

CYBER-INFRASTRUCTURE STEERING COMMITTEE (CISC)

Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2011

Present

Grace Agnew, Chair	Rhonda Marker	Tibor Purger
Kalaivani Ananthan	Chad Mills	Mary Beth Weber
Isaiah Beard	Aletia Morgan	Ryan Womack
John Brennan		

Excused

Ron Jantz
Linda Langschied
Jane Otto

AUL Update

Agnew said Rutgers is one of the seven VALE alpha implementers for the new open source library system. OLE is a strong candidate and its ongoing development is being carefully monitored. The OLE development team is making good progress. Its first software module will be released for general testing in early 2012, which is ahead of schedule.

One of the OLE's anticipated benefits is its integration with other University systems (i.e. authentication), thereby streamlining certain University and Library data. In turn this will also increase our reliance on the relevant technological solutions provided by the University. Over the course of the process to choose and implement a new system the Libraries will work closely with the appropriate University departments to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

VALE's initial focus is deciding upon a statewide discovery layer. Chris Sterback is on the VALE committee exploring possible solutions and Tibor Purger will serve as a technical advisor to that committee.

Round Robin Updates

Womack provided an update on research data. He established a SAKAI site for the research data team. More significantly, working with Agnew, Ananthan and others, he led the effort to ingest a scientific data set about cranberries consisting of large four files into RUcore. He displayed the data set for the committee. Included are events for gene sequencing and grant information.

He is currently receiving additional data from two other sources: the School of Communication and Information and the Anthropology Department. The professor from the Anthropology Department is performing his research with a colleague from the University of Arkansas and there are 1,500 files associated with this work.

Mills added his thoughts concerning data format and file size. Large files (over 2 GB) would require using an ingestion process we've never used ("external redirect"), although he feels it would be a viable solution. He is continuing his analysis whether this particular option is best one available. Ananthan mentioned the WMS does not recognize external redirect and, if we used it, this functionality would have to be incorporated into a future release of WMS. In the interim a manual workaround does exist.

Purger reported that after careful deliberation a decision on the new digital mass storage system has been reached. Assuming the purchase goes smoothly the hardware should be delivered and installed by mid-June. The committee congratulated him and his team on their thorough work. He also mentioned

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new network switches are being installed in the Technical Services Building which will have a notably positive impact on access speed to retrieve resources.

Anathan said testing on release 5.2 of RUCore is basically complete. The plan calls for this to be released in mid-June.

Morgan mentioned the need to develop clean, streamlined workflow processes for users who wish to submit data sets into RUCore. Agnew said this would be a goal for the upcoming year. She asked Beard, Womack and Marker to work with Morgan on enhancing these workflows.

Adding to the previous discussion on data sets, Beard envisions the need for additional storage space or a “sandbox” server which allows researchers to upload their data set to a staging area prior to ingesting it into RUCore. He will work with Purger to develop a sound strategy for this.

Marker shared an article which spoke about The Ohio State University’s repository and some of the challenges they have faced. One of their major concerns is the perception their repository is more of a library “project” than a university-wide resource. Marker said she feels we have done a good job communicating the scholarly value of RUCore to the Rutgers community. Agnew echoed Marker’s observations by noting we’ve been very responsive to faculty who wish to use our services. Agnew also said that as RUCore continues to mature we will further engage faculty to help shape its content.

Marker believes an opportunity exists to increase awareness within the Libraries of the value of the repository as an institutional resource. She and Womack will consider strategies to increase dialogue with the library liaisons.

Marker shared a proposed new home page for RUCore. Its design was favorably received by the committee. It incorporates the three primary portals, includes more graphics and a scrolling gallery of images, and keeps the search box in an appropriate spot on the page. Some minor clean-up to ensure consistent vocabulary within the RUCore web site will occur. A suggestion was made to enhance the “splash page” (the first page a user comes to when clicking on one of the three portals) to include graphics and a brief description of that portal. Brennan, Morgan, Beard and Marker will work together to determine the final graphics. The intent is to replace the current home page in June.

Mills recently attended a JPEG 2000 symposium and shared his observations. He saw several demonstrations by institutions which currently used JPEG 2000 and learned about the technical specs behind those implementations. He said smaller institutions (determined by the size of their digital collections, not size of the institution) prefer to use it as a presentation format, but are hesitant to use it as an archival format because of space concerns. Larger institutions (i.e. Harvard) use it for both and have minimal concerns about the format’s durability. He noted converting our resources to JPEG 2000 would require substantial infrastructure work, but is achievable.

Mills spoke about problems with the analytic tool since Shibboleth will not compile on our Solaris machines. A fix will be in place before the beginning of the fall semester when we will be completely migrated off of Solaris and onto Linux machines. In the short term he said the VMC could have local authorization.

Agnew pointed out the general need to improve identity management over the coming year. She said the use of Shibboleth for certain projects/processes is not appropriate. It should only be used for multi-

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institutional projects. Internal users should never have to be routed outside of their own institution to access internal resources, which Shibboleth does.

Brennan said planning will begin shortly with SC/UA for the digitization of their fall exhibition. He was pleased SC/UA reached out to get the process started. He also said until the context data map is in place we will need to employ the same internal processes to develop this digital exhibit as we used for the Milton exhibit.

Weber said her team is working on complete metadata record display and she will bring a more detailed update outlining specific changes to a future meeting. She will also be meeting with Mills to further discuss the analytic tool and its association to a context event.

Agnew said the committee should begin thinking about goal setting for the new year. She said a meeting in July will be devoted to this. She mentioned several possible goals, among them:

- Develop a plan for the implementation of JPEG 2000 (Beard, Mills)
- Develop the context object schema (Agnew, Mills)
- Continue reaching out to library liaisons to mutually better each other's workflows (Womack, Marker, Morgan)
- Improve data set workflows (Womack, Morgan, Marker, Beard)
- Improve routines for collecting metadata records (Weber)
- Develop the fall digital exhibit (Brennan)
- Migrate digital exhibits to the context map (Brennan, Mills)
- Implement the new digital storage system (Purger)
- Implement a new RUCore search engine (Langschied, Marker, Purger)
- Enhance identity management (Purger)
- Get the data management team up and running through education and hands-on experience (Agnew, Womack)

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15 at 10:00 in the Technical Services Conference Room.

Submitted by John Brennan
June 8, 2011