



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

**Spring 2004 Membership Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 14 - 15, 2004 - New Orleans, Louisiana**

*Welcome and Introductions*

Derrie Perez called the meeting to order at 9 am. The meeting began with introductions. Gratitude was expressed to Jennifer Cargill for hosting the opening reception and to John Burger for his work in organizing the meeting. A resolution honoring Joe Hewitt (retiring from UNC Chapel Hill) was read.

Changes to the Agenda - In the interest of full discussion and recognizing that some members will have to leave today, the Board decided to modify the agenda so the budget discussion could occur on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The administrative updates planned for March 14<sup>th</sup> were moved to March 15<sup>th</sup>.

***Create Change - Reclaiming Scholarly Publishing***

Julia Blixrud from the Association of Research Libraries discussed the Open Access Initiative for scholarly publishing that began in Budapest in early 2002. It is directed toward scholars who publish and do not expect monetary compensation for publication. The SPARC Open Access Newsletter is a good source for information on Open Access. Raising consciousness is a key issue in this movement. Experience shows that many campuses have held events on this topic but few have done any follow-up. One event has proven not to be enough. There must be a willingness to repeat the effort in order to get the message across.

There are primarily two models of Open Access publishing:

Institutional Responsibility - authors self-archive their publications and store them on a local server. Libraries have a role in this because people rely on the libraries to organize information.

Open Access Journals - such as *Biomed Central* or *Public Library of Science*. These focus on recent developments in science and make the information available for free.

Key issues to be resolved for the Open Access Initiative include:

1. Sustainability of these models is unknown.
2. The quality of the publications was an initial concern but that seems to be a decreasing concern as this publication become more prevalent.

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3. Copyright and intellectual property concerns have to be addressed. Most publications allow authors to retain copyright on their articles.
4. Promotion and Tenure - How will these publications be used in tenure and promotion decisions? Efforts are underway to explore alternatives to ISI impact to assign value to these publications.
5. Technical Standards - How can we know we'll be able to access archived materials a few years from now?
6. User Access - How will libraries organize themselves to acquire, organize, and provide access to those resources for users?

Discussion:

OAISTER, based at the University of Michigan, is one project that will be doing some exploration into some of these issues.

Charlene Hurt expressed concern that using the model of the author paying to publish will mean that poorer institutions will not be able to participate in scholarly publishing as freely as they do now.

### ***OCLC Environmental Scan: What does it mean for ASERL libraries?***

Cathy DeRosa talked about OCLC's recently-published Environmental Scan. The primary focus has been on determining what are the developing patterns that we should be paying attention to and planning for. It was intended to be an international scan but that was a lot more difficult than anticipated. The scan was done over a three-month period and consists of five sections: social landscape, economic, technology, research and learning, and library.

Social landscape- focuses on the users and how they navigate the "infosphere". Evidence shows that users use the internet to get information but also to get advice. A lot of information sharing goes on; people give each other sites. Users are comfortable with competing, collaborating, and creating online. Eighty-five percent of students on campuses are engaged in competitive gaming on-line.

Economic - changes in funding of the public good. Sources of library/education funds: Seventy-five percent of library spending is done by the U.S., Japan, UK, Italy, and France. Sources of library funding: 86.9% is public funding, 4.6% is from user fees, 8.5% is grant funding. Use of library funds: 53% for staffing, 27% for materials, 17% for other expenses, and 3% for e-content and subscriptions.

Technology - microcontent is becoming increasingly important. That is presenting small bits of information as opposed to whole publications. There is a strong drive toward organizing unstructured data. Open source is in use in 64% of campuses. Content management software is becoming more and more important and will support access to information.

Research & Learning - learning for life is increasing tremendously. E-learning is increasing 4 times the rate of traditional learning. Three patterns are emerging: 1) Decrease in guided access to information; 2) Dis-aggregation of information (microcontent); and 3) Collaboration.

ASERL members expressed appreciation for the excellent presentation of the Environmental Scan. A suggestion was made that OCLC should create a web cast of this presentation that could be shared with staff and administrators at its member institutions.

### *Administrative Updates*

#### Nominees for the 2004 board elections

Derrie Perez drew attention to the sample ballot that was provided as an informational item. Voting will occur at the annual meeting in May.

#### Review of ASERL Budget & Dues

Derrie Perez began the discussion with a statement that put into context the board's recommendation of a \$500.00 dues increase. Kate Nevins gave a statement on the SOLINET perspective on the dues increase. SOLINET will support ASERL to be the organization that the membership would like it to be. Natalie Chase gave a summary of the budget. John Burger gave a statement summarizing what he does for ASERL. Barbara Dewey indicated that during her presidency she intends to initiate a study of the budget and dues structure. This project will explore options and develop a plan for managing the budgeting process.

After a lengthy discussion, concluding with a consensus that the membership wanted more information on the budget and the budget process, Charlene Hurt made a motion seconded by Paul Gherman to defer the vote on the dues until the May meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Between now and the time for the vote, more information will be provided to the membership.

The meeting recessed at 1:05 p.m.

### **Monday, March 15, 2004, continuation of ASERL Spring Meeting**

#### *Review of the Agenda/Q&A*

The Spring meeting was reconvened at 8:30 am by Derrie Perez who called for changes to the agenda and/or questions. A report on the Kudzu project was added.

#### *Review of ASERL Digitization Survey Results*

Eileen Hitchingham presented the Digitization Survey results. The results indicate a variety of projects going on at member libraries. There is a great range of different software being used to create digitized projects as well as to retrieve the data from these files that are being created. John Burger will post the data on the ASERL website following the Diversity Conference to allow further analysis.

#### *AmericanSouth Update*

John Burger indicated that the final report for the American South project is available on the web site of the project. The project was specifically created to test the OAI metadata harvesting protocols and the use of them to collect this kind of data. A group of the project participants are now preparing to submit a proposal for a project to explore further refinement of this protocol.

### ***Brainstorming: Interests in Collaborative Digitization Programs***

Sheri Downer led a discussion focused on what might happen next as a follow-up to the American South Project and in light of the digitization survey results. Ideas included:

- ASERL might consider trying to establish some type of collaboration with DLF (Digital Library Federation) to replicate their software.
- PALM - offers the capability of archiving digitized resources via centralized website & cooperative staffing. Priscilla Caplan (FCLA) might be invited to make a presentation on that project.
- There was consensus that ASERL should try to identify commonalities in our collections that would be on common themes. Sheri called for interest in creating a task force to explore the possibilities. The group would look at portal development among ASERL libraries, digital special collections at ASERL libraries, user wants/needs, and possible barriers to cooperative project development (e.g., branding needs for individual libraries/institutions)
- Eileen Hitchingham agreed to categorize the projects in the survey so that we can look at them to see if there are some areas that we might want to pursue projects in.

Next steps will be determined after that list is developed.

Eileen Hitchingham presented a review of the UC Collection Management Initiative that looked at user preference between print and electronic versions of publications. The study showed that by far users chose the electronic journal over the print version when given a choice.

### ***ASERL Program Updates***

Virtual Storage Project - Paul Gherman reported 9 institutions will participate in the study.

Application for \$12,000 to fund the study has been submitted to CLIR. OCLC will manage the project for \$12,000. OCLC is looking to create an online collection management product that allows each library to compare their holdings to the virtual storage and make some decisions about collections using the data. September is the target date for completing the overlap study.

Virtual Reference Service - John Burger reported this project went live after a 2 week delay. Eleven libraries are currently participating. Last week, ASERL launched a quality enhancement initiative to help participating libraries to be more effective. Data on number of questions-fielded by each library will be provided to participating libraries. Publicity for the program includes bags and note pads being given to each participating in this project. Anecdotally, the results seem to indicate that most of the questions are not local and can be answered by the participating libraries. This is a test project and decisions will be made about the software and the project plan as the project comes to a close in 15 months.

Competencies Usage Survey - Derrie Perez gave a brief update on the survey on the use of the competencies; 29 members responded. The survey indicates that the majority of members use it in some manner. Charlene Hurt will serve as Chair of the Education Committee for future efforts.

Training for Professionals - Lou Pitschmann gave an update on issues the subcommittee (he & Charlene Hurt) considered in drafting plans for new tasks. This effort is evolving into two primary areas of focus:

1. New models to ensure that librarians have the right mix of expertise to hold the positions in the libraries of the future. Lou will lead this effort.
2. Charlene Hurt will focus on the training needs of non- MLS professionals needed by research libraries (e.g., HR, Communications/Marketing staff, etc.). What do they need to make sure they have a basic grounding in library information that will help them to do their jobs better in the library context.

ASERL members interested in volunteering to work on these efforts should submit their names to John Burger.

CRL Consortial Membership Proposal - John Burger reported that since the Fall meeting he has continued to seek further information on membership possibilities as a consortium. No progress has been made in coming to an agreement.

2004 National Diversity Conference- John Burger reported the conference planning is going well. A major gap is in the area of corporate fundraising; special efforts will be devoted to this effort this week.

#### *Discussion/Updates*

Usability Studies for Library Websites - Amy Dykeman's report on website usability will be emailed to ASERL members for review. Other members who have similar studies are encouraged to share them as well.

Responses to USA Patriot Act, FERPA, TEACH Acts - John Burger provided a set of handouts that summarized the key points of these acts.

CDL Study on e-Print Usage- Executive summary included in the pack is an update and a chronicle article on the subject. David Ferriero suggested that Scott Bennett's executive summary suggests that we are not doing a good job of planning learning spaces. There was some sentiment that Bennett's conclusions seem to be based on old information. David suggested a future ASERL discussion to talk about this.

KUDZU Update- John Burger reported that the Kudzu project seems to be going well. Earlier problems with delivery seemed to have been resolved.

SOLINET Update- SOLINET Board approved new strategic plan at it last meeting.

Key areas of focus in the plan are:

1. Library cooperation and new partnerships
2. Library leadership and advocacy
3. Cost-effective products and services
4. Organizational strength and fiscal responsibility

E-Resources Update - Tim Cherubini noted that many e-resource vendors did not raise prices last year but most will increase them this year, in the 3% to 5% range. Tim reviewed the electronic Resources currently available from SOLINET, including the Vanderbilt TV News Archive. Institutions with enrollments of 10K to 25K FTE will pay about \$ 1500 to \$1700 annual subscription rate for the Vanderbilt TV News Archive.

Products being considered and the products to be retained among the SOLINET offerings are now under review. SOLINET would like input from an advisory committee to assist with the selection of products being reviewed and considered for joint acquisition. The consensus of the discussion was that there is merit to this idea but it needs to be explored further to develop a viable mechanism for getting input.

*Adjournment*

Derrie Perez adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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**Sylverna Ford, Secretary-Treasurer**

## Attendees

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Auburn University                           | Sheri Downer  |
| Clemson University                          | Joe Boykin  |
| College of William & Mary                   | Connie McCarthy   |
| Duke University                             | David Ferriero  |
| East Carolina University                    | Carroll Varner  |
| Emory University                            | Linda Matthews  |
| Florida International University            | Larry Miller  |
| Florida State University                    | Maryhelen Jones   |
| George Mason University                     | John Zenelis  |
| Georgia State University                    | Charlene Hurt   |
| Georgia Tech                                | Rich Meyer  |
| Louisiana State University                  | Jennifer Cargill  |
| North Carolina State University             | Susan Nutter  |
| Tulane University                           | Lance Query   |
| University of Alabama                       | Lou Pitschmann  |
| University of Alabama at Birmingham         | Jerry Stephens  |
| University of Central Florida               | Frank Allen   |
| University of Florida                       | Dale Canelas  |
| University of Kentucky                      | Carol Diedrichs   |
| University of Louisville                    | Hannelore Rader   |
| University of Memphis                       | Sylverna Ford   |
| University of Miami                         | Bill Walker   |
| University of Mississippi                   | Julia Rholes  |
| University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | Joe Hewitt  |
| 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   |
| Vanderbilt University                       | Paul Gherman  |
| Virginia Commonwealth University            | John Ulmschneider   |
| Virginia Tech                               | Eileen Hitchingham  |
| Wake Forest University                      | Debbie Lambert  |
| SOLINET                                     | Kate Nevins, Robert Hulshof-Schmidt, Natalie Chase, John Burger |
| Guests                                      | Julia Blixrud (ARL), Cathy DeRosa (OCLC)                        |