Library Materials from "Anywhere"
Update on SUNY*Connect* Universal Borrowing

As most readers know, it has not been a straight line towards the goal of a SUNY*Connect*-wide circulation system. The goal has always been "unmediated universal borrowing across all SUNY*Connect* libraries". The process of getting to that goal has been one of fits and starts, however.

More meetings have been held (sigh). These included executive level meetings between SUNY and Ex Libris management. The importance of this feature and SUNY's view that Ex Libris hasn't been living up to its contractual obligations were stressed in these meetings.

Ex Libris has now proposed a March 2005 timeframe for delivering on this promise. So additional meetings have occurred for Ex Libris and OLIS to discuss and fine-tune functional parts of this new SUNY*Connect*-wide circulation system.

At least initially the system will focus on the SUNY*Connect* patron borrowing from other than her own "home" library. Issues related to using the system for patrons walking into other SUNY*Connect* libraries will be dealt with via future developments. OLIS has also provided Ex Libris information regarding statistical reports needed to fully utilize and evaluate the cross-SUNY*Connect* circulation.

The OLIS recognizes that such a circulation system offers opportunities and challenges for SUNY*Connect* libraries. The Data Access Working Group is getting back to the task of addressing some of these issues. And as more information becomes available, OLIS will share this with the SUNY*Connect* community as a whole.

It may have taken longer than we wanted, but there's new hope that the additional resource sharing feature of SUNY*Connect*-wide circulation will be in place in the not too distant future.