University of Arkansas Libraries  
Web Development Group - 09/02/11  
Present: Boyd, Ganson, Gilbertson, Hartman, Juhl, Lennertz Jetton, Morgan, Spiegel, Youngblood  
Guest: The group was joined by some members of the Innovative Review Committee to discuss the Ebsco Discovery product (below): Conway, Kulczak, Salisbury

Action items in Yellow.

Annual Report  
Juhl asked for any corrections or addition to the annual report. None offered.

Videos  
The group discussed the 3 videos produced by students for the Libraries and which to feature on the web site. Juhl will send out links since not all members had seen.

- http://youtu.be/AM3-O_VE9QM  
- http://youtu.be/Iu7TuQ8q4cY  
- http://youtu.be/S9w-fdlc1mc

A suggestion was to place a link to these on the main "Videos" page for now: http://libinfo.uark.edu/reference/tutorials.asp

Main Home Page and InfoLinks Updates  
Juhl asked for comments or suggestions on the need for more prominent links to libraries on the main page. A suggestion from a previous meeting had been to add another menu bar with the "major" branches linked. Spiegel suggested adding a tab, and Juhl asked about having the libraries list open by default.

After discussion, the group decided to try adding a link, "Branch Libraries" to the black menu bar. Morgan will do this and create the landing list of libraries.

On the InfoLinks redesign, Juhl reported that the positioning of the "More search options" link on the main page is problematic for mobile devices. She and Morgan will look at this.

News-o-Rama  
Juhl asked how much content from the press releases now sent to Newswire should also be posted to library sites. Consensus was better to post full releases on Newswire with links from our site.

The group went on to discuss the news / exhibits / adverts area and whether or not we should have one large rotating image, as does the Newswire. Consensus was no -- keep the smaller graphics with text-based news.

Special Collection Web Group  
Youngblood reported on the organization of this group, which hopes to address some major structural changes needed to make the Special Collections site more appealing and user-friendly. Some obvious needs are to provide easy access to the most important and most-used collections, to remove out of date material, to make browsing collections by topic easier and more inviting, and to feature collections on the main page. In the short term, Youngblood is working with Morgan and Juhl to make immediate updates and corrections as needed.
Ebsco Discovery Service
The Libraries have an opportunity to test Ebsco’s Discovery Service (EDS) for an extended time. Members of the Innovative Review Committee joined the group to discuss:

-what would be involved in implementing the service?
-what would the product add to our services and collections?

The group spent a few minutes discussing the difference between this product and the Integrated Search product we trialed in 2009-2010. The main differences between the two are:

- Broadcast searching vs. preindexing
  A federated search sends a user’s search terms out to selected databases and only a minimal number of fields are returned in the results set. This makes filtering by kind of publication or precise search rather difficult as a very small number of fields are mapped. A discovery service, in contrast, creates a custom database to be searched; this database can include commercial subscription databases as well as the library catalog, digital collections, or finding aid collections. The library would work with the vendor to “ingest” these local sources and map their fields to the discovery platform.

- Speed
  Because the discovery service is already indexed, results are returned much more quickly.

- Range of material types
  A discovery service can handle formats such as music, manuscripts, or images more readily than federating search products, since the entire metadata record can be added to the central database.

The group reviewed some search results at an EDS site and discussed benefits and drawbacks.

It was decided that we need to talk to sites that have already implemented the product before making a final recommendation, which Ganson asked for by the end of September.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Juhl