

Annual Report

CARLI Electronic Resources Working Group (ERWG)

June 2007

Membership:

Kim Armstrong (2006-2009), University of Illinois at Springfield, Chair

Raeann Dossett (2006-2007), Parkland College

Jeff Matlak (2006-2008) Western Illinois University

Kathryn Miller (2006-2007), National Louis University

Jeannette Pierce (2006-2007), Loyola University

Laurie Sauer (2006-2009), Knox College

Wendy Shelburne (2006-2008), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Illinois State Library Liaison: Gwen Harrison

CARLI staff: Tom Dorst, David Hamilton, Elizabeth Clarage, Connie Walsh

In FY 2007 the ERWG worked effectively and productively to fulfill its charge to advise the CARLI staff and Board about electronic resources, to reduce costs to members, and to develop methods to gather member feedback and evaluate CARLI programs and services.

Highlights of Activity:

The primary ERWG activity in the first half of the year was a systematic examination of the scope and operation of CARLI's electronic resources program. An in-depth report was submitted to the CARLI Board in January 2007, with recommendations for all aspects of the e-resources program. In particular, the ERWG recommended a new program for the purchase of perpetual access content, employing a combination of CARLI central funding and member contributions. The Board accepted the report and the implementation of the recommendations is ongoing.

In FY 2007, CARLI was obligated to re-bid the contracts for the commercially available library databases brokered to member libraries. The ERWG assisted in the establishment of consistent new guidelines for evaluating proposals. Working Group members participated in the proposal review and recommendation of awards. New contracts have been concluded with OCLC, EBSCO, Gale, Wilson, and CSA to provide discounted database pricing to CARLI members for the next three years.

The ERWG recommended to the Products and Services Vetting Committee that the **Chronicle of Higher Education** online should be a partially subsidized resource. This represented a departure from past practices, where CARLI had either fully subsidized a resource or passed the full cost on to the subscribing library. The Board adopted the recommendation and the **Chronicle** was made available January 2007. It quickly became the most popular brokered resource offered by CARLI

The Board charged the ERWG with implementing the new Shared Contribution Program, with an initial three year commitment of central funding. The ERWG evaluated products, selected the **Sage Deep Backfile** as the Program's initial offering, and negotiated a

substantially discounted price for perpetual access. The acquisition was announced to members in June 2007, and by the end of FY 2007 almost twenty members had made commitments to the shared funding pool.

As its final activity of the year, the ERWG scheduled a full day of presentations by eight eBook vendors to discuss how to develop consortial offerings for eBooks. This highly informative and successful session will assist the ERWG in setting an effective direction for eBooks in FY 2008.

Based on ERWG input and direction, CARLI staff launched a new online form for vendors to submit proposals. ERWG and staff use the submissions to review and act on proposals monthly. As a companion, publicly accessible status webpage was created for e-resources proposals (<http://www.carli.illinois.edu/comms/eresources.html>). Also under development, is a webpage that documents licensing and usage terms for all products negotiated by CARLI for the membership.

ERWG and staff worked with the new CARLI Assistant Director for Communications to set directions and priorities for enhancing the scope and content of the e-resources web presence.