



Workgroup on Extramural Training Systems (WETS)

Date: May 8, 2003, Thursday
Time: 10:00 a.m.–Noon
Location: Rockledge 1, Room 3502
Advocates: Barbara Huffman, Rick Ikeda, (Dr. Walter Schaffer)

Next Meeting: June 12, 2003, 10 a.m.–Noon, Rockledge 1, Rm. 3502

Action Items

1. (Steve Fitzgerald) Present all reports currently in the Training Module at the next meeting.
2. (Rick Ikeda) Provide a demonstration of the QVR at the next meeting.
3. (Steve Fitzgerald) Convene a meeting with Mike Cox, Elaine Sirkis, and Carin Sprick to determine the best strategy for how to close inactive T35s.

X-Train Deployment

Wallie Schaffer & Steve Fitzgerald

The July deployment of X-Train has been postponed because of some design issues that must be resolved first. Wallie and Steve will meet again with the Architecture team to work on these issues. There are two primary issues that must be addressed:

- **Duplicate Profiles**—This is a major issue that the entire eRA team is working to resolve. For the NIH eRA Commons, PIs register and keep their profile, which is used for all modules in the NIH eRA Commons. However, those using X-Train are not required to be registered in the NIH eRA Commons. The X-Train registrations are not mapping to profiles already established. Steve recommends that when a person starts to register in X-Train, the system checks for a duplicate registration in the NIH eRA Commons. If there is a match, the person is not allowed to proceed and is asked to contact the Help Desk. The Help Desk would then resolve the duplication issue up front.

Marie Willett said that many duplicates are created when the social security number is entered incorrectly, i.e., a typo is made when entering the number. By asking users to enter the SS# twice, this error might be corrected.

Wallie suggested that a WETS representative be on the Data Quality committee, which addresses issues that affect X-Train such as duplicate profiles.

- **Role Profiles**—This issue is primarily in regard to educational degrees and the ownership of the personal profile (PPF) in the NIH eRA Commons.

Reports Related to Training Grants

Rick Ikeda

Rick approached Cathy Buckley, an analyst for QVR, to see if training data would be accessible using QVR (Query/View/Report tool). She researched and reported to Rick that training data was accessible. Rick showed a report that Cathy generated, using Excel PivotTable, listing many of the items that would be of interest to training.

Rick said that custom reports could be generated in QVR and that he needed input to give to QVR analysts. The data can pulled into QVR but there must be a report so that the data can be retrieved. The short-term audience would be internal users.

The group agreed that there should be two steps for providing reports: review the reports already generated in the Training Module and, after determining the types of reports that are missing, approach the QVR team to make these reports available through QVR. The group agreed, however, that QVR could be approached in parallel with examining the Training Module reports.

Action: (Steve Fitzgerald) Present all reports currently in the Training Module at the next meeting.

Action: (Rick Ikeda) Provide a demonstration of the QVR at the next meeting.

There was some discussion regarding allowing more people to access the Training Module, with read-only access. This would allow them to access the Report menu. It was noted that, while a good idea, the module is client-server, not Web, so the user would have to have software installed on their system.

Update on Action Items from the Last Meeting

No.	Action Item	Status
1	Distribute updated X-Train Release 2 enhancement list to WETS. (Steve Fitzgerald)	Done. The enhancement list was published with the April minutes (http://era.nih.gov/Docs/WETS_Minutes_04-10-03revised.pdf)
2	Distribute the Requirements Document and Use Cases to WETS and post them on the website. (Steve Fitzgerald)	Done. The Requirements document and Use Cases were published as attachments to the April minutes (see above).
3	Write a proposed workflow for termination notices and present it at the CWG meeting on April 30. (Steve Fitzgerald)	Not done.

No.	Action Item	Status
4	Send to WETS the proposed changes to business rules for the July release in regard to how educational degrees will be designated, captured and categorized. (Steve Fitzgerald)	There will be many changes in the eRA system with regard to the degree category. There are 560 different degrees currently listed in the database. An analysis is being conducted to determine the most frequently used degrees, with the goal of consolidating some degrees and changing how some of the degrees are categorized. Steve's summary of the changes is at the end of this table.
5	Ask Tim Twomey why the degrees in the Personal Profile (PPF) and stored in the OLTP are not being bridged correctly to the IRDB. (Steve Fitzgerald)	Steve wasn't clear on specific issue. He would like some details from the person who raised this issue.
6	Prepare some prototypes of reports so that they can be submitted to QVR and Web QT teams for inclusion in these query tools. (Elaine Sirkis)	Elaine brought some of the reports and distributed them at the meeting. However, approaching QVR and Web QT teams is delayed until the current TA reports are reviewed.
7	Ask Jim Tucker if he can get QRC involved in cleaning up fellowship records, in particular the degree data. (Steve Fitzgerald, Carin Sprick)	Done.
8	Investigate how to resolve the pre-doc/post-doc issues in T35 training grant records. See if QRC can change the "post doc" designation in T35s to "pre doc." (Lisa Chen, Steve Fitzgerald)	Will change the code so that it reads the activity code for payback. Activity codes F30 and F31 should be pre-doc and F32 should be post doc. Any exceptions will be addressed later.
9	See if it is feasible to do a "sweep" to close T35s prior to a set date. (Steve Fitzgerald)	Steve discussed this issue with Mike Cox and realized that sweeps have been done before and that there is more to this issue than he thought. He needs to conduct more data analyses and identify patterns. Another "sweep" may not be the best solution. Action: (Steve Fitzgerald) Convene a meeting with Mike Cox, Elaine Sirkis, and Carin Sprick to determine the best strategy for how to close inactive T35s.

No.	Action Item	Status
10	See if it is feasible to “sweep” F31 records so that they are categorized as "pre doc" instead of "post doc." (Steve Fitzgerald)	See #9.
11	Define required fields for processing training grant awards. (Steve Fitzgerald)	Not addressed.

There are several changes regarding degree information that are being made to both the database and applications that will be deployed in July.

These include the following high-level changes:

1. Changes to the number of degrees we capture and the grouping of category codes.

The eRA system currently has more than 500 distinct degrees in the database. There is a desire to decrease the number of degrees and degree codes that we track. Reasons for reducing the number of official degree codes are to make it easier for the user and provide a better way for users to select from the degree look-up table. Other reasons are reporting/data-quality related.

Every degree captured has two primary components: the actual degree and a component code, or group code. For example, there are many types of Master’s and post-doc degrees, and we need to be able to categorize them by baccalaureate, Master’s, or Ph.D. equivalent.

This change will shorten the number of degree codes that we capture and will reassign new category codes to some of the degrees. We’re not really eliminating any degrees, but changing the way they are stored and the degree picklist displayed to users.

2. Several sweeps of degree related data are being done to clean up the data, including the clean up of degree status codes and the elimination of duplicate degree records.

Attendees

Dingle, Linda (NEI)

Ikeda, Richard (NIGMS)

Sirkis, Elaine (NCI)

Fitzgerald, Steve (RN Solutions)

McGarvey, bill (OER)

Sprick, Carin (DEIS)

McHale, Carolyn (CIT)

Venable, Beverly (OD)

Freese, Michelle (OD)

Schaffer, Wally (OER)

Willett, Marie (OER/OD)

Huffman, Barbara (NIAID)

Seppala, Sandy (LTS/COB)