

"The System Wide Operations and Planning Group (SOPAG): Recent Work and New Directions"

Librarians Association of the University of California
Fall 2004 Assembly

Program Time: 11:00 – 12:30, Chevron Auditorium, International House, UC Berkeley

Presentation Format

- Introductions and very brief remarks (Huwe)
- SOPAG will engage in dialogue based on the following questions
- T. Huwe, T. Dearie or L Kennedy will introduce the LAUC questions V & VI (to be discovered in consultation with the membership)
- Q & A and wrap up

Discussion Questions:

- I. Please describe SOPAG, and explain SOPAG's roles within the overall advisory environment that drives collaborative projects. Please comment on your relationships with the Office of Systemwide Library Planning and the California Digital Library, as an operational advisory body reporting to the University Librarians.

(Objective: Tell us who you are and what you do, as some LAUC members are not fully aware of all that may be going on, and the underlying, coordinated efforts underway. Some projects flow from subcommittees and task forces of SOPAG, and others flow from the University Librarians; please comment on the process of creating operational strategies, in relationship with these stakeholders, as "advisors" and as "idea generators" SOPAG's work touches (and responds to) many organizational units, and "what works" may not be best understood by looking at the Web guide that shows the overall advisory structure, but instead, how SOPAG creates operational solutions as a group of colleagues.)

- II. Broadly stated, one of SOPAG's most important activities is, as Chair Hurley has said, "taking ideas that flow from 'continuous strategic planning' and turning them into development and implementation processes with real-world outcomes." In this context, please comment on the following projects and issues (or others that are relevant).
 - a. Shared Print Collections: There has been substantial progress in the area of Shared Print Collections, with several specific projects underway. What is SOPAG's assessment of "where we are" and "where we are going" in the broad sense? What examples illustrate the current situation and what we might expect to arise?
 - b. One collection raised in the Shared Collections or Shared Repository context is Government Information. Please address the role that initiative played and what was learned from it.

- c. Visual Resources, its genesis, its relationship with the CDL Image Demonstrator, and what was learned from the evolution of this project.
- d. Current efforts to explore digital reference services and the resulting issues: (how to staff the service, working with vendors, etc).
- e. Current efforts to explore a coordinated approach to “high volume” digitization, and the evaluation of potential solutions such as robotic scanning.

(Objective: Illustrate how continuous strategic planning becomes concrete actions, using colorful examples of what has been achieved, what has been tried and may not have come to fruition, and how this planning and implementation carries important, everyday impacts on our daily jobs.)

- III. Electronic Resources Management (ERM) is currently being addressed by SOPAG, and is a good example of a collaborative project with great potential. Please describe the current pathways of planning for ERM, and potential directions ERM planning may take in the near term.

(Objective: This is a very current issue, it involves lots of collaboration and stakeholders, and it carries multiple benefits. It also illustrates the “pent up demand for collaboration” within UC. Explaining how you build a viable implementation strategy—currently in progress-- will be very interesting.)

- IV. “Shared Services” is an area of planning that, at this time, is still being explored and assessed. How does SOPAG “define” shared services, in light of the Strategic Plan? What ideas and projects are currently under discussion, or likely to rise to SOPAG’s attention?

(Objective: Shared services are tools and utilities that are collaboratively developed and can be exploited by campuses to meet their own individual need. For example CDL develops repositories of content and builds tools so that the libraries can develop services and offer them in the context of other library services. In some cases, we can’t know what’s coming, or what ideas and projects may prevail. Moreover, many LAUC members may not have formulated an awareness of Shared Services as yet. It may be possible to comment on “the path we’re on,” in a manner that helps the audience grasp some of the potential ways that library work may be affected by collaborative planning for shared services. Further note: LAUC has heard from members that “shared processing” is worth exploring but may be daunting as a cultural change.)

- V. LAUC-generated question
- VI. LAUC-generated question
- VII. Open Question and Answer Period