PALMPrint Report for PAN

Midwinter 2016

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a status update on the PALMPrint project as we reach the 2 ½ year mark of a 3-year pilot. We are pleased to report that our goal of developing a proof-of-concept model for the collaborative retention of and access to primary U.S. legal materials has been successful. The level of commitment we ultimately achieved with this project confirms the need for a reliable and accessible print collection, with over 65 law libraries in the U.S. and Canada participating.

To date, we have achieved the following:

* 56,150 items have been ingested into the repository facility at William B. Meyer, Inc. - all consistent with the original collection development plan of single-copy, U.S. primary materials (state and federal) from date of first publication through 2012.
* In consultation with LIPA and NELLCO, Meyer developed a basic user interface, sufficient for use during the pilot.
* Each item in PALMPrint has a brief record in the user interface to facilitate discovery.
* A Gap-filling Committee, chaired by Raquel Ortiz (Roger Williams University) was established and developed a process to help identify needed content.
* A PALMPrint Participants Update meeting was held in Oct. 2014 at Boston College. There was consensus among the group that PALMPrint should continue beyond the pilot stage.
* A PALMPrint Futures Committee was established to address 3 issues: 1) should the scope of PALMPrint be broadened to include other types of materials? 2) should PALMPrint participation be offered to others beyond the current participants and if so, under what business model? 3) should resources be expended to enhance the user interface in the post-pilot phase?
* The Futures Committee decided not to extend the current scope of the project until we complete the original collection development plan and fill all gaps in the existing collection (this is estimated to be about 50,000 volumes from our original plan).
* The Futures Committee decided to confirm the commitment of current owners before offering participation to others, but to remain open to expressions of interest by non-participating libraries (LIPA or NELLCO members only). New participants will pay an upfront buy-in fee of $1,500, then the established annual participation fee (dependent upon participation each year).
* The Futures Committee decided that enhancing the user interface was a necessary step. LIPA and NELLCO are working with Meyer to develop an enhanced interface that should be completed by the end of the pilot.
* Numerous presentations have been given by Margaret Maes (LIPA), Tracy Thompson (NELLCO) and others, including most recently a webinar for the Canadian Association of Law Libraries and a program at the Chinese American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries.
* Numerous articles and blog posts have appeared, including most recently "Curating Collective Collections — PALMPrint: An International Collaboration to Preserve American Legal Materials in Print," an article in Against the Grain, co-authored by Maes and Thompson.

We've made great progress toward our original goal, and we are currently surveying the existing PALMPrint subscribers to determine their commitment to the project going forward. That will help us to develop a funding model for Year 4 and the future.

If you have any questions or concerns, or simply want to talk about the project, please feel free to contact Margie Maes or Tracy Thompson.

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