

Member-at-Large

2010-2011 Annual Report

Submitted by Beth Rohloff, ACRLNEC Member at Large

ACRL New England News and Jobs Listservs

This year we experienced unresolvable problems with the listserv software offered by our web provider Bluehost , which resulted in our move of both the ACRL NEC News and ACRL NEC Jobs listservs to the Google Groups platform. A change in the Bluehost listerv product prevented us from adding any additional members list. When this issue arised Tim Spindler and I were already in the process of investigating new listserv platforms because of ongoing issues we faced with the Bluehost product. Tim tested out the features of Google Groups and determined that it would be a suitable replacement for the current system.

At the end of April through the beginning of May, Tim sent out three messages to listserv members to alert them to the move to Google Groups and provided them with directions on how to become sign up. As of June 9th, the ACRL NEC News group has 306 members and the ACRL NEC Jobs group has 249 members. The previous listservs had 1788 subscribers for News and 882 subscribers with Jobs, but Tim and I are both in agreement that many of these are old accounts that were no longer active.

Previously the Membership Committee forwarded a list of new members to be added to the list. Robin Maddalena, Tim Spindler and I agreed that the Membership Committee will now point new members to the Google Groups pages, so they can register for the groups themselves.

Management of the listservs using Google Groups has proved to be much easier thus far. It is possible to approve multiple messages at once, which was not possible in the old system and there is so far very little spam. Group members have the option of posting their picture on their profile and viewing a list of members, which provides a new way for chapter members to interact with each other.