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 for more information.) ALSO:

- SOLINET will survey ASERL libraries to determine their interest in mass deacidification services.
- Recommended reading: OCLC's "Environmental Scan for Libraries" (to be published soon) and "How Libraries Stack Up" (http://www5.oclc.org/downloads/community/librariesstackup.pdf)
- 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	Franecs 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 Louisville	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