The Chapter’s bank account held $71,530.32 at the end of Apr 2008, little changed from the same time last year ($67,093.88). Income for the year is about $8K as NAACL’s 50% share of the surplus from ACL 2005 (in Michigan), and expenses of $3K to support NACLO 2008 and about $1K to support student travel to the JHU workshop. There’s more of interest in the things about to happen to the bank account: we’ve just sent $5K for support of NACLO 2009, JHU might eventually get around to cashing our checks for about $12K in total for support of JHU WS 2007 and 2008, and maybe we’ll work out some other spending items at the NAACL Executive Committee meeting. Most excitingly, after lots of staring at spreadsheets, I can report that NAACL HLT 2006 brought in a surplus of $57K (!).

One chart below shows the NAACL account balance from since I became treasurer (Jan 2006), projecting into the future a little. The other shows our yearly income from conferences.

Action items: Assuming, I get the data, I’m hoping to catch up a little and do NAACL HLT 2007 accounting over the summer. (With the change of ACL Treasurer, there has been some discontinuity in my ability to get necessary financial data for accounting, but I hope to clear up those issues while in Boulder.) ACL 2008 accounting is the responsibility of the ACL treasurer. There is no reason why NAACL cannot continue to operate financially just as it has for the last few years. However, there is mounting evidence that NAACL should be more proactive in finding good ways to use money to promote the field. Hence I’m interested in initiatives like student travel support, support for Central and South America, etc. On the other hand, I think we should also reflect a little on trends in corporate sponsorship and opportunities for links with the broader text mining/processing/search community.

Christopher Manning, NAACL Treasurer; May 27, 2009, Palo Alto, CA.