Course Reserve Module Status Report

Given the number and extent of unresolved problems with the Course Reserve Module in Horizon, and the fact that the fall term is rapidly approaching, it seemed a good idea to outline the major ones. I thought this might also be useful for the special meeting of staff using the Course Reserves Module that the Circulation Committee is setting up for next week.

1)   **Can't change location codes**. All units have now received printouts of course reserve records which appeared in NOTIS and were migrated to Horizon. The intent was that staff in the non-Purdy/Kresge units could change the location code in each record to the correct one, and also correct any other errors on a record by record basis. However, staff in the other units have not been able to change the location codes in their records. All pre-migration records continue to show a P/K location. It is unclear what the problem is.

Solution: This problem has only recently come to light. It appears likely this is something Ameritech must help resolve. If we are unable to change the location code for the non-P/K records, the only other solution is to delete those records and re-input. Apparently Med/Pharmacy have already taken this approach.

2)   **Webpac sorting**. In Webpac, public searches for Course Reserve materials in P/K are so difficult in many cases that few patrons will even bother.

The main problem is with the way materials are sorted.

If a patron searches by Instructor, he/she will receive an alphabetical list of everything that the instructor has placed on course reserve for any class. For many instructors this amounts to 100, 200, 300 items. The student must know the title of the item he or she is looking for and will often need to scroll through dozens of screens to get to it (there are five titles to a screen). They are unable to get a simple integrated list of everything an instructor has placed on a reserve for a particular course.

If a patron searches by Course, he/she will receive an alphabetical list by title of all items put on course reserve by all instructors who teach it. For multi-sectioned or team taught courses, the same problem as above results. They are unable to get a list of everything a particular instructor has on reserve for that course.

Solution: An additional sort needs to take place at a second level. It is unclear whether this is something we can do here, or whether we must submit and wait for an enhancement in later versions of Horizon.

3)   **Deleting records**. There are a set of related problems to do with deleting items. For instance, if an item is on Course Reserve for two instructors and is removed from the list for one of them, it disappears for both. If an item is on multiple courses, and we wish

to delete a course, we cannot do so without removing any items associated with the course from ALL courses it is associated with. As a result there are "phantom" courses which can't be deleted, and materials associated with courses which should not be. The problem will increase exponentially as we use the system.

Solution: It is unclear whether this is a Horizon problem which must be addressed by Ameritech, or is something which can be locally addressed.

4)   **Loan periods**. All materials migrated with a two-hour loan period.

Solution: Staff in each unit are working at manually correcting the loan periods.

5)   **Webpac locations**. At least some reserve book records which migrated from NOTIS have an additional problem with the location they show in Webpac. For instance a search for "Owl Moon" will turn up a record with three copies attached, one of which is shown to be located in P/K reserves. However, when you click for detailed information to show the circulation status, the "Location" will show as Juvenile, not Reserves. It seems that on this screen the "location" information is being drawn from the collection code.

Solution: This is a very recently discovered problem and it is unclear how extensive it is (Webpac is down as this is being written). Probable solutions are an item by item change of collection code. If all migrated book items in course reserve have this problem it could be time-consuming.

These are the major problems we have to deal with. As with Circulation and Webpac, there are no doubt other problems requiring fixes which will come to light as we use the module.

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Circulation Committee
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