

Consortium for Computing in the Humanities Organizations (CoCHO)

Acting Joint Publications Committee Report

May, 2004

The following is a report of the joint committee on publications for CoCHO that includes the ACH, the ALLC, and COCH/COSH with the TEI, NINCH and STS. This report proposes two activities; first, the formation of a Standing Joint Publications Committee, and second the commissioning of an online journal for the associations.

Creation of a Standing Committee

We propose that the CoCHO group create a **Standing Joint Committee on Publications** (SJCP).

The SJCP will be initially composed according to the same formula used to determine membership on the CoCHO steering committee, with each foundational organisation (of ACH, ALLC, and COCH/COSH) receiving a minimum of one seat, plus the editor of LLC (currently the only extant CoCHO publication) and a representative of the TEI Consortium (if the consortium is represented in no other way). After the first two-year term, the committee will be composed of a chair, appointed by the steering committee, and one representative (typically the editor) from each extant CoCHO-affiliated publication. In the event that a CoCHO member organisation does not see representation on the committee in this way, or a new organization joins CoCHO, the steering committee of CoCHO can allocate an additional seat on the committee for that organisation. Appointment method and term would be determined by the organizations represented.

The SJCP works with the CoCHO steering committee to carry out the following activities:

1. to oversee CoCHO publication relationships with the following affiliated publications, some of which will require creation by the committee:
 - a. *LLC* (whose ownership will reside with ALLC);
 - b. an online journal (to be created, and whose ownership will reside with ACH) – see below; and
 - c. a monograph series (to be developed by the committee);
2. to continue to foster CoCHO relationships with other publication venues that have enjoyed affiliation with founding member organisations in the past (such as *HUMANIST*, *CHWP*, *Text Technology*, &c.) in the best interest of all constituent members of CoCHO;
3. to apprise CoCHO of new publication opportunities, and new publication and communicative forms, that would have pertinence to its membership;
4. to consult with the COCHO steering committee and individual affiliated publications on important strategic, operational, and management issues – including processes associated with the creation, and new affiliation, of any publication mechanisms associated with CoCHO; and
5. to receive reports from affiliated publications, and present those reports plus its own to the CoCHO steering committee. Reporting will take place annually, in time for the reports to be distributed at each constituent society's AGM, and CoCHO's AGM.

The larger mandate of the CoCHO standing committee on publications is to provide a framework within which related groups in the general CoCHO domain can share publication resources to the greatest extent possible and initiate new publications. Its chief goals are:

1. to create intellectual synergies and increase opportunities for interdisciplinary interaction through shared publications;
2. to avoid conflicts or competition and proliferation of essentially similar, unsustainable publications;
3. to achieve economies of scale in publications and reduce drain on the administrative resources of each group;
4. to improve the quality of the publications in this domain by increasing their international breadth (for instance, by addressing the problems of translation and multilingualism); and
5. to explore the possibilities for electronic publication and exploit appropriate publication technologies, and to present the larger community with examples of best practices in electronic publication.

Creation of a Online Journal

We propose that the CoCHO steering committee empower the proposed Standing Joint Committee on Publications (SJCP) to tender a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an online journal that would have the following features:

1. It would be the official online journal of the participating organizations, but owned by the ACH.
2. It would make exemplary use of technologies like the TEI that have been developing in our community.
3. It would provide a venue for innovative works to be published and innovative publication programs online.

We propose that the following process be followed:

1. Upon approval of the CoCHO steering committee and the creation of a Standing Joint Publications Committee, a Request for Proposals would be issued (see below).
2. Responses to the RFP would be reviewed by the joint committee and a recommendation forwarded to the Presidents of the participating associations.
3. The President of the ACH would, upon consultation with the other Presidents and executive boards, make the final choice on the proposal to choose.
4. The Presidents would empower the joint committee to work with the successful proposal to implement the journal, advertise it, and review it on an ongoing basis.
5. The chair of the joint committee (along with the Editor of the online journal) would be expected to report on the online journal at the annual meetings of the two executives.

The following is the proposed language for the Request for Proposals:

Request for Proposals for an Online Journal

The CoCHO initiative (Consortium for Computing in the Humanities Organizations), which includes the ACH, the ALLC, and COCH/COSH, invites proposals for the development and delivery of an innovative online journal to serve the humanities computing community and to be owned by the ACH. We invite interested parties to contact us or submit proposals in writing that will meet the publication needs of the community. We are committed to working with one or more parties to help develop the proposals so that they meet our objectives.

What sorts of proposals will be considered?

While we invite interested parties to enter into a conversation with us, the following are some of the features expected of complete proposals that need to be addressed before the ACH will endorse the proposal.

1. Audience. The proposal should make clear what is the audience targeted by the online journal. In particular the proposal should consider how this journal could reach a multi-lingual audience.
2. Articles and Activities. The proposal should identify the types of articles that would be published online and the types of related online activities that would be included in the journal. We are looking for proposals that make innovative use of the online venue.
3. Capacity. The proposal should discuss the resources of the proposing group and their capacity to maintain such a journal over the long term.
4. Technology. The proposal should discuss the technologies to be employed in delivering such a journal. The technologies should fit the activities and should be an example of the appropriate use of information technology in the humanities and arts.
5. Peer Review. The proposal should discuss how the peer review of the submissions would be carried out.
6. Schedule. The proposal should discuss the timing of online issues or other activities.
7. Financing. The proposal should discuss the support needed from the CoCHO group, financial and/or otherwise.
8. Evaluation. How will the journal be assessed on an ongoing basis. The proposal should address how the journal could be periodically reviewed.
9. Intellectual Property. Who will own submissions to the journal? How will the proposing group handle intellectual property issues?

Why submit a proposal?

This is an opportunity for an organization involved in Humanities Computing to get the support to mount an innovative publication that would be of interest to the larger community. We expect that this journal would be a major venue for new research in

humanities computing and literary and linguistic computing. We are committed to working with a suitable organization to make this work.

Where should proposals be sent?

Inquiries should be addressed to members of the Standing Joint Committee on Publications (see address below). Proposals should be sent to the acting chair, Geoffrey Rockwell at grockwel (at) mcmaster (dot) ca. The Joint Committee reserves the right to negotiate details with particular proposing organizations if their proposals are acceptable.

Proposals should be submitted by December 1st 2004.

Report prepared by Geoffrey Rockwell and Ray Siemens on behalf of the Acting Joint Publications Committee.
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