

Discussions

Problem	Email (status quo)	
Address list	Success depends on the originator of the thread having the correct email addresses for all recipients.	Each group member manages their own email address which is then used for all LORROS communication.
Keeping in the loop	If someone doesn't use "reply all", the thread gets broken.	The discussion is conducted through LORROS and automatically includes everyone.
New subject	New subjects tend to start in the middle of a thread.	A new subject can be easily started as a new discussion.
Starting a new subject	You must either have everyone's email set up as a group, or enter them in manually to start a new thread, often people are mistakenly left out of the thread.	Easily start a new discussion and select who you want included in the discussion. The first email goes to everyone in the group to insure they are aware a discussion has started.
Out of sequence	The thread can get confusing and hard to follow.	Replies are grouped with each comment for easy reading.
End	Generally no fixed end, usually fade away.	End date fixed by person who started the discussion.
Opt in / opt out	Some email clients like Gmail allow you to mute a discussion, but the others in the thread don't know you're not getting the emails.	Easily opt in and out of LORROS discussions - everyone in the group can see who has opted out. On the last day of the discussion, everyone (including those opted out) are notified that the discussion is ending
Joining the discussion after it starts	First you must know the discussion is underway. Then you must get on reply all list.	All group members are notified that the discussion has started, joining can be done by clicking in box.
Searching	Depends on email application of each participant.	Keyword search available for all archived discussions.
Attached files	Each recipient will store attached documents differently. They may have to find the original email containing the attachment in order to open	Attached files are connected to the discussion and are always available in LORROS.
Linking	It is difficult if not impossible to link one email thread in another.	Easily link different discussions to each other and/or link them to meetings, polls and action items DRY - Do not Repeat Yourself
Printing	Emails can be printed, but can be complicated and hard to read depending on sequence, and email signatures, etc.	Easily print out all discussions in pdf and rtf formats.
Record keeping	Depends on email application of each participant	Complete record accessible in archive and available for download in pdf format

