



Highlights from the ALMIS Resource Center Meeting, November 2003

The ALMIS Resource Center/ALMIS Database Maintenance Consortium met in Atlanta, Georgia on November 5-7, 2003.

Welcome by chairperson Bob Cottrell with a brief discussion of the week's events. Members gave updates on various consortia, policy councils, workgroups, Workforce Information Council, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). Due to the shortened meeting time because of the ALMIS Database Seminar earlier in the week, members spent most of the time working in subcommittees. Following are highlights of status reports to the full group during the general meeting times.

Vicki Boylston reported on the preliminary results of the ALMIS Database Seminar. There were more than 24 states represented and approximately 70 attendees. The evaluations looked very positive and there were a great number of responses. Comments were made by several attendees that they look forward to another ALMIS Database Seminar and wanted to know if we would be having one next year.

There was approximately 12 hours of video footage from the seminar including the sessions on XML, ALMIS Database Fundamentals, and SQL. The footage will be incorporated into mini-series multimedia products. There were also filmed interviews completed with many seminar attendees and speakers and those will be incorporated into the upcoming products. Thanks to all those who helped with the seminar as it turned out to be a very positive experience.

Jeff Nall reported on the status of the Employer Database.

The Education and Communication Subcommittee gave an update on their activities including the new website (www.almisdb.org) which has received very good feedback, e-newsletters which are still being released periodically, the LMI Forum "ALMIS Resource Center" workshop, and the soon to be released annual report. Additionally, due to the significant number of people requesting hands-on training in addition to the seminar the subcommittee is proposing a hands-on training in April 2004 and a national seminar again in April 2005.

The Education and Communication Subcommittee will also be working on a business card CD-ROM marketing/awareness product using video footage from the seminar to be distributed.

The Structure Subcommittee spent the majority of their time discussing the details of the EMPDB table structure. Other issues discussed were: SOC codes, education levels, increasing length of the progtitle field, projections issues (including adding descriptors), follow-up on MLS claim table, and Census-related tables.

Steve Rosenow and Joanna Hendrickson-Larson gave an update on National Crosswalk Service Center activities that have occurred since August 2003. Three new resources have been developed and are currently available on the web: O*NET 5.0 database (pre-production), www.almisdb.org (site went live in September and has been updated weekly since that time), and the NCSC Annual Report (now available on the web at www.xwalkcenter.org/xw_repo.html).

Additional NCSC activities include: revision of the ALMIS Data Page based on recommendations made in Maine, O*NET was scheduled to release the new 5.1 version of the database this week.

The major changes may be more metadata variables and incorporated errata. NCSC will have full details after the database is officially released.

NCSC staff participated in and provided service for a number of activities currently being done by the CareerOneStop Consortium, its product committees and its user groups. NCSC already has files for the new Metropolitan areas and will have them for New England. Upcoming activities for the NCSC include more O*NET updates (laytitles file – quarterly), structure for the ALMIS Database version of that, new OES data from BLS, projections in the Spring, and updating some crosswalks.

Next meeting of the ALMIS Resource Center is tentatively scheduled for February 2004 in a site to be determined.

In Attendance

Mike Blank (*Iowa*)
Vicki Boylston (*South Carolina*)
Dan Brown (*Iowa*)
Bob Cottrell (*North Carolina – Chairperson*)
Joan Crum (*Montana*)
Barbara Derwart (*ETA*)
Judy Erickson (*Iowa*)
Joanna Hendrickson-Larson (*NCSC*)
Christopher Knight (*Florida*)
Denise Lee (*North Carolina*)
Rita Lee (*Illinois*)
Jeff Nall (*Iowa*)
John Pearce (*Oregon*)
Steve Rosenow (*NCSC*)
Pam Schenker (*Florida*)
Bill Stambaugh (*North Carolina*)
Curtis Theis (*Minnesota*)
Roger Therrien (*Connecticut*)
Marilyn Skalberg (*ARC - Contractor*)
Bob Wilson (*ETA – Contractor*)