

Voyager Music Users Group (VMUG)
Minutes
Friday, February 24, 2006, Memphis, Tenn.

1. Preliminaries: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by Co-Chair, Tracey Rudnick. She welcomed attendees. At least 37 persons were in attendance, with 32 signing the roster.
2. Michele Arms, Customer Liaison, Endeavor Information Systems, was welcomed and updated the group on several items:
 - a. Enhancements: The enhancement process is being studied, as the present process is too unwieldy and labor-intensive; too many requests were being repeated over the years. A proposal for a revised process, being prepared by Users Board members, should be ready by the EndUser meeting in April. Meanwhile, there will be a document presenting the enhancements provided in Voyager 5.

A lot of standards (especially ISBN-13, e.g., to help match records for importing) needed to be incorporated into 6.1, so lots of other possible revisions were dropped.

- b. Voyager release 5: Questions/answers; comments from members:
 - Fixed-field menu drop-down: you can only type one letter at a time. Answer: perhaps this is a Microsoft application problem.
 - The keyword search on the MFHD is a positive step (Michele added that there will be a combined MFHD/bib keyword search in 6.1 in WebVoyage and staff clients, e.g., location “media” and key dance, or search acquisition notes)
 - In doing a keyword search in OPAC, when one comes up with a cross-reference and clicks on it, the search is re-executed as a keyword search; normally we’d want a browse search at this point

Michele continued with an overview of Voyager 5; changes focus on privacy, OPAC, and serials. Circulation enhancements include: patron record purge, ability to keep at least the last patron’s ID in the circ history, more granularity in hold policies, more distinct constraints on borrowing policies, more adaptability in presenting information. Serial changes include: changes for complex publication patterns, ability to customize OPAC display for new serials. Searching capabilities expanded: Holdings keyword searching is available in staff clients (the library has to choose to implement this feature at the time of upgrade, with keyword regeneration); a new search tab allows for keyword searches of headings in both staff clients and WebVoyage; Boolean operators will assume an implied “and”; unlike the current keyword searches, the phrase searches in the new headings keyword searches will cross subfields (Mickey Koth tested this).

Michele mentioned that the following info is not in the handbook [we have not verified this]: there's a new stanza in opac.ini (a configuration file that the systems librarian uses) called "classification type," which changes the wording of "Heading Type." Also, in the file, use SUBJ@ to make a Headings Keyword search (subject in this example). These are not Z30.50 compliant so cannot be used to simultaneously search multiple databases.

For more information, see the "Voyager 5.0 release handbook" on SupportWeb:

<https://support.endinfosys.com/cust/voy/downloads/pdf/2005.0/relhandbk.pdf> (SupportWeb password required).

- c. Usability: (Michele used some information from Shelley Hostetler's "Voyager product update" presentation at EndUser 05; see: https://support.endinfosys.com/cust/community/vgroup/eu2005/produpdate_voy.pdf; password required.) Endeavor (now part of Elsevier) is focusing on usefulness, ease of use, and ease of learning in all of its products. Usability requires that products are fully and easily customizable, easily maintained between upgrades, ADA-compliant, and have a usable "out-of-the-box" interface.

Endeavor consulted with about 80 customer groups [VMUG was not among them--this is something to address in the future], and has completed that stage of implementation. Voyager 6.1 will include these usability facets.

- d. Demo of New Interface [being designed, for Voyager 7?]

Michele showed a few overhead screenshots of the interface that is currently in design. [Note to readers: these notes could only be hastily jotted and may be obsolete by the time you read this.] The new design was done with a usability and interactive process. Sara Randall said send a few bullets of features that are important (phrases, rather than a full report). The new interface incorporates basic OPAC functions and uses tabs (e.g., Basic, Advanced, Expert, Subject Heading, Author). Advanced adds limits, similar to WorldCat's. Expert is a big box with limits similar to WorldCat's. In Subject Heading it was not clear if it was browse, keyword, or both (ask for buttons for both? Cross references not clear in demo). Author places the user in the center of the name headings list (rather than at the top); cross references said "_____, (0), see _____." It was not clear if the Basic search uses an implied AND. Keyword had title, year, call number, any copy available, and _____. It was easy to read, easy to edit the search, and included format icons. There should be thumbnails later. Record views showed copies [available?] at the top and had "browse by shelf" map (something like that). The save list included the call numbers (currently it does not). Includes "alerts." On the right are options, such as

subject headings from the item, URLs, or links to Amazon. They are still determining phrases and content. No timeline. Probably before 2010.

e. Voyager 6.1 (to be made available in summer 2006).

News about Voyager 6.1 following the meeting:

A Mar. 28 Voyager-L email from Cindy Negard, Endeavor Customer Communications Coordinator, , states:

“Voyager® 6.1 focuses on:

- Expanded Support for ISBN-13
- Support for the Solaris(tm) 10 Operating System
- WebVoyage Default AND Keyword Search
- MFHD Bibliographic Combined Keyword Search
- Headings Subdivision Separators
- Ability to Update Foreign Currencies for Outstanding Commitments
- Staff Client Resort Capability
- Public Interface Web Service for Endeavor Meridian(tm)
- Universal Borrowing Local Patron Aggregate Blocks
- Universal Borrowing Barcode Lookup
- Software Bug Fixes specific to SelfCheck, Universal Borrowing, Media Scheduling, and other product areas”

Voyager 6.1 release notes were posted Mar. 28 on SupportWeb:

<https://support.endinfosys.com/cust/voy/downloads/pdf/2006.1/relnotes.pdf>

Michele reminded users of conversion decisions for the upgrade: From which Voyager release are you upgrading? – if you don’t presently have a version with Unicode, there will be extra work to do. Review the documents on SupportWeb regarding Unicode implementation.

3. Next steps for our users group:

- a. Enhancements: We may still submit enhancements this spring, if only to reconfirm our past priorities. [Our later understanding was that we could not submit requests.]
- b. Comments from participants: reconcile old enhancement priorities with new versions/interfaces.
- c. Volunteers will be needed to look at the new interface, and compare it to MLA’s “Automation Requirements for Music Materials” document. Margaret Kaus, Alec McLane, and Kabel Stanwicks volunteered to assist with this. [Others are welcome to help; please contact Tracey.]

Some of the still-desired enhancements:

- Larger windows in cataloging and circ clients; ability to change the size of the font in list displays. [Is this ADA compliant?]
- In the staff Builder search: default should be “and” [“all of these”], or at least it should be possible to set the default.
- Universal Borrowing: choice of pickup location: can this be specified, particularly for item types that normally would not circulate? Michele wasn't certain, but will check.

d. Continued leadership. Jeannette Thompson needs to step down. Tracey will continue to lead for one year in order to facilitate a transition to new leadership. Margaret Kaus (Kansas State U.), Patrick Maxfield (New England Conservatory), and Kabel Stanwicks (UConn) volunteered to assist with VMUG coordination.

4. Mickey Koth (Yale Univ.) commented on her handout, “Staff Headings Keyword Searches in Voyager [5]”. Her comments: the use of the Boolean “not” leads to a lengthy search; truncation is internal and external; one can search across fields.

Mickey's handout is also available online:

<http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/staffkwsearch.htm>

Thanks to Mickey for providing her handout, and the detailed investigation that went into it. Thanks also to Michele Arms, for her presentation on behalf of Endeavor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

*--Jeannette Thompson (co-chair);
amended & supplemented by T. Rudnick*