

Meeting Summary and Highlights

Aries Systems was proud to host the very first European *Editorial Manager*® User Group meeting on 3rd December 2004, and judging by the attendees' comments, it was a great success. Close to sixty people attended from a variety of backgrounds; publishers, journals and societies with varying degrees of experience from interested party to expert user. There were delegates from ten countries including USA and Hong Kong as well as Europe. The meeting was held at the elegant premises of The Institute of Materials in London, just down the road from



Buckingham Palace.

It was a great chance for Aries' staff to meet all the participants and for people to get direct

access to not only the UK, but also Lyndon Holmes and Richard Wynne from our US headquarters and Roswitha Nottebaum from our office in Germany. For Aries it was particularly pleasant to put faces to voices.

Presentations and Previews

The meeting started with Richard Wynne, Vice President of Sales and Marketing giving some background of the development of the *EM* product and the infrastructure, user community and development process that go to make *EM* the outstanding product it is.

Richard then went on to remind delegates of the new features in the recently released Version 3 and gave a brief description of the new features in the upcoming v3.1, including support for

conference proceedings and html e-mails.

Richard announced some of the more important features that are expected to be available in the next major releases of *EM* and *Preprint Manager*®. These included: DOI assignment and registration, automated citation validation, linking, and reference clean up to journal style and production task tracking. Richard also told the audience about plans to add author proofing capabilities.



Breakout Sessions

The second session was devoted to discussing enhancements that the delegates would like to see in future releases of *EM*. Aries' staff and Rosie Grimes from the IMechE chaired each of the breakout sessions.

The groups were tasked with coming up with ideas for new features that they would like to see in *EM* and the top three in each group were listed for all to see, these were:

1. Cross-Journal Statistics
2. Resend Bounced E-Mails
3. Spam Filters Catching Differential Sender Addresses
4. Split current reviewer selection functionality into Simple/Advanced Reviewer options.
5. Undo Decision with No New Revision (OOPS!-Button)
6. Editor Swapping / Reassignment
7. Running Count of Editor Assignments
8. Termination Letter for Reviewers (polite)
9. Enhanced Co-Author functionality and Extend Duplicate Submission Checking

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10. A "Canned" Periodic Report for Reviewer Thank you
11. Merge Manuscripts - Clean Up Duplicates
12. More Granulate Status Descriptions for Authors
13. Richer Author Selection for Proposals
14. Enhanced Corresponding Author Re-Assignment
15. Improved Navigation Design (Visual Clarity)
16. Enhanced Invitation Letters for Reviewers (and Editors) on Revision
17. Date Format Consistency
18. More Special Characters and Language Specific Instructions

This excellent feedback, together with the full list from each group have been collated by the EM product management team and are an essential input in determining the functionality of future releases.

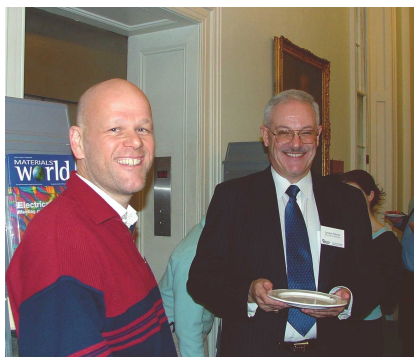
There followed a well-earned lunch magnificently provided by the IoM and gave delegates a chance to mix.



Reporting

After lunch Sean MacRae explained the reporting structures available in EM. This covered the "canned reports", customised reporting and data export and manipulation with numerous examples.

Wrap-Up



The day ended with Lyndon Holmes, President and CEO of Aries presenting the audience with his view of how the future of the journals' industry might

look and information regarding Aries' overall strategic direction to accommodate the future.

Evaluation forms filled out by attendees showed overwhelming agreement that the day had been thoroughly worthwhile and

provided an excellent way to meet other EM-interested people with a chance to learn how other EM



users approach workflow and policy issues.

We hope that our aim of displaying to users our commitment to their satisfaction and future

prosperity were met.

We look forward to the 2005 Euro EMUG Meeting. Please send us your ideas!

