

September 26, 2005

To: PACSCL Access Committee  
From: Laura Blanchard  
Subject: Access Committee background – strategic planning

Dear all,

I took advantage of a meeting on another topic last month to talk with Eric Pumroy and Bob Kieft about access issues. The following notes may help committee members in framing their thoughts about the access committee and long-range planning.

Eric and Bob both suggested that a joint meeting of the access and outreach committees (or selected members) might be helpful in determining how these committees' activities might interrelate. We did agree that a meeting of the access committee prior to the quarterly meeting was not necessary.

**Committee Composition.** It was noted that catalogers are very heavily represented on this committee, which may be affecting the kinds of projects it considers. In connection with his comments that the committee should consider some access projects with an educational component, Eric suggested that the access committee might want to draw beyond the PACSCL reps to pick up some of the educational people at PACSCL institutions, including faculty from the university members.

(As an aside, it might make sense to revive the cataloger's council from a professional development standpoint, if a volunteer wants to take it on.)

**OAI.** It may not be the right time to pursue an OAI project. It was suggested that the OAI functions might perhaps be built into something else, such as the new OPAC/Z39.50 interface or the GIS or rely on/partner with developments in other consortia.

**Digital Library Projects.** Consider something with a real public face, a Philadelphia focus, and an educational component. (An online educational site on historic Philadelphia was Eric's suggestion)

**Assessment.** Pursue the notion of doing a book assessment project on the consortial survey model.

**Deaccessioning/collection alignment.** I mentioned Michael Ryan's interest in a PACSCL program on this issue, and Bob mentioned that PALCI is considering this and related resource-sharing issues. There may be a 3P angle here.

**Goal Review.** The conversation yielded the following suggestions:

**Encourage use of collections** by identifying and cataloging important hidden collections. Eric suggests that we need a “public” (by which I think he meant PACSCL-wide) gathering on the consortial survey project to help educate the membership. Developing priorities and seeking funding for cataloging and collection care is a Year 2 / Year 3 priority. Consideration of a monographs consortial survey could potentially be added as a future project.

**Encourage users to consider collections and resources** in new ways [add: by providing real or virtual access to them]. Eric suggests that we add as a goal the development of educational programming.

*Addendum:* In the course of our conversations, Bob volunteered Diana Franzusoff-Peterson and John Anderies to develop a workshop on digitizing audio files. It occurs to me after the fact that Penn has a heap of audio materials in its music collections, so Michael Ryan may want to involve Nancy Shawcross and/or Marjorie Hassen as collaborators. Some of our members doing extensive oral history projects (e.g., Margaret Jerrido) might also be resources for such a program.