



Fall 2006 Report of the President

My first 17 months as president of CORAL have been interesting and challenging. The following report is a brief recap of the actions and activities the group has undertaken since May of 2005.

Budgets and the Union List of Serials

A balanced budget for FY 2005/2006 was approved at the fall 2005 meeting. CORAL had been running in deficit condition for at least two years prior, and the 2005/2006 budget that was initially proposed also showed a deficit. Given that CORAL membership numbers (and therefore dues) have continued to decrease in recent years, there was agreement that the organization could not continue on this course and remain solvent for more than a few years. The only fungible money was found in the costs of the Union List of Serials and database management, which together made up over 96% of the proposed budget.

In order to balance the budget, the group voted to cancel Amigos extractions beginning in January 2006 (extractions had formed the basis of the Union List Web site), and to terminate CORAL's Web Union List at the end of the current contract/fiscal year (July 2006). The revised budget included an Amigos' agent fee for retaining CORAL's profile on OCLC, plus a \$1,000 contingency in case of unexpected costs related to shutting down the Web Union List. The revised budget also retained the services of the database manager, which allows CORAL to continue to maintain OCLC records in support of cooperative borrowing activities. The membership discussed alternatives to the Web Serials Union List, such as OCLC's WorldCat and the State Library's Library of Texas federated search interface.

Bylaws Revisions

The 2005/2006 bylaws committee proposed a revised mission statement and goals, which were approved at the fall 2005 meeting. The bylaws committee then undertook a more complete revision of the bylaws, based on the revised mission statement and goals. Key elements of the changes included splitting the membership into voting and non-voting members (based on payment of dues) and replacing standing committee with ad hoc committees. The membership adopted the revised bylaws at the spring 2006 meeting.

A Planning Year

As the members of the bylaws committee worked on revisions, they realized that many of CORAL's original purposes and activities are now covered by TexShare and other entities; other activities had become irrelevant over the organization's 40-year life span. However, there was still a sense that the group has merit and can continue to provide a different set of services to its members. The spring 2005 meeting provided a good example of this desire to continue, when over 50 individuals from member institutions met to discuss reinvigorating CORAL interest groups.

The bylaws committee brought forward a two-part proposal in spring 2006, based on its revision work and observations. The entire proposal was approved by the voting membership at the spring 2006 meeting. Both parts of this proposal are included here, with brief explanations).

1. *Constitute a planning committee to organize a fall planning conference and engage a consultant to facilitate the planning efforts.* The planning committee would be charged with engaging a paid consultant, who would lead the organization in a process of facilitated planning to shape the organization's future. It was hoped that the planning year would be used to gain new direction and reconstitute the organization with a new purpose. The proposal suggested that the following might be possible activities for the organization:
 - renew the strength of the interest groups,
 - develop cooperative efforts such as training, workshops, or professional development opportunities or grants to members,
 - identify themes of common interest to CORAL members,
 - be ready to pursue and develop consortial pricing opportunities,
 - maintain, share, and provide avenues for presenting unique local history resources, and
 - assess the status and location of archival materials related to the CORAL organization.
2. *Declare a one-year moratorium on CORAL dues for the 2006/07 fiscal year (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007).* The purpose of a dues-free year was two fold. First, ex-members would be invited to participate in intensive planning for the future of the organization. It was hoped that ex-members might be enticed to rejoin if CORAL were more relevant to their needs. Second, the entire dues structure could be studied and revised in view of any revisions in CORAL's goals and purposes that might proceed from the planning process.

In fulfillment of these charges, at its spring 2006 meeting the membership adopted a 2006/2007 budget that included the recommendations adopted in the bylaws committee's proposal. Dues were suspended for fiscal year 2006/2007. A planning committee was constituted and began work during summer 2006. The firm of Larson Todaro Consulting was engaged to lead the organization in a year of facilitated planning, which will begin at the fall meeting on November 11, 2006.

I look forward to CORAL's fall meeting, and the remainder of this year, with great hope and optimism. There is a strong desire to hold this group together, for the benefit of all member institutions. I believe CORAL can continue to provide unique benefits to its members on many levels, and I hope that all CORAL's members will join me on this year-long journey of discovery and self-examination!

Martha Rinn
President, CORAL
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