Minutes of ACRL/CLS Communications Committee  
Midwinter Meeting, January 13, 2001, 2 PM  
J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.


All present introduced themselves.

Melinda Dermody asked for a volunteer to take minutes - this temporary position was accepted by Terry Ballard.

Melinda forwarded a message from Damon Hickey who reported that the COLLIB-L listserv had reached 1000 members and was running just fine.

The group examined a report filed by John West about the web site. He posed the question of how long various types of requested information should be kept at the site. It was decided that we would hold a decision on that question until Summer ALA, giving Melinda a chance to talk to John in detail about the matter.

Terry reported the results of checking the newsletters web site for errors. He found 3 sites with space for newsletters but no content, 5 dead links and 2 address changes. As some sites maintained newsletters whose most current issues were in 1998, the group decided that one year should be the standard for currency. If a link with no content is still lacking content before the next conference, the link will be removed. No links will be provided for newsletter that must be downloaded to file. Only web-based newsletters will be linked. Link checking for the summer meeting will be performed by Wayne Bivens-Tatum.

Catherine Lee volunteered to continue hosting an imaged version of the CLS Newsletter, and sending an HTML version to John. John suggested that we consider having only one version of the newsletter. Melinda noted occasional printing problems in the existing Publisher format. Catherine also said that a meeting which was scheduled for the following day might impact on this decision. There may be a call to publish all newsletters in PDF and eliminate print versions altogether. For now, the committee agreed to continue with both an html and image version for the CLS newsletter. Catherine will provide both formats to John.

Catherine also welcomed contributions for the newsletter. There was discussion about having a report and photos from this year's ACRL conference in time for the next issue of the newsletter.

Melinda then made the executive committee report, reminding that the Friday night feast at a Chinese restaurant on June 15 would cost about $38. Part of this includes a surcharge to ALA and ACRL. The newsletter report on this event will provide a disclaimer explaining the $4 extra fee. There was discussion about future Friday night feasts going "underground," avoiding the fee, but also avoiding the publicity in the official programs and web pages.

Larry Hardesty from Austin College wants input and volunteers for planning the 2003 ACRL Conference.
In executive committee, there was discussion of a possible initiative between the CLS, CJCS and ULS sections involving the $1500 funding that ACRL is providing to each section. By combining efforts and funds, the $4500 could go further for a special project. Possible initiatives discussed included a marketing effort to promote academic libraries along the lines of ALA's "@yourlibrary" strategy. Another idea discussed was to use it to send speakers to library schools, promoting the benefits of academic librarianship.

We need to send strategic planning ideas to Mickey. Melinda will send copies of the strategic plan out to each committee member.

This committee has worked in the past with the Membership Committee to revise the CLS brochure, and there is normally ACRL funding for this. The Membership Committee will call on the Communications Committee for assistance as needed.

The virtual committee membership handout was discussed. Issues included the form of participation - teleconferencing or extra meetings in chat room format; also determining the type of meaningful work that could be given to a virtual member. Otherwise, there is general agreement that this is a worthwhile thing. Rosemary Arneson suggested that we find out how other committees are handling this.

The meeting at summer ALA will be on Saturday from 11:30 to 12:30, with option for extra time in the room if we need it. Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.