



## ECB/QVR Steering Committee

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### Electronic Council Book–Query/View/Reporting System Steering Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Time: 10:00 a.m.–Noon

Location: Fernwood Bldg., Rm 3D-18

Advocate: Pete Morton

Chair: Thor Fjellstedt

**Next Meeting: February 9, Wed., 10:00 a.m.–Noon, Fernwood Building, Room 3D-18**

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### Action items

1. (Don Tiedemann) Add language to alert user to put in date when searching for Scanned or eSNAP or eCGAP electronic applications. Look at combining the options of ‘applications received since’ and ‘applications uploaded since’ into a drop-down box.
2. (Don Tiedemann) Incorporate the new download of Excel.

### Modular Grant Flag

Thor Fjellstedt stated that a new feature, allowing the user to identify grants that are modular (i.e. grant applications requesting less than \$250,000), has been added to the QVR custom download. He asked the group whether that was sufficient for users or would they like a search criteria added. Earl Hodgkins stated that a standard report for modular vs. non-modular may be needed. One group member suggested a ‘sort by’ feature in a standard report. Don Tiedemann said that it would be easy to create a search criteria but he would not want to clutter up the search screen unless the feature was really needed. Cathy suggested that perhaps a page pivot on the budget report would be helpful. Earl said that he would check on the budget user’s community to see what they would like; Thor stated that he would run it by a grants management user group and get some feedback.

### Parsing application images

The ability to retrieve pages 1-3 of a scanned grant application is in production. Cathy Buckley stated that, on rare occasions, the extracted pages 1-3 cannot be merged. When this happens, she will merge the rest of the application into a PDF and send a message to the user to download the problem application separately. If the group has any other suggestions, they should let Cathy know. The QVR development team is also testing the ability to retrieve sections of an application on the basis of bookmarks. The group noted that the requests would be mainly for the ‘Special Aims’ page and for ‘Key Personnel.’ Thor stated that QVR would have to consider how useful such retrieval would be and how much it would be used.

**Electronic applications**— Electronic applications are available in QVR and can be searched by checking boxes for Scanned or eSNAP or eCGAP. The feature will be helpful to reviewers who need to be alerted to the electronic image out there when no paper copies exist.

Don Tiedemann noted that users needed to put in a date when checking the boxes, otherwise the search would return too many applications. The group suggested adding verbiage to alert the user to put in a date; look into combining the options of ‘applications received since’ and ‘applications uploaded since’ into a drop-down box. Don said he would work on these suggestions.

**Action: (Don Tiedemann) Add language to alert user to put in date when searching for Scanned or eSNAP or eCGAP electronic applications. Look at combining the options of ‘applications received since’ and ‘applications uploaded since’ into a drop-down box.**

### **New Excel download/Comma delimited file features** — Thor

demonstrated a new download of Excel that provides data in a format that is prettier to the eye – a spreadsheet with grid lines and a better font. Don said that because it changes the look of the data, he wanted some feedback from the group. Anne Connors noted that it depends on what the user wants to do with the data. If the user wants to place the data in a form that is already formatted, he or she may prefer the raw data. If not, the user would like the prettier version. Don also noted that the new download would give users a prompt to ‘enable macros’ and users should click on the ‘enable macros’ button. Thor noted that the new download formatting looked good and urged Don to proceed with it.

A new “Comma Separated Values” download format option on the Person Search screen allows for simpler loading of data into non-Excel products such as Microsoft Access. (The comma-separated values (CSV) file format is a tabular data format that has fields separated by the comma character and quoted by the double quote character, according to the Wikipedia online encyclopedia).

**Action: (Don Tiedemann) Incorporate the new download of Excel.**

### **NIH Roadmap**

Thor noted that all Roadmap grants had been awarded for the first fiscal year. They are still working on getting the data cleaned up for Roadmap and are not having much success with it.

### **QVR Blog**

Thor stated that the QVR blog offers a lot of information from Frequently Asked Questions to information on ‘what are pivot tables?’ He said it was time to link the blog with QVR and asked the group for placement ideas. One member suggested posting the blog link on the right-hand corner of the blue line that runs horizontally on the top of every QVR screen, so that users would know exactly where to look for it on each screen. Carolyn McHale noted that the blog link on the QVR information page (<http://qvr.cit.nih.gov/qvrhelpdocs/index.htm>) has been posted right under the QVR user groups.

### **CIT/Altum IC specific data**

Thor stated that the CIT/Altum project to create IC specific data is moving ahead. Altum is creating a central database of scientific coding data for several of the IC’s that currently use the STARS system at their IC. The QVR development team is working with Altum to merge the coding data from this centralized repository into the QVR search and report capabilities. On another front, the QVR development team is beginning work on an IC specific data project for the National Institute on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) that will allow NIDDK to do modeling of expenditure of funds by comparing grant initiative to the dollar

amount expended on it. An NIDDK user will be able to go to QVR and pull up NIDDK specific data. This prototype can be developed into a useful tool NIH-wide.

## QVR Enhancements

### *New items in production:*

- Application Image Pages 1-3.
- eCGAP - Electronic Competitive Grant Applications are now identified in QVR
- Abstract Extraction from scanned applications
- New Download items
- Addition of Comma Delimited Download to Person Search --Tutorial posted

## Table Talk

**2005 objectives**—Pete Morton stated that the QVR team is working on a presentation of its 2005 objectives and may run a presentation by the group in the future.

**New member on team**—Pete Morton introduced Heather Allison, a new member on the QVR development team.

**QVR hits**—Thor noted that QVR had 495 distinct users last month using the custom download.

**Google Scholar**— Thor lauded the usefulness of <http://www.scholar.google.com>, a search engine that offers up scholarly articles ranging from abstracts to technical reports with links to PubMed, University websites and more. He wondered if it would be helpful to post the link in QVR. A group member suggested posting the link on the person search screen on QVR. Thor said he would explore the idea.

**Next meeting**—Thor stated that the next meeting will be held February 9, the second Wednesday of the month. ECB/QVR meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of the month.

## ECB/QVR and Related Training Classes

- 730 **Introduction to the QVR System**, January 11, Natcher Balcony.
- 733B **Intermediate QVR Training**, January 13, 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Fernwood Classroom
- 734 **Advanced QVR Training**, January 13, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fernwood Classroom
- 729 **Understanding the Grants Process**, January 14, 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Natcher Balcony

Go to either the CIT Home page (<http://www.cit.nih.gov/home.asp>) or the QVR Information page (<http://qvr.cit.nih.gov/qvrhelpdocs/index.htm>) to register for these classes.

Additional QVR classes will be scheduled soon and announced on the listserv.

## Attendance

Allison, Heather (CIT)

Brown, Mark (NIMH/Altum)

Buckley, Cathy (CIT)

Condon, Bonita (NIAID)

Connors, Anne (NIAMS)

Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT)

Floura, Ranvir (CIT)

Hodgkins, Earl (CIT)

Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)

McHale, Carolyn (CIT)

Morton, Pete (CIT)

Peng, Lisa (NIDCR)

Pham, Helen (NIDCR)

Poma, Shelly (NIMH)

Subramanya, Manju  
(PCOB/OD)

Tiedemann, Don (CIT)

Woodland, Rayseen (NCRR)