



ECB/QVR Steering Committee

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

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2003
Time: 10:00 a.m.–Noon
Location: Fernwood Bldg., Rm 3D-18 (upper level)
Chair: Thor Fjellstedt

Next Meeting: Jan. 7, Wed., 10: a.m.–Noon, Fernwood Building, Room 3D-18. Chair: Carolyn McHale.

Action Items

1. (Paul Jordan) Send an email to Tracy Soto explaining the problems arising from the delay in bridging new passwords from the OLTP to the IRDB.
2. (Thor Fjellstedt) Send the issue of record limits for hitlists to a subgroup to evaluate.

Presentations

History Report (Carolyn McHale): http://era.nih.gov/Docs/History_Report_12-03-03.pdf

ECB System

Training—Paul Jordan reported that the three classes held in the last few weeks were well attended. He plans to teach another class on new features in March and to develop a new, completely hands-on class to be delivered in March.

New Server Site—The CAM is being moved to a new server at the CIT. After a period of testing, all IC's will be directed to use the module at the new location.

Password Aging—Don Tiedemann reported that passwords are expiring according to the password policy (http://era.nih.gov/Docs/ERA_Password_Policy_update_10-28-2003.pdf). There has been one source of confusion in the process: the password change is made in the OLTP and then bridged to the IRDB. The bridge occurs once an hour so that there is an activation delay depending on when the new password is entered in relation to the bridging. It was suggested that people change their password just before closing down their computer at the end of the day to avoid dealing with the delay.

Action: (Paul Jordan) Send an email to Tracy Soto explaining the problems arising from the delay in bridging new passwords from the OLTP to the IRDB.

QVR System

Budget Officers—Thor was meeting with Budget Officers in the afternoon in regard to the end-of-the-year reports that have been developed for them in the QVR. The reports were designed so that the information can be incorporated easily into the reports generated in Building 1.

Performance Issues—The QVR was migrated to new servers, which has resolved many performance issues and made the system more stable.

History Data—Carolyn McHale reported that the QVR History Committee met to determine the parameters required by QVR users for accessing history data using the QVR (see presentation: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/History_Report_12-03-03.pdf). Their report included recommendations for the composition of the history data, search screens, output options and reports, and downloads. She also presented Standard Reports that would be required and discussed data integrity issues. The committee proposed moving forward in two phases:

- **Phase 1**
 - Develop a test QVR History System
 - Test the new system
 - Address data and search issues
 - Deploy the system for general QVR use
- **Phase 2**
 - Develop new reports
 - Address new issues

Additionally, Carolyn noted that the data in the eRA database includes all grant files, both awarded and other. The QVR only stores awarded grant files. There should be a way of noting that the query “PUB File ALL” will include only awarded/paid grant files. It also was agreed that there should be some message or warning on the history screen to be wary of history data query results because such things as Congressional districts may change which could skew data.

Project Count Feature—Currently, there is a 10,000-record limit when conducting a query. This was imposed so that a person’s computer would not crash should the query produce many thousands of results and to keep the system from slowing down. Therefore, a report was created that shows how many results are in the query—project count—without showing any of the actual hitlist. The group agreed that the count alone, without seeing at least some of the hitlist, is not very useful in most cases. After some discussion, Thor sent the issue to a subgroup to consider.

Action: (Thor Fjellstedt) **Send the issue of record limits for hitlists to a subgroup to evaluate.**

IRDB Redesign—This project is ongoing.

IC-Specific Data Initiative—This project to provide access to IC data using QVR is moving ahead. Thor plans to select a few key ICs for the initial phase. Essentially, the data that is IC-specific and not in the eRA System database will be made available to the specific IC using QVR.

User Interface Update—Thor showed the new QVR main homepage, which has been “prettied up” with titles aligned and a new background color. It makes the screen more attractive to use and reduces the complexity of the screen. There is still a lot on the screen, which can be intimidating to new users. Don Tiedemann suggested that the “Quick Search” screen be put at the top of the main screen. This would allow everyone to do a quick search but allow more advanced users to take advantage of the other query choices below in the more complex areas of the screen.

Richard Fisher suggested that there be collapsible titles on the Report menu screen, e.g., Budget reports. The group agreed that this was a good idea.

R&D Contracts—Thor said that work continues on making contract data, such as taps and interagency agreements, available using QVR. The data would come from the data warehouse because the eRA System currently does not contain contract data. The IC-Specific Data project will be linked to this effort because contract data found in ICs will be tapped through that project. Some types of data that will be included in this effort are: scientific coding, contracts, budget data, foreign clearances and performance sites.

NRSA Report—Data fields were updated on this report and some new fields were added.

IPF Codes—The QVR now allows searches by multiple IPF codes.

Publication Information—Thor continues to investigate how to provide this data. He would like to be able to pull up all the publications related to a Principal Investigator or a specific grant.

Email Addresses—Rick Ikeda suggested that the email links be changed on the hitlist. Currently, the email link goes to the program official and he suggests that it should go to the PI. He suggested changing the title to “email PI.” He suggested that there be a new link by the Program code with the title “email Program Official.”

JIT—Rick Ikeda suggested that there be a way to access Just-in-Time (JIT) data.

Action: (Rick Ikeda) Email results of a Web QT JIT query to Cathy and Don so they can see what the results look like.

Attendance

Brown, Mark (NIMH/ ALTUM)	Hodgkins, Earl (CIT)	Pinchotti, Steve (NIMH/ ALTUM)
Buckley, Cathy (CIT)	Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)	Poma, Shelly (NIMH)
Chacko, George (CSR)	Jordan, Paul	Rich, Linda (NCCAM)
Delcore, Sandi (NICHD)	Kemmerle, Donna (NIDCD)	Seppala, Sandy (LTS/COB)
Fischetti, Greg (NCI)	McDermott, Julie (NIDDK)	Simmons, Arlene (NINR)
Fisher, Richard (NEI)	McHale, Carolyn (CIT)	Tiedemann, Don (CIT)
Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT)	Musson, Bob (NHLBI)	Walters, James (NINDS)
Hardman, Anne (NIA)	Occipinti, Sandia (NICHD)	Wells, Dolores (NIDCR)
	Parker, Marie (NIAID)	