

ARC Steering Committee Minutes  
February 2009

ARC Steering Committee Meeting  
Worcester State College  
Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 9:00 am

Present: Gwen Arthur, Clark University; Irena Bond, MA College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Christine Clayton, Worcester Art Museum; Jim Douglas, Nichols College; Don Hochstetler, Worcester State College; Penny Johnson, Worcester Public Library; Tracey Leger-Hornby, WPI; Mott Linn, Clark University; Louise Motta, Salter College; Carolyn Noah, CMRLS; Linda Oldach, Mt. Wachusett; Anne Pound, Quinsigamond Community College; Ruth Pyne, Anna Maria College; Dawn Thistle, Assumption College.

1. ARC Chair Jim Douglas convened the meeting at 10:00. The minutes of the Steering Committee's December 17, 2008 meeting were accepted.

2. Advisory Committees and Interest Groups

Advisory Committees

Communications: Nothing to report.

Governance: Nothing to report.

Professional Development Advisory Group: Planning is in progress for what will likely be a half-day CE workshop on wikis and blogs.

Interest Groups

Collections Management Interest Group: No report.

Reference Interest Group: Tracey Leger-Hornby of WPI updated the Steering Committee about the Reference/Information Literacy Interest Group's next meeting which will be on March 6 and will focus on producing "next generation" research guides.

Customer Service Interest Group: Latest planned meeting of this group was cancelled.

Archives/Special Collections Interest Group: Mott Linn from Clark reported that the Interest Group will be meeting the first week of March and that they still need to elect a new chair.

3. Old Business

There was no old business.

4. New Business

Jim and Tracey circulated copies of the latest ARC Institution Database (dated 01/30/09); and a lively discussion ensued regarding negotiating better database pricing and other opportunities for increasing collaboration among COWC libraries, particularly in these very tight economic times. Concerns were expressed about continued access to the Literary Reference Center and Lexis Nexis Academic. Suggestions arising during discussion included: further consideration of possibilities for COWC consortial purchases (Tracey volunteered to look for likely "clusters"); also, continued investigation of usefulness of joining other consortia including WALDO; looking toward NERCOMP as a possible model for strategies for negotiating consortial licenses. It was also suggested that we try to bring together Worcester and/or regional collections management groups or individuals at the ACRL New England

spring meeting or even before that in conjunction with an ARC Steering Committee meeting or a hosted meeting at WPI just prior to the ACRL-NE.

Related to further collaboration: Jim Hogan from Holy Cross volunteered to have Bob from his staff talk to the HC attorney for suggestions related to licensing. Dawn Thistle will call Mark Bilotta at COWC to find out what's happening with collaboration at higher levels in the COWC institutions. Linda volunteered to work with Tracey on getting some more structured material together on possible meetings, agendas, and strategies related to collaboration. Tracey also raised the question of long-term cross-borrowing of books for reserve readings across COWC institutions.

#### 5. Current News from CMRLS and ARC Institutions

Carolyn reported on a number of developments:

As part of the ALA library leadership initiative, there will be a CMRSL-sponsored 4-day leadership program at Wheaton this summer; Work on looking at statewide delivery and standardizing parts of that (barcodes placement, in particular) continues; There was a statewide library planning meeting at Holy Cross for the State Library and the regionals looking at questions such as: Where are library services now? What do libraries need from the regionals? There are significant funding cuts--circa 14%-- anticipated for regionals next year.

The MA Legislative Day is scheduled for 04/02/09; please attend if you can.

Most notable piece of ARC news: Penny retires as director of the Worcester Public Library at the end of this month; and Lucy B. Gangone, who has worked in a number of New England libraries, will follow in her footsteps!

7. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Arthur  
Vice-chair/Secretary  
ARC Steering Committee

Upcoming meetings

Meetings begin at 9 am unless otherwise indicated.

April 1 Salter School

June 3 Massachusetts Military Archive and Museum, 1 pm