

RBMS Conference Development Committee

ALA Annual Meeting

Sunday, 26 June 2011, 8 -10am

Marriott New Orleans – La Galerie 5

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Pat Bozeman, Danielle Culpepper, Erika Dowell, Ellen Ellickson, Jane Gillis, Ruth Hughes, Mike Kelly, Mary Lacy, Deborah J. Leslie, Maggie Ragnow, Henry Raine, Nina Schneider, Elaine Smyth, Shannon Supple.

Guests Present: James P. Ascher, Nicole Bouche, Lynda Claassen, Eric Holzenberg, Elizabeth Johnson, Arvid Nelsen, Margaret Nichols, Jessica Pigza,

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Erika Dowell called the meeting to order at 8am, and attendees introduced themselves.

2. Selection of recorder

Danielle Culpepper volunteered to serve as recorder.

3. Approval of Agenda

The committee approved the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

The committee also approved the minutes of the 2011 Midwinter Meeting.

5. Preconference 2011 (Baton Rouge)

Elaine Smyth reported on the success of the 2011 Preconference in Baton Rouge, which had 302 individual registrations and 42 booksellers in attendance. The venue seemed to provide good spaces for meetings, and the widely varied programs seemed very popular. Evaluations from the preconference, however, were not yet available to provide further feedback. The committee had a goal of \$29k in fundraising for this preconference, and in fact raised \$54k; however, most of the extra funds were used in unforeseen expenses.

The group discussed briefly whether future preconference planners would need to raise as much money. In the case of Baton Rouge, the Thursday night reception remained tentative until additional money could be raised beyond the initial goal of \$29k. Fundraising needs to be an ongoing concern and a concerted effort on the part of planners, but it was acknowledged that some locations would have more potential supporters than others.

We also discussed the distinction between different presentation formats at the preconference, and in particular the difference between case studies, short papers, and seminars. Although seminars are meant to have a stronger overarching theme than other formats, and are meant to teach their audience, it was conceded that sometimes there is little distinction between the various types of programming. It was agreed that seminars liaisons should continue to work closely with panel organizers to remind them of the

teaching focus of these presentations, and that the seminars committee should work more closely in future with the program planning committee to discuss appropriate continuities or distinctions between seminars, discussion sections, short papers, and case studies. Suggesting that more attendees are concerned with program ideas or content than specific format, it was suggested that the program book should be arranged in future by session time slot rather than by format.

The group also considered concerns of some booksellers who arrive and set up on Monday, and then sit around a near-empty showroom on Tuesday waiting until most attendees arrive for the evening reception. Could there be a way for them to set up Tuesday for the reception, and spill over to Wednesday (the first full day of the preconference) so that they can reach a wider audience? Another suggestion was to have a two-hour session as part of the program where attendees are invited to some event in the showcase, such as a talk by a bookseller about the antiquarian book trade, or a panel of booksellers and librarians. 2012 preconference planners indicated that they were considering moving the booksellers' showcase to Wednesday with the ABAA reception that evening to make attendance more worth the time of the booksellers.

6. Future Preconferences

A. 2012 San Diego (ALA in Anaheim)

Shannon Supple, Nina Schneider, and Mike Kelly shared the following concerning the 2012 preconference:

The conference theme will be "Futures!" (with no subtitle). The program will feature a mixture of formats, including discussion sessions immediately following the plenaries. Planners are also considering a "technology petting zoo" alongside the bookseller showcase, providing vendors and publishers unaffiliated with the ABAA a chance to show their goods. The preconference will be based at the Westin Hotel in San Diego.

B. 2013 Minneapolis (ALA in Chicago)

Arvid Nelsen reported that many local groups are have expressed interest in the preconference, and that he is narrowing down the venues and tours on offer. Nelsen is hopeful for co-sponsorships; it was suggested he look at the broader region for sponsors, and not just the immediate area.

C. 2014 TBD (ALA in Las Vegas)

No proposals have been submitted yet to host a preconference preceding the 2014 ALA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. We discussed the pros and cons of hosting a hotel-based preconference in Las Vegas, drawing from regional institutions to serve as a multi-state local arrangements committee; in this case, it might be appropriate to allow the host institutions the opportunity to host their own presentation to showcase their own collections. Another suggestion was to contact possible institutions in Salt Lake City to see if they had interest in hosting the preconference. Finally, we also considered whether on this occasion to host a preconference separate in time and space from the ALA meeting,

perhaps even at an international site (although this idea brought on discussion of the complexities and difficulties of hosting the conference in a foreign country).

7. Conference Programs

A. 2011 New Orleans

There was no report.

B. 2012 Anaheim

Mike Kelly reported the following concerning the 2012 Conference Program:

The conference panel at ALA 2012 will be on “Bibliographical Futures,” and will feature speakers David Whitesell, David Vander Meulen, and James P. Ascher. Organizers hope to appeal to a wide audience, and to make an appeal for the physical book. They are in discussions with the Bibliographical Society of America and the Clark Library for possible sponsorship of the session.

It was noted that RBMS is no longer guaranteed a program in the ACRL slot at the ALA annual meeting. Stronger proposals with speakers lined up and proposal forms completed correctly stand a much better chance of success.

C. 2013 Chicago

There was no report.

8. Old Business

A. Preconference Manual Revisions

Elizabeth Johnson reported on the revisions of the preconference manual. She had accepted changes from Tory Ondrla to reflect updates in ACRL, and had addressed the previous comments of some RBMS members. Areas where more information is needed include a policy on audio-recording RBMS programs, and the relationship between the web committee and the local arrangements committee concerning the website. Johnson anticipates the manual revisions will be completed by the end of summer.

B. Regional Workshops Committee

Jane Gillis reported that two workshops were held this year, earning \$1,440 for ACRL. Two future workshops are being planned: Cataloging with Latin to be held at the Library of Congress or the Folger Shakespeare Library in the fall, and a spring workshop to coincide with the New York Book Fair, possibly repeating at the Grolier Club E.C. Schroeder’s and Dan Slive’s workshop, “Building Collections: Acquiring Materials and Working with the Antiquarian Book Trade,” from this year. Ideas being considered for future workshops included New Online Dictionaries and How Catalogers Use Them to Catalog; Cataloging German; the Diversity Toolkit; and Ephemera. The committee has asked the ACRL Friends for \$1,000 to be used for 10 scholarships. According to the official charge of the committee, only workshops that have been previously held at RBMS are eligible for consideration as regional workshops.

Jane indicated that more complete information concerning workshops would go onto the website so that people would know what is involved in hosting a workshop.

Although conference workshops are under the purview of the programs committee, they do not always logically seem to fit with other conference planning. We discussed possibly reworking the Regional Workshops Committee to take responsibility for conference workshop planning as well to provide for a continuing education program for members across various levels. The group discussed submitting a proposal to the executive committee to form one Workshops Committee, chaired by Jane Gillis, with liaisons from this committee, to handle all online, regional, and conference workshops.

9. New Business

A. Draft Request for Preconference Site Proposals

Erika Dowell reported that a request for proposals would be announced and distributed by email once each year, and a form could also be available online with a link to the conference planning manual. It was agreed that the form should clarify the type of support required (e.g., financial), and should indicate that the preconference “usually but not always takes place immediately preceding” the ALA annual meeting. Anyone submitting a proposal should feel free to be in touch with the committee chair to review a draft proposal. Finally, Erika asked members to forward any comments to her concerning the form.

B. Policy and procedure for audio-visual recording of pre-conference events.

Erika Dowell reported that the committee was prepared to propose that the executive council appoint a joint task force from members of the publications, conference development, and publications committees to review practices concerning audio-visual recordings at RBMS programming, and to present a report to the executive committee at the next midwinter meeting.

C. Thanks

Thanks from the whole group to Erika Dowell for her tenure as chair of conference development! Mike Kelly will appointed her successor in the coming weeks.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 10am.