

## Memorandum

To: Mellon Proposal Review Committee

From: Ron Flores

Date: September 22, 1998

Re: Proposal for Computerized Resource Center - additional information.

### Creating a cumulative database of student scholarship:

If the faculty decide to implement a senior experience to the curriculum, the on-line resource center would serve as a storage facility for all of the very best senior projects. In future years, any student would be able to access previous student scholarship across a wide range of topics. A future student might even write a senior thesis employing past student research as the raw data! For example, a history major from the future SLU class of 2020, might access student scholarship on the North Country for the previous 20 years to examine how the North Country has changed from the perspective of SLU student scholars. This is just one example of how student scholarship will feed on earlier student work.

### Library staff involvement

As mentioned in the original proposal, ICPSR requires that member organizations designate a point person. That person would be responsible for maintaining the on-line system and overseeing student tutors. The point person would work with student scholars and their faculty mentors identifying and acquiring the best database for a proposed research study. S/he would also have to attend the annual meeting of the ICPSR. An ideal person would be someone like Paul Doty, who has a strong background in on-line library access systems.

The library staff will have to take the lead designing and maintaining a cataloging system. Over time, the number of databases and research projects available on line will become quite large. In order for students to

have easy access, a menu driven retrieval system would have to be implemented. Students would log on to the system and - much like ODYSSEUS - student scholarship would be arranged by author, title, subject, department, etc.. A separate menu would allow students to scan through the databases housed in the on-line resource center. The databases would be listed by subject, title, principle investor, etc..