SCUUG Serials Sharing Session
Friday, October 18, 2002 2:45-3:00
Moderator: Carol Winship (Texas Legislative Reference Library)
Notes by: Leslie Prather-Forbis (Texas State Law Library)

Moderator handed out FAQs from the SIRSI Customer Support Site and from Workflows Online Help. There was no agenda for this session; it was question driven.

Claims were discussed. Claiming is a 2-step procedure. The first report is "Predict as Late" and identifies issues that have a claim date prior to the current date or within the range of dates chosen as selection criteria. The second report, "Serial Claim Notices", generates the claim notices. It was recommended that the output tab be changed to increment the claim notice as a notice sent.

Caveats regarding serials control setup were discussed. Vendors must be entered when setting up control records; otherwise you cannot run a report on them, including serials claims notices. If you are uncertain of the vendor when creating the record, you should create and enter a "dummy vendor" so you will be able to run reports on these records. Setting up a pattern can be very difficult. Make sure you choose an expected date that occurs every month. The customs prediction cannot handle all situations. Sometimes it is better to predict up to a skipped month and then do another set of predictions covering the period of time after the skipped month. SISAC ID will get you to the correct periodical title, but you cannot directly check in. Many libraries use the extended info tab in serials control to convey to clerks how material should be handled.

Serials Control issues: SIRSI doesn't signal that you are out of predictions. Some libraries have a staff member verify that additional predictions remain in the expected tab. The Group would like some sort of report that would either alert users when a title has no predicted issues, or allow the automatic predicting function that was available in the DRA system. Various serials holdings concerns discussed. Special issues do not roll into the span of receipts, but are given a separate line that clutters the holdings statement.

Several libraries spoke of the frustration of rolling up received issues at the end of a volume or year. It is a three step process to roll up received issues. Issues have to be un-received to remove them from the received folder. The un-received issues then appear back in the expected issues list and must be deleted. Thirdly you must go into the MARC holdings tab to edit the holding statement..

After many attendees shared frustrating/disappointing features of SIRSI Serials Control, it was noted that it is important to get on the Web Forums for Serials Control issues and vote on enhancements. Recently there was a forum regarding streamlining the receipts folder.

One attendee noted that a great deal of useful information can be gleaned from the SIRSI logs.