**EAR Committee Report**

**Presented to Members of COLD**

**February 1, 2018**

**Mark Stover, Chair**

The third meeting of the EAR Committee for the 2017-2018 academic year took place via Zoom on January 24, 2018. EAR will have one more Zoom meeting this academic year, in April, along with one face-to-face meeting in March at the SCELC conference in Los Angeles.

Topics discussed at the January 2018 EAR Committee meeting included:

* EAR discussed the request for proposals from the COLD Executive Committee. COLD has some discretionary funds available this year, and EAR has been asked to make a proposal. The consensus of the group was to make the EAR proposal an ebook pilot project. The specific recommendation (which ebook project and which vendor) was deferred to the Ebook Subcommittee, which should be sending out its report and recommendations shortly.
* Vice Chair of EAR Michele Van Hoeck discussed the migration of EAR documents from SharePoint to Confluence. She is making progress on this project.
* The Committee discussed the fact that more and more students and faculty need to “data mine” electronic resources for legitimate research. The problem is that many resource providers perceive this as an illegal activity and a violation of their license agreements. Many institutions stipulate permissible data mining in the licenses they negotiate with vendors, and this is possibly something SDLC can do going forward. Terri Joiner stated that SDLC would work on adding new language to both renewals and new licenses.
* The Committee discussed the issue of Alma analytics. Initial responses indicate that it probably is not being used much at this point. There was discussion about the complexity of the analytics and that it is not very intuitive. There was mention that the Alma Analytics working group is planning on focusing on basic functionality and that there is a tutorial available on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/gc5YnKEUHEY>).
* The Committee discussed the Credo InfoLit Module, and determined that there is not a great deal of interest in it at this time.
* The Committee discussed the ProQuest e-Textbook Initiative. EAR Chair Mark Stover and a Northridge librarian (Chris Bulock) met with ProQuest representatives in January to discuss a potential ebook textbook initiative that initially had come up in the fall 2017. Stover left a message with Gerry Hanley of the C.O. to discuss possible funding and was waiting to hear back. One of the main obstacles in moving forward with this initiative (aside from funding) is how to get core required reading lists from all the campuses. One possibility for some campuses might be to use Campus Solutions, not the bookstore, and that might provide an answer for the CSU. This was followed by an extensive discussion about the efforts and appropriateness of CSU libraries obtaining, processing and maintaining required textbooks. CSU libraries have responded differently to the prospect of coordinating an e-textbook project (and textbooks in general), with some libraries in the CSU actively acquiring textbooks while others having clear policies against it. An issue of concern to all was costs and who would pay for the materials. Some libraries had specific and often external funding to pay for required material and others did not. There was also a discussion about how the CSU's Affordable Learning Solutions (AL$) initiative fit into this positive initiative, and it was agreed that both efforts should be coordinated and communication should be established. Stover suggested that EAR have a "textbook working group" and he, George Wrenn, David Hellman, Holly Yu, Michele Van Hoeck, and Mary Wegmann volunteered to participate.