RESOURCE SHARING IN IAMSLIC: AN UPDATE

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Current status of Resource Sharing in IAMSLIC:

IAMSLIC members have always known the benefits of resource sharing. With the inception of the IAMSLIC listserv it became even easier to request items from colleagues with just the click of a button. In the past year, 45% of the traffic on the IAMSLIC listserv was comprised of ILL requests and responses.

Clearly, the ability to share resources is a benefit to us all:
- It helps to augment our existing library collections
- It benefits our patrons

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, or institutional mandates, not all members can respond to resource sharing requests unless formal resource sharing protocols are implemented by IAMSLIC. Consider the possible alternatives outlined below:

The four tier system- a proposal:

Partnering: A library with a strong collection in a given subject can partner, or host, a library in need of similar resources and can be the first contact for resource sharing requests from a net borrower library. Several successful examples currently exist within our organization.

Regional group participation: We are already seeing success in this arena. Our regional groups (Cyamus, Euraslic, SAIL) maintain active listserv or mail reflectors. Of the messages posted to these lists, between 30 and 68% relate to resource sharing requests.

IAMSLIC Resource sharing support: If partners or regional groups are willing to fill most of the resource sharing requests, IAMSLIC may be able to compensate a larger marine science library for providing the documents that partners or regional groups do not own.

The IAMSLIC listserv as a last resort: When partners, regional groups and the IAMSLIC resource-sharing library cannot fill a request, the borrower can post that request to the entire IAMSLIC listserv. Members will know that this is a last resort request and will do everything within their power to assist in filling the request.

A Recent development!

NOAA Coastal Services Center
Coastal Information Library:
Making use of a Z39.50 platform, the NOAA Coastal Services Center has initiated a union catalog of libraries with coastal information. If your catalog is on a Z39.50 compatible server, you can participate too! Send the following information to John.Ulmer@noaa.gov or call (843)740-1228

- IP address or name (xxx.yyy.edu, etc.) of system
- Port for Z39.50 server
- Name of index
- Your email address and/or phone number so NOAA can contact you if they have questions.

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