

ARC Meeting Minutes

Alexandria, VA

April 23-25, 2019

In attendance: Mike Peery (MT), Robert Bean (VA), John Pearce (OR), Steve Hine (MN), Dana Placzek (CT), Phil Lewis (O*Net), Gary Sincick (OR), Matt Steadman (UT), Bill McMahon (MN), Pam Frugoli (ETA), Amanda Rohrer (MN), Don Haughton (ETA), James Spector-Bishop (MN), Kevin Doyle (MI), Steve Duthie (MT), Christopher Robison (NV), Steve Rietzke (ETA), Nicole Kennedy (NC), Barb Ledvina (IA), Jackie Summerton (WI), Joe Jaehnke (WI), Rajani Edupalli (VA), Sam Wright (ETA), Al Sylvestre (CT).

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Steve Hine welcomed everyone to Alexandria. Introductions were made.

Phil Lewis from O*Net gave a presentation on O*Net and the WID.

- database releases, and updates of occupations, knowledge data, etc. Licensing is Creative Commons License. Note that older versions are available in archive.
- Crosswalk files – O*NET related files, esp. military transition occs.
- Archives and longitudinal studies. Researcher responsible for decisions on data across classification systems. O*NET has file of historical changes, and mapping.
- Web services. COS uses these. See GitHub site.
- O*NET-SOC taxonomy (SOC 2018): xwalks from 2010 to 2018 → O*NET/SOC 2019

Steve Hine talked about an MIT study on occupations at risk of automation based on O*NET tasks. Amanda Rohrer inquired about CIP to SOC xwalk. It was noted that this comes from NCES. Questions of what is the “master xwalk”.

Gary Sincick from Oregon provided a WID API Update. From initial discussions at our San Diego meeting in the fall of 2018, a group from the ARC was created to work on this project. The group includes Amanda Rohrer, Joe Jaehnke, Rajani Edupalli, Steve Duthie, Steve Hine, and Gary Sincick. The group met February of 2019 in St. Paul to work on the project. The intent of the project is to create a standard API that could be used by states. Advantages include: API would be platform neutral; allow for easier application development; allow for easier integration of LMI into products. Based on the meeting discussion, Gary wrote a design document. Gary noted that some of the issues in front of the committee is how to handle versions and creating a naming convention. Don Haughton from ETA asked about API in regards to the Workforce Labor Market Information Grant (WIG) and Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) – does the WIG need to include language about this? Gary noted that APIs can be used as WID data loaders. Billl noted applications to Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL).

Discussion was held on the timing of the WID v2.8 release. Depending on time, the WIG/TEGL may come out while we are still at v2.7. This would give states a year to implement v2.8. Don noted that the TEGL is a draft, and not sure when it will come out.

Steve Ritzke, Don Haughton, Pam Frogoli, and Sam Wright provided updates regarding ETA. Still waiting for an Assistant Secretary at ETA. Molly Conway is the acting assistant secretary. The new chief of staff is helping things move along now. The Office of Workforce Investment has a new acting administrator. They are winding down program year 2018. There is a budget for FY2019. There are a couple of funding opportunities available: WDQI Round 7; Accelerated Veterans for Licensed Occs; National Health Emergency (opioid-related programs). Discussion was held on budgets for PMP and LEWIS. Don indicated he needed a plan and costs.

General discussion was held on the Employer Database. Transition to having the General Services Administration (GSA) contract for the Employer Database is underway – although GSA is moving slowly. Some discussion was held on what people think the contract should include. Nicole Kennedy asked about being able to increase the number of downloaded records. Should we continue to have DVDs made available?

Don Haughton mentioned the possibility of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) moving out of the Department of Labor (DOL) and to the Census Bureau and leaving Employment and Training Administration (ETA) under DOL. Wondering what impact that would have since ARC funding comes from DOL. Should/could states use Census product instead of Employer Database (Empdb). States may need to change legislation relating to BLS to cover Census.

Sam Wright indicated that if the ARC has trouble getting states to comply, we should let him know as he could help.

Continued discussion was held on APIs and data from other agencies (OSHA, etc).

Matt Steadman gave an update on LEWIS. There has been lots of turnover with LEWIS in the last year or so. Matt has been with the program for a year. LEWIS training was held in Austin in January of 2019. They had 16 participants from 13 states. Rick Bradford and Denise Voll provided the training. Some glitches occurred during the training, as the network they were using wouldn't allow them to access the cloud SQL server. Matt would like to make additional trainings available.

The goal is to move LEWIS to the cloud. Making this move will provide a significant cost savings – primarily for states that will no longer need their own servers for LEWIS.

James Bishop and Amanda Rohrer gave an update on their occupational licensing project.

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Steve Hine talked about the future and leadership of the ARC. He intends to retire in the next couple of years, and we need to be thinking about who will take over as the lead. An LMI director that will be around awhile would be preferable.

Amanda discussed the tables available on the WID Center website. She noted that it seems people are finding the site useful for a handful of tables (cip to soc, emp db, etc.)

Amanda asked the group where they felt her efforts should be focused. General discussion was held with no real direction given.

Discussion was held on the Employer Database. It was noted that we should develop documentation to show what uses are acceptable under the contract.

Bill McMahon gave an update on CareerOneStop. His update included:

- The Largest Employers report is still on CareerOneStop's site: www.careerinfonet.org. It is difficult to find, and people searching for it will get redirected to the www.careeronestop.org page that does not have the data. CareerOneStop is in discussions with Jim Winner of InfoGroup to improve the accuracy of his special list of 150 of the largest employers in every state. Once improvements have been made, CareerOneStop intends to republish the report on CareerOneStop, with all 150 of the largest employers instead of the current 50.
- Licensing tables on CareerOneStop have been updated to reflect the O*NET coding improvements that Amanda and James made to all of the licensing records. The CareerOneStop API for license data has also been updated so a request can be made by O*NET occupation title or code as well as by a hybrid code and keyword title search.
- Cost of Living (COL) database – Amanda had completed the database for all U.S. counties, states, and several family types. COS will offer it as an API on a date to be determined. COS is considering building a tool like the Oregon "Reality Check" tool that enables user to identify how much money they want like to make and the cost of living in their communities and then explore occupations that match the wages they need. In the meantime, COS is just going to build a single API that will compare the overall cost of living in one place to another.
- CareerOneStop is building a Compare Salaries tool. This tool will also make available a small widget that lets users compare the cost of living in two areas as well (See widget above).

The video production group is almost done with videos for occupations. Industry videos are coming.

James has been working on a certification robot. It will search job listings for needed certifications.

The remainder of the day was spent in subcommittees.

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Each of the subcommittees provided a report of their work during the meeting, and what they will be working on in the next couple of months.

Education/Training Committee (Mike Peery, Jackie Summerton and Barb Ledvina)

The group came up with topics for a newsletter. Requests were made to authors.

Discussion was held on providing training for DBAs. Looking at spring of 2020 – in St. Paul. A survey of state DBAs will be sent out to determine how many people would be interested in attending, and what topics they would find most relevant.

The Structure and Policy Committees met together during the breakout sessions.

Structure Committee (Dana Placzek, Rajani Edupalli, Nicole Kennedy, John Pearce, Amanda Rohrer, Gary Sincick, Robert Bean, Kevin Doyle, Joe Jaehnke, and Steve Duthie).

Policy Committee (Steve Hine, Bill McMahon, Chris Robison, Matt Steadman, and Al Sylvestre)

Version 2.8 of the WID will be released within the next 2-3 weeks. All changes will be incorporated from this meeting. Build scripts are unofficially available – and come with warnings. Distribution will be to directors and DBAs – not to vendors.

There was a discussion of ownership codes – adding ownership to iowage.

The group will work on a guideline document for APIs – a draft will be made available to all in BaseCamp. The next step will be to extend the guideline to include specifics of tables, etc. Discussion on placing the APIs on Swaggerhub. The group that met initially in January of 2019 will look at meeting again in the fall of 2019. It was noted that Tableau will connect to an API.

LEWIS is working on an agreement with BLS to include use of cloud-based service to store CIPSEA-protected data. Including OES response data will further the goal of a web-based LEWIS system. With Tom Price's retirement on the horizon, this conversion from the legacy to web-based system is important to get done. Matt provided costs and detailed specification. Additional training for LEWIS is in the planning stages.

Discussion was held on the future of the Employer Database. ETA has agreed and understands the need to move the procurement through the GSA contract instead of through a specific state. The current contract through Connecticut (with extensions) runs through December 30, 2020. We need to be working on providing deliverables for the contract. One change may be to not include DVDs to help reduce costs. AI will try to determine how many states use CareerOneStop Business Finder to access information in the Employer Database.

Discussion was held on when/where the next meeting should be held. Looking at October of 2019 in either Austin, TX or Memphis, TN.