

TNI Information Technology Committee Meeting Summary

May 16, 2013

1. Roll Call

Participants	Present
Caldwell, David	
Clark, Arthur	
Daystrom, William	X
Friedman, Maria	X
Hickman, Dan	X
Kuhn, John (Chair)	X
Parr, Jerry	X
Pierrot, Rebecca	
Shepherd, Mei Beth	
Starr, Rip	
Vарner, Pam	X
Ward, Keith (Vice Chair)	
Wlodarski, Jan	X

April 2013 Meeting Minutes: Ok to Post

2. Methods Compendium Database Discussion

William's review of NEMI: NEMI seems to be a very theoretical database. Presents them in a list without any context to tell you that it's a method that is commonly performed, well-recognized, etc. versus here is one that was done in a lab somewhere once and was published but nobody does this now. Seems like more of a scientific resource than one you would go to to find out what method to run or what you to do need in order to run something. There wasn't anything there to help you understand what the information means. William will have to find his original email to see exactly what he wrote.

Maybe we should ask ourselves, what do we want this database to do? What is the purpose? In our grant proposal we said that the purpose was so that Lab Assessors easy access to all published methods – an easy way to find one and get to a copy. We have the method code list but no way to click and get a code. Do we need to build links to methods by method number? Or build a search by specific features? Don't want to go too far (so we don't have to deal with judgment calls about which method is better than another). We want a repository that is searchable by method number, matrix, analyte, and maybe whether it's approved or not.

Simple solution: Take our Methods table and for every method code that's in there, we build a link that goes to a method. Do we need more than this? We need to attach the analytes that are defined/approved in the method. This could be a separate field. Our current methods data table does not have matrix, just method. We need to define how we will start, and future improvements.

Need to do a small development plan like we did for LAMS when we started out. Dan will do a first draft. Timeframe: 1 month or so? Need that copy of the grant proposal to get the wording for the background. Jerry will send to Dan.

We should add the development plan as a bullet to the Charter.

2. Charter

IT Charter was reviewed and changes noted. Jerry will update the Charter with modifications discussed. If anyone has any objectives or milestones to add, send them to Jerry.

3. Work Group for General Application

Overview: For some time now, the laboratories have sent they would like to have a generic application that they could complete one application and click all the states they wanted to apply to for accreditation all at once. The LAB committee has been working on doing this and have developed a draft application.

Rebecca is looking for a couple of volunteers from the IT committee to look at the application before they ask William to start building it. It's probably only an hour or two worth of work. Dan sent out the draft development plan to Rebecca, but has had no response yet. Plan: Take this on as a full committee effort, and review it on the next call. Dan will sent draft to everyone.

4. LAMS Update (Dan)

Labs: 1665
Active Labs: 1594
FOAs: 248242
Active Analytes: 2663
Active Methods: 4004

Only UT and TX have done any updates recently. Lab demographic updates have been done by OR, UT, TX, VA, LA DHH, and NJ. Sent an email to all the ABs about updating the matrix list and adding other matrices beside the five accreditation matrix, which started a firestorm. They all agreed this would be a really bad idea, because if people looked at the list of matrices and saw more than the five, they might apply for something that nobody does. The solution is to change the title of the matrix table on the web to "Accreditation Matrix".

There is a meeting on Monday with the ABs and EPA re: multiple EPA ID # and the problems it creates for users in LAMS – Dan will be attending.

Jerry still needs to contact Stephanie in New York. Scot Siders, IL, is looking for a database and looking for input. Still have 5 or 6 left to get into the database.

5. Website Update (William)

Updated EDS training webpage to display upcoming events in a better manner. We will need an even better, longer term solution as training grows.

Meeting page has been updated for San Antonio and registration is open. Voting for Chemistry VDS completed last weekend. Pretty good participation in that – people were voting right up until the last day of the 45-day window.

William will send chart showing visits and visitors to the website later today. Approximately 4,000 unique visitors to the TNI website last month (measured by IP address). Approximately 16,000 visits to the website in total last month. Statistics from 2008 showed the numbers were approximately half.

6. Other Business

We need to start planning for San Antonio at next meeting.

7. Adjournment

Next call will be Thursday, June 20 at 3:00pm EST.