CETRC Mentoring: A Brief History

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Early history

- 1996
  - CETRC decides to investigate mentoring
- 1997-1999
  - Writing guidelines, expectations, mentor letters, bibliography, identifying potential mentors
“The program would pair working librarians… with interested students. The mentee would have a unique opportunity to interact for with a practicing cataloger and get a realistic view of the daily operations of a cataloging department ….

…The Committee expects that these experiences will demonstrate the essential and challenging role that a catalog librarian plays in library services, and attract high quality people to the profession.”
2000

- Worked with selected library schools to identify potential mentees.
- First matches (5) made in April 2000.

2001

- Assessment: decided to expand the pilot.
- Sent recruitment messages to AN2, NMRT and cataloging professors via JESSE.
- **Overwhelming response:**
  - 52 mentees
  - 46 mentors
2002

- Matched 20 pairs for the 2nd phase of the pilot
- The committee agreed to consider the following criteria in making pairs:
  - geographic location,
  - type of library,
  - interest/type of material cataloged, and
  - possibly sex of mentor/mentee
- Assessment: late 2002

Recommendations from assessment:

- Create a standing subcommittee of CETRC to focus on the administration of the mentoring program (recruiting, matching and follow-up)
- Request web support from ALA/ALCTS, including the creation of web forms for volunteer mentors and mentees, which would automatically populate a database that could be used for matching and tracking
Recommendations (cont.)

- Recruitment for volunteers would be continuous, with staggered recruitment mentors and mentees (it would be ideal to have a pool of mentors ready prior to recruiting mentees).
- Matching should be based on geographic proximity as much as possible.

2003

- Standing Mentoring Subcommittee charge approved
- Subcommittee appointed and began work