



ASERL Spring 2007 Membership Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 4, 2007
Asheville, North Carolina

Present:

Air University: Hawkins, Terry
Auburn University: MacEwan, Bonnie
College of William & Mary: McCarthy, Connie
Duke University: Jakubs, Deborah
East Carolina University: Boyer, Larry
Florida International: Carillo, Sherry
Florida State University: Schneider, Karen
George Mason University: Zenelis, John
Georgia Tech: Meyer, Rich
Georgia State University: Hurt, Charlene
Mississippi State: Coleman, Frances
Tulane University: Query, Lance
UAB: Weatherly, Dian
University of Central Florida: Baker, Barry
University of Florida: Ingram, John
University of Georgia: King, Florence
University of Kentucky: Diedrichs, Carol
University of Memphis: Ford, Sylverna
University of Miami: Cooper, Yolanda

University of Mississippi: Rholes, Julia
UNC Chapel Hill: Szary, Rich
UNC Greensboro: Bazirjian, Rosann
University of South Carolina: McNally, Tom
University of South Florida: Perez, Derrie
University of Tennessee: Dewey, Barbara
Vanderbilt University: Gherman, Paul
Virginia Commonwealth University:
 Ulmschneider, John
Virginia Tech: Hitchingham, Eileen
Wake Forest University: Sutton, Lynn
ASERL: Burger, John
SOLINET: Nevins, Kate

Guests

Vanderbilt: Breeding, Marshall
Georgia State University: Burtle, Laura
Duke University: Walls, Tom

1. Welcome & Introductions – *Lance Query, ASERL President*
ASERL President Lance Query called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Attendees introduced themselves. Lance acknowledged that Derrie Perez will be stepping down from her directorship at the end of this fiscal year. She will return to her faculty position in the library school. Barry Baker made a statement about Derrie's career and congratulated her for her many accomplishments. Lance also read a message from Amy Dykeman (UNC Charlotte) indicating she was on indefinite medical leave from her post.
2. ASERL's 2007 Annual Meeting
 - A. Financial Report – *Sylverna Ford*
The financial report shows that ASERL is sound financially. Our balances are close to what they were this time last year.

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B. Board Election – Lance Query

Paul Gherman moved and Deborah Jakubs seconded a motion to approve the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee. The motion passed unanimously. New officers take office at the end of this meeting. The President-Elect is Bonnie MacEwan (Auburn). New At-Large members are Julia Rholes (Ole Miss) and Rosann Bazirjian (UNC Greensboro). Departing Board members are Paul Gherman (Vanderbilt), Bill Walker (Miami) and Eileen Hitchingham (Virginia tech).

3. Group Discussion: “Lessons Learned from Information Commons Programs – What Works, What Doesn’t” – Tom Wall, Duke University; Connie McCarthy, College of William & Mary

Tom Wall gave a presentation on the development of the Information Commons at Duke. Connie McCarthy presented an overview of the development of the Commons at William & Mary. These are two different models designed to achieve similar goals. In both cases, implementation of the Commons has resulted in increased use of the library. A lively discussion of Commons implementation ensued.

4. Group Discussion: “Software Development – Open Source vs. Vendor Beta Partnerships: Pros and Cons, Who is Doing What, and Is There an Open Source Project for ASERL Members?” – Marshall Breeding, Vanderbilt University

NOTE: Because of scheduling issues, the discussion of “Software Development” (originally scheduled for Thursday) was switched with the “Restructuring Traditional Library Services” discussion (originally scheduled for Wednesday)

- Open Source Software
 - Program Source code is available
 - No licensing cost for the software
 - Can be part of communal offerings
 - Anyone can fix problems or add features
- Proprietary Software
 - Source code kept secret
 - Only binary code is distributed
 - License fees charged for software
 - Ongoing development funded by license fees

Marshall noted that in his experience, the real cost of ownership is fairly comparable between open source and proprietary software.

- Examples of Open Source ILS Software
 - Koha
 - claims to be the first Open Source ILS; it’s been around since about 1999
 - claims about 300 libraries running
 - developed in New Zealand for a group of small libraries
 - Evergreen
 - developed in Georgia by the Georgia Public Library Service for about 252 small public libraries

- began development in June 2004; went live in fall of 2006
- University of Waterloo is developing an acquisitions module and is planning to adopt this system
- King County Library System in Washington state is evaluating this system for its use.
- Library Access
- Communal Support Options for Open Source – these companies are providing support for open source software:
 - Index Data
 - LibLine
 - Equinox Software
- Partnering with a vendor carries real cost for the library but means the library is not responsible for:
 - initial product conception
 - programming
 - debugging
 - technical design
 - recruitment, training, support for team of designers, programmers, etc.

A discussion began on what might be an ASERL-based project opportunity that might come out of this discussion. Future board discussions will hone in on this and shape future directions in this area.

5. Presentation/Discussion: “The Open Content Alliance: What Has Been Accomplished, What Lies Ahead, and How Can ASERL Libraries Contribute?” – Brewster Kahle, Open Content Alliance

Brewster Kahle joined us by phone to talk about the Open Content Alliance (OCA).

- The creation of OCA was in part motivated by Google’s book scanning announcement. Libraries that participate in the Google project are not allowed to make the scanned materials freely available. OCA allows libraries to build widely accessible collections without giving up ownership and/or ability to provide wide access.
- OCA is designed to build collections; available to the public; beginning with materials out of copyright, then moving to orphaned copyrighted materials, and then ultimately moving to copyrighted works.
- Sloan Foundation is currently supporting the first phase of this project. The project includes scanning, storing on redundant servers, and enabling print-on-demand capability. The cost to do this is now about 10 cents per page.
- New scanning system based on digital cameras helps to preserve the books. Currently scanning about 4 million pages (12,000 books) per month in five existing scanning locations.
- Who pays for what? Someone has to come up with the 10 cents per page. The library, the funder, and the scanning partner usually make up the team involved in making this happen.

- De-duplication – originally OCLC was going to manage the de-duplication, but that has not been a big issue so far. It is expected to become a problem as more collection overlap occurs.
 - Books already scanned through OCA are publicly available through the OCA website (<http://www.opencontentalliance.org/>). Hope to launch in October of 2007 – now looking for libraries to help build the collection.
 - Now moving into journals focusing on bio-diversity literature. Digitizing and indexing are being done automatically.
 - Libraries that want to participate need to come up with the 10 cents per page and provide the books. Library also has to come up with the cost of getting the book to and from the scanning facility. Ten cents per page does include basic copyright search, but does not necessarily include certification of copyright clearance.
 - Already-digitized collections can be incorporated into OCA's database, but for really small collections it might be easier to re-scan, depending on what kind of standards/specifications were incorporated into the original scanning project.
 - Scanned items are put on servers at the Internet Archive. The scans are returned to owning library (if desired). Internet Archive may be accessed at <http://www.archive.org/index.php>. Brewster Kahle may be contacted at Brewster@archive.org.
 - Brewster encouraged that we join OCA as an organization or as individual libraries. There is no membership fee. The only requirement is to commit to contributing to the archive.
 - Discussion of the call, and how ASERL might contribute to OCA, will occur in the meeting tomorrow morning.
6. The day's meeting was recessed at 5 p.m.

7. April 5, 2007

Reconvene at 9am in Windsor Ballroom – *Lance Query, ASERL President*
Lance Query called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

8. Digitization Task Force

- The discussion of digitization was moved up on the agenda so it could happen before participants had to start leaving.
- There is uncertainty of how freely available the Google scanned titles will be. Clarification of this point is critical to helping to inform an ASERL decision about how to proceed with planning a regional digitization project. The TRLN libraries expect to meet with Google in the next month; they will investigate and report back.

9. Presentation: SOLINET Activity Update – *Kate Nevins*

- Work redesign/re-engineering seems to be a growing concern for many libraries. SOLINET will be up and running with increased capacity to provide consulting in this area – particularly tech services redesign – as of July 1.
- HBCU Alliance is partnering with University of Delaware on a photographic conservation project. Kate encourages ASERL to seek ways we might partner with the libraries in the HBCU Alliance.

- SOLINET continues to manage the Gates grant that is supporting the reestablishment of libraries in the Gulf Coast region.
- SOLINET is also managing a Mellon Foundation grant focusing on the recovery of academic libraries struck by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The two-part grant is supporting the recovery of Gulf Coast academic libraries. The second part is a summit on disaster response for academic libraries that will happen in late summer.
- The Southern Council of State Library Agencies, a new organization which is the ASERL equivalent for state libraries in the region, has just been created and incorporated. It will be based at SOLINET.
- SOLINET is working hard on redefining its future.
 - Part 1: Looking for new services that SOLINET can provide to libraries beyond the previous key role of the networks. SOLINET & the board are developing a plan that will incorporate new services and programs.
 - Part 2: Looking for a new business model that will allow SOLINET to sustain itself in an environment not focusing on OCLC services. SOLINET is interviewing business consultants in anticipation of developing a new business model.
 - Part 3: Re-evaluating SOLINET's membership structure and making decisions about how that structure needs to change.
- OCLC Direct option update – OCLC has allowed the members of the Boston Library Consortium to purchase OCLC services directly rather than going through a regional network, which has been the historical model. Kate's informal phone survey of ASERL members yielded a high percentage of members who intend to stay with SOLINET: 18 plan to stay with SOLINET, 7 were neutral, 4 expressed some interest in the direct option, and 1 expressed a definite interest in the direct option.
- Annual SOLINET usage reports, distributed for the first time last year, will be sent out again this year. There was a lengthy discussion of the potential for a variety of data reports that SOLINET could generate for members, for a price. This time, SOLINET will generate the reports for each library and then give each library the opportunity to opt in or out of the aggregated report.

10. Discussion: Changes in SOLINET/OCLC Relationships

Kate Nevins and John Burger stepped out of the room to allow the group to discuss the pros and cons of the direct option. The discussion yielded no sense of urgency to make a change in current relationships with SOLINET.

11. Group Discussion: "Re-Structuring Traditional Library Services – Who is Doing What, Lessons Learned?" – Charlene Hurt & Laura Burtle, Georgia State University

Charlene Hurt and Laura Burtle gave an overview of the reorganization process for Georgia State. Their library has gone through several reorganizations in the past several years. Changes in the building structure and work flow have precipitated changes in the organizational structure. Conclusion of the discussion was that many ASERL libraries are doing similar reorganization processes. There is no perfect structure and no structure will work forever.

12. RLG Membership (added agenda item)

ASERL's Board has talked about the possibility of a consortial membership in RLG. One current RLG member (Duke, Deborah Jakubs) summarized the value of RLG membership to her library. It was suggested that the upcoming RLG Partners' meeting on June 4th would be a good opportunity for gathering additional information. Consensus was that more information is needed on what membership would mean, as well as what opportunities for an ASERL relationship with RLG might exist. John and Kate will explore this and report back to the ASERL membership.

13. Education Committee Update – Julia Rholes

The committee is moving forward with plans for a second workshop for non-MLS managers in libraries. The workshop will be held on May 9th before the SAMM. Target audience is human resources specialists, development officers, building managers, IT specialists, and similar library professionals who don't have an MLS. ASERL libraries will have first preference for sending people to the workshop.

14. Update: North American Storage Trust – Paul Gherman

Paul Gherman gave a report on the North American Storage Trust. OCLC/RLG have taken this up as a project. They've assigned a staff person to oversee this project. The name will likely be changed to reflect a more global approach. OCLC is looking for a group of libraries to serve as a test group to work through the policy issues. John will be in touch with the "ASERL Nine" to see if there is any interest in being the test group.

15. Discussion: Interest in Joint Storage Facility/Contracted Services? – John Burger, Kate Nevins

Recent library visits have indicated that a joint storage facility might be a viable project now or in the near future. Should SOLINET put together a small study group to explore the options and recommend approaches for ASERL libraries? 8-10 libraries expressed interest in exploring this possibility.

A side discussion related to relocating tech services outside of the library took place. This seems like a good topic for a future agenda.

16. Update: Cooperative Government Document Project – Carol Diedrichs

The work has begun. The invitations have been issued to the participating libraries. A library dean/director is needed to serve on the committee. A chair is also needed.

17. Virtual Reference Program Update – John Ulmschneider

This service continues to grow in use. Software problems have been ameliorated by the move to Docutek software. The budget for the coming year is expected to be the same as for this year. New libraries are welcome to join the project.

18. Meeting Wrap-Up

- John is looking for a location for the fall meeting and is considering New Orleans. Atlanta has gotten to be very expensive for these meetings.
- Lance Query announced that Shirley Lassiter plans to retire in January 2008. The announcement of the vacancy should be coming out soon.

19. The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Recorded by: Sylverna Ford, ASERL Secretary/Treasurer