



ECB/QVR Steering Committee

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

Date: Wed., May 28, 2003
Time: 10:00 a.m.–noon
Location: Rockledge 2, 9th Floor Conference Center
Advocate: Pete Morton
Chair: Carolyn McHale

Next Meeting: June 25, Wed., Rockledge 2, 9th Floor Conference Center

Action Items

1. (Carolyn McHale) Contact Mike Loewe, eRA advocate for Grants Management, about GM data and reports in reference to QVR.
2. (All) Bring to the attention of Don Tiedemann and Cathy Buckley instances where applications can be downloaded through ICSTORE but are now retrieved by QVR.
3. (Carolyn McHale) Contact Eileen Bradley, eRA Advocate for Review, to discuss reporting needs for Review staff that could be met by using QVR.
4. (Don Tiedemann) Send a list of QVR users in CSR to George Chacko.

ECB

On-line Help—The on-line Help facility has been updated for Council and Staff modules.

ECB Staff Module—It was noted that the ECB staff module is not used very often—primarily for people looking for very specific information. The group discussed ways to encourage its use.

QVR

Frozen Data—Frozen data now is available. There was some discussion as to when frozen data is officially “frozen.” It was thought that the cutoff date for freezing data is sometime in November.

Budget Reports—The team has been working closely with Budget to provide budget-related reports. However, to find the bugs and refine queries and the program, more budget people are needed to use the system.

Help Docs—The Help docs were updated, and many items are downloadable, e.g., training information.

Obligation vs. Awarded Dollars—There is some discrepancy in the obligation dollar amounts in the eRA system vs. Central Accounting System (CAS). The changes to obligation dollar amounts are supposed to be uploaded weekly from the CAS to the eRA system. However, this upload doesn’t seem to be done often enough to satisfy user needs. Also, in one of the reports, there is a column titled “Discrepancy”, which isn’t descriptive of the data in the field.

Intramural Projects Page—One of the group pointed out that this page is not intuitive and she had a very difficult time figuring out how to perform a data search. It was pointed out that this page defaults to extramural, which means that one has to check a box to search intramural data.

New Report Suggested—It was suggested that there be a new report: the abstract with the fiscal year on it.

Trainee Data—The analysts continue to work on defining the parameters for trainee data.

Population Tracking Codes—It was suggested that tracking code data be provided in the Special Select section. These codes are used for population tracking.

Grants Management Reports—It was suggested that there should be reports driven by GM (not including dollar amounts).

Action: (Carolyn McHale) Contact Mike Loewe, eRA advocate for Grants Management, about GM data and reports in reference to QVR.

Slow Performance—There was a three-week period during which QVR performance was slow. This slowness was linked to an eRA system upgrade. Subsequently, whatever was slowing the system was identified and repaired. Performance now is back to pre-upgrade levels.

Use of QVR in CSR

George Chacko reported on the uses of the QVR at CSR:

- Downloading application information to Excel, Access and FileMaker. Application information usually comprises application number, title, PI-name, tel, fax, email, mechanism, human subjects and vertebrate animal codes, PO name and email.
- Searching for reviewers based on their funding history and review panel service.
- Generating report templates to be used at study section meetings, i.e., IRG notes.
- The review history feature is viewed enthusiastically.

A CSR person wanted to know if it were possible to download Abstracts, perhaps in PDF form. It was suggested that there be an option to download a zip file containing the Abstracts for desired applications. This might allow linking them to Access or Excel-based review management utilities. However, at present, it is not possible to extract the Abstract from an application image.

The CSR staff expressed the following concerns:

- Performance: Slow search times with respect to queries and text searches.
- The increasingly complex and disorienting user interface. (The user interface can be simplified by collapsing sections that are not of interest to review personnel.)
- Some applications that can be viewed in the Review module are not retrieved through QVR. However, they can be downloaded through ICSTORE.

Action: (All) Bring to the attention of Don Tiedemann and Cathy Buckley instances where applications can be downloaded through ICSTORE but are now retrieved by QVR.

QVR for Review—It was suggested that there might be the need for some public queries and reports for Review.

Action: (Carolyn McHale) Contact Eileen Bradley, eRA Advocate for Review, to discuss reporting needs for Review staff that could be met by using QVR.

CSR Users—Don Tiedemann was asked to send a list of CSR users to George Chacko so that George can evaluate who is using QVR.

Action: (Don Tiedemann) Send a list of QVR users in CSR to George Chacko.

Training

Two classes will be offered in June.

- **The ECB and QVR Systems**, June 10, Tues., 1:30–3:30 p.m., Fernwood Building, Classroom (Lower Level).
<http://training.cit.nih.gov/coursepicfull.asp?cnumber=730&term=03G>
- **Advanced QVR System Training**, June, 26, Thurs., 9:30–11:30 a.m., Fernwood Building, Classroom (Lower Level),
<http://training.cit.nih.gov/coursepicfull.asp?cnumber=734&term=03G>

Attendance

Bashir, Karen (NIA)

Buckley, Cathy (CIT)

Caban, Carlos (OER)

Chacko, George (CSR)

Connors, Anne (NIAMS)

Fischetti, Greg (NCI)

Hardman, Anne (NIA)

Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)

Jones, Terry (NIAID)

McHale, Carolyn (CIT)

Musson, Bob (NHLBI)

Parker, Marie (NIAID)

Robbins, Linda (NIMH)

Schiaffino, Steve (NIAID)

Seppala, Sandy (LTS/COB)

Tiedemann, Don (CIT)

Williamson, Mary Ann

(NIDCR)