

Innovative Users Group 19th Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA
April 13-16, 2011

I would like to thank the C & U Section of the Nebraska Library Association for the 2010 Professional Development Grant. The grant was applied toward expenses to attend the Innovative Users Group 2011 Conference held in San Francisco, California, on April 13-16, 2011.

As the ILS Coordinator for the C. T. Ryan Library at the University of Nebraska Kearney, the IUG Conference provides an excellent opportunity for me to collaborate with other ILS coordinators; attend informational meetings regarding updates to products already installed on the library server; meet with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (III) technical staff; evaluate new products developed to enhance the ILS system; and learn more about the future needs of libraries.

During the opening session of the conference, III representatives announced the new Sierra Services Platform and their plans to release the software to customers in the fall of 2011. Sierra has been in development since July 2010. Driving forces behind the development include the need for a technology uplift to the ILS software, the need for a client "face lift", and to build an onramp for future aps. A couple sessions were recommended to attend which would preview aspects of the new Sierra interface.

The keynote speaker, Thomas Frey, from the DaVinci Institute at Louisville, Colorado, presented an entertaining view of what the future wants from libraries. He suggested libraries should go through a new relevancy test to determine how the library is or can be relevant to employees, students, and the community during the changing technology trends of the future.

Throughout the conference, I attended several sessions covering topics such as the new Sierra platform, Encore, AirPAC, Millennium modules, the use of virtualized servers, RDA updates, and changes on the ILS frontier. I also attended several "Quick Hits Theatre" presentations by the III technical staff. Topics covered included SSL renewals, virtual machines, Encore, and certification. I also attended the Poster Session and visited the Exhibitors Hall.

I truly appreciate the support of the C & U Section to attend the IUG conference in April. The opportunities and wealth of information provide a knowledge base which I am able to draw upon to meet the needs of our library.

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