

RBMS Publications Committee Midwinter Meeting
Draft Minutes

Saturday, 21 January 2006
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Hyatt Regency, Navarro Room
San Antonio

Present: Mike Kelly, Chair; Rick Clement, Larry Creider, Eileen Heeran, Rachel Howarth (ex-officio), Will La Moy, John Pull, Penny Welbourne (Members); Marcia Reed, Ryan Hildebrand, Tom Bolze, Chris Smith (Guests)

After a round of introductions and the approval of the minutes from the Chicago Annual meeting, the committee reviewed old business/updates.

Your Old Books: the revised text for YOB has been under review by the RBMS Executive Committee. When the revisions are approved Chris Smith, an incoming committee member, will work with John Pull to produce a new web version. A new printed edition will be issued as soon as possible.

RBM: Rick Clement reported on the Spring issue made up of papers presented at the 2005 Preconference in St. Louis. Eric Holzenberg, Preconference Program Planning Chair, is acting as guest editor. Thanks to a generous grant from John Hoover of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, this issue will be approximately 50% larger than usual.

RBMS Newsletter: Jeff Barton reported by e-mail that he and Michael Forstrom will cycle off as co-editors of the newsletter after the Spring issue. Marianne Hansen will be elevated from assistant editor to editor leaving two openings for new assistant editor. Jeff also noted that section members must be encouraged to submit items to the newsletter in a timely fashion. There has been some difficulty in recent years extracting content from the membership.

RBMS Electronic Discussion List: Everett Wilkie reported by e-mail that the changeover to the new RBMS list under the ala.org umbrella was problematic, but ultimately successful. Everett retains his role as moderator of the list which has 326 subscribers as of 2/10/2006.

New Business: all of the new business discussed by the committee revolved around the needs of the section for a stable web presence and our relationship to the larger ALA web site. John Pull, section webmaster, reported on the current status of the ALA CMS (Content Management System). A new CMS is to be adopted soon, though no firm timeline exists for implementation. Even if the new CMS is implemented with minimal technical problems or frustrations, the model for the ALA site is geared towards creating "online communities" for ALA members. Committee rosters, discussion lists, agendas and minutes may be supported by the new system, but the activities of RBMS extend far beyond these limited housekeeping services.

Mike Kelly led a discussion of the needs of the section in relation to both the functionality required of the RBMS web site and the role of the Publications Committee in supporting that functionality. A number of existing projects were discussed—among them the Exhibition Awards web site, the Bibliographic Standards Committee's thesauri and other cataloger tools that the section must maintain. In addition, new projects such as the Seminars Database created by Arvid

Nelson, will require ongoing support and technical expertise currently lacking in the Publications Committee.

The most immediate need discussed by the committee is that of a stable URL for the Bibliographic Standards thesauri which currently reside on a machine at the University of Ohio. John Pull is to establish a URL under the "rbms.info" domain name that will point to the thesauri wherever they end up finding a permanent home. This is an example of a resource produced by RBMS that is heavily used by people around the world who are not ALA members. Thus, housing this tool inside the password-protected ALA web site is not a viable option.

After much discussion of web business, Larry Creider and Eileen Heeran voiced concern that the Committee not lose sight of the world of print publications. They volunteered to compile lists of resources about editorial practice that might be of use to future members of the committee and the section at large.

Minutes drafted by Mike Kelly, 10 February 2006.

[Source: RBMS Electronic Discussion List, Feb. 14, 2006]