



**Fall 2004 Membership Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 30, 2004 - Atlanta, Georgia**

**Welcome & Introductions**

ASERL Board President Barbara Dewey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and introductions followed.

**Cooperative Storage: How Much Overlap? Where Do We Go From Here?**

Paul Gherman reporting. Nine ASERL project participants submitted bibliographic data to OCLC on titles held in remote storage. Surprisingly, participants don't have a lot of duplicate titles in storage. With 2.3 million titles in storage, there is 18% overlap (1 title held in common); only 7% of stored titles are held in 3 or more libraries. Discussion lead to the conclusion that because of the low overlap percentage it would not be cost effective to focus this effort on weeding storage collections. The issue is how we get OCLC to make the analysis more broadly available to libraries. It would have to be marketable and cost effective and this might have more value as a preservation tool. The overlap analysis might be an opportunity to demonstrate an added value of WorldCat for participating libraries which could be a step toward making it attractive to OCLC.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Talk to OCLC to see what can be provided for us to identify unique titles. ASERL will send a letter urging their participation in further development of this project.
- Pursue a partnership with CIC libraries to pursue the storage analysis project.

**Report from the ASERL Finance Task Force**

Paul Gherman, Task Force Chairman, reporting. There was a lengthy discussion of the report. There were strong sentiments that we should impose a dues increase as of FY 06. There is some sense of the need for ASERL to begin to pay its own way rather than being subsidized by SOLINET. There was consensus that the dues should be increased by \$500 as of FY06. The official vote will be taken at the March 2005 meeting.

**Education Committee--Plans for Upcoming Activities**

Lou Pitschmann reporting. The Committee met on 11/29/04, and is focusing on developing a training program for non-librarian professionals working in research libraries. To launch this program the committee is recommending:

1. A two-year pilot project including a two-stage assessment that will evaluate the program after attendees have returned to work for several months.

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2. Seeking funding for a planning grant to develop a business plan, curriculum, assessment, and appropriate processes.
3. Seek partnership with organizations such as NACUBO, CASE , HBCU Library Alliance .
4. Working Name – “Contemporary Library Issues & Practice: An ASERL Institute for Non-MLS professionals.” CLIP Institute could become the popular name. There was a lot of support for this project moving forward. It was suggested that staff development officers be involved in the planning process.

ACTION ITEM: See minutes from Education Committee.

### **Review of ASERL Digital Projects Website**

John Burger showed the ASERL website that brings together the data from the survey on digital projects. The website is being moved to new software that will allow full-text searching and will permit users to edit/update their own information as desired. Many uses for this data were suggested. There was a strong sense that we should continue with this work.

ACTION ITEM: New version of website will be launched in December for testing/preview. This pilot effort will be refined for several weeks, then made available to public in early 2005.

### **Creativity as Leadership Strategy**

Frances Maloy of Emory University is serving as ACRL’s President for this year. She talked about the role of librarians in taking the lead in supporting the teaching and learning that occurs on campuses. With all the changes that are going on in libraries, librarians are forced to stay ahead of the curve. How do we as librarians become better managers of information so that we support the discovery process while using the available technology? The challenge is to listen carefully, ask good questions, and consider the possibilities. It’s critical that we think of what can be as opposed to what is.

### **ASERL Updates**

#### **• ASERL/CRL Consortial Membership – John Burger**

CRL just submitted a new offer to give a discount to Voting Members for years 1 and 2 and then pay full price in the third year. For associate members, there would be 7 memberships for the price of 5. The group did not feel this represents a move in the right direction for us, as it is not achieving any significant cost savings.

ACTION ITEMS:

- ASERL Staff will analyze the financial details and circulate the information to ASERL directors for review/comment.
- Staff/Board will contact CRL again to see if there is any possibility of getting a better offer.

#### **• SECAC Initiative – Carol Diedrichs**

The SEC has been an athletic consortium up to now, but is now considering academic programming similar to CIC (including a library component). The affected librarians agree that these libraries are already working together through ASERL and have no need to replicate those same activities. Instead, they will be looking for new areas in which to cooperate. The SECAC Agreement has not yet

been signed by the institutions; more information will follow as this develops. SEC institutions include: Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt. (The only non-ASERL member of SEC is U-Arkansas, which could participate in ASERL activities as a Program Affiliate.)

- *Virtual Reference – John Burger*

The pilot project is underway through December of 2004. The contract with OCLC for QuestionPoint software will be extended through June 30, 2005 to see if the new version that OCLC will be offering (beginning Late January 2005) will provide the desired capabilities. Three libraries will drop out in the new year, but at least two others may be joining the service in the coming year. There are still 10 participants in the project, the previously-established threshold to keep the service operating. The shared costs will be approximately \$3,900 per participating institution for the new year. Participants average an 8- hour per week commitment for staffing the service. Weekends are hard to staff currently. While use was initially low, it is growing and it is anticipated that the next generation of college students will use the service more. The use of simpler instant messaging may be explored as a possible option for the future.

- *ASERL Program Affiliates – Barbara Dewey*

The Board seeks assistance in recruiting ASERL Program Affiliates. The Board will identify research libraries that could provide strategic benefits to ASERL programming and will seek help from colleagues in contacting/recruiting the selected libraries.

- *Mass De-Acidification Survey – Julie Arnott*

Seventeen ASERL libraries responded to the online survey about their interest/ need for mass de-acidification as a preservation strategy. Of those, 71% believe mass de-acidification would be useful. Almost all respondents think staff would benefit from a workshop on mass de-acidification. Currently, it's unclear if there is enough interest in this to move forward with trying to get a group price on these services. This option might be appropriate to explore after we gain additional information each library's unique holdings. Other questions remain, for example, what is the minimum number of participants required to qualify for the "mass?"  
ACTION ITEM: Julie will prepare a summary for the March 2005 ASERL meeting.

- *KUDZU/Document Delivery – John Burger*

Stats reflect an ongoing high level of activity. Service seems to be working well. Vanderbilt Law Library (TJL) recently joined the service; other members are sought to participate. A study group is studying how this service can be improved in the future.

### **Collection Development Initiative and E-Reserves Update**

Tim Cherubini provided handouts regarding current licensing offers available from SOLINET. Tim also described the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, developed by philosophy scholars from around the world. The initial grant funding is coming to a close and Stanford is seeking other options for funding. The International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) has now

launched an effort to raise funds to endow this publication; SOLINET is serving as the fiscal agent. Four million dollars is needed to endow this resource; at least \$1.5 million is sought from libraries and philosophers. SPARC is also participating and donations to the Stanford Encyclopedia will count toward required SPARC expenditures. Additional information will be distributed soon.

Tim has had conversations with designated representatives from ASERL member libraries regarding consortial purchasing possibilities. Multiple-consortia participation is common among libraries, ranging from 2 to 7. There is strong belief that opportunities still exist for ASERL libraries to work together on joint purchases. Consensus was to proceed with this effort focusing on research databases that might be worth pursuing together. There was also belief that SOLINET and ASERL should be more aggressive in working with vendors in terms of licensing terms, as vendors will respond if a group such as ASERL comes together as a unified bloc to address an issue. This may be difficult as the bloc can easily disintegrate if pricing incentives are offered by the vendor to selected members. Additionally, ASERL libraries still have to decide how much staff time they are willing to invest in this effort.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Tim/John will distribute additional information about the Stanford Encyclopedia fundraising effort as it becomes available;
- Tim/John/Kate Nevins will draft a plan for how the consortial resource selection/group licensing effort might work, for distribution to ASERL members. It is anticipated that a steering committee of 6 to 8 ASERL collection development managers would lead the effort.

**Options for Collaborating with LOCKSS - Vicky Reich (via speaker phone)**

LOCKSS ("Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe") has developed a widely used, open-source software package for archiving electronic resources if the vendors' copies ever become unavailable. One-third of ASERL libraries currently use LOCKSS. However, additional technical development is needed, and grant funding is no longer available. Vicky seeks to recruit additional libraries to use LOCKSS, would like participating libraries to exert pressure on vendors to become LOCKSS-compliant, and seeks to raise money to cover costs of future project development tasks. To keep the project viable for another 5 years, \$2.5 million is needed. No consensus was reached within ASERL on how to proceed.

**Options for Collaborating with SPARC - Rick Johnson (via speakerphone)**

Rick provided an update on ATA (Alliance for Taxpayer Access), the coalition of organizations urging the federal government to require reports derived from federally-funded research be made freely available on the Internet within 6 month of publication. ASERL is a member of ATA. Slow progress is being seen on this proposal. Currently 28 members of ASERL belong to SPARC. Unfortunately, SPARC's consortial membership model would not provide any additional benefits/savings if more ASERL members joined SPARC.

### **SOLINET Update** - Kate Nevins

- SOLINET is undergoing organizational transformation, and will soon be focused on three major functions: R & D/new program development, membership services, and member outreach/communications. Potential new projects include open access, cooperative institutional repositories, digital archiving, library marketing and advocacy.
- SOLINET is launching new self-service models based on member preferences. "My SOLINET" is a new, self-managed portal that will allow users to check financial interactions, view services/subscriptions used, update contact information, and send notifications.
- HBCU Library Alliance: With SOLINET's assistance, the HBCU consortium has applied for a two-year grant from the Mellon Foundation to support a leadership development program. The grant includes a dedicated program officer. On the horizon: digitizing Special Collections at HBCU sites.
- SOLINET's Annual Meeting - May 5-6, 2005, Georgia Tech Conference Center. (ASERL's Annual Meeting is 5pm on May 5<sup>th</sup>.)

### **Meeting Wrap-Up/Q & A/Adjourn** - Barbara Dewey, John Burger

- The next meeting will be March 12 - 14, 2005 in Coconut Grove, Florida. Bill Walker (U-Miami) lives there, describes it as an artists' community, looks forward to welcoming ASERL in a few months. See handout for additional information.
- Volunteers are sought to serve on the Board of Director for 2005 -2007. One President-Elect and two At-Large members are needed. Please submit your names to Barbara Dewey or John Burger if interested.
- Three volunteers are also needed to serve on the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election. Committee members cannot be on the current Board or running for one of the vacancies. Please submit your names to Barbara Dewey or John Burger if interested.

Barbara Dewey adjourned the meeting at 3:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Sylverna Ford, Secretary-Treasurer

**Participants:**

Air University Library	Shirley Laseter
Auburn University	Sheri Downer
Clemson University	Joe Boykin
College of William & Mary	Connie McCarthy
Duke University	Robert L. Byrd
East Carolina University	Carroll Varner
Emory University	Linda Matthews, Frances Maloy
Florida State University	Althea Jenkins
George Mason University	John Zenelis
Georgia Institute of Technology	Rich Meyer
Georgia State University	Charlene Hurt
Tulane University	Lance Query
University of Kentucky	Carol Pitts Diedrichs
University of Alabama	Lou Pitschmann
University of Alabama at Birmingham	Steve Laughlin
University of Arkansas	Carolyn Allen
University of Central Florida	Barry Baker
University of Florida	Dale Canelas
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	Larry Alford
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Amy Dykeman
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	Rosann Bazirjian
University of South Florida	Derrie Perez
University of Virginia	Diane Walker
Vanderbilt University	Paul Gherman
Virginia Commonwealth University	John Ulmschneider
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	Eileen Hitchingham
Wake Forest University	Lynn Sutton
ASERL/SOLINET	John Burger
SOLINET	Robert Hulshof-Schmidt
SOLINET	Kate Nevins
SOLINET	Natalie Chase
SOLINET	Julie Arnott
SOLINET	Tim Cherubini