Summary of Aquifer actions for discussion at the October 24 Baltimore meeting

1. Review of partners' digital collections (*all members to contribute information about the collections they are willing to contribute*)
- American history, society, and culture
  American literature
- Slavic periodical index and etc
- Performing Arts inclusively
  Art and architecture
- Data
- Medieval manuscripts

2. Tools registry. Statement of scope and intent, template for description of tools, recommendation pertaining to host infrastructure (***David Seaman***)

3 Registry of assessment research reports. Statement of scope and intent, template for describing research reports, recommendations pertaining to host infrastructure (***David Seaman***)

4. Specification for environmental scan of tools available in the instructional technology and other proximate "spaces" that may benefit or be leveraged by Aquifer (***Stanford***)

5. Discussions with Mellon (*DG*), Hewlett (*DG*), ACLS initiative (*DG*), and John Unsworth (*PK*) about how Aquifer might leverage research these organizations are sponsoring into how undergraduates, graduates, teachers, and researchers are using digital information and in turn focus its own assessment agenda in a manner that enriches the Foundations' broader programs in these areas (***Daniel Greenstein, Paula Kaufman***)

6. Further thinking about a program through which Aquifer might leverage initiatives like that hosted by UVa and with Mellon support as a means of defining (getting some traction under) scholarly information needs in a manner that can help define and focus Aquifer development efforts. (***Mike Keller, Karin Wittenbourg, Daniel Greenstein***)

7. Report on work to surface standards and best practices for data providers and service providers implementing the OAI metadata harvesting protocol in order to improve the adequacy and usefulness of OAI harvesting as a means of harvesting and aggregating metadata for extant online digital library information resources (***UIUC – work tasked to Sarah Shreeves***)

8. Specification for work that may help to leverage existing taxonomies to improve search capability and/or to assist in the automated selection (curation) of digital collections that are based on large-scale aggregations of materials assembled via OAI harvesting, web crawling, or other means? Scope to include identification of existing

taxonomies that could be useful, technical obstacles that need to be overcome so they may be utilized effectively, tools/products/services exist that can assist in semantic analysis, thesaurus representation, protocols for interrogation, etc. (***Stanford***)

9. Scoping statement and timelines for a survey into what data mining, metadata enrichment, and other tools currently exist or are in development that may assist "curators" to develop special or focused collections based on digital content that is aggregated by OAI harvesting, web crawling and other means (***CDL***)

10. Report on draft collection planning framework detailing the set of activities likely to be required to plan and build any specific collection (***DG***)

11. Specification for work on how Aquifer partners can leverage their extensive respective experiences with digital object repositories in order to put into place a network of robust and appropriately replicated digital filestores (***JPW***) and considering a number of directions including
- reviewing costs and benefits of repository options that are currently available (DSpace, Fedora, CDL's Ark-based METS repository, etc)
- exploring repository replication costs, benefits, and development options
- exploring repository co-development options

12. Report on work regarding how Aquifer might leverage existing effort with Shibboleth to develop appropriate access control and rights management approaches, scoping a shibboleth/Authentication initiative and implementation path (***Jerry Macdonugh, Peter Brantley, Jerry Persons***)

13. Specification for work federating extant institutional repositories (***DG***)