

**Minutes of the Products and Services Committee
Reference and User Services Association, Machine Assisted Reference Section
ALA Midwinter – Seattle, WA
Westin Seattle Grand Ballroom III
All Committee Meeting
Sunday, January 21, 2007**

Members present: Steve Ostrem, Marina Salcedo and Marilyn Scott.

Visitors present: Deborah Bezanson, Kathleen Kern

1. Call to order.
2. Instructions and announcements.
 - a. MARS will be undergoing section review in 2007. The committee has been asked to review the set of 11 draft questions and begin thinking about how to answer them.
 - b. The committee needs to turn in a membership status report of members that are interested in continued involvement with the committee. Members who are interested in serving another term need to submit a committee volunteer form. Steve's membership on the committee ends at Annual 2007. Marilyn and Marina have agreed to stay on another term.
3. Approval of Annual minutes. Minutes were approved.
4. Wrap-up of the Midwinter Discussion forum.
 - a. The joint discussion forum with MARS Hot Topics: "Not your Dad's Interface" was a complete success. There was an estimated 275 people in attendance. A sign-in sheet was passed around the room and we had 176 people actually sign in. From this list we got names of people interested in becoming members of MARS Products and Services.
 - b. The committee agreed it would be a good idea to send out an email to those people who showed an interest in volunteering. Marilyn agreed to draft an invitation email and send it to the rest of the committee for approval.
 - c. Marina will look into getting copies of the power point presentations of the presenters to post on the committee webpage.
5. New business and loose ends.
 - a. RUSA has set up an Online Community Forums page that can be used to store shared documents and have virtual meetings. Committee members should take a look at this forum to see if it would be possible to use it in the future for meetings outside of the two annual conferences.
 - b. Marina and Steve agreed to start working on the draft questions for MARS section review. Marina will address questions 1-5 and Steve will address questions 6 -11.

- c. Kathleen Kern came by our table to let us know that there were several people who had shown interest in volunteering for Products and Services. Due to the low membership of our committee, she will appoint four members to begin service at Annual 2007.
- d. The committee brainstormed a bit about ideas for next year's midwinder discussion forum:
 - i. Free software or programs that can be adapted for reference work.
i.e. meboo, google earth.
 - ii. Podcasting for instructional use.
 - iii. Tutorial creating software like Camtasia.
 - iv. 2nd Life – virtual life
 - v. www.msdevey.com

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.