IT Update for September 2016 Board Meeting

Zoom.us Meeting Software

In an effort to make meeting virtually more efficient and flexible, IHLS has been testing the product offerings of Zoom.us. Our tests have proven that connecting as a participant in meetings as well as hosting meetings, is very simple. Zoom can connect up to 100 people per meeting, and those participants can be from a PC, Mac, iPad, Android device, iPhone, or even a video conference room around the state. Simply put, we can now connect anyone/anywhere/anyhow to a meeting. Currently we are licensed for 5 video conference rooms on our account, which is not enough licenses to host a monthly board meeting with our expanded sites. IHLS is investigating costs, training and timeline for implementation of Zoom use on a broad scale such as a board meeting. Until then, we will continue to utilize the RAILS bridge software.

Membership Specific Listserv

Communication is one of the most challenging aspects of being in an area as large as IHLS. So when our special libraries had a meeting and requested their own listserv for communication, we were happy to oblige. The special libraries in IHLS now have their own discussion list they can post and reply to. While there are IHLS staff on the list, it is not moderated by IHLS.

Xerox Multi-Function Printer for Carbondale Delivery Area

The Carbondale delivery staff has requested a multi-function copier for their area. Xerox provided a quote for a small table top machine that has all the functionality of the large machines at each office. The price was very reasonable and it saves the operations department a lot of time.

Polaris Infrastructure Upgrade

After much consultation with Dell and Innovative, the IT staff has come up with some major renovations to the existing hardware at the COLO (co-location site) in Champaign. While the upgrades should be completely invisible to the end user, we are hoping the changes will take advantage of some speed improvements according to Dell. All this work must be done after hours so the impact on libraries is minimized. We have been shuffling servers all over the state in order to accomplish this move and have space for other needs. Brandon continues to find software and hardware configuration adjustments that we try and see if they help performance. Many do, some don't but it's a tedious process of making a change and waiting. Again, all this work has to be done after hours.

IT moves from DuQuoin to Carbondale Complete

IT staff worked all night on September 10 to move the remaining servers and equipment to Carbondale. The night went smoothly and was topped off with breakfast at Denny's.

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