

DRAFT RBMS Conference Development Committee
ALA Annual Meeting (Washington, DC) * Sunday 27 June 2010 DRAFT

Members Present

Elizabeth Johnson (chair), Martha Conway (recording), Dawn Childress , Erika Dowell, Ellen Ellickson, Jane Gillis, Ruth Hughes, Maggie Kopp, Mary Lacy, Deborah J. Leslie, R. Arvid Nelson, Henry Raine, Nina Schneider, Steven Smith, Elaine Smyth

Others Present

Lois Fischer Black, Pat Bozeman, Danielle Culpepper, Eric Holzenberg, Mike Kelly, Margaret Nichols, Stephen Skuce, Heather Smedberg, Aislinn Sotelo

Welcome and Introductions

Johnson welcomed the group and we introduced ourselves.

Selection of Recorder

Conway volunteered to serve as recorder.

Approval of Agenda

We modified and then approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: 2010 Midwinter Meeting

We made minor corrections to and then approved the minutes of the 2010 midwinter meeting.

Conference Programs: 2011 (New Orleans LA)

Ellen Ellickson, Chair, 2011 Conference Program Planning Committee

Ellickson reported that the topic of the RBMS program at ALA annual in 2011 centers on tough economic times and the challenges they present for special collections in a large university library, a small college library, and an independent, privately-supported research library. The program will take the form of a moderated discussion; questions from the audience will be invited and encouraged.

Preconference: 2010 (Philadelphia PA)

Ruth Hughes, Co-Chair, 2010 Preconference Local Arrangements Committee

Hughes shared, and we discussed, the following highlights from the 51st annual RBMS Preconference:

- ❖ Attendance totaled 476 registered attendees (354 participants, 72 booksellers). 91 of the registered attendees were first-time attendees.
- ❖ Local arrangements were hugely successful thanks to the generosity and helpfulness that was demonstrated by so many volunteers.
- ❖ Twitter tweets were plentiful and generally favorable. Childress suggested asking for an “official” tweeter at some or all sessions at future preconferences.
- ❖ Free Wi-Fi was available at most venues, although some attendees did not learn the appropriate passwords.
- ❖ Twice as many guests showed up at the new members’ social than had indicated would attend. We were reminded that the new members’ social is -- or at least was -- intended to be an informal/unofficial preconference event, organized by the Membership and Professional Development Committee. It was suggested that it might be time to make it a more official preconference event. Childress volunteered to work with the Membership and Professional Development Committee to find out what they want to do about the ever-increasing popularity of the new members’ social , and if and how we can help.

Preconference: 2011 (Baton Rouge LA)

Steve Smith, Chair, 2011 Preconference Program Planning Committee

Elaine Smyth, Chair, 2011 Preconference Local Arrangements Committee

Smith informed us that the theme of the preconference is “In the Hurricane’s Eye: Challenges to Collecting in the 21st Century.” There will be more possibilities for simultaneous sessions than is usually the case (due to the preconference venue) and a mix of session types is planned. There has been some discussion about including a “pecha kucha” session. A “typical” pecha kucha (pronounced "peh-cha koo-cha") event consists of approximately a dozen presentations. Each presenter has 20 slides, each of which is shown for 20 seconds. In this way each presenter has just 6 minutes and 40 seconds to explain his or her idea/topic before the next presenter takes the stage.

Proposed plenary session topics include assessment, disaster preparedness and recovery, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage materials, and regional/small “niche” collections. The preconference website will be made available sometime in the fall. A friendly reminder about the need to maintain and update what is for some time a tricky mix of “tentative” and “final” information was proffered, as was a suggestion that survey monkey (or something similar) might be useful as a way to get a preliminary head count that could be used to make room assignments for sessions.

ACRL Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee Program (ALA Annual 2011)

We agreed (immediately before meeting, via email) to co-sponsor (in name only) the ACRL Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee’s “Cultural Competencies: From Development to Action” program at ALA annual in 2011.

Preconference: 2012

We discussed, and agreed to forward to the Executive Committee for approval, a proposal from Lynda Claassen (Mandeville Special Collections Library, UCSD) for hosting the 2012 Preconference.

We discussed the difficulty that some RBMS members have on Friday afternoon, when the preconference ends and ALA commitments begin. It was suggested that we consider (1) scheduling the preconference for Monday - Thursday instead of Tuesday - Friday or (2) ending the preconference with an evening event on Thursday. It was pointed out that there is anecdotal and other "evidence" suggesting that many would consider a shorter preconference a good -- even very good -- idea. Smyth let us know that shortening the preconference by ending it with an evening event on Thursday is an option that will be considered for Baton Rouge.

Conference Program: 2010

Nina Schneider, Chair, 2010 Conference Program Planning Committee

Titled "To Catch a Thief: Cataloging and the Security of Special Collections," the program takes place on Sunday from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. It features four speakers: Travis McDade (author, *The Book Thief: The True Crimes of Daniel Spiegelman*); Mark Dimunation (Chief, Rare Books and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress); Bonnie Magness-Gardiner (Director, FBI Art Theft Program); and Jennifer Schaffner (Program Officer, OCLC/RLG Partnership). The program will be recorded. We don't yet know if and how the audio will be made available. One of the speakers was unwilling to sign an agreement about the recording and availability of his/her presentation.

Preconference: 2013

We have a proposal from the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis). We will issue a call for additional proposals for consideration at our midwinter meeting.

Seminars

Erika Dowell, Chair, Seminars Committee

Dowell reported that the incoming co-chairs are Lynne Thomas and Shannon Supple. The following topics have been proposed:

Assessment (in public services)

Assessment (of collections)

Assessment (and web 2.0 initiatives)

Cataloging and security (follow-up to 2010 Conference Program "To Catch a Thief")

Hidden collections (in small libraries with limited resources)

Next-generation catalogs

Digitization on demand (patron requests for)

Collaborative collection development

Borrowing and lending special collections material

Best practices for online exhibits and printed catalogs

RDA (Resource Description and Access)

Old Business

Web Traffic (2009 Preconference Digital Content)

Nelson informed us that the website is averaging about 250 visits per month. It is not clear how many of these include clicking on content (for viewing or listening). It was suggested that we could and/or should more actively promote the availability of this digital content, perhaps by making all digital content available on a single site as to on multiple sites. Johnson will follow up with Mary Ellen Davis (ACRL) and with Nelson.

Manual Revisions

Johnson briefed us on the lack of progress regarding needed revisions to the RBMS Preconference Planning Manual. Several changes are needed, especially in the “timeline,” “sponsorship,” and “budget” sections. Updating the manual is usually the responsibility of the outgoing chair of the Conference Development Committee. We discussed briefly the advantages of transforming the manual into a wiki and/or using digress.it (a WordPress plugin that offers paragraph-level commenting in the margins of a text) to maintain and update the manual. Johnson will work with Tory Ondra (ACRL) on the needed revisions and on a plan for sharing information from one year to the next for preconference planners.

Questionnaire/Survey (Future of the Preconference)

We discussed briefly whether or not there is still a need for the “future of the preconference” survey. Dowell (as incoming chair of the Conference Development Committee) will move it forward (or not).

New Business

Regional Workshops

Two workshops are in the works: Latin for Rare Materials Catalogers: Friday October 22 at the Lilly Library (Indiana University) and Building Collections: Acquiring Materials and Working with the Antiquarian Book Trade: In February in conjunction with the San Francisco Antiquarian Book, Print, & Paper Fair

The Regional Workshops Committee is preparing a Regional Workshops Planning Manual with checklists, timelines, and instructions regarding committee, host institution, RBMS, and ACRL responsibilities. Noting that there will not be an RBMS program at the ACRL National Conference (to be held in Philadelphia March 30 - April 2, 2011) it was suggested that we consider offering workshop at the 2013 event.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.