ECB/QVR Steering Committee

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

Date:　　　　Wed., April 23, 2003

Time:　　　　10:00 a.m.–noon

Location:　　Rockledge 2, 9th Floor Conference Center

Advocate:　　Thor Fjellstedt

Next Meeting:　May 28, Rockledge 2, 9th Floor Conference Center

Action Items

1. (Thor Fjellstedt) Talk with Tim Twomey about coding dummy sub-projects so that they are not loaded for budget purposes.

Retirement Good Wishes to Thor

Stuffed with bagels, cookies and fruit, the group, with Pete Oliver as spokesperson, wished Thor best wishes in his retirement. Pete reminisced about his first meeting with Thor and subsequent working relationships, all demonstrated by a different type of eyeglass donned by Thor at Pete's request. Certainly, the eyeglasses with their springy eyeballs best represented Thor's capacity for vision, Pete said.

Of course, Thor said he has worked every day since his early April, official retirement date in his new capacity as a contractor for CIT. His wife, who attended the meeting, concurred.

Thor, in response, thanked the group, in particular Carolyn McHale who originally got him involved, for their input and support in building such a robust QVR tool. He acknowledged the many people who have worked hard to develop QVR since its inception as an outgrowth of the ECB. His desire to stay on as a contractor stems from his commitment to the QVR and interest in proselytizing it throughout the NIH and beyond. He added that he plans to contact other agencies that use the eRA database, e.g., CDC and FDA, to try to interest them in using QVR.

Another Retirement

Thor announced that Earl Hodgkins is retiring. Earl said that he will return in June as a contractor in CIT to focus on Data Warehousing and help develop Invision. He noted that Thor made a presentation to Invision staff about QVR.

Training

Thor said that the QVR training sessions have been so successful that CIT added several classes to accommodate those on the waiting list. Thor has conducted the class at least seven times so far and more are in the planning stages.

Thor will send information regarding the next two classes, which he will teach on May 6 and May 8.

Thor and Carolyn McHale are also considering an advanced QVR class, which would focus on downloading data to spreadsheets and then using spreadsheet tools, such as PivotTables in Excel, to create the desired report.

Thor also conducted some classes specifically for Budget staff, who were most interested in mining frozen data. Many in budget were unaware of QVR and wanted to learn more about how to use it to access frozen data. Those in budget can also use the QVR format for abstracts.

Performance Issues

QVR has been particularly slow since the upgrade of the eRA system to 9*i*. The slowdown is related to the system as a whole and the eRA project team is addressing the problem.

Sub-Projects

Sub-Project Data—It was agreed that sub-projects have not been sufficiently populated with data in many ICs. Sub-projects are used in Review, but they are not used for other purposes. Some ICs do not enter sub-projects in the system. It was noted that all ICs agreed to enter subprojects, but it was never clarified as to whom had responsibility in each IC to enter them.

Dummy Sub-Projects—NIH staff also creates dummy sub-projects. It was suggested that dummy sub-projects have a special code so they are not mistaken for a real sub-project and do not get loaded for budget purposes.

Action: **(Thor Fjellstedt) Talk with Tim Twomey about coding dummy sub-projects so that they are not loaded for budget purposes.**

QVR Website

Resource List—Carolyn McHale plans to update the resource document in QVR. She asked the group to review their information on the current resource document and to update it as appropriate.

PCC Codes—Some six ICs have a Web page for their PCC structure. Carolyn asked the group to send her the URL to their PCC Web page, if their IC has one.

Homepage Information—Carolyn wants to enhance the QVR homepage and she asked the group to send her suggestions.

eRA Symposium

Symposium—The Third Annual eRA Symposium has the theme: *Progress in Program: Tying it All Together.* The Symposium will be held from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Natcher Auditorium. Although focusing on Program staff, all are welcome. Speakers include Raynard Kington, deputy director of the NIH, and Ron Germain talking about systems biology and the use of informatics. There will also be demonstrations of the new Program module, NIH eRA Commons and Web Query Tool. QVR for Budget will also be demonstrated. More information and registration is on the eRA Web site (http://era.nih.gov/).

QVR Brochure—Thor showed a QVR brochure, prepared by Carolyn, that was printed for the upcoming eRA Symposium. He offered to send some of the brochures to any IC.

Queries

Currently, you can save your queries as your own or as a shared query within your IC. A new feature now allows you to save your query as a public query, which can be shared throughout the NIH. Thor is looking for relevant queries for Grants Management, Review, Program and other modules that can be included in this public query section.

He noted that when you select a public query, you pull up a query template that you can modify it to suit your needs and then save it as your own query.

New Features

Thor noted that immediate plans focus on improving performance and providing features for Budget. He also said that the following will be addressed in the future:

- Intramural projects data

- R&D contracts data

- Access IC-specific data

- Access scientific publication data

Thor will meet with Jack Jones to ask for resources to resurrect the IC-Specific Data project— making IC-specific data available using QVR.

Training Data

Rick Ikeda suggested that there be reporting tools for training grants. One problem with this is that many ICs don't enter training-grant data. Rick is now the eRA Advocate for Trainee Activities along with Barbara Huffman.

Publication Data

Work is being done to provide the ability to pull publications for individual grants. Currently, you can pull the publications for a person. Pulling publications for a center is more problematic. The publication data that can be pulled now is perhaps 80 percent accurate, which is enough to assist in evaluating the productivity of a grant.

Attendance

Barnes, Martha (NIEHS)	Jones, Terry (NIAID)	Ramasamy, Sakthi (NINDS)
Buckley, Cathy (CIT)	Jones, Tina (NEI)	Seach, Jim (NCI)
Connors, Anne (NIAMS)	Le, Todd (NIDDK)	Seppala, Sandy (LTS/COB),
Fischetti, Greg (NCI)	Lee, Delores (NCRR)	Recorder
Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT) Chair	Mason, Tom (CIT)	Tiedemann, Don (CIT)
Hardman, Anne (NIA)	McDermott, Julie (NIDDK)	Wells, Delores (NIDCR)
Hodgkins, Earl (NIGMS)	McHale, Carolyn (CIT)	
Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)	Parker, Marie (NIAID)	