

**Customers Of Dynix Inc  
CONFERENCE UPDATE  
November 6-9, 2005**

**NEWS FROM CODI**

By Pat Boze

This was the first CODI conference after the SirsiDynix merge, so the attendees were busy trying to pick up clues on how the merger will affect the future of the company. The company had over 100 staff, from both Sirsi and Dynix, in attendance at this conference of 900 customers. The CODI organization board indicated that there will likely be a joint Sirsi and Dynix/Horizon customer user conference in 3 years.

Patrick Sommers, SirsiDynix CEO, and formerly CEO of Sirsi, reiterated that the combined company will continue to support both the Sirsi and Dynix/Horizon automation products. There will be development for both existing products, with particular emphasis on the development of Horizon 8. There will also be continued new development in integrating 3<sup>rd</sup> party products that can work jointly with both automation systems. The philosophy of the combined company focuses on these major areas:

- Build a stable, dependable company
- Perform as a true partner to libraries
- Provide technology leadership

The combined company is now the largest library automation vendor in the world, with over 4,000 clients and 23,000 library buildings among those clients. SirsiDynix libraries operate in over 40 countries.

Jack Blount, former CEO of Dynix and now CTO (Chief Technology Officer) of Horizon, spoke about the coming Horizon 8 product. The company is committed to this product and has already begun beta testing. The product will be available Summer/Fall of 2006. It will be a completely web-based automation system and incorporates over 200 technology/library standards that put it at the forefront of this type of development. In addition, Horizon 8 workstations in libraries can be PC's, Macintosh, or Linux machines.

Besides the company executives presentations, there were many interesting sessions – I focused particularly on WebReporter, system administration, electronic reserves, and Horizon 8.0, particularly on the new Electronic Resource Management module that tracks copyright compliance and licensing for electronic resources purchased by libraries.

CODI 101

By Donna Schaal

Since this was my first CODI, I didn't know exactly what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised by how interesting I thought this conference was. Perhaps it was the practical nature of the conference that attracted me, or maybe it was the people that I met; whatever the reason, CODI in Minneapolis was a very positive and useful experience.

My focus was to learn as much as I could about the pending upgrade to Horizon 8. I attended as many of the Horizon 8 session as I could fit into the day. Seeing the new

version of Circulation, Cataloging, Serials, Searching and Acquisitions could have been overwhelming but fortunately the demonstrations were focused on the most used features and they were given by very knowledgeable Sirsi/Dynix staff members. While some attendees got lost in their individual situations, I tried to concentrate on learning what's new and different that LTLS could implement. Flexibility is one thing that Horizon 8 has plenty of. It was my impression that in the end Horizon 8 will be a better product because of this flexibility and because Sirsi/Dynix has fixed some of the more irritating "features". Since these two companies have merged, I feel that we will probably end up with the best of both product lines. It may take us awhile to get there but in the end it will be worth the trip. Here's to the future of Horizon..

#### CODI CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

By Nanette Wargo Donohue

Stephen Abram, VP of Innovation for SirsiDynix, gave a presentation about the top five strategic questions that library leaders should ask. A text version of his presentation is available here ([http://www.imakenews.com/sirsi/e\\_article000476128.cfm?x=b11,0,w](http://www.imakenews.com/sirsi/e_article000476128.cfm?x=b11,0,w)) if you'd like to read it. Representatives from SirsiDynix discussed interesting data mining products that are available on their Sirsi ILS, but not on Horizon.

I got to see Horizon 8.0 in action, and it looks very good. Some of the standout features of 8.0 are:

- **Acquisitions:** ability to use VIP (which might keep us from having to do manual on order records) in conjunction with EDIFACT.
- **Cataloging:** ability to search for items by status (i.e., TS, mending, missing) and remove them from public display
- **Circulation:** Patron records will be available from the launcher. Patron preferences can be set more easily. Patron records can be linked (families, multiple copies of same person with cards at different libraries, etc.). Requests can be grouped/prioritized so they will fill in a particular order.
- **Serials:** We'll have the ability to add pre-check in notes more easily, and there is reportedly a way to check in magazines using only the keyboard. Copy record management will be easier, and there's a graphic representation of a calendar to use when setting up publication patterns.
- **HIP 4.1:** This is the newest version of HIP, which we will likely get when we upgrade to Horizon 8. Kids' Information Portal (or KIP) is supposedly much improved. There have been updates to help disabled customers use HIP—it is now reader-accessible, and the ability to tab through rather than using the mouse has been added. There's a lot of customization features available that we may or may not be able to use.

I attended several interesting sessions. The first was the "Top Five Technology Trends," presented by a panel of librarians from various institutions. Topics discussed included wikis, MP3s and media, anonymous library cards, and RSS. The librarian who discussed MP3s had some interesting ideas about circulating MP3 players loaded with content from iTunes. The second was "Creating Synergy Between HIP and Your Library's Website," which was especially relevant in light of the Champaign Public Library current Virtual Library Grant project. "Automating Order Creation: Title Source 3 Grids and Horizon Acquisitions" was a great presentation because it was incredibly practical and because I

think we will be able to automate our on-order records. “Overview of Acquisitions for Horizon 8.0” session, gave me a look at some of the features in the new Acquisitions module. I went to a session on RSS, which explained how to set up feeds from HIP. I went to the Horizon 8.0 Serials Control Preview, which was informative. Overall, I was pleased with what I saw, and I think there will be some excellent new features that may help streamline our processes and eliminate some of the annoyances we’ve been facing in this area.