Monday 9th September 2013, Session 9.5 Summary of Discussions / Decisions / Suggestions.

Given that the attendance was small (with just 11 people in attendance) Ray opted to chat informally with the Voyager users present, rather than deliver a prepared Powerpoint presentation. The focus was on the stability and maturity of the Voyager product, and the role, future & strengths of the IGeLU PWG. The Voyager user community is fortunate in having had the same product manager for some years, unlike with some other products where product managers can change with unnerving frequency.

But Voyager is quite a mature product, one that is not being sold in the international marketplace outside North America. This maturity and lack of sales is having an impact as more and more Voyager sites in Australia, New Zealand, the UK and some of the Scandinavian countries (the main Voyager user areas outside North America) move off Voyager and onto Alma. This does mean that there is "less to do" other than at the annual enhancement process. But at the same time, it remains important for now to retain a voice- so the international needs which sometime differ from those of the North American market remain considered for inclusion in the Voyager roadmap. The IGELU PWG has for a couple of years at least, worked closely with the ELUNA group and Ray expects we will be working ever more closely as the Voyager customer base shrinks.

Ray was very pleased to see that Bar Weinstein (VP Resource Management Solutions at Ex Libris) had made specific and detailed mention of the ongoing roadmap for Voyager (and Aleph too, of course) in the URM Overview plenary session. Far too many Voyager users fear that Voyager is about to disappear soon and anyone with those thoughts should consider particularly the second slide in Bar's presentation.

The past year has seen a small number of PWG conference calls this last year as most communications in the quiet part of the year away from the enhancement cycle can be handled by email. The main work has been preparing for and holding the enhancement vote in NERS for Voyager 9.1 with voting completed in September. The two PWGs are now working with Mike Dicus to convert the highest ranked requests into coding projects for Development to work on.

Activities planned for the coming year will include the finishing stages of the enhancement work for 9.1 by December, and then a quiet time until the next enhancements cycle starts off around the middle of the year. In December we plan to go out on the main Lists to see if there are any other Voyager users in IGeLU who would like to join the PWG. Finally a word of thanks to Ebe Kartus, who leaves us, for the joys of Alma.

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