

CO-4

Mountain Plains Library Association  
Electronic Communication Committee

Progress towards goals, 2002

- Most of the activities related to the enhancement and expansion of the web site have been accomplished. Links were made to everything identified, the newsletter is on the web site, photos are on the web site, all the state representatives reports are there, and what remains are other items identified in the Strategic Plan to be provided to the webmaster from the Continuing Education Committee, Intellectual Freedom Committee, and State Representatives.
- A job description for the webmaster was written and approved, as well as a salary established. [VIII, B, 1].
- The major activity of the year was investigating viable means of communication for electronic meetings or discussion. [VI, E, 1.] The committee is currently involved in testing a number of possibilities (NetMeeting, Yahoo Chat, other meeting software and commercial meeting services online, shareware products). The major problem is the diversity of systems in use across the region, local system restrictions and firewalls. A survey may be conducted online to determine what would work for the majority of members.

The committee realized the original idea of an electronic board meeting was over-ambitious given the number of people involved, the technical problems encountered and the cost. A more realistic objective would be a shared chat service or arrangements for committees and smaller groups to use to do their work. This effort is on-going.