Technology Committee Report

Presented to the PNC/MLA Membership

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Committee Members

Hope Leman (chair), Emily Glenn, Rose Relevo, Jonathan Potter, Laura Zeigen, Isaac Huffman, Ann Madhavan and Alison Aldrich

Official Charge

The Technology Committee was established in the spring of 2009 and given the following charge:

> The Technology Committee is responsible for investigating emerging technologies, informing the PNC/MLA Board and members of potential uses for the Chapter and the field of medical librarianship, and integrating appropriate technologies into the PNC/MLA web site and communications.

Web Conferencing Software Evaluation

Our primary task for the year was to research web conferencing software packages for purchase and use by the PNC Board and committees. Web conferencing would enhance chapter activities by:

- Providing a consistent of meeting location—even when officers change

- Allowing for more frequent meetings

- Giving meeting hosts the ability to make presentations, spreadsheets, and other desktop items viewable to the full complement of meeting attendees

- Making an online chat window available for reporting connection issues or facilitating other text-based communications

Methods

We read some online software reviews and decided to evaluate the following products:

> GoToMeeting, Adobe Connect, WebEx, MegaMeeting, DimDim Pro

We conducted formal trials of WebEx, MegaMeeting and DimDim Pro as well as an informal trial, early on in our planning process, of GoToMeeting. For the formal trials, we:

1. Developed a matrix to compare products based on functionality and specifications.

2. Wrote a script that allowed us to act as participants in different roles to test the features and functionality of the software.

3. Assigned Roles (leader, initiator of meeting/scheduler, presenter, participant, etc.) to the committee members who participated in each trial.

4. *Used SurveyMonkey to collect responses from committee members about their general impressions of the meeting experience.*

Results

The board first conducted a trial of DimDim Pro because it seemed to be the most cost-effective choice and seemed to meet the needs of the Chapter. However, after several tries and many technical difficulties and the use of Skype for the audio, the Board opted to give up on DimDim Pro and try WebEx, which has been working well for it. The DimDim Pro evaluation took quite a few weeks and entailed some expense.

During the trial of WebEx Alison, Emily and Rose helped field questions concerning the product from various members of the board (notably Noelle and Kathy Murray). Todd Hannon and Dolores Judkins were also involved. Jonathan set up a Google Calendar for scheduling of WebEX by various committees of the PNC/MLA.

Other matters

Janet Crum left the region and was succeeded on the Technology Committee by Laura Zeigen. Laura and Hope both also serve on the Professional Development Committee of the PNC/MLA and acted as liaisons in certain instances between the two committees.

Future Activities

- Respond to Board and membership questions about this report

- Receive guidance from board on next projects for committee (e.g., possibly developing technology content for the PNC/MLA website and/or blog)