



ECB/QVR Steering Committee

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

Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2004
Time: 10:00 a.m.–11:20 a.m.
Location: Fernwood Bldg., Rm 3D-18
Advocate: Pete Morton
Chair: Thor Fjellstedt

Next Meeting: September 1, Wed., 10:00 a.m.–Noon, Fernwood Building, Room 3D-18

Action Items

1. (Don Tiedemann, Cathy Buckley) Change the “not scored” box to search based on IRG Recommended code of “6” and not Project Status codes.
2. (Steve Hughes) Ask Operations about slow responses to text search on the eRA database and inform Don about cause, if any. Don will send Steve specific examples of text that came up slow to help pinpoint the problem.
3. (Steve Hughes, Earl Hodgkins) Explore idea of figuring out a valid list of Hispanic serving health professional schools and tabling them by year and IPF.

Announcements

Scotching rumors—Thor Fjellstedt said he was putting an end to rumors that QVR was being shut down now that WEB QT was in operation. Web QT did have some features of QVR, Thor noted, stating that imitation is the greatest form of flattery. Thor said he had met with Israel Lederhendler, who had assured him that they are very much in support of QVR. QVR was going to be around for quite a long time, Thor stated.

Budget Analyst User Group—The first meeting of the Budget Users Group (BUG) will be held Aug. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the NIDCD conference room 3CO5 in Building 31. Chad Wysong, a NIDCD budget analyst, had proposed forming the user group to swap ideas and experiences on using QVR in order to enhance use of the tool in the financial management of grants. This meeting will, in part, look at QVR Public Queries and Standard Reports that are relevant to budget personnel for the September 30 FY 2004 close out, and the actual obligations (actuals) report due in October. The QVR developers are also creating a blog (a bulletin board on the web for posting comments, suggestions, ideas, etc.) that will be a useful way for QVR users to exchange information and techniques. They anticipate the blog will be operational by the end of this week - around August 20.

QVR Enhancements

People Search—The People Search feature has been added to QVR, enabling users to put in a person’s name or key word and pull up information on that person by state, country, degree or expertise. Thor demonstrated on aspect of this feature by typing in “nutrition” in the expertise field; 1,129 names popped up. The database includes all applicants who have sought grants from NIH over the past 12 years plus all people who have sat on NIH review committees and advisory councils; basically anyone involved with NIH grants. The feature also includes a link to the person’s publication history. Previously, users could only locate current and former Principal Investigators (PIs). Thor described this feature as a handy tool to locate experts and urged committee members to make others in their Institute aware of it.

Printer-Friendly Page—Pressing a button on the Principal Investigator Information page will now enable users to print query results. Teresa Lindquist stated that users at the Center for Scientific Review would like the ability to not only print, but also download the information into Excel. Don stated that adding custom download would be the next step. Thor stated that he would like to know how many people would use that feature and also what kind of information people would like to download. He urged Teresa to ask around in her office and give him some feedback.

Review Meeting Date Range Search—This feature enables a user to pull up all the meetings within a specified date range. It also lists Project Officers from other Institutes. Thor stated that if a user cannot attend a particular review meeting, he or she could at least have one contact who can take notes for him or her.

Playlist Template Report—Thor stated that they are looking to make the Playlist Template Report—designed by Budget Officers to support RoadMap awards—also available for non-RoadMap awards (such as for Request for Application awards). One group member stated that when she used Playlist, she got multiple records. Don stated that it might have been because she did not specify IC or Primary Projects in her search. Thor stated that multiple hits are often generated because they have dual assignments. Don urged her to send an email to QVR Support to confirm if that is the case.

Other Discussion Topics

Download of General IC Data

CIT’s Cathy Buckley is currently testing downloading of General IC data (some 800 items) from IMPAC II onto a spreadsheet. She has the items coded 801 and 802 in the test environment. Thor stated that if any user is interested in testing the download, they should send an email to either Cathy or Don.

Not Scored Search Criteria

Thor wondered if it would make sense to change the “Not Scored” checkbox located in QVR’s Review Program section to search based on IRG (Integrated Review Group) recommended codes instead of Project Status action codes. Thor noted that Project Status Codes were less accurate than IRG codes. For instance, Project Status groups lumped “not scored” with the “not

recommended for further consideration,” but Project Status Codes had separate codes for the two. Switching to IRG codes would make the information pulled up more accurate.

Action: (Don, Cathy) Change the “not scored” box to search based on IRG Recommended code of “6” and not Project Status codes.

IC-Specific Data

Pete Morton noted that there is a lot of interest in using QVR to access local Institute data, particularly scientific indexing and coding type of data. But with each Institute having its own file server and own version of database, it would be difficult to support access to 27 different databases. Recently, CIT has teamed up with Altum and their coding applications to take Altum databases and centralize the data, yet keep individual Institute data separate. The data would not change or be made public. Pete noted that it is feasible that down the road, they would be able to create a special section in QVR for an Institute to access its own data. Pete noted that there had been great enthusiasm from the Institutes with whom they had had initial discussions. Renee Edwards of CIT noted that two Institutes had decided to join CIT in getting this information on demand. They are the Fogarty International Center (FIC) and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). Pete urged anyone interested in this endeavor to contact, Thor, Renee or himself.

Text Search

Don Tiedemann noted that he had been having trouble with slow responses to text searching in QVR, stating that a single text search took all of 26 minutes. Steve Hughes said that he would ask Operations to look into the problem. Don stated that he could send him specific examples of text that took long; Steve said that would be helpful in tracking down the problem.

Action: (Steve Hughes) Ask Operations about slow responses to text search on the eRA database and inform Don about the cause, if any. Don send Steve specific examples of text that came up slow to help pinpoint the problem, if any.

Status of Data Mart

Steve Hughes stated that eRA’s Data Mart is slated to be released into the production environment in October. Steve said he had taken a limited data set, with portions from the National Cancer Institute, and left out IC-Specific Data. He stated that he wanted to put enough data out so that people could meaningfully use it. eRA was trying to decide if the data mart should expand its data set or support more analytical data. Steve said he would like to do both—more data would attract more users and the ability to conduct sophisticated analysis would be an incentive for users. Steve said his goal with Data Mart is to make it a source of data for any other system, including QVR.

Pete Morton asked Steve whether he expected Data Mart to be a superset of IRDB. Steve said that was the ultimate goal, but it would not happen in October. Thor asked whether ECB/QVR people could work with eRA folks in using QVR to tap the Data Mart in the testing environment. Steve said that was a possibility.

Thor stated that QVR would potentially be able to have links to Just-in-Time, Population Tracking Snapshot and FSR from the Data Mart. Steve responded that one place for grants is the goal.

Password Bridging and Expiration

Steve Hughes noted that the problem of not being able to reset an expired password for ECB users has been resolved for now. This problem would be taken care of for good in the next fiscal year when passwords would no longer be kept in the system. With the eRA system's proposed migration from its current Oracle 9i database and application servers to Oracle's 10G (grid computing) database and application servers in October, users will eventually log in one time to gain access to NIH network resources and applications with a single user name and password. This will allow them to move from one database to another with ease. Once they log in, their old account will be retired and the new log-in will be all they have to use. The log-in authentication will be handled through NIH's Active Directory, a database of people, computers, etc., that is used to manage secure access to resources on the network at NIH. Don Tiedemann asked how people outside NIH would use the system. Steve replied that they would probably draw up use cases for anyone who is not standard—add them to the Active Directory or a separate directory.

List of Hispanic serving health professional schools

Ilze Mohseni of NCCAM stated that she liked the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) report created on QVR. She asked if a similar report could be created for Hispanic serving health professional schools. Ilze stated that such a tool would help cut down several days of work for people at her institute who have a hard time matching institution and research with people. Thor noted that there is no uniform data for these schools like there is for historically black colleges. Steve Hughes noted that the White House sends out a list every year but the list is not consistent with the names that eRA has internally. Earl Hodgkins noted that the list changes every year. However, Hodgkins stated that there is a budget group in NIH headed by Bob Moore that generates a list to ICs and he may know more. Thor said that if there is a validated list, a report could be created. Steve Hughes said he could explore the idea of tabling such a list by year and IPF (Institutional Profile File) if someone could figure out a list from a centralized source.

Action: (Steve Hughes, Earl Hodgkins) Explore idea of figuring out a list of Hispanic serving health professional schools and tabling them by year and IPF.

Classes

ECB/QVR and Related Training Classes

- 730B: [Introduction to the QVR System](#) August 19
- 734A: [Advanced QVR Training](#) August 31
- 730C: [Introduction to the QVR System](#) September 2
- 729C: [Understanding the Grants Process](#) September 3

To sign up for these classes, follow one of these two ways:

- Click on “QVR Information” on the QVR search page. The classes are listed under “Training Classes.”
- Go the CIT home page, click on “Training” then click on “Grants.”

Thor mentioned that the August 19 class was full. He urged people to sign up quickly for the September 2 class, since staff would use the August 19 waiting list to fill this one. Thor said he would add more classes as needed.

Attendance

Blome, Julian (OE/OSP/OD)	Hughes, Steve (OER)	McHale, Carolyn (CIT)
Brown, Mark (NIMH/Altum)	Ilze, Mohseni (NCCAM)	Morton, Pete (CIT)
Casavant, Don (NIGMS)	Januszewski, Joe (CIT)	Poma, Shelly (NIMH)
Delcore, Sandi (NICHD)	Kemmerle, Donna (NIDCD)	Subramanya, Manju (LTS/PCOB)
Edwards, Renee (CIT)	Le, Phong (NCI/EFDB)	Tiedemann, Don (CIT)
Fischetti, Greg (NCI)	Lin, Jane (NIMH)	
Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT)	Lindquist, Teresa (CSR)	
Hodgkins, Earl (CIT)	Mason, Tom (CIT)	