

Meeting Minutes

ASERL Spring 2008 Membership Meeting

April 29 - 30, 2008

Renaissance Hotel Charleston Historic District
Charleston, South Carolina

Participants:

Auburn University	Bonnie MacEwan
Clemson University	Kay Wall
College of William & Mary	Connie McCarthy
Duke University	Deborah Jakubs
East Carolina University	Larry Boyer
Florida International	Laurie Probst
Florida State University	Julia Zimmerman
Georgia State	Charlene Hurt
Georgia Tech	Rich Meyer
Louisiana State University	Faye Phillips
Mississippi State University	Frances Coleman
North Carolina State University	Carolyn Argentati
Tulane University	Lance Query
University of Alabama	Lou Pitschmann
University of Alabama at Birmingham	Carolyn Walden
University of Central Florida	Barry Baker
University of Florida	John Ingram
University of Georgia	Bill Potter
University of Kentucky	Carol Diedrichs
University of Memphis	Sylverna Ford
University of Miami	Bill Walker
University of Mississippi	Julia Rholes
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	Sarah Michalak
University of North Carolina-Charlotte	Carole Runnion
University of North Carolina- Greensboro	Tim Bucknall
University of South Carolina	Tom McNally
University of South Florida	Bill Garrison
University of Tennessee	Jill Keally
University of Virginia	Carol Hunter
Vanderbilt University	Paul Gherman
Virginia Commonwealth University	John Ulmschneider
Wake Forest University	Lynn Sutton
ASERL (staff)	John Burger
SOLINET (staff)	Kate Nevins
ARL (guest speaker)	Crit Stuart
ARL/University of Washington (guest speaker)	Neil Rambo
Triangle Research Libraries Network (guest)	Mona Coutts

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1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions, Retirements: ASERL President Lou Pitschmann called the Membership Meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He introduced new

library deans/directors and those representing library deans/directors who were not able to attend.

Kate Nevins offered comments about Charlene Hurt's accomplishments upon her upcoming retirement from Georgia State University.

Bonnie MacEwan made brief remarks and then introduced Crit Stuart to make additional comments about Rich Meyer's career in recognition of his impending retirement from Georgia Tech.

John Burger made remarks about Paul Gherman's career and contributions to ASERL in recognition of his approaching retirement from Vanderbilt University.

2. 2008 Annual Meeting:

A. Financial Report – ASERL's Treasurer Sylverna Ford summarized the financial state of ASERL. The organization is fiscally sound, with a significantly larger account balance than previous years.

B. Lou Pitschmann presented the slate of new officers as drafted by the Nomination Committee: President-Elect = Deborah Jakubs (Duke); Secretary-Treasurer = Julia Zimmerman (Florida State Univ); Member At-Large = Kay Wall (Clemson).

Adoption of the slate was moved by Larry Boyer and seconded by Julia Rholes and unanimously approved by voice vote.

C. Lou acknowledged the Board members that are ending their service (Lance Query and Sylverna Ford). John Burger also presented a gift from the Board to Sylverna Ford who has served as Secretary/Treasurer for 5 years – a record for ASERL!

D. The Annual Meeting was recessed at the conclusion of the above business. The Membership Meeting was resumed.

3. Update/Discussion: SOLINET Business and Program Planning – Kate Nevins

Kate Nevins gave an overview of the proposed SOLINET/PALINET merger, including opportunities to strengthen capabilities in a number of areas: digitization, organizational redesign for member libraries, and support of Open Source technologies. The services and programs of the two organizations include a combination of complementary and duplicative services that will allow the consolidated organization to take advantage of some economies of scale while also making it possible to promulgate new services throughout the expanded region.

It is expected that the SOLINET and PALINET Boards will vote on the merger proposal at their May meetings. If the boards vote in favor, then the membership of each organization will vote on the proposal. If approved, it is expected that the merger will take 4 to 6 months to fully implement.

Yet to be determined are the governing structure and the relationship between ASERL and the new organization. ASERL members currently on the SOLINET Board are Carol Diedrichs, Connie McCarthy, Lynn Sutton, and Kay Wall.

Other challenges of the merger include:

- How to maintain a high level of member engagement?
- How to maintain the local and regional emphases that have been important to each organization?
- How to maximize economies of scale?

Kate Nevins asked ASERL Directors to communicate with her directly regarding any questions about this proposed merger. The group decided to hold a special session at 7:30a.m. tomorrow (April 30) to discuss if/how ASERL might be affected by such a merger.

4. Presentation/Discussion: Findings from ARL's Research, Teaching & Learning Survey – Crit Stuart

Crit Stuart gave a detailed report of survey data from ARL libraries on innovative projects and approaches to library services, focusing on user-center spaces (e.g., learning commons facilities) and outreach activities to library users which help ensure library services meet their needs.

5. Discussion: "Embedded Librarians" – Models for ASERL Libraries? – Rich Meyer (Georgia Tech), Lynn Sutton (Wake Forest). Rich talked about his efforts to make the library at GA Tech more useful to patrons, including:

- Librarians maintaining regular contact with students and having a direct impact on their learning;
- Reaching out to faculty by delivering library resources directly to their offices;
- Offering both electronic reserves and print;
- Embedding of library faculty into faculty department offices so they are available to support classes and instruction.

Lynn talked about Wake Forest's recent "embedded librarian" program, where she and another senior librarian traveled with a class on a 2-week bus trip that studied several Civil Rights-related sites as part of a class on social stratification in the South. Librarians provided both support in finding information resources, plus instructional support for the teachers and tech support for the computers and other systems used during the trip. The experience was valuable to both the students and the librarians.

6. Recess for the day: The meeting was recessed at 4:45 p.m. The group will re-convene at 7:30 a.m. on April 30th.

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7. Reconvene: Lou Pitschmann called the meeting was back to order at 7:30 a.m.

8. Special Session: ASERL Changes in Light of a Possible SOLINET-PALINET Merger?

Many ASERL directors expressed their belief that the SOLINET-PALINET merger will happen. Assuming it does, there was discussion of inviting research libraries in the PALINET territory to join ASERL. Consensus was that ASERL is "right sized" currently; there is no real interest in expanding membership as it would mean the loss of the close-knit collegiality the group enjoys. PALINET members could participate in specific ASERL projects via the ASERL Program Affiliate if desired. The structure of the ASERL Affiliate

program has not been examined in several years; should be re-visited. Or, ASERL might be the inspiration for the PALINET research libraries to form a similar group for their region.

Regarding governance of the new SOLINET-PALINET organization: Consensus was that there should be strong representation of research libraries on the board of the new organization. ASERL-designated seats are not essential.

9. Brief Member Updates:

- Rich Meyer mentioned that in lieu of a retirement party, he convinced his institution to make a contribution to the library's budget. This is an approach that others who are retiring might adopt.
- Charlene Hurt (Georgia State Univ) gave a brief update on the status of the lawsuit against her institution for copyright infringement. At this point the legal staff is handling it and she will be called in at the appropriate time.
- SEC- AC/SEC-Academic Consortium: Carol Diedrichs (U-Kentucky) reports there is renewed activity in the academic portion of the SEC consortium including interest in a library project. The SEC library directors will highlight the areas in which ASERL meets this need and move forward in ways that will not duplicate the work of ASERL.

10. Presentation/Discussion: ARL's Report on e-Science in Research Libraries - What are Implications? Opportunities for Collaboration? – Neil Rambo (ARL/ University of Washington), Carolyn Argentati (North Carolina State University)

Neil Rambo gave an overview of e-Science, a relatively new scale of research fueled by global-network capabilities and the availability vast amounts of data. The growth in e-Science presents opportunities for libraries, including:

- managing these research assets;
- supporting new forms of communication and publication;
- supporting virtual organizations that arise during the course of study; and
- contributing to policy development.

Librarians need to become familiar with the issues and concepts related to data variation. Carolyn highlighted how NCSU has begun this process.

11. Cooperative Digitization Options for ASERL – Lou Pitschmann, John Burger

ASERL contracted with OCLC to do a collection analysis to identify our rare (3 copies or less within the consortium) and unique pre-1923 holdings; those data were provided to each library a few months ago. There is no interest in ASERL in duplicating digitization of those things likely to be digitized by Google, Yahoo, or other existing projects.

There is interest in a subject-focused project. In three years (2011) will be the sesquicentennial of the start of the American Civil war, this could be an appropriate topic for a collaborative digitization project. There was some thinking that the Civil War subject has been covered by other organizations. Others believed ASERL libraries could contribute important new materials not already available from other efforts.

There was discussion of Civil Rights as a possible subject. Paul Gherman suggested digitizing coverage of Civil Rights-related stories from each university's local TV networks. There was strong interest in this project. John Burger will send out a survey to determine

what resources are held in the ASERL libraries that could be included in this project. He will also seek names of representatives to be members of a working group to plan the particulars of this project. The ASERL Board will meet with the HBCU Library Alliance Board in the Fall (October 2008) and will share information on this project. The Alliance might be interested in being a part of such a project.

- 12. WorldCat Local – Reality Check/Options for Collaborative Action?** Approximately 20 ASERL libraries are considering implementing WorldCat Local, but few are ready to take action right away. Neil Rambo reported that ILL activity at his library (a WCL pilot site) has doubled since implementation of the system; they are struggling to handle the increased workload. John will work with OCLC to develop a purchase plan that would allow ASERL members to purchase the system over time and get higher discounts as more libraries participate.
- 13. Strategic Planning That Really Works for Your Library - Tim Bucknall (UNC Greensboro)**
Tim gave a detailed overview of the strategic planning process employed at UNC Greensboro. The process was designed to involve all library personnel. The final plan was focused on redesign of work and reassigning positions so that the library is able to change to meet changing needs. The result has been to move some positions and give up some traditional roles.
- 14. SCOAP3 – Options for ASERL Participation – John Burger**
SCOAP3 is a growing international effort to re-direct funds from going directly to publishers of seven journals in the field of High Energy Physics to SCOAP3, a nonprofit consortium. SCOAP3 would then “buy out” the content of these journals and make the information available freely to all via the Internet. Discussion showed that there are still some unanswered questions: How might this affect consortial licensing agreements and existing multi-year contracts? Is there support of the concept from Physics faculty members on ASERL campuses? The ASERL Board has endorsed the SCOAP3 concept and has asked member libraries to seriously consider signing expressions of interest.
- 15. Education Committee Activities for 2008 – Julia Rholes (University of Mississippi)**
ASERL’s Education Committee is looking for appropriate topics for future summertime workshops. This summer’s workshop will focus on user feedback and service planning, which will take place in July. It was also agreed that ASERL will experiment with allowing some “open time” during future Membership Meetings to allow for discussion of topics that arise during the course of the meeting.
- 16. Collaborative Federal Depository Program – John Burger, Judy Russell (via telephone)**
Current Events: The Regional Depositories serving Kansas and Nebraska had proposed creating a shared depository to serve both states; the Joint Committee on Printing denied the request based on a questionable opinion from Congressional staff. The Kansas-Nebraska proposal led GPO to study whether other Regionals are experiencing pressures that might lead them to consider shared facilities or other changes in service in the foreseeable future. Regionals have the GPO survey now; input from library directors is essential. GPO will report the results in June.

Project news: John indicated that the ASERL gov-doc project steering committee has surveyed the collections held by Regionals in ASERL, and is now considering options for securing additional cataloging data. A pilot test of processes/policies will be coming soon.

17. Final Update: ASERL Virtual Reference Program – John Ulmschneider

John Ulmschneider reported on the Virtual Reference project. The service will be closed as of May 1 due to the emergence of other similar services and cost increases for maintaining the ASERL program. While the project is ending there have been important benefits to the participating libraries during the 4 years the program was in operation. Several project sites are pursuing options for providing virtual reference services via other means.

18. Meeting Wrap-Up

- John Burger indicated that the Collection Development group has evolved to focusing on emerging issues rather than group purchasing.
- Future meeting Dates: November 13-14 or 19-20 are possible dates, likely in Atlanta. John will also work on setting dates for several years in advance.
- Mona Coutts - TRLN is preparing a white paper on Large Scale Digitization projects, which she will share with John Burger.

19. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: *Sylverna Ford*, ASERL Secretary-Treasurer