

Minutes from Annual 2000 Publications Committee Meeting

RBMS Publications Committee
Minutes, ALA Annual, Chicago, IL
Saturday, July 9, 2000, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Members present: Margaret Nichols (Cornell University; Chair), Lisa Browar (Indiana University; ex officio), Christian Dupont (University of Notre Dame; ex officio), Deborah Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library), Marvin Taylor (New York University; ex officio), Priscilla Thomas (Dallas Public Library; ex officio) Members absent: Brad Westbrook (University of California at San Diego), Everett Wilkie (ADT Security Systems; ex officio) Visitors: Julia Blakely (Folger Shakespeare Library), Darren Callahan (Southern Illinois University), Tim Johnson (University of Minnesota), Jeffrey Makala (Wesleyan University), Diana Smith (Yale University; recorder), Abby Tallmer (Forbes Magazine Collection), Manon Theroux (Yale University)

1. Housekeeping: membership - Nichols

New Publications Committee members, whose terms began after ALA, include Abby Tallmer, Diana Smith, Judy Harvey Sahak, and the new Webmaster Christian Dupont. Brad Westbrook's term ended with ALA. Continuing members are Leslie (one more year), Nichols (two more years), and Thomas (unsure). Nichols asked that all members send her their home and work addresses, email, phone and fax to mnrl@cornell.edu.

In its Midwinter 2000 report on a proposed restructuring of RBMS, an Executive Committee subcommittee had suggested that the Publications Committee rework its charge. Nichols suggested that the Publications Committee take up this issue at Midwinter 2001.

2. RBM Award - Nichols

At Midwinter 2000, the Executive Committee had appointed a task force composed of RBM co-editor Taylor, RBM Award Committee chair Timothy Murray, and Publications Committee Chair Nichols to decide the future of the RBM Award. The task force was planning to gather at the end of the Publications Committee meeting. [It did so, and it decided to recommend that the award be discontinued. It presented this recommendation at the Executive Committee meeting a few days later; the recommendation was approved, and the award discontinued.]

3. Newsletter - Thomas

Thomas announced that she had completed work on her last newsletter and that Manon Theroux and Darren Callahan would now be co-editors. They are looking for assistant editors. Responding to the Committee's discussion at Midwinter 2000 of the decline in the quality of the paper and images

in the Fall 1999 newsletter, Thomas emphasized that the paper for the newsletter should always be of good quality, and noted that there had been no warning from ACRL that the paper selection would be changed. Fortunately, she reported, the paper quality had subsequently improved in the Spring 2000 newsletter. Dupont said he would make an announcement on RBMS-L when the newsletter is available on the Web.

4. Website - Dupont

Dupont discussed the need for feedback and direction in rearranging the site and making it easier to maintain. He advocated using frames with a template for a standard header and footer, keeping the coding of reports in a simple format, and putting a search engine on the page. There was discussion about rearranging by topic, with a prominent link to "Your Old Books" to address the concerns of people who have taken to e-mailing Dupont with questions about their rare books. Dupont suggested tracking how people use the site, and it was agreed that he summarize his findings for the committee in a simple report. Nichols brought up the ACRL directive that all ACRL Web publications need links to the ALA copyright page and disclaimer and need to display the ACRL logo. There was a lengthy discussion about the need to keep the Website up-to-date with minutes, and whether it is the Webmaster's duty to chase down minutes, and how that might be done most easily. Browar suggested approaching the Executive Committee with the recommendation that the minutes for open meetings be put up on the Web. She also suggested that a recommendation be made to the Executive Committee concerning the format of archived minutes. Dupont also asked about establishing a graphic presence on the site, given that there's no logo, which led directly to the next item on the agenda.

5. RBMS logo and brochure - Westbrook

In the absence of Westbrook, Nichols led the discussion about the logo and brochure. Nichols stated that the brochure designer was mostly done, but was held up by the lack of response from the Committee on the brochure and the logo. Since Westbrook's term on the Committee was ending, Nichols said she would take over as the contact person with the designer on the brochure and logo. Browar suggested Dawn Mueller, the ACRL designer who redesigned RBM. It was decided to get Dawn to do the logo, and then give it to the brochure designer and move forward from there. Discussion of what the logo should look like ensued (no open books, no gothic lettering, multipurpose--for newsletter and for the Web). The discussion then returned to Dupont's Website graphic presence question. It was decided that Dawn should contact Dupont with the type font she was using for the logo and he would model the Web site on that.

6. RBM - Browar/Taylor

Browar and Taylor announced that the first issue of RBM has gone out, subscriptions have increased, and they are working on the next two issues. The next issue will concern cultural heritage. Browar and Taylor reported that the paper in the first issue was supposed to be better, and the print job was sloppy. They've selected much heavier stock for the next issue. They also stated that they had a problem with their copy editor, but think that won't be a problem next time, and that the book

trade seems to be happy with the more inclusionary approach.

7. RBMS-L - Wilkie

Thomas reported for Wilkie that the RBMS-L list is holding steady at 500 subscribers. A question arose as to whether the list is archived, and Thomas said she would look into this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Smith