Meeting of the JCDL Steering Committee, June 14, 2006
Minutes

Present:

Steering Committee:
Erich Neuhold (Chair, TCDL Representative)
David Hicks (SIGWeb Representative)
Christine Borgman (SIGIR Representative)
Richard Furuta (At-large member)
Ed Fox (At-large member)
Gary Marchionini (At-large member, General Chair, JCDL 2006)

Guests:
Mary Marlino (General Chair, JCDL 2005)
Edie Rasmussen (General Chair, JCDL 2007)
Marianne Afifi (Registration Chair, JCDL 2006)
Gregory Crane (Presenter, Conference proposal for JCDL 2008/9)
Ron Larsen (Presenter, Conference proposal for JCDL 2008)
Frank Shipman
Marcos Goncalves
Unmil Karadkar (Recorder)

Absent:
Ingeborg Solvberg (At-large member, term expires 2006)

1. Wrap-up for JCDL 2005

Mary reported that JCDL 2005 made a profit of $6,896 (income of $164,606 and expenses of $157,708). The main conference was attended by 295 people. 61 attended tutorials and 97 attended workshops.

2. Preliminary report for JCDL 2006

Gary reported that 437 attendees had pre-registered for JCDL 2006 and the final count was expected to be about 475. The numbers for tutorial and workshop attendees were not yet available. The registration fee was $410 and Gary suggested that attempts should be made to keep it around $400 in the future as well.

Rick suggested that the conference web site should be archived soon, like the past conferences. Unmil will follow-up on this with Jackson Fox, the JCDL 2006 Webmaster.

3. Overview of JCDL 2007

JCDL 2007 will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia from June 17-23, 2007 with Edie Rasmussen as the General Chair. Edie reported that the conference will be held at

the Westin Bayshore hotel in downtown Vancouver. The conference will have 3 program co-chairs: Elaine Toms, Shigeo Sugimoto, and Ray Larson. The web space for the conference (http://www.jcdl2007.org) is already available and will be populated in the near future.

The conference approval process was discussed. There are separate systems for IEEE and ACM for managing conference budgets. Rick state that we needed to work to streamline the approval process with the individual components (ACM SIGs and IEEE-CS TCDL). ACM SIG representatives should be asked to act as liaisons and take a more active role in guiding the budget through their respective SIGs. Dave pointed out that the difficulties are institutional and that the SIG chairs often don't get budgets till very late in the process. He suggested that the conference committees provide the budget to the SIG chairs as well as to the SIG representatives (currently the SIG Representatives are not informed). This will facilitate communication and provide the representatives with increased awareness. They can then help speed the budget approval process.

4. JCDL 2008

Two proposals were presented for JCDL 2008. Greg Crane pitched for Boston in 2008, but indicated that he would prefer to host the conference in 2009 instead. Ron Larsen gave an overview to hold JCDL 2008 in Pittsburgh.

Based on a survey of hotel availability JCDL could be held in Pittsburgh downtown at the Hilton (or another downtown hotel) between June 11th and 21st. 2008 is Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary as a city. Pittsburgh presents many downtown opportunities for the banquet, the two most likely are the Andy Warhol Museum or a river cruise. He requested that the steering committee make an expeditious decision as major hotels fill up quickly.

Ron indicated that the registration fee might be higher than that for JCDL 2006 in response to Erich's question. This will be offset by the conference being smoother to operate due to the hotel venue. He was asked to consider father's day weekend and other academic deadlines when working on the final dates for the conference. The steering committee members also inquired about other conferences that will be held in Pittsburgh at the time, for which Ron has a list.

Erich proposed that JCDL 2008 be held in Pittsburgh, Gary seconded. The motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

5. JCDL 2009

Rick proposed a motion to set a deadline for accepting proposals for 2009 by August 15th, 2006. Ed seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with no abstentions.

6. Community Building

Two issues were discussed. The first was locating JCDL outside of the US and Canada periodically to encourage participation from broader audiences. Erich expressed that it is possible to host the conference in other parts of the world periodically. One possibility is hosting the conference in Brazil as someone there has already expressed interest.

The second issue involves community building at and around JCDL. Chris pointed out that the original vision behind 10-year support of JCDL was to build a community of researchers and practitioners around this conference with members of communities such as the NSDL and ALA. However, the conference has moved towards a high-acceptance, final-point-of-publication format, partly due to ACM and IEEE's sponsorship, thus alienating a portion of the community and attracts fewer participants. Most research published at this conference is already complete and there is very little opportunity to discuss works-in-progress. JCDL has moved away from being a forum for discussion of a broad set of ideas.

Members suggested ways to invite broader participation. Gary suggested that the poster and demo session could be made more inclusive. He also pointed out that the workshops have attracted higher participation this year and that this practice should be encouraged to retain people with diverse interests. Chris thought that we could emphasize more on inviting in-progress work. Greg suggested that we also discuss how JCDL relates to Cyberinfrastructure. Rick expressed that the conference should not be entirely algorithmic and that it should have some metric of quality (we currently use a mixed ACM/IEEE metric). Erich agreed that diluting the acceptance rates is not the right model and Chris concurred.

Chris would like to see JCDL as a venue for more Information Science faculty and Information Science discussion. She suggested that the steering committee discuss whether the current model will sustain JCDL in the long run and how we could build a community around JCDL. JCDL could also consider co-locating with other related conferences for attracting greater participation. Library Science departments do not support conference papers or presentations. Also, we should avoid using the quality metrics of only one community (the engineering/CS community).

7. Elections

Erich will ask SIGIR to nominate a representative to fill the post vacated by Chris.

Mary will run the election for the at-large position vacated by Ingeborg. She will accept nominations, poll the steering committee members for their votes and report the results (just the name of the winner) to the steering committee. Three nominations were made at the meeting: Bonnie Wilson, Chris Borgman, and Ingeborg Solvberg.