



Meeting Minutes
Fall 2007 Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Participants

Auburn University: Bonnie McEwan
Clemson University: Kay Wall
College of William and Mary: Connie McCarthy
Duke University: Deborah Jakubs
East Carolina University: Larry Boyer
Emory University: David Vidor
Florida International University: Laura Probst
Florida State University: Julia Zimmerman
George Mason University: John Zenelis
Georgia Institute of Technology: Rich Meyer
Georgia State University: Charlene Hurt
Louisiana State University: Jennifer Cargill
Mississippi State University: Frances Coleman
Tulane University: Lance Query
University of Kentucky: Mary Beth Thomson
University of Alabama: Lou Pitschmann
UAB: Jerry Stephens
University of Central Florida: Barry Baker
University of Florida: Judy Russell
University of Georgia: Bill Potter

University of Louisville: Hannelore Rader
University of Memphis: Sylverna Ford
University of Miami: Yolanda Cooper
University of Mississippi: Julia Rholes
UNC Chapel Hill: Rich Szary
UNC Charlotte: Michael Winecoff
University of South Carolina: Thomas McNally
University of South Florida: Todd Chavez
University of Tennessee: Barbara Dewey
Virginia Tech: Donald Kenney
Vanderbilt University: Paul Gherman
Virginia Commonwealth University: John Ulmschneider
Wake Forest University: Lynn Sutton

ASERL: John Burger
Center for Research Libraries: Bernard Reilly
OCLC: Chip Nilges
SOLINET: Kate Nevins
Triangle Research Library Network: Mona Coutts

1. Welcome and Introduction - Lou Pitschmann

ASERL Board President Lou Pitschmann called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The agenda was modified by the board because of travel difficulties for several scheduled speakers. The meeting proceeded with the revised agenda.

New library deans and directors Judy Russell, Julia Zimmerman, and Laurie Probst were welcomed. Charlene Hurt and Paul Gherman were congratulated on their upcoming retirements. Shirley Laseter is retiring in December after 27 years at Air University; she was unable to attend this meeting because of health issues. Guests attending in place of their library directors were introduced as well as guest speakers. Other meeting participants introduced themselves for the benefit of the newcomers.

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2. Report and Discussion: High Volume Digitization Options for ASERL - Bernard Reilly

ASERL contracted with the Center for Research Libraries to follow-up on our Spring 2007 discussion of possibilities for a cooperative digitization project. CRL was contracted to study possibilities and costs for such a project. This report is the outcome of that study, focusing on working with OCA (Open Content Alliance), but costs for working with Kirtas, Google and Microsoft were also examined.

Assumptions:

1. Books & microfilm are primary focus
2. Open access model preferred
3. Initial focus on TRLN collections
4. Costs were calculated for digitizing 250,000 volumes

Phases of a digitization project:

1. Pre-digitization preparation
2. Conversion of data & creation of metadata
3. Post digitization processing
4. Maintenance of digital files

Costs for converting 250K volumes varied greatly, depending on the process/vendor selected – from \$270,000 to more than \$12 million.

Key decision to be made is: What does ASERL want to get out of a mass digitization project? Will it be enough to create something for “the greater good,” or will ASERL libraries have to demonstrate more direct benefit to the students and faculty of each university? A lengthy discussion of possible digitization possibilities followed Bernie’s presentation.

Questions to be answered by ASERL in future:

1. What do we want to accomplish?
2. How much control can we afford?

3. Tech Services on the Move - Deborah Jakubs, Julia Rholes

Deborah gave a presentation on the planning currently underway to relocate several tech services functions at the Duke Library. Backroom operations are being moved out of the library building to a off-campus location.

Julia presented the process employed at University of Mississippi to implement changes in tech services. The ensuing discussion indicates that several ASERL libraries are reorganizing and/ or rethinking the services operations.

4. SOLINET Update - Kate Nevins

I. SOLINET’s Future Directions – This has been a Year-Long Planning Process.

Key Points emerging are:

- a. Communities Served & Role of Regionalism in an increasingly networked world.
- b. Redesign of Operations. How to redesign workflows to save money in internal operations that can then be redirected to support services needed by member libraries?
- c. Programs and Services to be offered by SOLINET for Member Libraries
- d. See the full report on SOLINET’s website.

II. OCLC/SOLINET Relationship

- a. OCLC is planning to implement a certification process to ensure some quality standards for services offered.
- b. OCLC is moving toward a national pricing model. Pricing models have yet to be determined.

- c. Organizations other than existing regional networks might seek certification and could result in new competitors or partners for SOLINET.
- d. If your cataloging and/or ILL volume has decreased over the last few years, let Kate know so this can be looked at in the context of recalibrating OCLC charges. This re-evaluation of charges will be looked at on an annual basis from now on.

III. HBCU Library Alliance

- a. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has again funded the HBCU leadership institute. Funding for an exchange of staff between an ASERL library and an HBCU library will be provided for next summer.
- b. A Mellon-funded project focusing on photographic collections of the HBCUs will be managed by SOLINET.

IV. Consulting Services

- a. Work redesign particularly in cataloging and interlibrary loan
- b. Strategic planning particularly for public libraries.
- c. ALI - Academic Libraries of Indiana contracted with SOLINET to serve as their licensing agency.

5. Recess

The meeting was recessed at 4:55 p.m. until the following morning.

All were invited to the members' reception hosted by LSU. Those going on the tour of the Historical New Orleans Collection will meet in the lobby at 6:45 p.m. or meet at HNOC's site.

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6. Reconvene

The meeting was reconvened at 8:15 a.m. by chair Lou Pitschmann.

7. Group Discussion: - Options for Cooperative Digitization- John Burger-Lou Pitschmann

John Burger began the discussion by summarizing previous ASERL discussions and activities regarding digitization. Lou Pitschmann facilitated a discussion on what ASERL members hope to get out of a collaborative digitization project. John will poll the group to determine the extent to identify those collections that ASERL Libraries would be interested in digitizing. After discussion, the group consensus was that the Sloan matching grant does not meet our needs at this time so we will not be submitting a proposal by the February due date. John will send out the survey in early January with a two week turn around.

8. Discussion: Succession in the Swem Library - A Model from the College of William & Mary - Connie McCarthy, William & Mary

As the profession ages and retirements take their toll how are we as directors and deans planning for succession, Connie McCarthy gave an overview of changes being made at William & Mary. They have created three associate-level positions for limited terms (three years) as a means of providing senior-level experiences for potential future directors. There was a lengthy discussion of the organizational changes that are underway in many ASERL libraries. Providing opportunities for professional growth and development, rethinking workflow, and planning for future organizational effectiveness are key reasons for much of the reorganization that has occurred or is in the planning stages.

9. **Views from the Other Side: Compare/Contrast Recent Studies of Presidents & Faculty Perception of Research Libraries - Diane Parr Walker and Julia Zimmerman**

Diane Walker (via speaker phone) and Julia Zimmerman described a study they co-authored examining how presidents and provosts perceive the role of the library on their campus. How do we deal with the changing roles today and how do we plan for libraries of the future? We, as librarians, need to more aggressively interject ourselves into the life of the University. Partnerships with the faculty in research and outreach efforts will demonstrate library significance.

10. **Presentation/Discussion: WorldCat Local - Options for an ASERL Pilot - Chip Nilges**

Chip Nilges demonstrated the WorldCat Local product, which will be actively in production as of January 2008. It may be a possible replacement for the union catalog of the KUDZU project, and would add a federated search engine. The current software for KUDZU (now 8 years old) is very antiquated and slow. Some libraries are looking at WorldCat Local as a replacement for the OPAC. Cost information is not currently available and was a major concern for ASERL members. John will work to get a price quote for interested ASERL libraries.

11. **Update:North American Storage Trust/Cooperative Collection Management Trust - Chip Nilges**

The project began in 2001 and has gone through many phases culminating in a pilot project during 2007. It is now called "Cooperative Collection Management Trust" (CCMT), and is in pilot testing now, including 22 libraries -- five of those from ASERL. OCLC will analyze data from participating libraries to understand the storage needs of the pilot libraries and to consider policy issues involved in making a cooperative storage program work. ILL, expedited delivery, and digitization are related topics that have been discussed as part of this project.

The relationship between ebooks and print holdings is also an issue being explored. Can paper copies be weeded if an electronic copy is available in the digital archive? Chip talked about the possibility of getting a deep discount on electronic versions of books already held in print. ASERL directors did not feel space was an adequate reason to dispose of a print copy. Having once purchased the item, there is no great motivation to pay for it again, even at a discount.

12. **Update: Collaborative Federal Depository Program - Judy Russell**

A questionnaire has been drafted and has been sent out to FDL librarians for review and comments.

Comments are due by December 15 so final questionnaires will be distributed early in 2008.

Regional planning is not moving toward collapsing the existing Regionals into one or two large Regional collections. The effort is directed at helping the ASERL libraries to work together to improve the management of collections. Creating "centers of excellence" will require the participating libraries to rigorously maintain certain parts of their collections.

The process has been slowed by rumors that have been rampant. Law Librarians are concerned that electronic versions might not be acceptable in legal settings. Getting correct information out is really critical to the success of this effort.

13. **Update: Education Committee Activities for 2008 - Julia Rholes**

The second workshop for non-MLS professionals yielded similar feedback as the first. There was less interest in learning the basics of librarianship and more interest in opportunities to network with others in similar positions. Future efforts will focus on career related networking.

14. **Update: ASERL Virtual Reference Program - John Ulmschneider**

Virtual Reference has been plagued by several problems: software problems have been long standing; local questions that can't be answered by remote staff; changes in technology that introduced alternative ways to provide similar services. We are down to 8 participating libraries and its getting to the point that it will no longer be cost effective in spite of the fact that it has been successful. In light of this determination, the Virtual Reference project will end on June 30th when the current contract ends.

15. **Update: Check-In: Disaster Recovery Planning on ASERL Campuses-Links with Medical Libraries? Who is Doing What? - John Ulmschneider**

John Ulmschneider distributed a document that summarizes the business continuity planning that is underway for medical libraries under the aegis of NLM. Also included is a draft memo of understanding for participating libraries.

John raised the question of whether there is a need for ASERL to provide some coordination effort for libraries who might need or give support during a disaster. There seemed to be consensus that that could be a reasonable role for ASERL, coordinated via SOLINET. John Burger and Kate Nevins will work on the next steps related to this issue.

16. **Meeting Wrap Up**

- ❖ Survey on collections is to be worked up and distributed.
- ❖ Election of Officers - John Ulmschneider is chairing the nominating committee; volunteers for President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer and one at-large member are sought
- ❖ Places for the Spring 2008 meeting were considered. Nashville was strongly favored in light of Paul Gherman's impending retirement.

17. **Adjournment**

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