

# **Minutes for SCC meeting of February 16, 2005**

## **by Lee Courtney & Dave Redell**

### **Attending**

|               |                |               |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Rudy Batties  | Phil Gust      | Dave Redell   |
| Mary Cicalese | Sellam Ismail  | Bill Selmeier |
| Lee Courtney  | Paul McJones   | Len Shustek   |
| Henry Gladney | Bernard Peuto  | John Toole    |
| Kathe Gust    | Michael Powell |               |

### **Action Items and Deliverables (Who; When; What)**

|                   |                                                              |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sellam            | Web collaboration tools for SCC use                          |
| Sellam            | Revision of Software Collection Taxonomy.                    |
| Bernard, Lee, Len | List of Deliverables for SCC for review by committee members |

### **Status updates on specific projects**

**Fortran** (Paul M): Paul continues to assemble materials and think about how best to organize them.

**CDC** (Dave R): No progress reported.

**NLS** (Phil G): Phil reported encouraging progress on this activity, including the availability of several qualified volunteers to lead and work on various aspects of the project. He discussed the architecture of an emulation environment and the current thinking about versions of NLS to focus on. The current goal is to provide the best possible representation of what it was like to use the system, as opposed to going back in history and worrying about exactly what version of the system was running on which date, etc. IP issues are also being worked to verify accessibility of the project results.

**Magic** (Mike P): No progress was reported.

### **Assessing and Refocusing the SCC (Bernard P)**

Bernard has spent a lot of time lately consulting with a substantial portion of the committee membership one-on-one, to compile opinions on where we are and where we need to go. Most of the meeting was devoted to his presentation of a large set of slides, first showing the results of these consultations and then suggesting what the implications are for refining the directions of the SCC's work. (See Bernard's slides for details.)

There was substantial discussion during and after the presentation on various issues, including:

- 1) *How are the appropriate collection/preservation activities for software the same/different compared with those for hardware?*

While the resource needs of hardware preservation (e.g. physical storage/display space) are largely absent for software, some members cautioned against underestimating the resources required for a successful software preservation activity. Related to this is the observation that software preservation is much more amenable to a distributed approach, with volunteers from all over the Internet participating fully in most tasks, unlike physical hardware preservation/restoration, which pretty much requires local people for most tasks.

2) *How should the CHM software activity related to the outside activities that are already going on across the Internet?*

Mike P suggested that we should start small and get our ducks in a row before trying to “capture the larger territory” of the Internet software collecting community. The specific activity cited was organizing the existing CHM software collection. The counterpoint view was that we should engage with other ongoing collection activities now, as *part* of getting our ducks on a row – i.e. learning what CHM’s best role is in that activity. If we start out with a purely inward focus, we will just delay learning how we can best participate in the larger software preservation community.

3) *How should Len’s draft task list be updated?*

The initial discussion covered 5 items, without claiming to be exhaustive:

- Representation formats for captured/converted software
- Policies & Procedures – getting material, filtering it, making it available
- Choosing an initial (interim) back-end database
- Some number of test-case collections (Fortran, etc.)
- An initial, small-scale Internet presence (details TBD)

Later in the meeting, other tasks were mentioned, including:

- The outreach workshop we have been discussing.
- Refining the collection criteria
- Refining the “Top 100” list.
- Consulting with the Exhibits Committee (esp: the Computer Chess exhibit)
- Refinement of the Sellam’s taxonomy (presented in January).

He has been working on this, including comparing it with the UN taxonomy and merging in any missing items that this reveals.

## Upcoming Meetings.

| Day                 | Date         | Time              | Conf Room |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Wednesday           | March 16     | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| Wednesday           | April 27     | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| Wednesday           | May 25       | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| Wednesday           | June 22      | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| No July Meeting     |              |                   |           |
| Wednesday           | August 24    | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| Wednesday           | September 21 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| Wednesday           | October 19   | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| Wednesday           | November 16  | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Hopper    |
| No December Meeting |              |                   |           |