



ECB/QVR Steering Committee

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

Date: Wed., May 4, 2005, 10:00 a.m.–noon
Location: Fernwood Bldg., Room 3D-18
Chair: Thor Fjellstedt
Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. - noon, Fernwood 3D-18

IC Specific Data Initiative

Thor began the meeting by giving the group a summary of the IC Specific Data and the plans for future development. Staff from ALTUM, the Center for Information Technology (CIT) and other various institutes showed up at the meeting on May 3rd to discuss this new initiative. Thor passed around a list that he invited ECB/QVR group members to sign in order to be included in the next IC Specific Data meeting. Data from the John E. Fogarty International Center (FIC) and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) are retrievable in a test environment in QVR. Users may search the database for institute codes, as well as a combination of those codes and other information available on the search screen. Institutes using this function will only be able to see their own specific data codes, and not those of any other IC. However, there are requests for functionality, wherein partnering ICs would be able to view each others' codes. This function is not available now and will have to be a mutual decision by the ICs.

At the meeting, they put together a listserv that will serve as a forum for meeting announcements on this subject. Those interested will break into small working groups, compile research and report back to the larger group. Any institute that would like to be involved with this is more than welcome to join in. This issue will not impede or affect Knowledge Management. In fact, one will help to encourage and compliment the other.

Q. Is this initiative limited to scientific coding data?

A. No. While they are using Scientific Coding as a starting point, they plan to include other types of data within the system at some point in the future.

NIDDK Project

Thor reminded the group that QVR Development team is working with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to create an Initiative and Checkbook function. Cathy Buckley stated that they are currently creating reports for NIDDK. These reports are nearing final development. After the reports are completed, presented to NIDDK staff and put into a production environment the system will be presented to other ICs...

NIH Roadmap

Thor stated that the fiscal years within Roadmap were entered in incorrectly and that they are still working to correct this issue. Two-thirds of the items that should have been entered in on the

2005 fiscal year have actually gone on the 2006 cycle. This is not the fault of the QVR system, but rather that of incorrect data within the IMPAC system. They are currently working to improve this data quality, not only by fixing already existent errors, but by devising ways to prevent future mistakes. The current workaround for this issue is to search either by the Request For Application (RFA) or by the Award Date. Only the non-awarded applications experience complications. The problem with Roadmap items, as opposed to others dealt with by the ICs, lies within determining who has the authority and responsibility to make changes. One fix for this is to have each IC correct its own, specific data; another is to get permission to make these changes within eRA. This fix, since it is simply data correction, is not difficult, just expensive. This is an extremely important issue because IMPAC is the main database of record, and it must have correct data.

Google Search on QVR Information Page

Thor said that he will send out email notification about the new Google search function on the QVR Information page. This Google search box can be found at the top right hand side of the page. This will be a very helpful tool in finding information within the page. They are also working to create a Google Forum Question search, which has a cache embedded within the text of the results.

Q. Can a user text-search an e-application?

A. The group agreed that this would be an extremely nice feature; but, in all likelihood, it will not be available anytime in the near future.

The group discussed this text-search issue further, stating that there was a problem because all of the text that is submitted as an eApplication is uploaded as a PDF image, making the text search unreliable. This entire process will be less of a problem once more individuals have access to the Commons.

SBIR-STTR Standard Report – Identification of Allocation Problems

The QVR Development team has been discussing development of specific report formats with the SBIR-STTR office. To date a “Public” saved query has been created. In addition a “Public” Item list has been added to the custom download. The team is also working on new standard report formats. These are designed to deal with the discrepancies within the allocation of funds to Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and its research institutions. These corrections are made too late in the fiscal year. SBIR wants the correct allocation of their budget amounts.

Order of Review – Revisited

Thor said that there is an item within the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) called the “Order of Review” that ECB/QVR users have expressed interest in. They would like to have this as a custom download item and integrated into the Review Meeting Report. Tom Tatham stated that there will be a severe data quality issue if Order of Review is implemented into QVR. The information in Order of Review is not widely entered into IMPAC II by CSR staff. The information within this application is suspect because it is not known when the SRA enters in the data. It is also a very time-consuming tool. An application very much like the Order of Review is

already accessible within the Program Module. Sometimes, Scientific Review Administrators (SRA) do not regularly update this application, making the information held within it even more questionable. Users would have to be warned that what they are looking at may or may not be the true, updated Order of Review. If this is not entered by an SRA, the information is automatically entered, based on the Grant Number. Because of the wide differences of opinion by members of the committee it was decided to table the topic until further information could be obtained.

Addition to History Search Capability – History Search Subcommittee

The active QVR system uses data from 1999 to the present. Users may access this information, *plus* pre-1999 data within the history function of QVR, but the information is not as in-depth as it is in the regular system. It is a scaled down tool, and was made as such so that the users could identify what additional features they would like made accessible. Carolyn McHale went over the new functionality that is implemented within the History Search feature. She has organized a “History Subcommittee and they have had two meetings so far. The first meeting’s discussion revolved around the actual appearance and functionality of the Search Screen. The users stated that they would like to see the following features on the screen: Profile ID, Application ID, Accession Number, IRG Clusters, and the search function. She asked the group what database the text search accesses. Don Tiedemann stated that this feature indirectly searches the information on Summary Statements and Abstracts.

Q. Why do users need accession numbers?

A. Accession numbers are useful because they are sequential and provide an easy tracking system for applications in early stages. The accession number is also the number which users may employ to identify a given application.

When a Principal Investigator (PI) logs into the Commons, only the current information is shown while the rest (since 1998) exists in the history. There is no current way to collapse present information into history data. If a user searches by *name*, all of the profiles for that name are shown, and it would be unknown if a record was split by two profiles. However, if the user searched by Profile ID, and all of the correct profiles were not selected, then the returning data would be suspect. Thor stated that this problem was solved because the group wished to receive the greater number, rather than the smaller one.

Carolyn said that Roadmap will be included within the history function at some point in the distant future. She assured the group that they are being very careful to make sure that data offered by this feature is as accurate and informative as possible. Also, a Wild Carding feature can be used to search such things as PI names and Study Sections.

The second meeting was devoted mostly to Output and Downloading. In Output, the Hitlist is very useful, though users seem to prefer the raw data to the Pivot Report. She said that the group did suggest an abstract download feature as well as Snapshot, which would allow users to obtain data in one move. She said that users would like to see where the actual information exists within the tables. They would like to know if they should use the full download table or simply the major items on that list. Currently, she is structuring a basic download matrix, which allows the user to see download names, download timeframes, and any comments. The IMPAC II Reporting

Database (IRDB) is an exact data copy of information within Online Transaction Processing (OLTP), so that the information stored there is not history data. Since IRDB tables are all-inclusive, it would be helpful to users to access a list of the top “x” data rather than the entire list. The documentation on this site links to the Office of Extramural Research (OER) page.

Thor stated that he does not want to remove items from user availability. He really wants to push to have data errors in all systems related to QVR fixed so that users can pull accurate and up-to-date information. He also reiterated that if anyone finds errors, it is his or her responsibility to report them to the eRA. This will help monitor the accuracy of the data held within the QVR system.

Pre-processing of Abstract and Key Personnel Extraction

Thor stated that there currently exists the capability within QVR to retrieve abstracts of applications that do not have abstracts available. Once a summary statement has been prepared an abstract is available within the IMPAC database, which has been proofed by the SRA. There is now a request to extract the abstract prior to when it enters into the IMPAC database. Thor reminded everyone that there maybe errors within these abstract because they are extracted by Optical Character Recognition. The extraction process also tends to take time—approximately 30 to 40 seconds. Don Tiedemann and the development team have been working on creating a process by which the images are pre-processed and saved as a text file as soon as they are uploaded into the IMPAC database. This is currently done on a daily basis. This process works well right now, and they are currently looking to secure more file space for this project. Text files for three or four council rounds of applications will be stored. This will be “rolling storage process in that the oldest council round of text files will be purged when the most recent council round of text files are saved...

Q. Is it feasible to cache a few PDF pages to go along with the abstracts?

A. The plan is indeed to include PDF pages, but not right now. Thor wants to get it up and posted as soon as possible. After that, they will tinker with it, get user feedback, and then release it to the general user.

Hotlinks on XL Files

Thor stated that users have requested a hotlink to a summary statement in the QVR XL download. This item is something to keep in mind for future discussion.

Additions to Custom Downloads

QVR users who are interested in tracking a previous competing application have requested the following custom downloads:

- Former IRG Cluster
- Former Study Section

Tom Tatham suggested that they also include “Previous SRG” within this list.

Items Recently in Production – Feedback

- *Application Receipt Date Range* – Now users can specify by date range when searching for applications.
- *Google Search Capability* – Thor will send notification about this via email.
- *Link to a utility that improves the formatting of the Key Personnel extraction*

ECB/QVR and Related Training Classes:

- **734A Advanced QVR Training, May 4, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, Fernwood Classroom**
- **734B Advanced QVR Training, June 1, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, Fernwood Classroom**

Attendees

Allison, Heather (CIT)	Buckley, Cathy (CIT)	Bukowski, Maria (OD)
Connors, Anne (NIAMS)	Finch, Dorette (OD)	Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT)
Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)	Jones, Terry (NIAID)	Lindquist, Tere (CSR)
McHale, Carolyn (CIT)	Mohseni, Ilze (NCCAM)	Paugh, Steven (OD)
Peng, Lisa (NIDCR)	Poma, Shelly (NIMH)	Shultz, Sue (NIMH)
Seach, Jim (NCI)	Tatham, Thomas (CSR)	Wong, JoAnne (NIMH)