User Services and Applications Working Group - Minutes – December 5, 2013

Present: Stephanie Bartz (audio), Joseph Deodato, Linda Langschied (co-chair), Rhonda Marker (co-chair, recorder), Jim Niessen

1. Working Group Charge

The members reviewed the USAWG charge: "Responsible for identifying and prioritizing applications needed to support preservation, access and services to RU faculty. Investigate existing services and applications offered by other Fedora sites for potential reuse by the RU repository. Develop an application testing plan, involving both alpha and beta testing, for both usability and functionality."

We recommend that the charge be amended:
- explicitly include responsibility for the repository web pages
- revise the reference to "applications offered by other Fedora sites" so that it is expressed as a resource but not the primary source of RUcore services
- broaden the repository users beyond RU faculty and include repository community members
- propose and recommend new services as well as improvements to existing services
- specify the more realistic role of testing services and features rather than developing an application testing plan
- proposals and recommendations for new services can give outcomes/expectations that will form the basis of testing scenarios

Rhonda will draft a new charge and we will review it at the next meeting. From there it will be considered at CISC.

2. Working Group membership

The members agreed that we should add Jane Otto to the Working Group.

3. Adding links to Wikipedia entries

Members agreed that this would be a good way to extend the usefulness of certain resources, collections, and search portals. An example is the reference to the search portal for the Tracy Voorhees collection on the web page of the Institute for Hungarian Studies. Other potential collections are China Boom and the Center for Women's Global Leadership posters. Working Group members will identify other resources or collections. Student interns could assist in this kind of process. Another potential process would be to hold a Wikipedia edit-a-thon at the Library or in a class.

4. ETD issues

Rhonda participated in a colloquium on ETDs and embargoes on December 4. Once again, the Working Group expressed the need for an option between total embargo and open access to ETDs. One access option that is commonly offered at other universities is a restriction to campus users. Members would like to invite graduate students to participate in a focus group (or a less structured roundtable discussion) to help us put together a proposal for a "restrict to Rutgers" option, such as whether it should include a time limit for this limited access option. The option would have to be added to the RUetd submission form and put into a Policy in the RUcore resource.

5. Meeting schedule

We will not meet in January. Our next scheduled meeting will be February 6.