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Transition to New Serving Partner

For two years we have been keeping you abreast of the fact that we have been developing a new interface for *LLMC-Digital*. Now, like many things that seem far away, the time has finally come. Moving day is this week! On 1 October 2008 we will be transitioning to our new partner, National Business Systems, Inc. (NBS) of Egan, MN. Along with providing the OCRing, storage, and delivery of our data online, NBS will be utilizing a new interface it has developed with input from LLMC.

The principle focus of this newsletter will be to explain those steps which subscribing libraries will want to implement in order to derive maximum benefit from this change. There is no need for a sense of urgency here. For some readers the change is already over. We expected that for most users the transition would be seamless, almost unnoticed. However, some essential behind the scenes technical steps will be required from our librarian colleagues over the next few months.

As a final introductory note, we can't complete this transition without repeating our thanks for the role played by the University of Michigan's Scholarly Publishing Office and related departments in launching *LLMC-Digital* and helping it grow to its present state.¹

¹ From the start we all knew that Michigan would act as an incubator to get us started and to nurture us to where we could stand on our own. It was assumed that eventually we would outgrow the Michigan support systems, and now we have done so. However, we should not forget that *LLMC-Digital* could not have gotten started so quickly, nor have we weathered its early years so successfully, without Michigan's tutelage and technical assistance. For that we will be eternally grateful. And we are also deeply grateful for the fulsome spirit

Transition Cataloging Ramifications

- **New URLs:** The URLs assigned to the LLMC document images to this point by the University of Michigan's Scholarly Publishing Office (SPO) have been of two styles that reflected the SPO's server and file structure.² Because all of LLMC's document images are now moving to NBS servers, they will need to be assigned new URLs.³ The bad news is that this change in URLs will require changes by all subscribing libraries that have mounted the old *LLMC-Digital* MARC records in their local systems. The good news is that this should never happen again, since we have been assured that the new URLs are specific to the *LLMC-Digital* project, and thus should never again change.⁴
- **Transitioning to the New URL's:** Starting with mid-September 2008, records for all newly-cataloged titles will have the new URL format in their 856 field. As to past records, in October OCLC will edit all existing *LLMC-Digital* catalog records in World-Cat to reflect the new URL style. Meantime, Michigan's SPO plans to maintain a "redirect" from their old URLs to the new URLs through the end of the year. Within that window, those institu-

of cooperation Michigan has demonstrated during this transition phase. We can only hope that we will continue to develop in such a manner that Michigan will always be proud of having been "present at the creation".

² Initially, the URLs were <http://name.umdl.edu/#####> Users will find that later records show URLs in the style of <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/lmc.#####> The final "#####" represents the unique LLMC control number for each title.

³ The new, permanent URLs will utilize the following standard rubric: <http://www.llmcdigital.org/default.aspx?redir=#####> As with the former UoM URL's, the final "#####" represents the unique LLMC control number for each title.

⁴ This was not possible when LLMC first got started with the University of Michigan, because their system was designed to accommodate a large number of unrelated digital libraries and could not handle collection-specific URLs. That was one of the tradeoffs we had to make in exchange for the quick launch we managed to achieve by teaming up with an already established host.

tions with old MARC records in their local systems, will need to run a “find and replace” to update the URLs. As a perhaps easier alternative, once OCLC has changed the existing URLs in the WorldCat set, a library could repurchase all of the bibliographic records for LLMC titles (currently roughly 1,540) and reload them. Either way, this change in the URLs will have no effect on any business transactions with OCLC regarding the LLMC WorldCat set.

- **Recent slower title growth:** Some catalogers may have noticed that fewer new titles were added to *LLMC-Digital* in the past few months. This was done deliberately to allow both LLMC and NBS to concentrate on effecting a smooth transition. New *volumes* were added to *existing* titles, but images for all *newly-cataloged titles* were held back to permit all parties to find comfort with new workflow configurations. Once we are safely past the transition, this backup of new titles will be released, causing a gratifying bump.

Reconfiguring Your Proxy Servers

The majority of our subscribers provide remote access to their library patrons in their homes and offices. This is accomplished via so-called “proxy servers.” LLMC’s partner (UofM or NBS) sends the data as far as the library’s proxy server, which takes care of the distribution from there. For this to happen, the library’s proxy server has to have the correct IP address of LLMC’s host. Up to now, all of our subscribers’ proxy servers have been configured with UofM IP addresses. Within the near future they will have to be reconfigured with the NBS IP addresses.

To give everybody a chance to make this change in a comfortable manner, for the immediate future the UofM will “redirect” all user traffic it receives for *LLMC-Digital* to the new host, NBS. This courtesy will be extended through the end of this year. However, within the next three months each subscriber employing a proxy-server system will need to have their technicians reconfigure them for the NBS IP addresses. Please tell your appropriate technicians that the primary NBS IP address is 74.202.109.26 and the secondary,

or backup, IP address is 67.130.19.26. For your patrons to continue to receive remote access, these two IP address numbers must be substituted for the UofM IP numbers before Dec. 31, 2008. Also, while there is no huge need for haste, the sooner that this is done, the sooner you can erase whatever inefficiencies may occur during the “redirect” process.

Tutorial Available

One of the features that will be offered on our new NBS interface is a video tutorial⁵ providing some basic instruction in how to use the interface. During October that tutorial will also be mounted on LLMC’s free corporate site. This tutorial was inspired by many requests from colleagues that we provide them with material that might be integrated into law-student and other patron instructional sessions. We hope that this first effort will serve to that end, and we will remain receptive to any suggestions as to how we might expand it, shorten it, or otherwise enhance it for that purpose.

Maximizing Utility of Adobe Reader

Having an interface that serves the needs of the digital generation means never standing still. What looks good today can seem dated or even obsolete by tomorrow. Perhaps the greatest single contribution that our new partner, NBS, made to the transition process was to convince us that any new interface should be built upon a larger industry-wide structure that offers within itself a natural growth mechanism. Thus, while it is not immediately obvious, one of the most important features of the new interface is that it is purposely designed around the features provided through the *Adobe Reader* application. *Adobe* is an already robust, free, and widely adopted application, run by people with deep pockets. It is constantly being enhanced. A rising tide lifts all boats. By steering our little skiff into the *Adobe* tide, we can expect *LLMC-Digital* to improve, often for free, along with the *Adobe* engine.⁶ To help that minority of users who may not yet have *Adobe* mounted on their

⁵ The “voice” is by Gerwan Surall, one of the more mellifluous of our new colleagues at NBS and the man who served as the principal coordinator for the development team that created the new *LLMC-Digital* interface.

computers, the new *LLMC-Digital* interface has an *Adobe* button right on its home page. In addition, subscribers are advised that, if they are to take full advantage of the *Adobe* connection, they should implement any engine upgrades as soon as they are offered.

Timing LLMC's Invoices

LLMC is a small non-profit operation that relies upon current subscription receipts and a steady cash-flow therefrom to perform its good works. Because we got started "all at once" some five years ago, we got into a habit of sending all of our subscription invoices out at the same time annually. However, we have been told by several of our subscribers that relative to their own fiscal years, we are either sending the invoices out way too early or unnecessarily late (which does nothing to help our cash-flow). Now that we are making all the other big transitions discussed in this newsletter, we would like to get our invoicing in phase with our customers' fiscal years. Could we earnestly request that someone from each subscribing library e-mail us with the preferred month in which you would like to see us invoice your institution. Please address your e-mails to our Business Manager, Debbie Bagwell, at llmc@llmc.com. Put the phrase "invoice timing" in your subject line. Thanks so much. Spread over our whole body of subscribers, this small change will help us to manage our cash-flow much more effectively.

Newsletter Going Fully Digital

In the lets-be-more-efficient department, some subscribers have suggested that we economize by exploring the possibility of distributing our newsletter completely by electronic means. It's an attractive idea, since we budget about \$6,500 annually to print and distribute the paper version of the newsletter. That money could be used to scan something like 65,000 additional images. Heretofore, we had resisted

⁶ This gilt-by-association factor was illustrated recently when our new interface, with no effort from us or additional expense, just courtesy of Adobe, acquired the ability to vocalize text; something we couldn't have afforded to prioritize, but which will be a boon to our seeing-impaired users. We fully expect that other enhancements will come along regularly, automatically upgrading our interface in the same manner.

distribution solely on-line because the online format we have been using did not have the "look-and-feel" of the print original. However, we have learned from some of our colleagues in the various chapters that now distribute their newsletters on-line. It is possible to retain the "look-and-feel" of the print version if the transmission is done in PDF format. By doing that, individual users desiring a paper copy can print out the PDF on their local printer and it will look just like the present text. Given that, the LLMC Board has decided that now is the appropriate time to make the transition to this modern method of print distribution. Therefore, this will be the last newsletter sent out via "snail mail."⁷

Ongoing Cataloging Housekeeping

Could we open this last section by asking our dear readers, unless they know that their library's cataloging people read this newsletter regularly, to ensure that the following matter is brought to their catalogers' attention? Thanks so much.

The matter at hand relates to serial titles that have experienced title changes over time. In the first year or so of the *LLMC-Digital* project we followed a strict interpretation of the cataloging rule that, whenever the wording of a periodical's title changed in any significant way, the subsequent material had to be cataloged as a separate title. While merely vexing in the print era, this practice caused much more confusion in the digital environment. For example, if the rule were enforced strictly, the familiar *U.S. Statutes at Large* would be broken into five different titles, with the separate pieces scattered helter-skelter on our site. The same fate would befall many of our U.S. state-supreme-court reports runs. Poor *Louisiana Reports* was facing at least a seven-way split. This clearly wouldn't do. Our

⁷ We are aware that some libraries that have been receiving multiple copies of the paper newsletter may have staff members whose e-mail addresses are not recorded on the LLMC listserv. In those cases we would ask that the library send us the e-mail addresses of all staff members to whom they wish us to direct the electronic newsletter. Please e-mail your list to llmc@llmc.com and put the words "newsletter distribution" in the subject line.

patrons wouldn't be able to cope. Nor, perhaps, could even we.

Fortunately our ingenious cataloging capo at Saint Louis University Law Library, Richard Amelung, was able, both to devise a practical solution, and also to sell it to the gods at OCLC. The essence of the scheme is as follows. Under current practice, titles of the nature described above now have their many title versions consolidated into one "Composite Title," (typically the most recent version of the title or a widely accepted popular title, e.g. *Louisiana Supreme Court Reports*). This "Composite Title" is typed on a "Composite Title Page" (CTP) that is inserted online at the head of the first volume in the series. The CTP also contains all the historical variants of the Composite Title. These variants are also listed in the cataloging record. Thus the periodical can be searched for under any of the various historical titles, but all of the material shows up online in one place under the title most patrons would expect.

Once this solution was successfully negotiated with OCLC, it became our standard operating procedure. All relevant periodical series cataloged in the past three years have been put through under the CTP rubric. But we still needed to go back and clear up the earlier titles so that all of the *LLMC-Digital* cataloging will be consistent. Saint Louis Law Library has been doing this retroactive work in several batches. Here is the SECOND BATCH⁸ of changes along with the cover message by Mr. Amelung:

"In an effort to resolve description and display issues created by our former practice of using multiple (successive) OCLC records in cases of serial title changes, we are continuing the process of consolidating OCLC records for some serial titles into one "composite" record. To summarize: Cataloging for these re-done records is based on a cataloger-supplied "Composite Title Page", which lists all of the titles included in that

⁸ The first batch of change notices was transmitted in the Feb. 22, 2008 issue of this newsletter (Issue No. 28, p.4), archived on [www.llmc.com](http://www.llmc.com/Newsletter/Issue28_February_2008.asp) at <http://www.llmc.com/Newsletter/Issue28_February_2008.asp>

serial record. Consolidating the records allows access, both to individual titles from 246s in the MARC records, and also to a display of the entire run of the title once the user links to the LLMC-Digital site. As these retroactive consolidations are completed, we will be notifying you of the OCLC record numbers which you should delete from your database and the new or edited OCLC records that you should download to replace them. Our SECONDBATCH of consolidated records follows."

Remove		
OCLC#	Replacement#	LLMC#
52330657	52330722	78024
52330683		
52330693		
52330718		
55974827	55974919	78044
52789460 ⁹	236164644	78050
52789526		
52789722		
52789834		
52803425		
52803501		
52330941	52330980	78060
54887444	54890219	78068b
53948740	53949760	78082
53948716		
52338000	52338020	78204
52346419	52346417	78224b
55490278	55490377	79408
52363412	52363259	79414
54941984	54977062	79416
54943145		
53909399	53909473	79418
55119567	55121892	81226
55120630		
55121777		
52378653	52378705	81237
52413346	52413508	88010

⁹ All 6 of these records have been aggregated by Hein- remove only if you do not need them for the Hein (or other) set.