



ECB/QVR Steering Committee

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2005
Time: 10:00–11:15 a.m.
Location: Fernwood Bldg., Room 3D-18
Chair: Thor Fjellstedt

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 10:00 a.m., Fernwood 3D-18
Note change in date to the second Wednesday of the month.

Action Items

1. (Don Tiedemann) Contact Pete Morton to arrange a meeting regarding the issue of a major slowdown in accessing the OLTP.
2. (Thor Fjellstedt) Draft a message to the listserv explaining that because of the slowdown in accessing the OLTP, there will be times when queries will bypass the OLTP and retrieve data only from the IRDB.
3. (Don Tiedemann and Cathy Buckley) Determine how to better highlight System Alerts in QVR.
4. (Heather Allison) (Heather Allison) Follow up with the users who requested an NIH policy clarification regarding SBIR/STTR ranking information being available for review meetings but not appearing on Summary Statements.
5. (Don Tiedemann, Earl Hodgkins) Set up a QVR BUG Meeting to review the All Extramural functionality and reports.
6. (All) Send suggestions for improvements to the Council version of the ECB to Paul Jordan.
7. (Cathy Buckley) Investigate the feasibility of writing a macro to refresh data in previously run rpt/dl using data from new rpt/dl.

Agenda Items

System Performance—Beginning on November 23, following an OLTP crash, access to the Online Transaction Processing (OLTP) database has been very slow. QVR pulls most data from the IMPAC II Reporting Database (IRDB) but it pulls several features from the OLTP. In examining the slowness, Cathy and Don observed that the session lengths seem to be much longer than normal (time-out is after 20 minutes and many sessions timed out) and that there were an unusually high number of sessions (up from 800 to 1,200) at a time. They requested an increase to the session limit in an effort to resolve the issue—waiting for a response. Calls to the eRA manager of the database have not resulted in help to determine the cause or resolve the issue. It was suggested that Thor, Don and Cathy talk with Pete Morton.

Action: (Don Tiedemann) Contact Pete Morton to arrange a meeting regarding the issue of a major slowdown in accessing the OLTP.

Action: (Thor Fjellstedt) Draft a message to the listserv explaining that because of the slowdown in accessing the OLTP, there will be times when queries will bypass the OLTP and retrieve data only from the IRDB.

This message also should be in System Alerts. However, the group agreed that hardly anyone has time to read System Alerts. It was suggested that the Alerts be flashing or have some way to call attention to them.

Action: (Don Tiedemann and Cathy Buckley) Determine how to better highlight System Alerts in QVR.

Multiple-PIs—Eventually, multiple PIs will be listed in the eRA System for projects although the project itself seems to be on hold during the SF424 (R&R) first receipt. Thor said that he has suggested, after looking at a prototype, that there be a way to make changes in the PI assignment after the initial assignment. It is not clear whether the prototype will offer this feature.

SF424 (R&R)—Thor reported that 2,700 applications made it through Grants.gov but a large portion were rejected during the validation process (which are based on the specific mechanism's business rules) done in the eRA eXchange. Applicants were notified if their applications were rejected and asked to correct them and resubmit through Grants.gov.

To date, there are about 200 in Status 70 (sent to IRG for acceptance or rejection) so QVR can pull this data. Applications in the Status 70 category are ready for the Referral Officer's action. Tom Tatham explained the current process for applications:

- First contact referral staff, Referral Deputy Chiefs, provide an initial scan of applications and divide them into groups.
- Referral officers then review each group more closely and assign them to an Integrated Review Group (IRG). IRGs have three days to accept or reject. The rejection rate is very low. Once they are accepted (by the IRG or by default), it is assigned to the IC and very difficult to reassign.

There is no electronic workflow application for this process but Tim Twomey's Cool Tools provide a report that shows IRGs what's in their 3-day approval window. For now, this works well but it is expected that there will be an electronic workflow for this in the future.

Tom Tatham suggested that QVR expand the "Status 70" report, to first generate a hitlist with links to abstracts, key personnel, etc., and then to provide the ability to select a subset for inclusion in the report.

Cathy Buckley said that the code for extracting the abstract and key personnel data doesn't work with the new applications. She is fixing it this week.

SBIR/STTR: Rank order of applications, not percentiled—SBIR/STTR applications are not percentiled but reviewers want to rank them for review meetings. It is being done but unofficially. QVR has asked for a policy clarification as to whether it can offer derived SBIR/STTR ranking information in the custom download (against all SBIR/STTR appls in the same review committee and against *all* appls in the same review committee). The ranking would not appear on Summary Statements. Still awaiting a response.

Action: (Heather Allison) Follow up with the users who requested an NIH policy clarification regarding SBIR/STTR ranking information being available for review meetings but not appearing on Summary Statements.

“All Extramural” feature in test environment—Earl Hodgkins wants to demonstrate this new QVR feature and get feedback. He is trying to recruit some budget officers and people in the Budget Users Group. Don Tiedemann created a screen that provides all extramural data, e.g., contracts, load repayment, INGs, taps, etc. The data is pulled from the data warehouse and can be searched by activity code or Common Account Number (CAN). So far, five institutes have their extramural data available in QVR: NIAID, NIGMS, NICHD, NIDDK, and NIAMS (for full IC names, go to <http://www.nih.gov/icd/>). Additionally, NIAID is interested in loading all of their local contract data into it. If the QVR prototype works for NIAID, it can serve as a model and enticement for other ICs. There would be some cost involved.

Action: (Don Tiedemann, Earl Hodgkins) Set up a QVR BUG Meeting to review the All Extramural functionality and reports.

Summary Statement, recurring problems—The problems have been resolved.

IC Codes Project—No updates.

NIH Roadmap Update—There are two new types of applications, X01 and X02. They require no funds but will be in the system and will go through review.

More than 154 non-competing supplements have been received, of which approximately 15 will be funded. Once they are funded, they will be associated with a project. However, currently there is no way to retain or track the supplements that aren't funded. If they aren't in the system, staff can't consider them for funding at the end of the fiscal year should funds become available. Since they are a result of a solicitation, they should be in the system. Roadmap staff is considering alternatives including logging them into the system or having a database outside the system. Thor is meeting with Roadmap staff and will oppose a database outside the system.

ECB and Council Administrative Module—Paul Jordan is soliciting suggestions for improvements to the Council version of the ECB. Everyone is encouraged to send him suggestions.

Action: (All) Send suggestions for improvements to the Council version of the ECB to Paul Jordan.

QVR training schedule—There was a CIT Services Seminar yesterday with 100 people in attendance. Thor is working with CIT to present the same seminar at other sites in NIH.

Items put into Production since the last meeting—

- **New Standard Report—Roadmap Activity Summary (RMAPCNTS)**. This report includes the number of applications that have been received, funded, partially funded, and those with non-Roadmap dollars. Thor said that there will be more trans-Institute projects and Roadmap will serve as a model.
- **Custom Download Enhancements:**
 - PI Person Profile ID added to download.
 - All descriptors for MAS data items added to download (IMN, Allot, Allow, Cost Center, Budget Activity).
 - More specific other degree text added to degree code when degree code is "other" (BOTH, DOTH, etc.).

- Individual Study Section data items renamed to group them together under ‘SRG:’, and group_ext_code removed from the Full Study Section and added as a separate download item.

Discussion

- Suggest putting the award and obligation dollars fields near each other on the screen.
- Suggestion to group all grant/project identifiers (e.g., serial number, activity code, support year, suffix, grant number full etc) together.
- Tom Tatham made two suggestions for QVR:
 - Include user-defined as empty placeholders in the custom download lists and allow the user to enter the titles of the columns. This would allow the user to add information, and then use as a template later.
 - CSR IT is in the early stages of developing a tool for SRAs based on the OLTP that has an automatic refresh feature. Overall, the tool is similar to what QVR can offer. Could QVR figure out a way to automatically refresh an Excel report generated by QVR?

Action: (Cathy Buckley) Investigate the feasibility of writing a macro to allow extra columns to be generated in Excel reports and for the reports to be automatically refreshed.

Training

There will be an Advanced QVR Training on December 8.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, the second Monday of the month. Everyone should note the change for January only.

Announcements

- **Sandy Seppala** has returned as the scribe/reporter for the meeting. She covered the meeting for a few years, left the project for six months, returning last April. Pete Morton asked her to return to meeting as scribe once again.
- **Carolyn McHale** will remain on the project on an as-needed basis, instead of leaving the project altogether now that she is retired. Carolyn was involved with the development of the ECB and has been a long-time supporter and proselytizer for QVR. The group is very pleased that she will continue to participate in the group.

Attendees

Allison, Heather (CIT)	Hodgkins, Earl (CIT)	Seppala, Sandy (OERRM/ LTS)
Barnes, Martha (NIEHS)	Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)	Tatham, Thomas (CSR)
Buckley, Cathy (CIT)	McHale, Carolyn (CIT)	Tiedemann, Don (CIT)
Fischetti, Greg (NCI)	Peng, Lisa (NIDCR)	Tolbert, Mary (NIA)
Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT)	Pinchotti, Steve (NIMH/ ALTUM)	
Geddes, Lorena (NIGMS)	Rich, Linda (NCCAM)	
Geiler, Christen (NIDCR)		

