Fall 2003 Membership Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2003 – Atlanta, Georgia

1) Welcome & Introductions – ASERL President Derrie Perez welcomed new members (Carol Diedrichs (U-Kentucky); Julia Rholes (U-Mississippi); Linda Matthews (Emory); Bill Walker (U-Miami); Debbie Lambert (Wake Forest). Attendees introduced themselves.

2) Discussion: Cooperative Storage – What are the Options?
Paul Gherman (Vanderbilt) reviewed his concept paper for a cooperative virtual storage system (see handout) for monographs held in remote storage and described his ongoing discussions with OCLC to determine initial steps for a feasibility study. Glenn Patton (OCLC) joined the discussion via conference telephone. Approximately half of the ASERL members present expressed interest in participating in an overlap study of monographs held in their remote storage collections. As a separate item, all members expressed interest in OCLC developing a unique titles report as a stand-alone product.

NEXT STEPS: Gherman, Burger, Nyberg will investigate funding possibilities for an overlap study. Burger will query the group via email to develop a roster of interested libraries.

3) Discussion: Ideas for Training Non-MLS Professionals to Work in ASERL Libraries
Charlene Hurt and Lou Pitschmann described their suggestions for developing training for non-MLS professionals to work in research libraries (see handouts). Lou focused on subject matter specialists; Charlene focused on other, non-academic professionals working in libraries (e.g., HR, communications, finance, etc.)

ASERL members agreed that this type of training would be valuable, and should include information about core library issues, including the following:

- Library values – our commitment to equity of access to information, the free flow of information, and the right to satisfy our information needs in privacy
• Issues surrounding intellectual property, copyright, fair use
• The nature of the publishing environment and developments in the scholarly communications system
• Historical perspectives on the role of libraries in society and in the institutions in which they exist
• An understanding of the technology environment in which libraries exist
• Information management – its principles, value, intellectual structure, uses of metadata, discovery tools and processes, etc.
• The “Diffuse Library” – the library role in teaching and research and its commitment to public service
• Library terminology and jargon
• The process, workings and value of scholarly research; the importance of creating new knowledge and the roles libraries play in that process
• The culture of higher education as a community

NEXT STEPS: The Education Committee will consider options for creating a training program based on the above. Possibilities include a blend of distance education and face-to-face training session, partnerships with SOLINET, partnerships with LIS school(s) in region. New volunteers to work on this effort include Frances Coleman (Mississippi State), Barbara Dewey (Tennessee), Sylverna Ford (Memphis), Julia Rholes (Ole Miss) and Natalie Chase (ASERL’s CFO, as non-librarian rep).

4) Discussion: Partnership Possibilities for ASERL & CRL
CRL President Bernie Reilly reviewed CRL’s current program offerings and discussed his counter-proposal to ASERL for a consortial membership. There was skepticism among the group about the counter-proposal. Considerable discussion followed about ways to re-structure the proposal to reduce per-member costs for ASERL members while ensuring fairness to existing CRL members.

NEXT STEPS: The Working Group (David Ferriero, Connie McCarthy, Lou Pitschmann, John Burger) will continue working with CRL staff to draft a new proposal for a consortial membership.

5) Discussion: Things I’ve Learned (The Hard Way) in Disaster Planning & Recovery
Bill Potter described his experiences resulting from the fire that was set at the UGA library on July 23rd. He expressed his thanks to his ASERL colleagues for their many offers of support. Lessons learned include the flammability of cardboard (the source of the fire), the need for multiple means for communicating with staff (which can be difficult when standard office systems are unavailable), and the need to ensure library materials are properly insured (especially rare books and items on permanent loan to the library).
6) Discussion: ASERL’s Survey of Digitization Programs
Eileen Hitchingham described the process and purposes for the upcoming ASERL survey of digitization programs (see handout). The group agreed to separate the survey into two parts – questions for library directors and questions for digitization managers.

NEXT STEPS: John Burger will convert the draft into two online forms as described above and disseminate to the aserl-admin listserv by November 15th. Responses are due by December 31st.

7) Discussion: Next Steps for AmericanSouth.org
John Burger provided a brief overview of the recent AmericanSouth workshop held at Emory University and reviewed the information prepared by Martin Halbert describing how ASERL libraries can contribute metadata from relevant projects to the AmericanSouth portal (see handouts) and how to secure consulting services for metadata preparation if desired. The group agreed that future AmericanSouth project development should be guided by the results of the digitization survey and should be coordinated with statewide portals (e.g., North Carolina ECHO, etc.)

NEXT STEPS: John Burger will include a question on the digitization survey to determine the number of digital collections that might be relevant to this portal. SOLINET and ASERL staff will meet with Emory library’s staff to determine additional steps for future program development.

8) Discussion: 2004 National Diversity in Libraries Conference
John Burger provided an overview of the 2004 National Diversity in Libraries Conference, for which ASERL is providing significant staff support. The Conference will be held May 4 – 5, 2004 in Atlanta, immediately before the 2004 ASERL and SOLINET annual meetings. The conference will focus on three general subject areas:

- Recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce for libraries
- Developing collections that reflect a diverse population
- Working with diverse users

Additionally, the conference will focus on three target audiences:

- Research libraries
- Small & mid-size academic libraries
- Public libraries

ASERL libraries are encouraged to participate in the conference and to consider becoming a sponsor (see handouts). The sponsorship fundraising goal is $25,000, currently $8500 has been raised. A call for papers, conference theme, and keynote speakers will be selected by a program planning committee in the next month. ASERL is seeking two additional representatives for the program planning committee, plus a representative to the fundraising and publicity committees respectively.
NEXT STEPS: ASERL library directors are encouraged to consider sponsoring the conference. Also, directors should send names for suggested committee reps to John Burger by November 15th. Program planning will continue by ASERL and SOLINET staff over the next several months.

9) ASERL Program Updates
   a) **ASERL Competencies Survey** – Derrie Perez reviewed the short survey to be sent to ASERL directors regarding their use of ASERL’s competencies in HR processes. This will be converted into an online form and distributed via the aserl-admin listserv. ASERL directors are asked to pass the survey on to their HR managers for completion. Returns are requested by December 31st.
   b) **Virtual Reference** – John Burger reviewed the accomplishments to date of the v-Ref Steering Committee (see handout). The project is scheduled to go live on January 15th. Alondo Brewington is the project coordinator. The University of Miami recently signed on as the 11th participating library.
   c) **Kudzu/Document Delivery** – John Burger reviewed the Kudzu delivery stats that are now being compiled by a subcontractor (see handout). The initial figures do not appear accurate; staff will continue to investigate irregularities and may re-issue the data if corrections need to be made.
   d) **ASERL Program Affiliates** – John Burger reported that to date no applications have been received. Barbara Dewey indicated libraries continue to consider joining. A promotional mailing will be sent soon to promote participation in the Kudzu shared catalog, which may entice some additional libraries outside the region to become ASERL Program Affiliates.
   e) **ASERL Membership Statistics** – On behalf of John Ulmschneider, John Burger inquired to determine the group’s interest in collecting separate data for law and medical libraries using the ARL statistical forms. The non-ARL members agreed to submit this data separately. The group also agreed that all ASERL libraries would submit data directly to ASERL using ASERL’s online form. This may mean ARL members would enter the data twice (once to ARL, once to ASERL). ASERL staff will continue to investigate technology solutions to eliminate the duplication of effort.
   f) **ASERL ILL Reciprocal Agreement** – John Burger reported that the revised ILL Reciprocal Agreement is now complete. A bulk email was recently sent to ILL staff at ASERL libraries to inform them of the update and provide web links to the new agreement and a list of participating sites.
   g) **SOLINET Update** – Kate Nevins reported on SOLINET’s recent agreement to provide distance education training for library paraprofessionals via an agreement with Lexington Community College. (See [http://www.solinet.net/emplibfile/kvu2.pdf](http://www.solinet.net/emplibfile/kvu2.pdf) for more information.)

**ALSO:**
- SOLINET will survey ASERL libraries to determine their interest in mass deacidification services.
- New service: OCLC will soon release a pilot test linking a “well-known Internet search engine” with a scaled-down version of WorldCat. Users will be able to enter their zip code to determine the nearest library that holds the item they seek. David Ferriero reported RLG is developing a similar service.
- OCLC is developing new service options for non-OCLC cataloging libraries to gain access to cataloging services at minimal cost through their local consortia
- The HBCU Libraries Alliance has received funding from the Mellon Foundation to create leadership training for HBCU library directors. The group is also beginning statistical analyses of the collections.

**h) E-Resources Update** – Tim Cherubini reviewed new database licensing offers available from SOLINET (see handout). He also reported that ICOLC will soon switch to a new meeting schedule, varying between American sites and European sites; ASERL may want to participate in the European meetings in the future.

10) **Other Updates/Announcements**
- John Burger reviewed next steps to be undertaken based on the day’s decisions.
- Dates for next meeting: March 13 – 15, 2004 at Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans.
- Ideas for speakers/topics for March meeting are welcome; please send to John Burger.
- Volunteers are needed for the 2004 Board elections and Nominating Committee. See handout or contact John Burger for more information.

11) **Meeting Wrap-up/Adjourn**
  Derrie Perez adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

12) **Attendees – See attached page.**

Respectfully submitted:

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*Sylverna Ford, Secretary-Treasurer*
Attendees

Air University
Terry Hawkins

Auburn University
Harmon Straiton

Clemson University
Joe Boykin

College of William & Mary
Connie McCarthy

Duke University
David Ferriero

East Carolina University
Carroll Varner

Emory University
Linda Matthews

Florida State University
Althea Jenkins

George Mason University
Craig Gibson

Georgia Public Library Service
Lamar Veatch

Georgia State University
Charlene Hurt

Georgia Tech
Rich Meyer

Louisiana State University
Jennifer Cargill

Mississippi State University
Francis Coleman

Tulane University
Lance Query

University of Alabama
Lou Pitschmann

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Jerry Stephens

University of Central Florida
Barry Baker

University of Florida
Martha Hruska

University of Georgia
Bill Potter

University of Kentucky
Carol Diedrichs

University of Louisiana
Diane Nichols

University of Memphis
Sylverna Ford

University of Mississippi
Julia Rholes

University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Amy Dykeman

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Doris Hulbert

University of South Carolina
Paul Willis

University of South Florida
Derrie Perez

University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Barbara Dewey

University of Virginia
Doug Hurd

Vanderbilt University
Paul Gherman

Virginia Tech
Eileen Hitchingham

Center for Research Libraries
Bernie Reilly

SOLINET
Kate Nevins, Robert Hulshof-Schmidt,
Natalie Chase, John Burger, Mike Bailey,
Sandy Nyberg