Announcements

August 1, 2017: **Maryland Shared Open Access Repository Expands, Adds New Partners**

Based on a successful two-year pilot project that concluded in June, 2017, the Maryland Shared Open Access Repository (MD-SOAR) will continue as a digital platform for participating libraries from the USMAI Library Consortium and other partner institutions. MD-SOAR provides an affordable, shared system for storing, managing, and openly sharing digital scholarly works such as published and unpublished journal articles, research reports, presentations, theses and dissertations, and other materials such as audio and video files, images, and Open Educational Resources (OERs). The repository is jointly funded and governed by all participating libraries, who have agreed to a core set of shared policies and practices that are necessary for such a shared system. By dividing the costs of MD-SOAR among all partners, each library’s share is significantly less than the library would otherwise pay to build or buy its own digital repository system. MD-SOAR reduces the resources that each library must devote to building and maintaining a technical platform, and allows each library to focus more attention and resources on developing services that support its institution’s faculty and students. Infrastructure, hosting, and technical support for MD-SOAR are provided by Digital Data Services at University of Maryland Libraries.

As MD-SOAR transitions from a pilot project to a longer-term shared system, the group of eleven original partners welcomes two new participants - the libraries of Stevenson University and Hood College. The two-year pilot project group already included the Loyola – Notre Dame Library and Goucher College Library, but the addition of two more private institutions further expands MD-SOAR’s public-private collaboration. The directors of both new partner libraries explained their decisions to join MD-SOAR:

"Stevenson University is delighted to join MD-SOAR and add the academic, professional, and creative work by Stevenson community members to an open access platform. We look forward to working and collaborating with MD-SOAR partners." -- Sue Bonsteel, Library Director, Stevenson University.

"Hood College is excited to join MD-SOAR and work with the partner libraries to continue growing a shared repository of our collective academic output. With this partnership, Hood College becomes a part of a globally visible repository that showcases the intellectual work of our community." -- Toby Peterson, Interim Director, Hood College Library.

Moving forward, MD-SOAR partners will begin adding new collections and content, setting future priorities to enhance and refine the shared repository’s functionality, and expanding the system’s capabilities as a way to discover and access more of the original scholarly and creative works produced by participating colleges, universities, and other partner institutions in Maryland.

About MD-SOAR and USMAI (University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions): MD-SOAR is a service offered by the USMAI Library Consortium and can be accessed online at https://mdsoar.org. The USMAI Library Consortium includes seventeen member libraries of universities and colleges in the State of Maryland. With historical roots in the state’s university system, the consortium now includes libraries of both public and private institutions. We provide unified, cost effective and creative approaches to acquiring, managing, and sharing information and knowledge resources. We support the shared mission of our member campuses to contribute to the intellectual and cultural growth of our students, faculty and staff. Learn more about USMAI at http://usmai.org.

June 7, 2017: **UPDATED 07/25/17: POSITIONS FILLED** Job Postings - Two Positions at Loyola/Notre Dame Library

The Loyola/Notre Dame Library is recruiting for the following positions:

1. **[POSITION FILLED] Research and Instruction Librarian:** The Loyola / Notre Dame Library seeks an experienced, energetic, creative and self-motivated librarian to fill a position within the Research & Instruction department. The successful candidate will provide user-centered services to a diverse population of undergraduates, graduates and faculty at Loyola University Maryland and Notre Dame of Maryland University. Please review the Position Description for more details and instructions on how to apply for the position.

2. **[POSITION FILLED] InterLibrary Loan Assistant:** The Loyola Notre Dame Library (LNDL) seeks an energetic, service-oriented person to join our Interlibrary Loan (ILL) unit. The ILL unit obtains materials not available from the University of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) libraries for students, faculty, and staff and lends materials from LNDL’s collection to non-USMAI libraries. The successful candidate is a creative problem solver with excellent customer service skills who actively participates in all ILL activities, uses software such as ILLiad and Rapid ILL, trains student workers, and maintains annual ILL statistics. Please review the Position Description for more details and instructions on how to apply for the position.

May 4, 2017: **USMAI Selects OCLC SCS to Help Manage Print Book Collections**

The USMAI Library Consortium has selected OCLC Sustainable Collection Services to analyze and inform decision-making about managing print collections among its member libraries.

"We are working with SCS to conduct an analysis to create future opportunities for greater coordinated print collections management among our 17 libraries," said Chuck Thomas, USMAI Executive Director. "USMAI has a long history of extensive sharing of our collective print collections. The SCS reports and GreenGlass decision-making tools will provide opportunities for the USMAI libraries to better understand our overall print collections strengths, uniqueness, and similarities to other libraries’ print holdings."

SCS GreenGlass, a web-based analysis application, will support USMAI in assessing the print collections of all USMAI member libraries and informing decisions around storage, retention, and sharing.

"USMAI member libraries each bring different strengths to the consortium," said Rick Lugg, Executive Director, OCLC Sustainable Collection Services. "GreenGlass will enable USMAI to visualize and model those strengths in a group-wide view of their print holdings, and to manage those holdings collaboratively. We look forward to working with these libraries to ensure that they are getting the most out of their individual collections, and that they can fully realize the benefits of their shared collection."

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intellectual and cultural growth of our students, faculty and staff. Cost efficiencies and cost avoidance achieved by the consortium allows each member library to devote more resources to meeting its own institution's unique needs.

March 23, 2017: Job Posting: Research, Education, and Outreach Librarian / Liaison to the School of Nursing at University of Maryland – Baltimore, Health Sciences and Human Services Library

The Research, Education, and Outreach (REO) Librarian/Liaison to the School of Nursing is a member of the liaison program advancing the Library's efforts to anticipate and fulfill its research support, instruction, and outreach missions. The Library serves the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and the graduate school. The person in this position is a co-liaison to the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON). The UMSON is the largest nursing school in Maryland and offers nationally ranked programs at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral level. The school excels in research, collaborating on interdisciplinary teams throughout the university and nationally.

The full position description and application instructions can be downloaded here (http://www2.hshs.umaryland.edu/hshs/employment-files/REO_SON.pdf) for as long as the position is open.

November 9, 2016: Job Posting: Research, Education, and Outreach Librarian at University of Maryland - Baltimore, Health Sciences and Human Services Library

The Research, Education, and Outreach (REO) Librarian/Liaison to the School of Pharmacy is a member of the liaison program that advances the Library's efforts to anticipate and fulfill its research support, instruction, and outreach initiatives. The Library serves the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and the graduate school. The person in this position is liaison to the School of Pharmacy. S/he provides leadership and expertise in the areas of research support, information literacy, scholarly communication, and pharmacy informatics. Guided by the University's strategic plan, the School's mission, and best practices in the areas of knowledge management and health informatics, the REO Librarian/Liaison to the School of Pharmacy advances institutional and School priorities; facilitates community engagement; and pursues relevant professional and scholarly activities.

The REO librarian is member of a six person departmental team within the Services Division. The successful candidate for this position will have a collaborative nature and will work with colleagues to develop and deliver innovative programs and services. S/he will participate in committees and projects within the Division, the Library, the School of Pharmacy, and at the University level.

The full position description and application instructions can be found here (sites/files/hshs/jobposting.pdf).

November 4, 2016: Job Posting: Electronic Resources Librarian at Loyola - Notre Dame Library

The Loyola Notre Dame Library seeks an energetic and inquisitive librarian with experience in electronic resources to join our Acquisitions Unit. The Electronic Resources Librarian will manage the life cycle of electronic resources and work collaboratively with unit and library colleagues to provide access to electronic content. Under the supervision of the Electronic Resources and Resource Management Librarian, the successful candidate will be a creative problem solver and proactively incorporates new and emerging practices and technology into the electronic resources environment. The Electronic Resources Librarian will be interested in continual learning and the application of expertise developed through work experience and professional development opportunities. The individual must have the ability to deal with change, ambiguity, and complex problems that occur in an academic library.

Review of applications will begin immediately and the position will remain open until filled.

The full position description and application instructions can be found here (sites/files/ElectronicResourcesLibrarian-LNDL2016.pdf).

June 10, 2016: USMAI Welcomes Loyola-Notre Dame Library As Newest Affiliate Member!

The USMAI Library Consortium is pleased to welcome Loyola / Notre Dame Library (LNDL) as a new Affiliate Member. On June 9th, leaders of USMAI and LNDL signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the membership that becomes effective July 1, 2016. With the addition of LNDL, the USMAI consortium now includes seventeen member libraries of both public and private colleges and universities within Maryland.

LNDL is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a Board of Trustees, and serves Loyola University Maryland and Notre Dame of Maryland University. As the newest member of the consortium, LNDL will be able to fully share in and benefit from the services and resources provided to USMAI member libraries. These services and resources include a shared catalog and other shared platforms and technical support; coordinated group-licensing for shared electronic information resources, tools, and services provided by third parties; resource-sharing agreements that provide broad access to the print collections of all USMAI libraries; shared training and continuing education resources; and consortium strategic planning and other activities that strengthen and enhance the capacity, capabilities, and cost-effectiveness of member libraries working together.

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June 6, 2016: USMAI and Other Maryland Libraries Post RFP for E-Resources Licensing and Subscription Management Services

The Maryland Digital Library, Maryland Library Consortium, University System of Maryland & Affiliated Institutions Library Consortium, and other library entities in The State of Maryland are seeking proposals through the Maryland Educational Enterprise Consortium (MEEC) from qualified organizations interested in serving as a licensing and negotiation facilitator for electronic resources such as e-journals, databases, e-books, streaming video, and/or other online information resources.

A Request For Proposals (RFP) titled “Library e-Resources Licensing and Subscription Management Services for the Maryland Educational Enterprise Consortium” has been posted online at http://flltouy.com/otxkxk7z (http://flltouy.com/otxkxk7z). The RFP document contains specifications and requirements, instructions for those wishing to submit proposals, evaluation and selection methods, and other useful details.

Organizations interested in submitting a proposal in response to the RFP may wish to dial in to a Preproposal Conference scheduled for June 14, 2016 1:00 - 2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, using dial-in information provided in the RFP document.

Please note that all comments, questions, and proposals related to this RFP should be directed to: Blair Blankinship, Phone: 410-837-5714, Email: bblankinship@ubalt.edu (mailto:bblankinship@ubalt.edu).

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About MECC: The Maryland Educational Enterprise Consortium (MECC) membership includes public and private K-12+ institutions, public libraries and museums in the state of Maryland. MECC provides opportunities for its members to procure education-related goods and services at competitive prices through negotiated contracts available for use by all member organizations. For more information see: http://meec-edu.org/.

January 1, 2016: USMAI Library Consortium joins NISO Library Standards Alliance

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) and the USMAI Library Consortium are pleased to announce that USMAI is the newest consortial member of NISO’s Library Standards Alliance (LSA). Members such as USMAI help demonstrate broad community recognition and support of NISO’s important work developing national and international standards and recommended practices used by libraries, publishers, software companies, and other consumers and producers of electronic information.

As part of the membership, staff in all sixteen USMAI libraries will have free access to NISO monthly educational webinars, other select online training events, and the extensive electronic archive of past webinar events. Additionally, USMAI library staff are eligible for discounted registration for NISO virtual conferences and other face-to-face events. The 2016 webinar and event schedule is available at http://www.niso.org/news/events/2016/.

About NISO and USMAI:

NISO, the National Information Standards Organization, a non-profit association accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), identifies, develops, maintains, and publishes technical standards to manage information in our changing and ever-more digital environment. NISO standards apply both traditional and new technologies to the full range of information-related needs, including retrieval, re-purposing, storage, metadata, and preservation. For more information see http://www.niso.org.

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June 22, 2015: USMAI Library Consortium and Partners Launch Maryland Shared Open Access Repository

The Maryland Shared Open Access Repository (MD-SOAR) was launched recently as a two-year pilot project supported by eleven colleges and universities in the state. MD-SOAR provides a single, centrally administered platform upon which all partners can build library-based digital repository collections and services. Library-based digital repositories often contain a wide variety of content such as faculty and student works, instructional content and presentations, digitized institutional heritage collections, and other digital assets. The MD-SOAR initiative involves both public and private educational institutions and will avoid more than $100,000 in startup costs that otherwise would have to be spent to provide the same capabilities for each participating institution.

MD-SOAR is hosted through an arrangement with the USMAI Library Consortium, but is jointly governed by all participating partners. During the two-year pilot project, these college and university libraries will build digital repository collections and services suited to each institution’s needs, but will also develop shared policies, workflows, and other agreements that are necessary in a shared platform environment. The joint governance group will also develop an effective evaluation strategy for the collaboration, a long-term sustainability plan to continue beyond the initial two-year period, and an ongoing statement of lessons learned during the pilot. All of these materials will be made freely available as a planning toolkit for other libraries that may wish to consider similar collaborative approaches.

MD-SOAR (http://mdsoar.org) was built using the open-source DSpace institutional repository software and contains links to each partner institution’s site. In the coming months, these partner sites will grow as each library adds new collections, services, and guidance to best serve their local campus communities.

Pilot project partners include the libraries of:

- Frostburg State University
- Goucher College
- Loyola / Notre Dame Library
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Morgan State University
- Salisbury University
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Towson University
- University of Baltimore
- University of Maryland Baltimore
- University of Maryland - Baltimore County
- University of Maryland College Park

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April 10, 2015: USMAI Announces Collection Development Strategy to Guide E-Resources Group Licensing

The USMAI Library Consortium recently completed a new E-Resources Collection Development Strategy in support of its strategic goal to increase group licensing of electronic journals, databases, e-books, and other online resources. The new strategy document (available online at http://tinyurl.com/knqb2sw) provides a philosophical and operational framework to guide the selection and ongoing evaluation of scholarly e-resources that will be acquired and made available to all users of the consortium’s sixteen libraries. Group licensing leverages the consortium’s purchasing power and shared expertise to meet shared needs, reduce overall acquisition costs and minimize redundancy while simultaneously expanding and enhancing access to intellectual resources for all USMAI constituents. The new Collection Development strategy succinctly lays out a guiding philosophy and principles, explains related objectives and assumptions, and establishes selection criteria for group-licensed resources.

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April 8, 2015: USMAI Consortium Sponsors Library Photo Contest for Staff in Member Libraries

http://usmai.org/announcements
The USMAI Library Consortium is sponsoring a photo contest that is open to all employees (exempt, non-exempt, and student employee job classes) of all USMAI member libraries. The goal of the contest is to accumulate a variety of photographs that highlight the facilities, collections, services, and users of all the member libraries. Up to three winning photographs will be selected, and each winner will receive a free pizza party lunch for her/his departmental team, provided courtesy of the consortium’s Executive Director. All submitted images that comply with the rules of the contest will be posted and attributed on the consortium’s public website accounts. Photographs will be accepted from 8:00 AM (EST) April 13, 2015 until 5:00 PM (EST) April 30, 2015. Contest winners will be announced by May 5th.

We will not accept any photos of animals, not matter how cute, even if they live at the library. Suggested photo opportunities include:

- Library users reading, studying, or working together on projects
- Technology use in libraries
- Library-sponsored events
- Library advocacy/support in action
- Library employees in action
- Library facilities or service points

Photo Contest Rules, Terms, and Conditions: By submitting photographs for this contest, participants agree to the following rules, terms, and conditions.

- All submitted photographs must be created (taken) by and be the intellectual property of current employees of USMAI member libraries.
- Submitters grant the consortium perpetual non-exclusive rights to display, share, reproduce, and use the images.
- No individual may submit more than five photographs.
- All submitted photographs must have been taken/created during calendar year 2015.
- All photos must be a minimum print/display size of 4-by-6 inches with a minimum resolution of 180 pixels per inch. Larger sizes and higher resolutions are welcome, but the maximum acceptable file size is 5 MB.
- Each photo must be submitted separately via email in JPEG format to cthomas@usmd.edu (mailto:cthomas@usmd.edu), by April 30, 2015 at 5:00 PM EST. Emails will only be accepted from work/campus email addresses, not private/personal email addresses. The e-mail to which the photo is attached MUST contain:
  - Full name, phone number, e-mail address, and current library job title of the photographer
  - Description of photograph, to include location where it was taken and, if applicable, name of event and the names (and ages, if under 18) of all persons who are recognizable in the photograph.
  - Photographer’s statement that any and all recognizable individuals pictured in the submitted photograph have signed a standard photo release form used by the library and/or the library’s parent institution. If your institution does not have such a form, you may use one of the appropriate forms provided here (http://tinyurl.com/kdsj8pt) by the American Society of Media Photographers. Any and all release forms will be submitted to USMAI upon request during the judging phase of the contest. No winning entries will be considered valid until all associated photo releases have been provided. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
  - A panel of three anonymous judges will select up to three winning photographs. All decisions of the judges will be final.
- Winners will be announced by May 5, 2015 and all submitted entries that comply with the contest rules will be accessible via the USMAI website on the same date.

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March 16, 2015: Health Sciences Library Director M.J. Tooey Is Winner of Medical Library Association Janet Doe Lectureship

M.J. Tooey, Executive Director of the University of Maryland Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSHSL), has been awarded the Medical Library Association’s prestigious Janet Doe Lectureship, one of the highest honors offered by MLA. The person selected for the lectureship must be a “distinguished member of the profession who offers a broad perspective of health sciences librarianship and possesses the qualities to communicate his or her experiences and ideas articulately.”

The Janet Doe Lecturer is an individual chosen annually by the Medical Library Association for his/her unique perspective on the history or philosophy of medical librarianship. The Doe Lectureship was established in 1966 by anonymous donation. The selected lecture is presented at the association’s annual meeting and is subsequently published in the Journal of the Medical Library Association.

The HSHSL is a member of the USMAI Library Consortium. The USMAI Library Consortium includes sixteen member libraries at the public universities and colleges in the State of Maryland. We provide unified, cost effective and creative approaches to acquiring, managing, and sharing information and knowledge resources. We support the shared mission of our member campuses to contribute to the intellectual and cultural growth of our students, faculty and staff. For more information see http://usmai.org.

March 9, 2015: UMCP’s Carlen Ruschoff Winner of 2015 Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award

CHICAGO — The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) names Carlen Ruschoff, director of technical services and strategic initiatives at the University of Maryland as the 2015 recipient of its Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors the memory of Ross Atkinson, a distinguished library leader, author and scholar whose extraordinary service to ALCTS and the library community-at-large serves as a model for those in the field. The citation and monetary award, generously sponsored by EBSCO Information Services, will be presented at the ALCTS Awards Ceremony on June 27, during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Francisco.

Ruschoff has an extensive record of leadership within ALCTS and ALA. She served as president of ALCTS, chaired the Cataloging and Classification Section, chaired the Margaret Mann Citation Jury and served on the planning committee for the ALCTS 50th Anniversary event, “Interactive Futures: A National Conference on the Transformation of Library Collections & Technical Services.”

Within ALA, she has served as a member of numerous committees, including the Peter Lyman Memorial/SAGE Scholarship Committee, the ALA Nominating Committee, chair of the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee, ALA representative to NISO, and chair of the ALA Scholarships and Study Grants Committee.

Her leadership expands beyond ALA and ALCTS, as evidenced by her roles on the PALINET Executive Committee, chair of the Program for Cooperaative Cataloging (PCC), CRL Collections and Services Advisory Committee and the NISO Standards Committee. As one colleague noted, in her capacity as chair of the PCC, “She immediately recognized the overlap between ALCTS education efforts and those of the PCC and worked to develop successful collaboration between the PCC and ALCTS on these efforts.”

As with her leadership, her scholarship has also been extensive and of great impact. Her publication record spans decades, and in the spirit of Ross Atkinson, exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to technical services and collection management. She holds two editorial roles, one as “Reality Check” column editor for Technicalities and the other as the “Information
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January 16, 2015: USMAI Partners With Reprints Desk, Inc. As A Source for Hard-To-Find Scholarly Research Articles

Research Solutions (OTCQB: RSLL) subsidiary Reprints Desk, Inc., a top-rated document delivery supplier, today announced new agreements with University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Consortium of Libraries, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS), and the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium (PALCI) to provide group purchase pricing incentives to more than 200 academic library members who are now eligible to sign up for Reprints Desk’s award-winning Article Galaxy software platform to retrieve scholarly research articles that are not available via journal subscriptions.

An alternative to interlibrary lending and borrowing, academic library consortia members rely on Reprints Desk’s Article Galaxy as an online gateway to specially priced scholarly journal articles from more than 40,000 publications as well as hundreds of thousands of book records. Reprints Desk provides a high quality PDF of the article for a small transactional fee plus a special academic copyright royalty charge that can be as low as $15.00. Participating publishers currently include Elsevier, John Wiley & Sons, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Springer Verlag, Nature Publishing Group, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and dozens of others.

Other Article Galaxy features include 24/7 ordering and customer support, integration with popular interlibrary loan (ILL) lending software such as ILLiad and RapidILL, a searchable and browsable A-Z list of participating publishers and publications, optional secondary sourcing for articles beyond the collection, and single-source billing via subscription agents.

Academic institutions, corporations and government organizations around the world rely on Reprints Desk and its online platform Article Galaxy for legal, cost low access to full-text scientific, technical, and medical (STM) content. Founded by Peter Derycz, the original founder of Infotrieve, Reprints Desk has ranked #1 overall and in each category in every Document Delivery Vendor Scorecard survey of buyers from information analyst and advisory firm Outsell, Inc.

USMAI, a consortium comprised of 16 public university and college libraries in the State of Maryland, provides unified, cost effective and creative approaches to the acquisition, management, and sharing of information and knowledge resources. Serving more than 150 academic libraries, MCLS is a non-profit, member-driven organization whose mission is to facilitate sharing resources and to collaborate with other organizations to benefit Michigan and Indiana libraries. PALCI, formed in 1996 to spur the development of library cooperation, now serves nearly 70 academic and research libraries, private and public, in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, and New York.

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November 5, 2014: Two USM Libraries Will Host Group Viewing Sites for November 18th Discovery Tools Webinar

The libraries of the University of Baltimore (UB, located in downtown Baltimore) and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES, located in Princess Anne) will host group viewing sites for the November 18th, 2014 all-day webinar “Discovery Tools Now and In The Future” (http://www.amigos.org/discovery (http://www.amigos.org/discovery)).

This webinar’s multiple sessions will examine how “adopting a discovery tool has affected specific libraries, show the lessons learned, and provide some insight into where discovery service is headed.” The all-day webinar consists of three concurrent speakers every hour. Attendees at the UB and UMES group viewing sites will vote on which speaker to view each hour. A schedule of speakers is available on the AMIGOS website.

The group viewing sites are being provided to encourage increased information-sharing and connections among libraries with shared interests. The costs of these two group viewing sites are sponsored by the USMAI consortium’s Shared Platforms and Applications Subgroup, and by the host sites in the UB Langsdale Library and the UMES Frederick Douglass Library.

Please note that each viewing site can only accommodate 20 attendees. Seats may be reserved on a first-come basis through the following online registration forms. (NOTE: these are USMAI registration forms -- do not register on the AMIGOS website). If seats fill up, we will maintain a wait list of all registrants and notify all registrants if other viewing sites become available.

The UMES online registration form is available at: http://tinyurl.com/bzozqe2 (http://tinyurl.com/bzozqe2)

The UMES online registration form for UB is available at: http://tinyurl.com/mz9o6kn (http://tinyurl.com/mz9o6kn)

Registrations and seat reservations will be confirmed via email after you submit a registration request. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Thomas (cthomas@ubmd.edu (mailto:cthomas@ubmd.edu))

These are brown-bag events lasting from 9AM - 5PM. Confirmed registrants are welcome to bring their own lunch, beverage, and snacks into the two libraries.

PLEASE NOTE: The USMAI Library Consortium is aware that the Maryland Digital Library’s (MDL) annual Vendor Day is also scheduled for November 18th at the Columbia Campus of Loyola University Maryland, and that the MDL event also is focusing on discovery tools. USMAI encourages interested library staff to attend the MDL event, but did not want to miss the opportunity to offer a group viewing of the webinar being broadcast by AMIGOS, for others who do not plan to attend Vendor Day.

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USMAI Library Consortium Extends Innovative Ebook Pilot Program to Evaluate New Modifications

The University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Library Consortium has decided to extend an innovative Demand Driven Acquisitions (DDA) pilot program with vendor EBook Library (EBL, now a ProQuest business). The pilot program provides shared access to the entire EBL digital collection for all libraries in the consortium. The collection, which began with approximately 6,000 ebooks, continues to grow with access to over 15,000 titles shared by all member libraries. Under the terms of the agreement with ProQuest, USMAI library users can view each ebook as a “short term loan” a predetermined number of times before any specific title is automatically purged from the collection as an ebook that is then owned by the consortia. As the pilot program enters its second year, the USMAI consortium will implement and evaluate a few changes made based on data from the first year.

Expenditure and usage data from the first year of the pilot showed that ebooks were used by all categories of library users (undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff) at all USMAI member institutions. While all USMAI member institutions are benefitting from this shared collection of ebooks, during the second year the consortium seeks to increase the number of publishers participating in the program and, as a result, the number and variety of scholarly titles available to USMAI students, faculty and staff. Additionally, USMAI libraries want to increase the number of ebook titles that are being purchased and permanently added to our shared collection.

The USMAI libraries recognize that a key component of success will be developing a program that is mutually beneficial to both the consortium and to publishers. The consortium is committed to exploring innovative ways to work with ProQuest as well as with participating publishers to achieve this objective. As part of its effort to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot DDA program, the USMAI libraries, in consultation with ProQuest, have decided to reduce the number of short term loans (STLs) allowed from 6 STLs to 3 STLs before an auto-purchase occurs. The consortium recognizes the value of finding the right balance between access and ownership and believes this change will aid in finding that balance.

“USMAI continues to strive for greater resource sharing across the consortium in order to increase access for all its institutions’ users. The consortial ebook project is an important strategic initiative that enables all our libraries to expand their ebook collections and offer a needed book to every reader at the time of need,” said Lucy Holman, director of the University of Baltimore’s Lansdgate Library and current Chair of the USMAI Council of Library Directors.

USMAI Groups Host Training and Discussion Forums

Two of the USMAI major working groups recently convened training and discussion forums for the staff of member libraries.

Inter-Library Loan Subgroup Forum

On May 1st, the Resource Sharing Task Group’s Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Subgroup convened a meeting of 44 attendees at UMBC’s Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery. Discussion and presentation topics included:

- The future of E-Book resources and ILL
- RapidILL
- Strategies for improving ILL services to the USG campus
- Robin Moskal (UMBC) - Using The Consortium’s New ILL Online Collaborative Space
- Kee-Young Moon (UMCP) - ILLiad Website Optimized for Mobile Devices
- Austin Smith (UMUC) - Moving a Local ILLiad Instance to the Cloud
- HSHSL - Benefits of RapidILL Membership
- SU - Redesigning a Local ILLiad Website
- (UMCP) - Managing Reciprocal Partnerships
- (UMCP) - A Systematic Trouble-Shooting Framework

The event was attended by close to fifty staff and faculty from a variety of colleges and universities across Maryland.

May 19, 2014: USMAI Groups Host Training and Discussion Forums

USMAI Library Consortium Launches New Demand Driven Ebook Pilot Program

The University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Library Consortium has contracted with a vendor, Ebook Library for a new Demand Driven Acquisitions (DDA) pilot program. DDA is a new and cost-effective approach to providing access to ebooks when they are needed, as they are needed. This pilot program will help the consortia, meaning that authorized users of any of the consortium’s member libraries may access and use the collection. Initially, users have access to 6,500 titles selected by the consortium, but that number is likely to grow as the pilot progresses.

Under the terms of the pilot program agreement, users can access, browse, and checkout the ebooks. Using parameters set by the consortium, frequently accessed ebook titles will be permanently licensed to the consortium once usage passes a preset threshold. This strategy will help the consortium’s libraries effectively use funds to purchase titles that meet proven demand. The consortium will gather and analyze data as the pilot program progresses over the next year, to help better understand...
how this new acquisitions model compares to more traditional purchasing and licensing practices within college and university libraries.

The USMAI pilot program is innovative in both its demand driven approach to building an ebook collection, and in its designation of the collection as a consortially-shared resource, equally accessible and usable across all member libraries. The results of this pilot program will be shared with interested libraries across the country.

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September 01, 2013: USMAI Library Consortium Solicits Input On A "Next-Gen" Library System

The University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) seeks to replace the Aleph integrated library system currently shared among its members, and is conducting an investigation to gain information from qualified organizations regarding software or services they offer with the potential to meet the complex automation needs of the consortium. The consortium has posted Request for Information (/sites/public/files/RFI%2083787%20Integrated%20Library%20System.pdf) (RFI) to elicit responses that describe the conceptual and organizational principles that underlie the design of any proposed next-generation system, its ability to meet the functional requirements of the members of the consortium, and its technical characteristics and architecture. Responses to this RFI will be used to refine specifications of critical and desirable features of a next generation library system, and to identify potentially qualified systems. After the USMAI analyzes responses to this RFI, the final selection process will begin, and may include a Request for Proposals (RFP).

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April 4, 2013: USMAI Library Consortium Hires Its First Executive Director

The University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Library Consortium is pleased to announce the hiring of its first Executive Director, Charles “Chuck” Thomas. He comes to the consortium with an extensive background in academic libraries and consortial services, and brings an expert knowledge of both the challenges facing today’s academic libraries and emerging innovative responses to those challenges. He gained much of this knowledge working for the past five years as a program officer managing the largest competitive grants program offered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal government’s primary source of support for libraries and museums across the U.S.

Before joining IMLS, he worked for nearly twenty years in positions of increasing responsibility within college and university libraries at institutions such as Duke University, Louisiana State University, the University of Minnesota, and Florida State University, and for a statewide consortium that centrally managed library technology infrastructure for the ten institutions of Florida’s state university system.

With specializations in archives administration, library technology, and building digital libraries, Chuck has played an important role in recent years as a primary IMLS liaison with groups such as the National Academy of Science’s Board on Research Data and Information, the Interagency Working Group on Digital Data, and on international initiatives such as the Digging Into Data Challenge. He served previously in leadership and governance positions within multiple statewide and regional library and archives collaborations and consortia, and led a statewide archives training program that was recognized for superior outcomes.

He earned his baccalaureate degree from Loyola University of New Orleans, a Master’s degree in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and has completed all doctoral coursework and comprehensive exams in pursuit of a Ph.D. from Florida State University’s College of Information. His primary areas of research interest are changing modes of scholarly communication, and evaluation frameworks for the digital services and infrastructure enabling those changes.

Thomas will be headquartered in the USM system offices in Adelphi, MD, as of April, 2013.

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