

**Collection Development Interest Group, USAIN Conference 2003
Sunday, April 27, 2003, 10:20am – 11:30am**

Summary Notes

**Co-conveners: JoAnn DeVries, University of Minnesota and
Allison Level, Colorado State University**

**Speakers: Miles Wimer, Plant Management Network
Marianne Bracke, University of Arizona**

The Collection Management Interest Group sponsored a discussion on the opportunities and challenges of establishing connections with academic and research scholars, publishers, and professional societies. These connections enable us to cooperate and form partnerships that expand our mutual ability to provide access to information. The information roundtable discussion gave participants a means of sharing ideas and experiences and for developing the contacts for potential collaborative projects.

Miles Wimer, Director of Plant Management Network, and Marianne Brache, Assistant Librarian at the University of Arizona gave brief presentations on two different collaborative projects. Their talks and some questions from the co-conveners provided a springboard for more discussion.

Plant Management Network

The Plant Management Network is a unique cooperative resource for the applied plant sciences. Designed to provide plant science practitioners fast electronic access to proven solutions, the Plant Management Network offers an extensive searchable database comprised of thousands of web-based resource pages from the network's partner universities, companies, and associations. In addition, the network's two peer-reviewed citable journals, Plant Health Progress and Crop Management, provide credible current information in areas important to practitioners, policy makers, and the public.

Plant Management Network: <http://plantmanagementnetwork.org/>

For more information contact Miles Wimer, mwimer@scisoc.org

Scholar's Portal and the Rangelands West Metadata Project

The Scholar's Portal, or Beta-Search, is a prototype interface for searching across multiple databases. This is a work in progress for searching the UA library catalogs, journal article indexes and other databases. It will include access to actual articles, and the project involves work by people in many departments at the University of Arizona.

For more information: <http://www.library.arizona.edu/indexes/links/betasearch.shtml>

The cooperative rangelands site is <http://rangelandswest.org/index.html>. It started as the University of Arizona's (UA) AgNIC site, but organizers quickly realized that this would be a great opportunity for collaboration among the western states. Two years ago, UA AgNIC developers sent out a call to western states to begin developing a cooperative rangelands site. Since then, nearly every western state, as well as Alaska and Hawaii, has participated or expressed an interest to participate in the Rangelands West Partnership.

One critical aspect of this site was ensuring that accurate and thorough metadata was created for each web page added. With the help of an ADEC grant, the UA AgNIC team developed a data entry form and

database for the metadata. The data entry form was based on the current NAL AgNIC metadata form and used Dublin Core standards. Additional fields were added to meet unique requirements of the rangelandswest site. The data entry form feeds into a database that can generate pages on the fly in given subject areas. The database, developed by Michael Haseltine and Jerry Henzel, was created in consultation with Tim Lynch to meet the current needs and future vision of the overall AgNIC site.

Marianne Bracke, one of the contributors to the data entry form, created training materials and presented a hands-on workshop at the Second Western Regional Rangelands AgNIC meeting. For many of the meeting participants, it was their first introduction to the concept of metadata. The workshop provided participants with an explanation of metadata and each field used in the form. Additionally, everyone was given time to practice entering metadata. More information on this meeting can be found at: <http://rangelandswest.org/workshops/2003/ws2003.html>.

For more information on the University of Arizona projects contact: Marianne Brache, brackem@u.library.arizona.edu

Group Discussion

After the presentations, the participants split into groups and discussed several questions. The comments were recorded on flip charts.

Results of the group discussion questions:

1. What factors are necessary for a successful cooperative arrangement?
 - Clear goal, clear mission that all parties buy into and reflect mutual interest and mutual commitment.
 - Everyone perceives a benefit. Benefits outweigh the costs.
 - Strong leadership; a good PI.
 - Good management.
 - Willing and eager workers.
 - Political buy-in; this is a priority for management.
 - An individual worker sees a direct benefit to himself.
 - Clear and set deadlines that are negotiated and set by management. Enough time to get the work done. Strategic plan and action plan. “Think big – start small.” Do a needs assessment.
 - Resources both human and financial.
 - Commitment, both institutional and personal.
 - Training and technical expertise.
 - An evaluation plan built into the project.
 - Experience with similar projects.
 - Common language and understanding among participants.
 - Able to define success and evaluate; have clearly defined outcomes.
 - Establish standards/ best practices.
 - Always have a Plan B.
 - Have a champion.
 - Timing.

- Compromise.
- Communicate!
- Trust.

2. What collaborative projects are you currently working on?

- Bio-Engineering Portal – GWLA/Big 12+
- Transborder collection management between Texas and Mexico.
- TARO – archives manuscripts and develops finding guides on web.
- Cross-campus support – web teaching support from library to departments – WebCT
- Writing center tutors have desks stationed in the library, near the reference desk.
- Invasive species collaboration between Feds and Land-grants.
- AgNIC - Science.gov - e-extension
- Oregon Natural Resources state and local partnerships.
- Societies “non-profit journal group” 17 societies representing 34 journals.
- MSU Turf program cooperation with trade, industry, corporate and professional societies.
- Wisconsin/Maryland dairy partnership
- OSU library collaboration with Communications and Technology Unit to deal with publishers and reference.
- International Research programs.

3. What advice would you give others to avoid the pitfall you encountered?

- Think big - Start small.
- Evaluate.
- Negotiating collaboration is tricky.

4. Do you have a project in mind where you are looking for partners?

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Wetlands | Ohio State and North Dakota |
| • Solid Waste | Ohio State |
| • Poultry | Delaware and Maryland |
| • Wildlife Damage | Colorado State |
| • Ag Engineering | Texas A&M |
| • Soil salinity | anyone? |

5. What kinds of relationships should USAIN promote?

- AgNIC partners
- Preservation
- Grant-Writing
- Best practices
- Procedures
- Training