

Minutes from Midwinter 2004 Publications Committee Meeting

RBMS Publications Committee
Minutes, Midwinter Meeting
Jan. 10, 2004

Members present: Martha Lawler, Chair, Rick Clement, John Cullars, Larry Creider, Christian Dupont, Michael Forstrom, Jeffery Makala, Judy Harvey Sahak, Everett Wilkie

Absent: Laura Clark Brown, Kenneth Lavender, Karen Rasmussen, Penny Welbourne

Guests: Julie Grob, Sue Walker, Kelly Wolfe.

Called to order at 2:15 p.m.

The minutes from the 2003 Annual Meeting Committee Session were approved.

Christian Dupont discussed three proposals to be presented to the Executive Committee dealing with the duties of the RBMS Webmaster, the RBMS Logo, and the desirability of obtaining an internet domain name for the RBMS website. The texts of the proposals as presented to the committee are available at:

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The first proposal would revise the RBMS manual so that the RBMS Web Editor would be appointed by the Section Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect at the recommendation of the chair of the Publications Committee for a period of two years with the duties of maintaining the section website. The Web editor would appoint one or more assistant web editors who would serve with the Web editor. One of them might become the next Web editor. The Web editor would be an ex-officio member of the Publications Committee, while the assistant Web editors would not need to be Publications Committee members but could be. The Web editor would be responsible for developing guidelines to content creators who would be responsible for communicating postings and maintenance of the content.

Discussion of the proposal was favorable, with suggestions largely limited to the notion that perhaps the Web editor might not serve two-year terms that could be renewed once, but that the position be an open-ended ex-officio position. The committee agreed that both possibilities would be presented to Exec.

The second proposal stated policies for the use and distribution for the RBMS logo. The logo consists of both the block letter "mark" containing the letters "RBMS" and the associated label stating the official name of the section and its affiliation with ACRL and ALA. Since the logo exists in files, someone needs to be responsible for their use and providing some protection for the files. The committee thought that the proposal was excellent, but there ensued extensive discussion about the desirability of registering the logo as a trademark. Since the cost would be about \$300, take a year or more, would create another layer of bureaucracy and the process would need to be repeated every time the logo was redesigned, the consensus was that such an action is not necessary. The logo is protected by copyright, so that the only benefit of trademark registration would be in case of the necessity of legal action against unauthorized use, which all

felt to be unlikely.

The third proposal requests that Exec authorize the creation of an Internet domain name for the RBMS web site. This will allow the address to remain the same when the web editor or his/her location changes. Since the site has had to migrate twice and since institutional firewalls make it increasingly difficult to maintain a web site at another institution, the registration of a domain name would save much grief and frustration and be relatively inexpensive. The committee enthusiastically endorsed this proposal as well.

The name rbms.info was suggested.

Everett Wilkie presented a report on the RBMS discussion list. The membership is about 500, although a number of people subscribe before and unsubscribe after ALA meetings. There was some discussion of "problem postings," and Wilkie pointed out that he has no power to do anything about them. Walter Henry, who keeps the ExLibris archives, will mount the RBMS archives on his site. This will make things such as committee rosters and minutes permanently accessible. There was some discussion about whether the openness of the archives might be a problem, but Wilkie pointed out that the archives can currently be downloaded by anyone in a text file. Berkeley, which hosts the RBMS list would like to move from Listproc software to Mailman. Wilkie will experiment before he makes any change.

Jeffery Makala, editor of the RBMS newsletter, reported on RBMS newsletter. The Fall issue was on the RBMS website. There was some discussion of the desirability of statistics on the usage of the web version. Makala will rotate off the editorship of the newsletter and be succeeded this summer by Michael Forstrom of Yale and Jeff Barton of Columbia, currently assistant editors.

Rick Clement, editor of RBM, discussed RBM. While most of the editorial board has agreed to remain in place under the new editor, he would welcome more members since they are well below their maximum. The next two issues of the journal are full, so Clement is working on the Spring 2005 issue. He has introduced a few small design changes in the journal, notably lessening the amount of white space in the journal. He also reported that while all the ACRL journals have experienced a decrease in advertising revenue over the last year, RBM is down the least at 26%.

Christian Dupont led the discussion on Your Old Books. The text is basically ready, but work remains to be done on the Internet links for the document. There was general agreement that the revised text should be made available on the Internet as soon as possible. Dupont and Creider will remain on the subcommittee, which will be chaired by Martha Lawler. They will work to get the text approved by RBMS Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting. Dupont will post the current draft on the RBMS Web site and also post an announcement on the RBMS discussion list to invite comment from section members. Current thought is to print sections 1-22, leaving the Internet links to be maintained on the web version only. Rick Clement offered to help with the technical aspects of getting the document in print.

Julie Grob, chair of the RBMS Diversity Action Plan Implementation Task Force made two requests from the Publications Committee. The first is a request that the Committee work on an insert on diversity that will be placed in the RBMS brochures. After considerable discussions on the practical issues, it was agreed that Martha Lawler would work with Julie

Grob to develop wording for the insert and to investigate how to get the inserts physically placed in the existing stock of brochures. The insert is to be ready for Exec to look at Annual. The second request is that the RBMS web page include more information on the Sections' actions supporting diversity, in particular providing a button on the main menu. The group agreed to make the button and to include such things as diversity scholarships to Pre-Conference in the News section of the web page.

Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.