Aserl

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Meeting Minutes

ASERL Fall 2008 Membership Meeting
November 19 - 20, 2008
Residence Inn Midtown/17th Street
Atlanta, Georgia

Participants – see Appendix.

November 19, 2008
Call to Order: Bonnie MacEwan, ASERL President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves. Representatives also were asked to provide brief information on their libraries' budgets. All who reported are anticipating budget reductions, although the severity varies. Bonnie MacEwan also welcomed first time participants and guests.

Update/Discussion of Kick-Off Activities: ASERL Collaborative Digitization Project

In recent meetings ASERL members have discussed the possibility of a collaborative digitization project that would feature distinctive collections from southeastern research libraries. A project of moderate size to include materials unencumbered by copyright has been envisioned. Several broad topical areas were considered. This summer the Board chose "The Intellectual Underpinnings of the American Civil War" as the focus of the project. The topic is intentionally broad to enable inclusion of items which are not necessarily related to the war but which provide insight into the Civil War era in some way and allow for participation of all ASERL institutions. The goal is to have 5000 items digitized by early 2011, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

A committee will be formed to recommend technology and develop specifications. Directors are encouraged to nominate individuals to serve on this committee and should send names to John Burger.

Columbia's Multidisciplinary Digital Centers

Mary Giunta of Columbia University Libraries gave a presentation on Columbia University's Digital Centers. There are three subject-based digital centers: one designated for the Social Sciences, one for History and the Humanities, and one for the Sciences, which reflects the organizational structure of the institution. They are somewhat oriented to grad students and faculty.

The Social Sciences facility features both quiet and group study facilities and an electronic data service. It has a rudimentary reference desk since walkie-talkies are used to facilitate roving reference.

The Social Sciences Digital Center was the first facility of this type to open at Columbia; the other two are under development.

The OLE Project: Planning community-source technology for the way libraries really work
Lynne O'Brien from Duke University is the project coordinator of the Open Library Environment (OLE) project. She spoke about the rationale for the project, its current status, the activities that are underway and anticipated, and opportunities for interested libraries to become involved.

The project is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and includes a multinational group of libraries who together are developing the design for OLE. It is being designed as an alternative to current commercial integrated library systems.

The immediate goal is to produce a design document for development of an open source library system, to guide future library system implementations, and to influence current integrated library system vendor products. There will be several workshops around the country to gather input from librarians on their wants and needs for the new system. ASERL librarians are strongly encouraged to participate in these discussions.

Kudzu-2, IDS Benchmarking, and Possible Future Concepts
Marshall Breeding (Vanderbilt) joined this discussion via conference telephone.

Kudzu was originally a shared catalog and expedited ILL agreement; recently the catalog interface was turned off. It now functions as a working agreement for expedited ILL services for a subset of 19 ASERL libraries. The formation of a Kudzu-2 study group was discussed.

Kudzu-2 is envisioned as a peer-to-peer system. If developed, the new system could allow many ILL requests to bypass OCLC's ILL system, with the potential for significant savings for ASERL libraries. On average 40% of current ILL requests from ASERL libraries are filled by other ASERL libraries. Additionally, Kudzu-2 would allow more automated processing which would result in decreased costs. This could become the ILL module within OLE .

In the discussion, members expressed concerns about the costs of development and maintenance. It was suggested that RAPID-ILL be considered as an option. If enough ASERL libraries chose to participate, the entry fee would be discounted, making it more affordable. John Burger will continue to explore options.

2008 ASERL-HBCU Exchanges – Lessons Learned, Options for the Future
Four ASERL directors who participated in the ASERL-HBCU exchange discussed their experiences: Carol Diedrichs (U-Kentucky), Mary Krautter (UNC-Greensboro), Sarah Michalak (UNC-Chapel Hill), and Julia Rholes (Ole Miss). Judy Russell of the University of Florida also hosted a librarian at the UF library, but was not at the ASERL meeting and therefore did not participate in the session.

Recess for the Day
The meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m. for the day, followed by a reception in the hotel's lounge. ASERL directors who are also Association of Research Libraries members dined at SOLINET offices with Charles Lowry, Executive Director of ARL.

November 20, 2008

Report from ASERL Membership Committee
Bonnie MacEwan reported that ASERL's Membership Committee reviewed the Association's current bylaws and processes and recommended no change in membership criteria.

Update/Discussion: SOLINET Business Planning – Kate Nevins
Kate reported on the progress of the proposed SOLINET-PALINET merger. She emphasized that it was actually not a merger, but rather formation of a new organization. After months of discussion and negotiation, the plan for the new entity is complete. The new organization is expected to expand into new service areas, with SOLINET piggybacking on PALINET initiatives and vice versa. There will be increased leverage with vendors and grant-providing organizations. Cost control through consolidation and work re-engineering is anticipated. With an anticipated 40% decrease in its revenues starting this summer, SOLINET must be able to re-engineer and consolidate in order to continue. An operations and implementation team is reviewing every program and recommending action.

Next steps in the plan include sharing of new bylaws and other reorganization documents with the memberships of both SOLINET and PALINET in next few weeks. An online vote will be taken in early 2009.

If approved by the membership of both SOLINET and PALINET, the new organization is expected to be headquartered in Atlanta although there will continue to be an office in Philadelphia. Kate will be Executive Director, with responsibilities primarily for external relations. Cathy Wilt, her PALINET counterpart, will manage internal operations. This leadership arrangement will be in place for the first 18 months of the new organization's life. The name of the new company has not been chosen yet. A firm has been hired to propose potential new names for the consolidated organization.

The new organization will continue to be a member-governed organization. There will be a board of 15 members. Seats will be allocated by library type, with two assigned to research libraries (down from four on the current SOLINET board.) The new board configuration is a significant change for PALINET, whose current board seats are allocated by geographic location, not library type.

For legal reasons, it has been decided to merge one organization into the other rather than starting a new organization legally. SOLINET will be merged into PALINET because SOLINET was originally incorporated in Louisiana, which is governed by Napoleonic Code, presenting some legal quirks. PALINET is incorporated in Pennsylvania, which offers a more favorable legal environment. This process also means there is no risk to the company's 501(c)(3) status. PALINET is in a positive financial position. SOLINET is healthy as well, although closed the past year in the red due to a conscious Board decision to invest in systems, an environmental scan, and other measures needed to set the course for the future.

Packets will go out early December to the membership and an e-vote will be held in advance of a legally-mandated meeting.

Kate also discussed the involvement of SOLINET and PALINET in implementation, support and training for two open-source systems, Evergreen and Koha. Additionally, the Mellon Foundation has invited SOLINET to submit a proposal to create an organizational training and support system for other open-source software systems, which would be a fee-based service.

Sustaining ASERL's Collaborative Federal Depository Program
Judy Russell (U-Florida) joined this discussion via conference telephone.

In December 2006, ASERL members authorized the creation of a program to examine new models for increasing the completeness of collections at Regional Federal Government Depositories in the Southeast, and improving their ability to provide access to federal documents held at FDLP libraries in the Southeast. A Steering Committee was formed in June 2007 and has worked toward reaching consensus and creating support for the Collaborative Federal Depository Program. Information has been provided through the ASERL website, and an open listserv has 81 participants. Controversy about ASERL's program continues to flare-up periodically, however.

This project has identified two ASERL libraries that are regional depositories. One has strong collections in an active (University of South Carolina - Department of Education) and one with strength in a defunct area (University of Kentucky - Works Project Administration). Gaps in their collections will be filled from collections at selective depositories. (Under current law, Regionals can't move their materials to other Regionals without federal approval.)

The project has progressed to the point that a coordinator is needed to manage, supervise, and assist libraries involved in the project and bring policy issues to the Steering Committee and ASERL's leadership.

John Burger put forth a proposal for a half-time coordinator, who would be hired for two years and paid by annual contributions from ASERL members: $1000 from Regionals, $750 from Selectives. These fees could be paid in advance if desired.

There was discussion around the overall goals/purpose of this project. Many believe that Regional documents collections need to be managed in a different way to expose "hidden" collections and be more responsive to users and other repository libraries. Regionals don't necessarily have the resources they need to manage huge, comprehensive document collections. This new model could prevent some Regionals from dropping out of the FDLP program, which would be a major problem for Selectives.

Judy Russell noted that this project seeks to ensure that important collections are maintained and preserved, but in a distributed fashion, by building collection strength in specific locations, rather at each and every regional depository. Another aspect of the project is to provide more and better bibliographic control.

GPO has been involved in the conversation, and is on board. It was noted that there is a precedent for this type of project at Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries. Concrete, tangible projects around the country are needed to find real long-term solutions.

There was a question about the recent decision from the Joint Committee on Printing to deny the formation of a two-state regional – does this effect ASERL's proposal? Judy noted that ASERL is not proposing the formation of multi-state Regionals, and lending documents across state lines is permitted. It is also okay for Selectives to give unwanted documents to another state's Regional depository with permission from the Regional in their home state. Judy Russell further noted it might be possible and permissible for Selectives to donate to other state Regionals without going through the standard disposal process.

By a show of hands, there seemed to be little support for self-funding the half-time position as proposed. John will work with the ASERL Board and project Steering Committee to consider other alternatives.

Mass Digitization of Pre-1976 Federal Documents
Judy Russell led this discussion via conference telephone.
Judy Russell noted that GPO has issued an RFP for a mass digitization project to digitize all pre-1976 federal documents at no cost to the taxpayer. There appear to be several bidders; Judy Russell is advising one group interested in being selected for this contract. It is possible GPO could recommend awarding multiple contracts and divide work. A decision on this contract for the project will not be made until a new Joint Committee on Printing will be in place, sometime in Spring 2009.

If awarded, Judy's team will solicit private foundation for preliminary funding. Depository libraries, federal agencies, and others will also be asked to contribute both in-kind and financial support.

ASERL Education Committee Activities
Julia Rholes reported that another summit will be planned for next summer, likely in partnership with the HBCU Library Alliance. The topic will be "Information Literacy 2.0." Members are invited to submit suggestions for presenters to the Education Committee or volunteer to be involved with planning.

Julia also reported that John Zenelis (George Mason Univ) presented a proposal to the Committee to develop a training program for liaison librarians for the 21st century. Outside funding is being sought. Kate Nevins agreed to help identify possible funding sources.

Discussion of Late-Breaking Issues
1. Google Settlement: John Burger distributed "A Guide for the Perplexed" to ASERL directors last week. The document condenses and interprets the very long legal document into layman's terms. It is available on the ARL website and elsewhere. As the headline information doesn't reveal the true impact for day-to-day operations in research libraries, reading the "Guide ..." is encouraged.

2. Collaboration with HBCU Library Alliance: Members of the ASERL Board met with HCBU Library Alliance in Charlotte a few weeks ago for a brainstorming meeting. Attendees reported that it was a good meeting. There is interest in building on the leadership program. A long list potential projects was developed and prioritized. The idea with the highest level of support was to develop a summertime forum. Second was to create information literacy activities. Third, to continue & expand efforts to recruit into the profession. Fourth, explore joint digitization projects. Conversations will continue between the two organizations.

3. OCLC Policy on Re-use of WorldCat Records: Opinions are rampant on both ends of the blogosphere. Some regard the rules as a continuation of the existing policy; others see it as having long-range negative impacts for libraries. OCLC is requesting comments. It was suggested that, in reading the document, go to the OCLC website and use hyperlinks to consult the backup information. The policy is evolving; it has been tweaked in the past two weeks. As things now stand, implementation is anticipated in mid-February 2009.

   Charles Lowry reported that ARL has also heard rumbling, but clarity is lacking at this point. He believes that OCLC doesn't want to harm the community or restrict use, but wants to avoid

competition from 3rd party projects. The potential problem is that consequences may result from putting it in a legal framework, which has not previously been the case.

Sarah Michalak described an example of use of OCLC records by a UNC researcher, suggesting that OCLC will grant permission for use of records for legitimate research projects.

John Burger suggested convening knowledgeable individuals to get objective feedback. This will be discussed by the ASERL Board.

4. <u>Participation in SCOAP 3:</u> John Burger noted that ASERL previously passed a resolution urging member libraries support SCOAP3. Deborah Jakubs (Duke Univ) noted that Emory University was an early supporter; VIVA and TRLN have also signed on in the past few months. SCOAP3 seeks commitments from libraries that would allow them to re-direct existing funds that would be spent with publishers to go to the SCOAP consortium, which would buy the content and make it openly accessible. Expressions of support are needed to keep negotiations with publishers moving forward. Signing the petition sends a message to publishers that we are willing to explore and support new models. A statement from Rick Luce (Emory University) urged ASERL members to consider signing expressions of support for SCOAP3.

5. <u>Interest in Shared Depository Services</u>: John Burger provided an overview of the newly-announced HathiTrust. Led by CIC and the University of California system, it is a massive shared digital depository designed (80 terabytes and growing). It will primarily serve as a dark archive for content generated by the hosts' Google Books scanning operations. It will not permit public access to the archived content.

John inquired if there might be interest in creating a shared depository within ASERL on a smaller scale? John noted that the ASERL Board agreed to form Digitization/IT Managers Interest Group. Perhaps this could be an item for them to flesh out ideas? John will explore and seek to develop a menu of options.

There was discussion of a few examples of such services already existing in the Southeast. A shared institutional depository in North Carolina will be coming live soon. Kate Nevins reported that SOLINET will offer assistance with LOCKSS implementation. Several ASERL libraries are involved in MetaArchive. TRLN is expecting to get a large grant soon for a federated data storage unit serving multiple institutions. Catherine Murray-Rust reported that a similar project in Georgia is struggling for capital. She cited Fedora in Colorado and OhioLINK as other consortia with successful shared repositories.

ARL in the Next Three Years
 Charles Lowry, the recently-appointed Executive Director of ARL, has been visiting member directors in various regions since taking the job last summer, and his presence at this meeting was the latest such visit. He spoke about his activities since becoming Executive Director. He stated that research libraries are facing the most serious set of challenges since founding of ARL. ARL's current strategic priorities include legislation and information policy, scholarly communication, key tools for library improvement, and encouragement of leadership development and diversity. ARL works closely with other higher education orgs, such as ACE, Washington HE Secretariat, NASULGC, and AAU.

ARL's current strategic plan is due for a mid-course review in 2009, be completed by December with restatement of direction and changes if needed. Currently the three basic strategic directions are Scholarly Communication; Public Policy (information policy and other public policy governing how information is managed and made available); Research, Teaching and Learning (which is a new area of activity.) The two "enabling capabilities" include Diversity and Leadership Programs, and Statistics and Measurement.

How do ARL's activities fit with regional consortia? Operational dimensions differ. ARL does offer services to assist libraries, and provides special programs such as Global Resources (which has now been moved to Center for Research Libraries). A Federal Depository working group is a new group that has been established to help brainstorm options for modernizing the management of federal documents. These are just a few of a variety of cooperative projects and relationships. He quoted Benjamin Franklin: "We must hang together or surely we will hang separately."

In his visits, Lowry noted that directors want to be involved. It's also clear that the financial crisis having a huge impact, and will be defining what libraries are and what they do.

A question was asked about whether ARL was doing any work on strategic planning for workforce transformation. Lowry answered that it would fall under the Research, Teaching and Learning program area, but that RTL already has a long list of projects.

With Obama's election, ARL hopes to hook into opportunities presented by the new administration, and hoping for reversals of some policies of the past administration that have been detrimental to higher education. ARL will be taking legislative and policy action soon. Further, ARL has been asked to make suggestions regarding some key government offices like IMLS, Copyright, Library of Congress, and others.

It was suggested by an ASERL member that ARL seize opportunities for rethinking the information marketplace. For example, certain content providers use ARL status as a pricing category, to our detriment. Perhaps the Scholarly Communication Steering Committee can examine this and similar practices. Also noted was that succession planning for library leadership positions and leadership development. A lack of appreciation for ARL within our organizations was mentioned, suggesting a need for getting an understanding of value of ARL deeper down into our organizations.

Newfound Press – UT Library's Scholarly Communication Demonstration Project
Linda Phillips from the University of Tennessee on UT Library's Scholarly Communications Demonstration Project: Newfound Press. UT Library has actually become an open source publisher, focusing on research based on content held at UT's libraries.

Meeting Wrap-Up
- 2009 Board Elections: Volunteers are sought to serve as President-Elect and two At-Large seats. Eileen Hitchingham (Virginia Tech) will lead Nominating Committee; interested persons should contact her.
- Spring Meeting: April 30 - May 1, 2009 in Williamsburg: Immediately after ALADN meeting. Focus will be on assessment of library services. Agenda ideas are sought. More info to come via email as the date draws nearer.

Adjournment: Bonnie MacEwan adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Appendix – Meeting Participants

Air University: Jeff Luzius
ASERL: John Burger (staff)
Association of Research Libraries: Charles B. Lowry, Ph.D. (speaker)
Auburn University: Bonnie MacEwan
Clemson University: Emily Gore
Columbia University: Mary Giunta (speaker)
Duke University: Deborah Jakubs
Duke University: Lynne O'Brien (speaker)
East Carolina University: Larry Boyer
Emory University: Lars Meyer
Florida International University: Laura Probst
Florida State University: Julia Zimmerman
George Mason University: John Zenelis
Georgia Institute of Technology: Catherine Murray-Rust
Georgia State University: Nancy Seamans
Louisiana State University: Jennifer Cargill
Mississippi State University: Frances Coleman
SOLINET: Kate Nevins (guest)
Tulane University: Lance Query
UAB: Jerry Stephens
UNC Chapel Hill: Sarah C Michalak
UNC Charlotte: Betty Ladner
UNC Greensboro: Mary Krautter
University of Alabama: Louis Pitschmann
University of Arkansas: Carolyn Allen (guest)
University of Central Florida: Barry Baker
University of Georgia: Bill Potter
University of Kentucky: Carol Pitts Diedrichs
University of Louisville: Hannelore Rader
University of Memphis: Sylverna Ford
University of Miami: William Walker
University of Mississippi: Julia Rholes
University of Notre Dame: Jennifer Younger (guest)
University of South Carolina: Thomas McNally
University of South Florida: William Garrison
University of Tennessee: Linda Phillips
Vanderbilt University: Connie Dowell (guest – incoming dean – Spring 2009)
Vanderbilt University: Flo Wilson
Virginia Tech: Eileen Hitchingham
Wake Forest University: Lynn Sutton