

RBMS Conference Development Committee

ALA Midwinter Meeting (San Diego CA) * Sunday 9 January 2011

Members Present

Patricia Bozeman, Dawn Childress , Martha O'Hara Conway (recording), Danielle Culpepper, Erika Dowell (chair), Jane Gillis, Maggie Kopp, Mary Lacy, Maggie Ragnow, Ellen Ellickson, Ruth Hughes, Mike Kelly, Deborah Leslie, Henry Raine, Nina Schneider, Elaine Smyth, Shannon Supple

Members Not Present

John Overholt, Steven Escar Smith, Lynne Thomas

Others Present

Lynda Claassen, Emily Epstein, Hjordis Halverson, Eric Holzenberg, Elizabeth Johnson, Arvid Nelsen, Margaret Nichols, Tory Ondrla

Welcome and Introductions

Erika Dowell welcomed the group and we introduced ourselves.

Selection of Recorder

Martha Conway volunteered to serve as recorder.

Approval of Agenda

We approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: 2010 Annual Meeting

We made one minor correction to and then approved the minutes of the 2010 annual meeting.

Preconference 2010 (Philadelphia) Evaluations

Deborah Leslie shared the following from the preconference evaluations:

- Attendance: largest to date (419 attendees)
- Earnings: \$35,321 (half of this goes to RBMS for scholarships, etc.)
- Response rate (evaluations): 52%

Overall the evaluations were extremely positive, with good ratings and positive comments surrounding a number of issues including plenary sessions and seminars (including the balance between the two), local arrangements, and the booksellers' showcase. Some participants expressed concerns about the booksellers' showcase (too crowded, no signs, food and drink in too-close proximity to booksellers' material). It was surprising to some of us that the booksellers themselves do not share these concerns; they know what to expect and prepare accordingly. It was suggested that at future preconferences we could do more to encourage attendees visit the showcase during the day -- it is a day-long event -- in addition to during/at the reception.

We discussed briefly the distribution of information from the preconference evaluations and agreed that it would be a good idea to share the non-comment data on our website.

We also discussed the “How did you learn about this Preconference?” question. Although we agreed that it really means “How did you [first] learn about this Preconference?” it isn’t clear if the question is asking about the preconference itself/in general or about the details of the given preconference. It was suggested that if we change the evaluation questions in any way we do so with an eye toward keeping the data comparable across time.

We agreed that the preconference postcard, although it is expensive to produce and doesn’t always arrive in a timely fashion, is still an important component of our publicity/advertising strategy, especially for those RBMS members who are not on the RBMS email list and/or do not go to the RBMS website.

Preconference 2011 (Baton Rouge) Local Arrangements

Elaine Smyth shared the following regarding local arrangements for the 2011 Preconference:

The conference hotel is the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. Rooms will be available for \$139/night. Three workshops and several all-day tours will be offered on Tuesday. Wednesday features Restaurant Night and Thursday’s events include an indoor picnic supper at the Rural Life Museum. Comfortable, reasonably-priced bus service for the 1 and 1/2 hour trip from Baton Rouge to New Orleans will be available to interested attendees.

Preconference 2011 (Baton Rouge) Program Planning

Henry Raine reported the following regarding the program for the 2011 Preconference:

Four plenary sessions on the following topics are planned: Cultural Stewardship, Regional Collections, Assessment, and Preservation. Three workshops (on Assessment, Fundraising, and Oral History) will be offered. Additional offerings include seminars (eight offered across two time slots), discussion sessions (five offered across two time slots), and two short-paper sessions. Three workshops (on Assessment, Fundraising, and Oral History) will be offered

We discussed options for ensuring that many of the sessions are recorded. We don’t know how frequently the recordings that we have created and made available are accessed. It was suggested that we consider contracting for recording and editing services on a session-by-session basis. We agreed that the Budget and Development, Conference Development, and Publications Committees should work together to develop policies and strategies regarding audio-visual recording of preconference events.

Preconference 2011 (Baton Rouge) Seminars

Shannon Supple shared the following regarding seminars:

Eight will be offered four at a time/across two time slots:

- Assessing Special Collections: Techniques and Benefits
- Cataloging & Security Liaisons:
- Hidden Collections & Small Institutions/budgets
- Pecha Kucha with Our Stuff: Teaching with Rare Books, Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections
- I’d Like a Copy of This: Patron-Initiated Request Infrastructure

- Digital Intermediation of Physical Stuff: How Technology Influences the Movement of Books from Bookseller to Curator to Cataloger to Professor
- Tell Us Your Story: Putting Diversity in Action
- Next Generation Library Catalogs / Rare Book Cataloging in the New Metadata Environment

Preconference 2012 (San Diego)

Lynda Claassen informed us that the conference hotel is the Westin San Diego. Rooms will be available for \$179/night. Dorm rooms will be available at San Diego State University.

Preconference 2013 Proposals

We considered two proposals for the 2013 preconference (ALA Annual in Chicago): one prepared by Arvid Nelsen from the University of Minnesota Libraries and one prepared by Greg Prickman from the University of Iowa Libraries. We voted unanimously to recommend that Minneapolis be selected as the site for the 54th annual preconference, noting in particular the following strengths of the Minneapolis proposal:

- many potential partners including the Guthrie Theater, the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, and the Minnesota Historical Society
- many and varied options for meeting and reception venues, tours, accommodations, transportation, etc.

We briefly discussed the fact that (1) no one from the University of Iowa Libraries was at the meeting to present the proposal and (2) the proposal itself suggested that the prospects for fundraising and financially-advantageous partnerships would be slimmer in Iowa City than they would be in Minneapolis.

We agreed that written guidelines for the preparation, submission, and presentation of proposals to host the preconference are in order. Martha Conway later volunteered to draft an RFP for the consideration of the Committee.

Conference Program 2010 (Washington DC)

Ellen Ellickson reminded us that “To Catch a Thief: Cataloging and the Security of Special Collections” was a very successful conference program, attracting approximately 300 attendees. An audio recording consisting of three of the four presentations is available on the “Conferences” page at the RBMS website.

Conference Program 2011 (New Orleans)

Ellen Ellickson shared the following regarding the 2011 conference program:

The title for the program is “You Can’t Always Get What You Want But ... Sometimes You Get What You Need: Special Collections in Tough Economic Times.” It will be moderated by Jennifer Schaffner (OCLC Research) and the speakers are Ellen Dunlap (American Antiquarian Society), Richard Oram (Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin), and Kris Kiesling (University of Minnesota Libraries).

Conference Program 2012 (Anaheim)

Mike Kelly (for Gerald Cloud) reported that the topic for the conference program in 2012 is “collaborating with faculty in teaching bibliography and the history of the book.” One of the goals for the program is to attract non-RBMS “types.”

It was brought to our attention that ACRL has plans to initiate a different process for the submission and review of proposals for conference programs. The changes are intended at least in part to address the fact that some ACRL sections “regularly” sponsor programs (1) that are “flops” and/or (2) for which evaluations are not solicited/do not exist. Tory Ondrla will get additional information on this topic from Megan Griffin (ACRL Program Coordinator) and share it with us.

Old Business: Revisions to Preconference Planning Manual

Erika Dowell, Elizabeth Johnson, and Henry Raine have reviewed the RBMS Preconference Planning Manual, which is woefully out-of-date and overloaded with unnecessary details. We agreed that the manual should be removed from the website and that a section-by-section review is in order, and that Tory Ondrla as well as representatives from the Seminars and Budget and Development committees should assist with the revision process.

Old Business: Regional Workshops

Jane Gillis expressed her thanks to ACRL for going forward with the “Latin for Rare Materials Catalogers” workshop (on Friday October 22 at the Lilly Library, Indiana University) even though there were only 14 registered participants. A minimum of 26 participants is usually required and so the workshop represents a \$400 loss for ACRL. Possible reasons for why the workshop drew such a small crowd include the location, the topic, and/or the recession.

A second, hopefully more successful, workshop will be offered in conjunction with the San Francisco Antiquarian Book, Print, & Paper Fair. “Building Collections: Acquiring Materials and Working with the Antiquarian Book Trade” is scheduled for Thursday February 10 at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Regional Workshops Committee forwarded to RBMS Executive Committee a request for 5 scholarships @ \$100 each, to help boost registration for the regional workshops.

New Business

Erika Dowell suggested that we consider a hotel-based preconference in 2014, given that Las Vegas is the site for ALA Annual. It was also suggested that we consider separating completely -- in terms of venue and/or timing -- the preconference from ALA Annual

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.