UX Advisory Group Minutes
October 5, 2023

Attendees: Carlen Dethorne (Grayslake), Jamie King (Niles-Maine), Marcia Beach (Highland Park), Nicole Mills (Glenview), Pam McLaughlin (Fremont), Susan Conner (Palatine), Zach Terrill (McHenry)
Absent: Meg Golembiewski (Prospect Heights)
Also Present: Kathleen Weiss (CCS)

The October 5, 2023 meeting of the UX Advisory Group was called to order at 9:34am. The meeting was held via Zoom.

K.Weiss shared a draft of the January 5, 2023, minutes ahead of the meeting. There were no additional revisions. Minutes accepted as submitted.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Vega Discover Project Plan
K. Weiss (CCS) shared CCS planned to conduct usability testing and comparative testing with the following discovery systems: PowerPAC, Vega Discover, Aspen, and Bibliocommons. K. Weiss (CCS) gave an overview of each discovery system:

- PowerPAC: current discovery system used at CCS libraries.
- Vega Discover: the newest discovery system from Innovative that CCS is currently involved in codeveloping via the Vega Partnership Project.
- Aspen: an open-source discovery system used at RAILS libraries.
- Bibliocommons: a discovery system used at Chicago Public Library and by CCS library, Glenview.

Discovery System Searching & Relevancy Ranking Activity
The UX Group performed open-ended search queries across four discovery systems (Aspen, Bibliocommons, PowerPAC, Vega) and rated the relevancy of the first ten search results. The group also compared search results from each discovery system. The search queries the group used from actual search strings entered by patrons in the preceding month using PowerPAC.

The following instances of the discovery system were used for the relevancy ranking activity:

- PowerPAC
- Vega Discover
- Aspen
- Bibliocommons

The activity was adapted from a study conducted by Rutgers University and the University of Chicago:
Evaluating Web-Scale Discovery: A Step-by-Step Guide by Joseph Deodato (p 10, p 70)

Before beginning the activity K. Weiss explained the following:

- Most users do not often scroll beyond the first page of results. Therefore, a discovery system must have an effective ranking algorithm capable of surfacing the most useful and relevant results.
- To evaluate relevance ranking, group members were:
    - Assigned a search query
    - Performed this search in each discovery tool
    - Rated the relevancy of the first ten results
    - Results were recorded in the exact order retrieved and ranked on a scale of 0–2 (0 = not relevant, 1 = somewhat relevant, 2 = relevant)
    - The same keywords, type of search, and limiters were used for each discovery system
    - Group members took break and discussed their results after searching each discovery system

After group members conducted their searches a relevance score was used to evaluate the relevance ranking of each discovery system. For example, if the first ten results returned by a discovery system received a score of 2 because they were all deemed to be "very relevant," the product would receive a score of 20. Relevancy scores were then averaged across all searches by discovery system to calculate a final score.

Overall, the relevancy scores of each system were comparable.

Bibliocommons and Aspen have slightly higher scores, but PowerPAC and Vega shared the same scores.

Scoring	Relevancy Score (out of 20)
PowerPAC	16.86
Vega	16.86
Aspen	17.14
Bibliocommons	17.71

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.