Doe/Moffitt Subject Page Software Task Force

In 2007 the Doe/Moffitt Web Subject Pages Task Force was charged with examining ways to improve the creation, findability, and navigability of subject pages. Desirable features for the subject pages included: what's new section, librarian profile and contact information, seamless integration with data sources such as those in the Electronic Resources Finder, ease of linking to new acquisition lists such as those possible with the new ILS, ability to embed objects such as graphics and IM widgets, clean URLs, and ease of updating for staff unfamiliar with HTML. The complete report is available at http://sunsite3.berkeley.edu/wikis/subjectpagestf/index.php.

With the arrival of Char Booth, who has a formal responsibility for oversight of the Doe/Moffitt web site, the Library is ready to pursue the recommendation that the Library investigate software products to ease the creation and updating of flexible, customizable subject guides. A low-cost open source software solution, Library A La Carte, has been identified as a viable possibility. The previous task force recommended investigation of LibGuides, a commonly used though more expensive option. Additionally, the Task Force should review the newly-developed in-house subject page tool designed by Library Systems in partnership with the Library Web Advisory Group (WAG). Other options that address the highest priority features may present themselves during the Task Force’s investigations. Recommendations about software options must take into account the Library's limited financial resources as well as realistic requirements for the various staff who will use as well as support the software solution.

The Task Force is charged to:

- Review and prioritize the features desired for Doe/Moffitt subject pages.
- Examine software options, including Library A La Carte, in light of the prioritized features.
- Perform rigorous testing of the one or two most feasible software tools to ensure it meets the needs of subject guide authors as well as integrates fully with existing Library systems. Consideration must to given to the range of technology skills of subject guide authors.
- Document the findings of the testing of the top one or two software solutions identified, including benefits and drawbacks of each and a final recommendation.

The Task Force should keep the Doe/Moffitt Advisory Group (DMAG) apprised of their progress. A final report with findings and recommendations should be delivered to DMAG by March 6, 2009.

Task Force Members:
Char Booth (Chair)
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