Project Brief for Simplifying Discovery Initiative

August 31, 2012

Objective: Increase the discovery and use of library resources for members of the MIT community by simplifying user discovery of and access to electronic resources via the MIT Libraries web site.

Requirements

- Provide oversight for the scoped implementation of a vended discovery service (implementation to be done by separate team)
- Develop a new design for the MIT Libraries web environment that makes it easier for users to find the right information resources for their research needs
- Recommend next steps for ongoing management, assessment and improvement of our discovery environment

Activities for FY13

A. Research & Planning Phase

1. Inventory MIT Libraries existing e-resources content & tools
2. Perform environmental scan of peer institution discovery environments
3. Plan for discovery tool implementation
4. Conduct supporting usability research
5. Pursue information architecture activities to inform an improved web design for our discovery environment
6. Develop a web analytics strategy specifically around library discovery environment

B. Deployment Phase

1. Oversee internal launch of discovery tool
2. Conduct alpha usability testing and internal staff review
3. Oversee public launch of discovery tool
4. Conduct beta usability testing
5. Coordinate web design changes
6. Implement web analytics strategy
7. Compile hand-off document recommending next steps for the ongoing support and development of our discovery environment

What Is Out of Scope

- Analysis of collections content to acquire new or replace currently subscribed e-resources
- Redesign of Barton or MIT’s WorldCat public web interfaces
- Redesign of DSpace or Dome public web interfaces
Team Members and Roles

Tito Sierra, Project Lead. Define project scope; report project status to staff; ensure appropriate allocation of resources as needed.

Melissa Feiden, Project Manager. Coordinate team’s effort on project management front; plan meeting schedules and agendas; ensure schedule milestones are met; oversee team’s documentation; coordinate related work with Information Delivery and Library Access.

Darcy Duke, Team Member. Provide knowledge of and assist with information architecture activities; coordinate web page changes with User Interface Group; coordinate other related work with UIG and User Experience department.

Millicent Gaskell, Team Member. Provide knowledge of MIT Libraries e-resources collections and content repositories; coordinate related work with Collections Strategy and Management.

Rich Wenger, Team Member. Provide technical expertise related to our electronic resources systems and broader enterprise systems environment; coordinate related work with Acquisitions, Metadata and Enterprise Systems and Integrated Systems Operations Team.

Matt Bernhardt, Team Member. Provide technical expertise related to deployment of search and discovery systems.