numbers are definitely down.) They are not displayed in e-library, only in WorkFlows. Most are for paperback books. By now those paperbacks are over five years old and probably worn out or lost.

Now is the time to ask for a custom report of the remaining titles so that you can check your shelves for them. You also have the option to do a global delete for all items in the location STACKS with an item type of BOOK. This would *not* delete any AV-EQUIP or INTERNET type of records that have a location of STACKS that you need to keep.

Under your TECH login, there is an interesting report that counts the number of items by decade of publication. It's the *Collection Dev Pub Year Table* found under the "My Copies" group of reports. I just ran it for a smaller library and it shows that they have 12 titles published between 1880-1889. Their lowest pub year is 1843. The average pub year 1992.7. Try running it before a weeding project, and then again afterwards, to see how the statistics change. It might also be good to get a snapshot now, to compare with it to a year from now just to see how budget cuts affect your collection stats.

If you would like any other collection development reports, please contact me. I am still experimenting with Web Reporter and prefer real life test reports. So, don't hesitate to ask. (I LOVE to do reports.)