

RBMS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
ALA Midwinter Meeting, 2005
January 17, 2005
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Present: Elaine B. Smyth (Louisiana State University), RBMS Chair; Katherine Reagan (Cornell University), Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Margaret Nichols (Cornell University), Past-Chair; John Cullars (University of Illinois at Chicago), Secretary; Isaac Gewirtz (New York Public Library), Member-at-Large; Jane Gillis (Yale University), Member-at-Large; Rachel Howarth (Harvard University), Member-at-Large.

Guests: Terry Belanger (University of Virginia); Lois Fischer Black (North Carolina State); Tom Bolze (Yale University); Alvan Bregman (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign); Charlotte Brown (University of California, Los Angeles); Lynda Claassen (University of California, San Diego); Richard Clement (University of Kansas); Melissa Conway (University of California, Riverside); Mark Dimunation (Library of Congress); Christian Dupont (Syracuse University); Ellen Ellickson (Yale University); Sarah Schmidt Fisher (University of Delaware); Julie Grob (University of Houston); Hjordis Halvorson (Newberry Library); Eric Holzenberg (Grolier Club); Elizabeth Johnson (Indiana University); Lynne King (Schenectady County Community College), RBMS rep from ACRL Board; Mary Lacy (Library of Congress); Martha Lawler (Louisiana State University, Shreveport); Deborah J. Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library); Kate Moriarty (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); Barbara Paulson (National Endowment for the Humanities); Mary Jane Petrowski (Associate Director, ACRL); Anne Posega (Washington University); John Pull (Library of Congress); Henry Raine (New York University/New York Historical Society); Susan Stekel Rippley (University of Minnesota); Beth Russell (Ohio State University); Judy Harvey Sahak (Claremont College); E. C. Schroeder (Yale University); Daniel J. Slive (William Reese Company, New Haven); Irina Tarsis (Harvard University); Margaret Tenney (University of Texas, Austin); Sue Walker (Yale University); Everett Wilkie

These minutes incorporate reports from the Information Exchange of Sunday, January 16, which are indicated by the initials [IE] preceding the report. My thanks to chairs who made their presentations at Information Exchange for providing summaries of their presentations.

1. Smyth called the meeting to order at 8:12 AM and invited all present to introduce themselves, beginning with the members of the Executive Committee [henceforth referred to as Exec throughout the minutes].
2. Review and finalize agenda—(Smyth)
Smyth pointed out that agenda item 3 should read “ALA annual” rather than “ALA midwinter.” Gewirtz proposed the addition of the RBMS/SAA document, “Joint Statement on Access to Original Materials,” which became agenda item 14.c, and Dimunation proposed a resolution in memory of Gerald R. Wager, that became agenda item 14.d. The agenda was approved as amended.
3. Approve minutes from ALA Annual--(Smyth)
Nichols moved that the minutes of the RBMS Exec meeting held at the ALA annual conference on Monday, June 28, 2004, in Orlando be approved as amended to correct three typos and to clarify an antecedent; Howarth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as corrected.
4. Reminders for committee chairs-(Smyth)
Smyth summarized recommendations from “Tips for Committee Chairs,” a document prepared by Suzy Taraba and Nichols. Among them were provisions that chairs should attend all their committee

meetings, present action items and/or ask questions at Exec, and report at Information Exchange during the ALA midwinter meetings and the annual conferences. Chairs should also attend New Member Orientation at preconferences. If unable to attend any of these meetings, it is their responsibility to designate substitutes. Minutes of their meetings are due to the RBMS Secretary within a month. A committee member or chair may serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms; a committee chair may not appoint his or her own successor. No individual may serve on more than three committees within ALA (or its subdivisions) except in an ex officio capacity.

5. Consent agenda—(Smyth)

Smyth explained that ACRL requires that committee decisions made via e-mail be ratified at the committee's next in-person meeting. She proposed to ratify Exec decisions made via e-mail since the June 2004 ALA annual conference by using the consent agenda, following ACRL Board practice. A consent agenda batches decisions for which the committee does not anticipate further discussion and thus moves to pass as a group. If any member of Exec wishes to discuss any or all items on the consent agenda, it or they will be removed from the consent agenda, discussed, and voted on separately. The consent agenda for this meeting consisted of the following five items that Exec had discussed and voted on since the Orlando annual conference: Exec a) approved the sending of letters of condolence from RBMS to Peter Graham's family and his colleagues at Syracuse University; b) approved the text of the diversity insert produced by the Publications Committee; c) approved the theme of museums and libraries for the 2006 RBMS preconference and authorized the development of a IMLS grant proposal to support the preconference; d) approved the revised Guidelines for Borrowing and Lending Special Collections for Exhibits, subject to revisions arising from the mandated public hearing; and e) approved a proposal from Johns Hopkins University to host the 2007 preconference in Baltimore, as recommended by the Conference Development Committee, and requested ACRL Board approval. Reagan made and Howarth seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda, which Exec did unanimously.

6. ACRL meeting reports

a) ACRL Board I, 2004 Annual (Nichols): No report was given.

b) ACRL Board II, 2004 Annual (Nichols): Nichols reported that ALA will be posting to the ALA web site the URLs of over 800 discussion listserves that are connected to ALA. ALA will be making available \$20,000 rather than \$15,000 to support Sections' programs at the annual conference and will allow a maximum honorarium for non-librarian speakers of \$1,000 rather than \$500.

c) ACRL Section Leadership (Smyth/Reagan)

Smyth reported that the main topics of discussion were the proposed increase in ACRL dues and guidelines for virtual meetings.

d) ACRL Sections Council (Smyth/Reagan)

No report.

7. Guidelines revisions/Task Forces

a) Loan of Special Collections Materials for Exhibition (Wilkie)

Wilkie reported that the text of the guidelines as approved by Exec had a public hearing on Friday, January 13 and is close to its final form. Gewirtz, RBMS Board liaison to the task force, is also liaison to the ACRL Standards and Accreditation (SAC) Committee, which approved the draft unanimously. It is on the consent agenda of the ACRL Board and will most likely be approved pro forma. The task force asked to be discharged subject to being reconvened if the ACRL Board

requests additional revisions of the guidelines. Exec discharged the task force under those conditions and commended its excellent work in shepherding the guidelines through the lengthy process of revision.

b) Diversity Action Plan Implementation (Grob)

Grob reported that the task force will have accomplished its charge after the annual conference. The task force plans to propose the creation of a standing Diversity Committee of at least five members to carry the work forward to Exec at the annual conference in June. A separate committee is needed because all of its projects do not fall under the purview of any one current RBMS standing committee.

c) Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections (Brown)

Exec recommended that the task force contact ACRL's Standards and Accreditation Committee to ask for a SAC liaison. Since the guidelines draw on collection development, cataloging, and preservation issues, representatives from those areas will be needed, as well as liaisons from outside ACRL, notably from ALCTS. Leslie pointed out that there is a great deal of expertise in both cataloging and security issues within RBMS. The task force has had a preliminary meeting but will not officially begin its work until following annual in Chicago.

8. Programming

a) 2005 ACRL Conference Minneapolis (Rippley)

Rippley reported that the next ACRL Conference will be held April 7-10, 2005 in Minneapolis. RBMS is offering a Round Table, "Hiring Special Collections Librarians," which ties in with the educational theme of the RBMS preconference in St. Louis. The Section submitted a proposal for a panel, which was rejected. Cullars observed that, based on the experiences of both RBMS and WESS, collection development-related topics haven't often been selected for recent ACRL conferences. Rippley will seek information on why the RBMS proposal was rejected.

b) 2005 Preconference (St. Louis) –(Holzenberg/Posega)

[IE]: Holzenberg reported that the preconference program, "Bridging the Gap," will deal with the training, education, and outreach to the next generation of special collections librarians; it will be held from June 21-24, 2005. The Hyatt Union Station, at \$145/night, is the conference hotel with dorm rooms available at Washington University. Tours will be given on Tuesday and Thursday. The website will go up around February 1. St. Louis is about five hours by car from Chicago, the site of the ALA annual conference. At Exec, Holzenberg and Smyth discussed the fact that ACRL's figures on revenues for the RBMS preconference at Yale do not agree with the Section's; this is being investigated.

c) 2005 Conference Program (Chicago)-- (Lacy)

(IE): Program Committee chair Lacy announced that the program, "Collecting World Cultures: African, Asian, Caribbean, and Native American Materials in Chicago Institutions," would be of broad interest both within and outside RBMS. The Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) of ACRL is co-sponsoring this program in lieu of their own and will be involved in promoting it. Both Sections will make their membership brochures available at the program. The program is also co-sponsored by the Literatures in English Section of ACRL and by the American Indian Library Association. The Chicago institutions represented are the Newberry Library, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

d) 2006 Preconference—(Reagan/Dupont)

The preconference will be in Austin, Texas, with its main site the Harry Ransom Research Center from June 20-22, 2006. Cathy Henderson and Rich Oram are chairing the Local Arrangements Committee, and Dupont is the Program Committee chair. The theme is "Museums and Libraries: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures." Working with ACRL staff, the committee has submitted an IMLS grant proposal; though preliminary feedback has been very encouraging, the outcome will not be known until July 15, 2005. The late date of notification has necessitated the creation of two separate budgets, with and without IMLS funding. The IMLS funds are intended to fund 30 scholarships, ten for minorities, honoraria and expenses for speakers, and to attract museum professionals. Without the grant, it will be necessary to raise the registration rate. Smyth commended Dupont and Reagan on their excellent work and ACRL for all the assistance it has provided toward the grant writing and the preconference in general.

e) 2006 Conference Program—(Black)

(IE): Black reported that the annual conference will be in New Orleans and that the program will be "Reimagining Special Collections." Speakers, who will include vendors and architects, are confirmed.

9. Publications

a) Publications Committee—(Lawler)

(IE): Lawler announced that the Publications Committee is completing the final stages of production of the diversity insert for the RBMS brochure and of the update of "Your Old Books." A special version of the RBMS logo has been selected for use by the winners of the Leab award and may be viewed on the RBMS website. There will be some openings on the committee after the ALA annual conference, and volunteers will be welcome. At Exec, the use of the RBMS logo by Leab award winners was discussed; winning institutions may seek permission to vary the color and size if they do not fit their promotional material. Smyth asked Lawler to send a copy of the diversity insert to Exec, which has approved the language of the insert but has yet to approve the design of the insert. Exec will vote on the diversity insert by e-mail prior to the ACRL Conference in April. Smyth also asked Lawler to forward the revised text of "Your Old Books" to Exec for review.

b) RBM—(Lawler/Clement)

RBM editor Clement was attending the ACRL Publications Committee meeting that runs simultaneously with RBMS Exec and gave his report out of agenda order. The fall issue of *RBM* features papers from the LC conference on "hidden collections" in special collections departments, and the spring issue will focus on repatriation issues. Three additional members of the Editorial Board are being proposed. Those appointments will be considered at the ACRL BOARD II meeting and, if approved, will take effect after the annual conference. New personal and institutional subscriptions are needed; there are currently 500 subscribers. Ad revenues are down for all ACRL publications; another 20 ads would bring *RBM* into the black. Wilkie asked if members of the Editorial Board had to be ACRL members; the answer was in the affirmative.

c) RBMS Newsletter—(Barton)

(IE): Jeff Barton thanked Makala for his splendid contributions as past newsletter editor and announced that Michael Forstrom, Yale University, and Mariann Hansen, Bryn Mawr, are his fellow editors. They are soliciting items for the spring issue.

d) Webmaster (Pull)

(IE): Pull has taken over from Christian Dupont after serving with Penny Welborne as assistant editors. He recommends obtaining a private domain name for RBMS and a new server location. At

Exec, Pull reported that both ACRL and ALA are evidencing a “passive desire” to migrate the RBMS web site to the ALA’s content management system. Pull recommends against this because ALA plans to migrate to a new system in the fairly near future, so it would be better to wait until that migration occurs. Exec would like to see the RBMS website moved from the Notre Dame server since the RBMS webmaster is no longer there. The Section’s stated preference is to register its own domain name, but ALA policy prohibits this.

10. Committees

a) Archivist/Records Manager—(Bregman)

Bregman reminded chairs to send print copies of their agendas and minutes to him for the archives. Chairs should receive files from the previous chair and send them to Bregman upon the expiration of their term.

b) Bibliographic Standards—(Leslie)

(IE): Leslie reported that the Delta version of Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)=DCRM(B) has been generating lively controversy; there will be a public hearing at the annual conference in Chicago on Saturday, June 25, 2005, from 5-7 PM. The thesaurus subcommittee is closing in on the selection of thesaurus software. The Joint ALCTS/ACRL Task Force on Early Printed Materials is turning its attention to the recently distributed draft of part 1 of the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* (3rd ed.), to avoid any essential conflicts between its rules and DCRM. Bib Standards will be sponsoring a full-day workshop at the 2005 Preconference in St. Louis on Descriptive Cataloging of Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Early Modern Manuscripts (AMREMM), to be taught by Gregory Pass, Jennifer MacDonald, and Susan L’Engle. The task force is also sponsoring a seminar on “Digital Initiatives and their Impact on Cataloging Departments,” moderated by BSC member Ann Copeland, featuring presentations by Nicole Boucher and Genie Guerard.

c) Budget and Development (Claassen)

(IE): Claassen reported that there is a discrepancy between ACRL’s and RBMS’s bookkeeping on the financial outcome of the Yale preconference. She advised the Section that it needs continuity in fund-raising efforts as well as permanent funding for scholarships. At Exec it was asked if there is any history and tracking of the subsequent RBMS attendance by scholarship recipients. It was suggested that the Membership and Professional Development Committee consider undertaking this project since such statistics could be useful for both evaluation and later planning efforts.

d) Conference Development—(Sahak)

(IE): Sahak reported that Halvorson, Beth Russell, and Rippley will offer a Round Table at the ACRL National Conference, “Hiring Special Collections Librarians” on April 17, 2005. The ACRL Board has approved Baltimore as the site for the 2007 preconference with Johns Hopkins University as the host institution. ALA annual will be in Washington DC that summer. Since the 2008 ALA annual conference will be in Anaheim, the Section is looking for a southern California site for the preconference that year. The 2009 preconference will be the 50th and should be celebrated accordingly. ALA will meet in Chicago that year. RBMS is also considering the possibility of an international conference for around this time.

e) Exhibition Awards—(Conway)

(IE): Three print catalogs, a brochure, and an electronic catalog have been selected as winners of the Leab Award in a closed session on Saturday, January 15. The winning institutions will be notified the week following Midwinter, and the winners will be announced on the RBMS listserve in

mid-February. On Sunday, January 16, 2005, the committee met in open session; among its activities was the final choice of a logo design available to all Leab Award winners for display on their websites or print catalogs. It was designed by former EAC member Christian Dupont and incorporates the RBMS logo (in red) with the words LEAB AWARD and the year in black, immediately beneath the logo. The design choice was sent to the RBMS Publications Committee for approval. The terms of the EAC chair and some committee members will expire after the annual conference in Chicago. Conway testified to service on this committee as demanding in terms of evaluating a large number of submissions in a short period of time but also very rewarding.

f) Membership and Professional Development—(Ellickson)

(IE): Ellickson reported that the committee rolled out the new Mentoring Program in early December 2004 and that it was greeted with great enthusiasm. It began with 15 mentors and acquired four more after the program began. As of now, 15 matches between mentors and mentees have been made, and two more would-be mentees sent in applications just prior to ALA midwinter. The committee formed a subcommittee to look into issues of virtual membership as it would relate to RBMS. The subcommittee plans to submit a draft report by June. Ellickson reminded section officers and chairs to attend the New Members' Orientation at the preconference in St. Louis; all officers and chairs attended the meeting in New Haven, and the committee hopes this will be repeated at St. Louis.

g) Nominating—(Slive)

Slive announced at Information Exchange and reiterated here that the new slate of RBMS officers is as follows: for vice-chair/chair elect, Henry F. Raine, New York Historical Society, and E. C. Schroeder, Yale University; for member-at-large, Charlotte Brown, University of California at Los Angeles, and Laura Micham, Duke University; and for secretary, Richenda Brim, Getty Research Institute, and Danette R. Pachtner, Duke University. Slive thanked the other members of the committee, Dupont and Claudia Funke, as well as the candidates who had agreed to run for office.

h) Security—(Wilkie)

(IE): Wilkie reported that two more chapters have been written for the security manual that the committee is working on. At Exec, Wilkie raised the issue of the establishment of a task force to develop joint guidelines on books and manuscripts with dubious or problematic provenance. This concern surfaced at a LIBER Conference in Lyon, France, attended by Bregman, in which the United States was singled out as central to the trafficking in books and manuscripts of dubious or problematic provenance. Dimunation stated that the problem is by no means unique to the United States. Wilkie suggested that RBMS, ABA, IFLA, SAA, and the Manuscript Society, among other organizations, work together to produce a document endorsed by all these organizations. Would one set of guidelines work for all the agencies being called on to endorse the document? Concerns were expressed that the establishment of such guidelines would require too broad an expertise in too many disciplines among too many autonomous organizations. Even producing an adequate operational definition of "dubious or problematic provenance" would be demanding. Dimunation saw the issue as one of ethics rather than procedural guidelines, and RBMS has an ethics statement. Johnson pointed out that RBMS guidelines do not normally address matters already covered by laws. Issues arising from the discussion might more profitably be pursued in a seminar or short paper. Exec voted against Wilkie's motion to establish a Task Force to Develop Joint Guidelines on books and Manuscripts with Dubious or Problematic Provenance. Speaking for Exec, Reagan suggested that the Security Committee consider developing a seminar on stolen items and, if appropriate, the production of a "guide to best practices" publication or article, which, unlike guidelines, would not have mandated five-year reviews.

i) Seminars—(Johnson)

(IE): Seminars at the 2005 preconference will include the following titles: "Digital Reproductions: Authenticity, Cataloging and the Impact of Initiatives on Cataloging Departments," "Virtual St. Louis: A Digital Urban Archives," "Redefining Rare, or, What's So Special About That Collection?," "Describing Archives: A Standard, or What do EAD, MARC, APPM, ISAD (G), EAC, and ISAAR (CPF) All Have in Common?," "Preservation Education for Special Collections Librarians," "Contemporary Issues and Initiatives Pertaining to Access in Special Collections," "Going Over to the Dark Side: Librarianship and the Book Trade," "Current Trends in Fellowships," and "Digitizing Cultural Heritage: Academic Special Collections in Partnership with Native American Communities."

11. Discussion Groups

Schroeder announced that discussion group leaders will meet for lunch at the annual conference. To cut back on meetings, the discussion groups are meeting following a rotating schedule with one discussion group either not meeting at annual or midwinter or combining its meeting with that of another discussion group. Thus Manuscripts and Other Formats did not meet at this midwinter meeting, and MARC for Special Collections will not meet at annual in Chicago. Next midwinter, Public Services is not scheduled to meet but plans to join forces with another discussion group. If so, the chair is advised to request a large enough room for the combined meeting. Slive pointed out that all the discussion group meetings at midwinter were well attended, for which accomplishment their chairs should be commended.

a) Collection Development—(Bregman)

(IE) Carolyn Doroselle-Melish reported that the participants discussed the impact of electronic resources on collection development in special collections and the housing and control of non-bibliographic objects, as well as how to deal with duplicates. At Exec, Bregman added that approximately 20 people attended this discussion group.

b) Curators and Conservators—(Teper)

(IE): Jennifer Hain Teper reported that the Curators and Conservators discussion group had a joint meeting with the ALCTS-PARS Physical Quality and Treatment Discussion Group with an attendance of 41 on January 15. Alan Puglia, Conservator for Houghton Library Collections in the Weissman Preservation Center at Harvard, discussed the creation and management of their Quick Repair Program. In 2 1/2 years, they have held 39 Quick Repair Sessions and repaired 1,015 books. The groups also discussed how curators, conservators, and preservation librarians may have to shift approaches and expectations when considering the wide range of treatment possibilities available.

c) Manuscripts and Other Formats—(Lacy)

(IE): This discussion group did not meet, following the rotation scheme for scheduling discussion group meetings. Lacy announced that her co-chair has resigned.

d) MARC for Special Collections—(Schroeder)

(IE): Schroeder reported that they discussed Marc record field 510 (bibliographic citations), when to cite a bibliography, and when to verify a citation. The group also discussed the cataloging of ephemera material and the challenges that Rare Book Cataloging staff face when they are relocated due to renovation/construction projects. Another topic was the Consortium of European Libraries (CERL), which sponsors the Hand Press Book Database. This database contains 2.5 million records for pre-1830 Europeans imprints. Access is available through RLIN, and the Consortium is looking for American libraries to contribute to their holdings.

e) Public Services—(Halvorson)

(IE): Halvorson announced that the discussion group met Saturday, January 15, with 35 people attending. They discussed the use of cameras, handheld scanners, and cell phones in reading rooms. Some participants provided copies of their policies and guidelines. The group also gave attention to the provision of assistive technology to persons with disabilities, such as visual impairment. Halvorson noted that responses to this issue appear to be relatively undeveloped in special collections. They also discussed electronic reference and bibliographic databases and primary text databases that are important for special collections work. In Chicago, this discussion group will hold a joint meeting with the RBMS MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group.

12. Liaisons

a) ACRL—(Petrowski/King)

Lynne King, Schenectady County Junior College, is the new ACRL Board liaison to RBMS. She introduced herself to the group and spoke of her enthusiasm for working with RBMS. King raised five issues. (1) She asked about RBMS involvement in the ACRL National Conference in Minneapolis. Exec informed her that RBMS is presenting a round table, as it had at the previous ACRL Conference in Charlotte. That a proposal for an RBMS panel had been rejected was also mentioned as a cause for concern; Exec asked for greater transparency in how ACRL chooses which programs to accept. A further problem is that it is difficult for many people to afford to attend the rather expensive ACRL Conferences as well as ALA midwinter meetings and annual conferences and, for many RBMS members, an RBMS preconference all in the same fiscal year. (2) King then brought up the subject of proposed increases in ACRL dues and Petrowski provided further details. ACRL is looking at a \$20 increase phased in over a two-year period. There has been no increase in ACRL dues in the past 15 years; with inflation and the drop in ad revenues for ACRL publications, the current membership dues are not covering member services. The dues increase will be on the ballot for the 2005 ACRL elections. It has been decided to also propose an increase in institutional membership dues from \$90 to \$110; there are fewer than 800 institutional members. She distributed the document "ACRL FAQ on dues." If there are additional questions, they may be addressed to Petrowski at mpetrowski@ala.org. (3) The next topic for discussion was virtual membership/attendance of meetings. ALA does not allow virtual meetings, but provision is now being made for a virtual membership component to national conferences. ACRL Bylaws require that each committee meet at the annual conference; there is no such statutory requirement for meetings at the midwinter meeting. Petrowski reported that the Women's Studies Section of ACRL is researching the matter for virtual meetings for the Division. (4) Petrowski reported that ACRL is seeking to be more accommodating to its Sections by relaxing its "no conflicts" time slots. Each Section chair has been asked to choose one ALA "no conflict" time slot to honor. ACRL Board is considering adding a two-hour meeting on Friday, in addition to the two Board meetings already scheduled. (5) ACRL plans to have more "committee forums" in which various committees or other groups meet at separate tables in large spaces to further streamline the scheduling of committee meetings. Dimunation pointed out that it can be very difficult to work effectively or even to hear and be heard in such "Tower of Babel" meeting situations. Smyth mentioned that there is an unscheduled period of time between the RBMS Program at the annual conference in Chicago and Information Exchange and suggested that King might meet with the Section at that time if she is free. King was also alerted to the discrepancy in bookkeeping concerning the RBMS preconference at Yale between the figures arrived at by ACRL and RBMS and promised to look into it.

b) ACRL Board—(Smyth/Reagan)

(IE): The Division's proposal for the first ACRL dues increase since 1989 to \$55 (\$35 for students and retirees) was discussed. Members must vote to accept this dues increase before it can take effect.

c) ACRL Sections Council—(Smyth/Reagan)

(IE): Smyth reported that the proposed dues increase and the virtual membership of committees were the main topics discussed. Sections Council supported having the dues increase phased in over a two year period.

d) ACRL Budget and Finance—(Allen)

(IE): Allen, a member of the ACRL Board of Directors and the chair of this committee, also discussed the proposal for an increase in ACRL membership dues to be phased in over a two-year period. Though not a part of the original planning, it was decided to raise institutional membership dues for the approximately 800 institutional members. Allen was pleased to announce that the draft budget for FY06 includes the highest level of scholarship support for the RBMS preconference ever included.

e) ACRL Membership (Ellickson)

There was no report.

f) ACRL Professional Development—(Raine for Ellickson)

Raine said that the committee is revising its charge.

g) ACRL Publications—(Lawler/Clement)

Lawler announced that this committee meets at the same time as Exec, and Clement gave his report upon arriving. See agenda item 9.b.

h) ALCTS/PARS—(Brown/Paulson)

(IE): Paulson reported on the two organizations' common interest in issues arising from the "Hidden Collections" conference and about the virtual membership of meetings.

i) ARL Task Force on Special Collections—(Jones)

No report was given.

j) GODORT/MAGERT—(Gillis)

(IE): Gillis discussed digitization projects of government documents by LEXIS/NEXIS and Readex. The Committee is involved in prioritizing resources to be digitized and is also at work on a book on serial sets.

k) IFLA—(Allen)

Allen announced that IFLA will be in Oslo, and that its Rare Books And Manuscripts Preconference will be held on August 11-12, 2005, at Copenhagen on the curatorship of cultural materials.

l) SHARP—(Matthiessen)

No report was given.

13. Old Business

a) Establishment of Task Force on Core Competencies for Special Collections Librarians

The ARL Special Collections Task Force is seeking input from RBMS on the framing of core competencies for the profession. Belanger observed that, if RBMS does not provide this, some other group will, and that RBMS is the most qualified organization to do it. Exec has established a Task Force of Katherine Beam, chair, Jackie Dooley, Dimunation, Halvorson, and Slive to address this issue. The task force's charge may be found in the Exec minutes of the 2004 annual conference in Orlando. It will present a plan of work, including a timeline, at the annual conference in Chicago.

14. New Business

a) ALA Ahead 2010 Draft Strategic Plan—feedback from RBMS

ALA requested that this draft document be discussed within its Divisions and their Sections. Johnson mentioned that the work of the Seminars Committee is directly applicable to the stated ALA goal of providing the highest quality educational projects for librarians and staff by means of RBMS's educational and continued learning activities through the seminars presented at preconferences. Johnson further suggested that RBMS send some of its seminars or workshops on the road by presenting them in venues outside the usual RBMS preconferences or programs at ALA annual conferences, such as ACRL National Conferences. RBMS already has a precedent for this: the Rare Serials Cataloging Workshop was presented at several venues. She also recommended applying for an IMLS grant to finance going on the road with relevant seminars. Smyth commended this suggestion, saying that the ACRL staff is very supportive of the preparation of IMLS grant proposals.

b) Research priorities: response to ACRL Research Committee survey

The ACRL Research Committee is seeking input on the prioritization of its research activities from the Sections, more specifically concerning the theoretical side of library-related research agendas. Paulson suggested user studies. Wilkie said that from the Securities Committee viewpoint, he would like to see studies that document what librarians consider to be the basic definitions and issues surrounding the concept of library security. Brown mentioned research needed to prepare the new Core Competencies Task Force to approach its charge. Grob suggested an investigation of the criteria used to set up rare book classes in library and information science schools, as well as effective recruitment into the profession. Smyth invited those present to e-mail additional suggestions for research to her or Exec as they occur.

c) Joint Statement on Access to Original Materials—(Gewirtz)

Gewirtz announced that the joint ALA/SAA document is in need of revision. The American Association of Museums is also involved in this process. Jonathan Denlo, SAC liaison to SAA, and Kathleen Bethel, liaison to the American Association of Museums, will play major roles in the revision. Gewirtz attended the SAC meeting at midwinter; that committee is eager to review and revise the Statement. RBMS formulated the original version and SAA signed off on it. Gewirtz asked for guidance on the level and degree of RBMS participation on this revision. Exec agreed that RBMS should be responsible for framing the content and language of that statement and plans to form a task force to carry out that work.

d) Resolution on Gerald R. Wager—(Dimunation)

Dimunation introduced the following Resolution for the RBMS Board's approval in honor of the late Gerald R. Wager of the Library of Congress:

WHEREAS Gerald R. Wager was a long-time member of the Rare Book and Manuscripts Section of ACRL/ALA, and
WHEREAS he was a valued and cherished member of the Library of Congress staff as Head of the Reference and Reader Services Section of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, as Team Leader of the Rare Book Cataloging Team in the Special Materials Cataloging Division, as Senior Cataloger and Trainer for the Cooperative Cataloging Team, as Facilitator for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, as Senior Cataloger for the Religion, Philosophy, and Psychology Team, as a member of the Whole Book Cataloging Project, and as a Slavic Cataloger for the Shared Cataloging Division, and

WHEREAS Jerry will always remain as a dear colleague and will be remembered for his genuine compassion, for his playful, dry wit, for his love of music and the arts, for his extraordinary facility with languages, and for his erudition in Rare Books, and

WHEREAS Jerry achieved professional distinction as a consummate Rare Book Cataloger, as an accomplished Manager and Public Services Librarian, and as a thoughtful, dedicated and loyal member of this Section,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the entire of Rare Book and Manuscripts Section, celebrate the life of our good friend, remember his contributions to the profession and to his colleagues, and extend our deepest sympathy to his partner, Paul Frank, and his friends and family and note his passing with deep sadness.

The Board unanimously endorsed the above Resolution.

Smyth adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.

Submitted by John Cullars, RBMS Secretary
February 15, 2005