

CYBER-INFRASTRUCTURE STEERING COMMITTEE (CISC)

Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2011

Present

Grace Agnew, Chair	Linda Langschied	Jane Otto
Kalaivani Ananthan	Rhonda Marker	Caryn Radick
Isaiah Beard	Chad Mills	Mary Beth Weber
John Brennan	Aletia Morgan	Ryan Womack
Ron Jantz		

Excused

Tibor Purger

AUL Report

Agnew said next week she will be attending Quali Days in Indianapolis. The Quali-OLE software will be demoed and updates on the project will be given. Her focus will be on issues which will help a successful implementation of the software for VALE.

She mentioned progress is being made by the numerous VALE-OLE statewide committees. They are looking at several scenarios on how to manage the complexities of migration, including Identity Management. The VALE-OLE project will be transformative and eventually lead to a central statewide facility for analog materials.

Agnew said Mary Alice Ball from IMLS contacted us. She said the federal government's Office of Strategic Planning is looking at states which received stimulus funds for high-speed internet access. They wish to profile education projects aimed at K-12 which demonstrates the impact and value of the funding. Agnew pointed her to the Video Mosaic and talked her through some of the analytics. She was impressed and, as a result, they are listing this as the top project impacted by the aspect of the infusion of stimulus funds. This recognition is tremendous honor and a tribute to the thought and hard work which went into making the Video Mosaic a reality.

Update on Conferences

Jantz reported on two conferences he recently attended: The D.C. Area Fedora Conference and the Digital Library Federation Forum.

Major government agencies are moving to Fedora, including the Smithsonian. They are all using Islandora, a frontend application which sits on top of Fedora. Islandora is intended to create a robust digital asset management system that can be fitted to meet the short and long term collaborative requirements of digital data stewardship. Its tools are customizable. Jantz said there may be a critical mass to support this moving forward. We will take a wait and see approach.

Fedora 4.0 will support the ingest of large files. Fedora claims that release is at least a year away, but some internal developers said this is not currently on their roadmap. However, Jantz discovered that a recent bug report from another institution outlined a method to allow for the ingest of files larger than 2GB.

The discussion shifted towards the creation of a dark archive for master files and other resources which cannot be made accessible to the general public. This would require a separate Fedora instance. Mills noted we currently bundle files (TAR files) which creates lag time for retrieval. This strategy was initially implemented because the repository was less complex. With the growth and increased complexity of RUcore the time has come to revisit this approach. Agnew said a proposal is needed which outlines how

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to “untar” files, allowing for preservation at the individual file level. A dark archive could solve both the TAR issues and the archiving of master files. Agnew asked Beard to form a team to explore the effort and resources required to build a dark archive and report back to the committee in January.

Jantz and Beard spoke about the UDFR (Unified Digital Format Repository) which has been in development since 2009 and will become operational in January 2012. Throughout the industry thousands of file types with many versions exist. All formats will be imported into the UDFR. The committee discussed if we should become an early adopter. It could be beneficial for research and MIME file types. The consensus was to monitor its progress before considering adopting it.

Jantz spoke about “Easy ID” which is emerging from the California Digital Library (CDL). It’s a service which allows for the creation of persistent IDs. Jantz’ interest arose from a previous internal discussion about using DOI (Digital Object Identifier System) for data. DOIs identify content objects in the digital environment, including where the content (or information about it) can be found on the Internet. While information about a digital object may change over time the DOI name will not change. Jantz said the vendor (Datasite) offers this service for a membership fee which includes unlimited DOIs. Agnew asked Jantz and Womack to do further analysis and report back in December.

Jantz said many northeast universities are on or are moving to Fedora. These include Columbia, Yale, University of Connecticut, Boston Public and the University of New Hampshire, among others. Jantz will begin discussions with these institutions about organizing a Fall 2012 Northeast Fedora Conference.

Updating RUcore Contact Information and Website

Marker stated there is a need to update RUcore web pages and contact information. As an example she pointed to the “Contact Us” page which has not been updated for some time. Additionally, she said we need to streamline the multiple versions of RUcore search portals and properly direct people towards them. This will be addressed.

After a discussion it was determined a centralized point of contact for all RUcore page updates needs to be established. Agnew suggested Marker, as RUcore Collections Manager, was the logical choice. The committee agreed.

Status of Open Access Policy of Rutgers

Otto, who serves on the University Senate, is a also member of a research committee charged with creating an Open Access Policy for the University. She shared work the Libraries have done towards this end with that committee. A charge was drafted by the committee chair, in part based upon the Libraries input, and sent to the Executive Committee for vetting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23 at 10:00 in the Technical Services Conference Room.

Submitted by John Brennan
November 17, 2011