



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

## Meeting Minutes

### ASERL Fall 2001 Membership Meeting

November 5, 2001

Atlanta, Georgia

#### Welcome & Introductions

ASERL Board President Stella Bentley called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. EST. She welcomed UNC-Charlotte as ASERL's newest member, and new library directors Althea Jenkins (Florida State), Lou Pitschmann (U-Alabama), Sharman Smith (Miss. Library Commission) and Lamar Veatch (now state librarian in Georgia). Also noted was the recent death of George Terry, longtime director for the library at U-South Carolina.

#### Strategic Planning Info

John Burger presented an overview of the ASERL results culled from SOLINET's recent member survey (see handout). The results highlight several areas of interest identified by ASERL members. Stella Bentley noted that "Creation & management of digital information" was rated most important; "Staff training & development" was rated 2<sup>nd</sup> most important. "Electronic archiving" was predicted to have the greatest growth in programmatic importance during the next three years.

**NEXT STEPS:** These results will be used to help guide ASERL programmatic development in the future.

#### AmericanSouth.org Project

John Burger presented an overview of the proposal to the Mellon Foundation regarding the revised roles and responsibilities for the AmericanSouth.org project (which the ASERL Board approved in October). (See handout for more information). Emory has agreed to handle the technical development and scholarly components of the project; ASERL will provide admin support as needed. The group endorsed this approach, and agreed that additional ASERL members will have the opportunity to join this effort once the project is well established.

**NEXT STEPS:** The proposal will now be sent to the Mellon Foundation for their review.

#### Virtual Reference

John Ulmschneider presented an overview of progress to date with this project - see handout. By a show of hands, most ASERL members are providing some form of chat-based virtual reference at the current time.

1438 WEST PEACHTREE STREET, N.W., SUITE 200  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309-2955

VOICE: 404.892.0943

TOLL-FREE: 800.999.8558  
WEB: [HTTP://WWW.ASERL.ORG](http://www.aserl.org)

FAX: 404.892.7879

**NEXT STEPS:** Future efforts will focus on developing complete information about existing VR projects at ASERL sites and identifying possible ways to provide cooperative staffing for a 24x7 service for ASERL libraries.

### **Cooperative Storage**

Lance Query presented an overview of several options for a virtual storage system as discussed by the ASERL Cooperative Storage Committee, including the use of Kudzu as the identifier of holdings for such a system. Amy Dykeman reviewed the results from last year's survey of ASERL members on this topic, and there was agreement that shelf space continues to be a problem for most ASERL libraries. It was also acknowledged that implementing a virtual storage system for journals that have e-copies available would be easier than storing books. Also, while ASERL directors understand the possible benefits from a cooperative virtual storage system, comments indicated this issue continues to generate significant resistance among university faculty who demand instant access to original materials.

**NEXT STEPS:** The Committee will investigate grant funding opportunities for creating a policy and planning guide for a cooperative virtual storage system as a means of moving this project forward.

### **Kudzu Update**

John Burger presented a brief update on the Kudzu project (see handout) and invited participation from additional ASERL libraries. It was noted that having a link to Kudzu from the participating library's homepage is key to generating usage among patrons. Usage has not yet risen to a level where a contract delivery service would be cost effective.

### **Competencies Project**

Derrie Perez reviewed progress to date, including the recently-released booklet, "Shaping The Future," which generated significant interest among meeting participants. Members suggested using this booklet with HR staff for hiring & promotion purposes with existing staff, as well as identifying new staff in the future.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Members of the Education Committee will present this information to LIS professors during the ALISE national conference in January.
- John will distribute sample copies to other library groups and associations, and will poll members to determine how many additional copies of "Shaping The Future" are desired;. If necessary, a second printing will be offered.
- John will investigate creating a PDF file of the booklet for posting to the ASERL website.

### **Internship Options**

As a follow-up to the ASERL Summit on Research Librarian Competencies, David Ferriero presented an overview of internship programs at the library schools in the region (see handout). He also asked for input regarding possible ASERL-sponsored internships in the future. Three possible models emerged:

- a. Internships for MLS students before they finish their degree
- b. Internships for MLS students after they finish their degree
- c. Internships for subject matter experts (Ph.D.s and other scholars) without formal training in librarianship

**NEXT STEPS:** David Ferriero will lead a sub-committee of the Education Committee to investigate these options further with MLS programs in the region. Volunteers are sought to participate in this effort.

### **Information Literacy**

Stella Bentley led a discussion of possible Information Literacy training options, including co-sponsorship of ACRL's regional immersion training (next availability is 2004); other, less-intensive training available through ACRL; as well as other trainings available in the region (through SOLINET and other sources). John Ulmschneider & Connie McCarthy noted that VIVA is also developing InfoLit training for academic libraries in Virginia – perhaps these programs can be developed together?

**NEXT STEPS:** Volunteers will be sought to investigate options for providing Information Literacy training to ASERL library staff for report at the next meeting.

### **Membership Criteria**

Stella Bentley reviewed the Association's existing membership criteria and led a discussion of possible changes (see handout for additional information). The participants agreed on the following points:

- the membership should remain at approximately its current size
- membership should only be open to SOLINET members
- the scholarly requirements for membership should be strengthened
- other criteria for membership should be examined – perhaps using Carnegie levels?
- Additional flexibility should be offered to libraries that are subject to state funding cuts, especially longer probation periods for members who fall below spending thresholds.

**NEXT STEPS:** Stella will ask for volunteers to serve on a Committee to investigate the above issues further and draft recommendations for changes in membership criteria at a future meeting.

### **E-Resources Update**

Amy Dykeman discussed the possibility of netLibrary being purchased by another publishing venture. SOLINET will receive CD-ROM copies of the entire SOLINET Shared Collection as described in its escrow agreement. SOLINET is investigating options for providing access to the e-book collections if service from netLibrary is discontinued.

Amy also reviewed the usage data for the first netLibrary collection (see handout), and reviewed other e-resource offers currently available from SOLINET, including Greenwood Electronic Media.

### **SOLINET Update**

Kate Nevins provided an overview of major activities at SOLINET, including strategic planning activities (based on the membership survey); Quality Service activities; comprehensive website redesign, and implementation of a new customer relation management system (CRMS).

### **Adjournment**

Stella Bentley adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm EST.

## Attendees

Air University Library	Shirley Laseter
Auburn University	Stella Bentley
Clemson University	Joe Boykin
College of William & Mary	Connie McCarthy
Duke University	David Ferriero
East Carolina University	Carroll Varner
Emory University	Joan Gotwals
Florida International University	Nancy Hershoff
Florida State University	Althea Jenkins
George Mason University	Craig Gibson
Georgia Institute of Technology	Rich Meyer
Georgia State University	Charlene Hurt
Louisiana State University	Jennifer Cargill
State Library of Georgia	Lamar Veatch
Tulane University	Lance Query
University of Alabama	Lou Pitschmann
University of Alabama -- Birmingham	Jerry Stephens
University of Central Florida	Barry Baker
University of Florida	Dale Canelas
University of Georgia	Susan Curtis
University of Kentucky	Paul Willis
University of Louisville	Hannelore Rader
University of Memphis Libraries	Sylverna Ford
University of Mississippi	John Meador
University of NC - Chapel Hill	Larry Alford
University of NC - Charlotte	Lee Gray
University of South Carolina	Tom McNally
University of South Florida	Derrie Perez
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	Aubrey Mitchell
Vanderbilt University	John Haar
Virginia Commonwealth University	John Ulmschneider
Wake Forest University	Rhoda Channing
SOLINET	Kate Nevins
SOLINET	Amy Dykeman
SOLINET	John Burger

Respectfully submitted:

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*Barbara Dewey, Secretary-Treasurer*