

Minutes

2010 Conference Program Planning

2009 ALA Annual Conference, Chicago

Saturday, July 11, 2009

3:30 - 5:30 pm

Palmer House Hilton - Marshfield Room

Members present: Ellen Ellickson, Yale University; Nancy Kandoian, New York Public Library; Richard Oram, Harry Ransom Center, UT Austin; Nina Schneider, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA; Shannon Supple, Robbins Collection, UC Berkeley

Members excused: Henry Raine, NY-Historical Society; Beth Whittaker, Ohio State University

Visitor: Barbara Heritage, Rare Book School

Summary: The RBMS 2010 Conference Program Planning Committee met on Saturday afternoon. Our proposed program, entitled "To Catch a Thief: Cataloging and the Security of Special Collections", was approved by ACRL. The program will be held on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 pm and we have co-sponsorship (in name only) with MAGERT and ALCTS.

Schneider reported that ACRL's Professional Development Coordinating Committee (PDCC) had just approved the RBMS 2010 Conference Program*. The final budget is due on the 14th of August, audio/visual requests are due in October, and speaker information forms are due November 13, 2009. We have co-sponsorship in name only with ALA Maps & Geography Round Table (MAGERT) and with the Collection Management & Development Section of ALCTS.

The committee then began discussion of the topic and themes that should be addressed. These include: police and security case studies, profiling of people who have tendency to steal materials, shelf lists and shelf-reading, digitization of materials from a security standpoint, cataloging efficiency and administrative issues, and the various processing levels of archives. Questions raised include: does robust cataloging lead to bigger temptation? How does a case study relate to the big picture? How can catalog records help in recovery of materials? Is there a library or library director that has implemented specific steps from the RBMS Security Committee's new guidelines? How are libraries identifying recovered materials? When does it make sense to apply less-stringent cataloging levels? How and when to make known and secret ownership marks on materials? How are other bibliographical tools being used? At what level are archives being processed? How much is too much?

Discussion then evolved to potential speakers. It was agreed that there should be a three-member panel comprising a director or curator, someone from law enforcement, and a scholar. We need to make sure that the scholar can contribute to the cataloging discussion. A few names were suggested and these individuals will be contacted.

Promotion will be handled through ACRL (ALA Direct, Cognotes, etc.), but we will also send announcements via email on the various email lists (such as Exlibris, DCRM-L, SHARP, ABAA, APHA, as well as MAGERT and ALCTS lists). We hope to have enough money in our budget to provide flyers or postcards to Bib Week and RBMS Preconference participants. Heritage offered to post a flyer or poster (up to 11x17") at RBS.

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To Catch a Thief: Cataloging and the Security of Special Collections

Sunday, June 27, 2010

1:30 – 3:30 pm

How can libraries fulfill the need to expose and provide access to their collections while simultaneously protecting them? Can full catalog records deter theft? How have these records been instrumental in identifying and reclaiming stolen materials? Recognizing ongoing pressures on technical service staff and library administrators due to budget cutbacks and competing priorities, this program will explore how balancing faster and cheaper cataloging with sufficiently robust descriptions benefits the security of special collections in libraries.