

2010 Preconference Planning Minutes

ALA Annual 2009

Members: John Overholt (chair) Lynne Thomas, Holly Snyder, Margaret Tenney, Jane Gillis, E.C. Schroeder, Jennifer Schaffner, Charlotte Brown, Pat Bozeman.

Ex-officio: Deborah J. Leslie, Ruth Hughes, Tory Ondrla, Erika Dowell, Elizabeth Johnson.

Visitors: Jeffrey Marshall, Daniel J. Slive, Lois Fischer Black, Mark Danley.

A. Introductions

B. Minutes of last meeting approved without objection. Holly Snyder volunteered to take minutes at this meeting, with the thanks of the chair.

C. WORKSHOPS proposed

I. Proposal A: Latin for Rare Book Cataloguers (full day) offered by Jennifer Nelson, Kate Moriarty, and Jennifer MacDonald. Basic introduction to Latin terms, navigating title pages, exercises etc.

Tory will work with the proposers to determine space requirements and resources needed (AV needs, handouts, etc.) in order to determine fees for the workshop. This workshop sold out the last time it was offered, and is likely to do so again, so there will need to be a cap on registrations. Break out sessions are planned; room choice will need to take that into account.

APPROVED.

II. Proposal B: E.C. Schroeder and Dan Slive propose to do a workshop for rare book librarians on working with book sellers and the trade, aimed at librarians new to the profession. Expected to be around a half-day workshop, combined with a trip to the Bookseller's Showcase. Would require web access for internet sites and tools. Size proposed at 20 to 25 (no more than 36). Would also cover purchasing manuscripts, auction process, export licenses for European materials, eBay.

E.C. plans to review and revise the proposal, and will work with Tory on the logistics.

APPROVED.

D. LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Dorms have been chosen, located at Drexel University. Two-person suites which are “remarkably pleasant” and include full kitchen access on each floor as well as a fitness room. About 2 miles from conference site, but only three blocks from subway. Internet access is available for a separate fee, also WiFi at the Starbucks nearby

Numerous tour opportunities are available. Collaborative tours are being discussed: HSP/LCP, Rosenbach/Conservation Center, etc. Possibly longer final day tours of Historic Germantown, or to Univ. of Delaware, the Winterthur and other locations.

Transportation coordinator has been selected.

Funding is being pursued from non-library entities, PACSCL will fully fund Union League events. Individual PACSCL members are also being solicited; Penn has already made a commitment.

General discussion of how to increase traffic for the booksellers showcase. Booksellers frustrated by low attendance during the day. To increase activity for booksellers, a lottery is proposed. Tickets would be earned by talking to a bookseller about a book. Would need approval of the booksellers. We have more space for dealers in Philadelphia.

E. BUDGET AND FUNDRAISING.

Roles for who is doing fundraising for the Pre-Conference need to be reviewed, and perhaps revised. Local Arrangements is already pursuing funding because of existing sources and partnerships. Theoretically, it's the Section chair who is responsible, but Local Arrangements would need to play a role in any case. Discussion of the extent to which the Preconference Program chair is responsible. Booksellers Showcase was devised as a means of ameliorating fundraising concerns for the Preconference Program chair. Discussion of likely sources beyond Booksellers Showcase and local sources. Former sponsors were suggested: Metalib, etc. John suggested there is no question that we need to have some coordinated mechanism for soliciting donations. Deborah mentioned a need for mentoring and direction for Preconference Program chairs. Should we appoint a Development person. What can be offered as perks in return for a sponsorship donation: logos, mailing lists, demo sessions. This information needs to be put into the Preconference Manual. Local Arrangements should add to Preconference wiki information about the sponsors and donors so that everyone will know who has been approached and who has already committed.

Will take this off the table for this committee, and refer it instead to RBMS Budget Committee for action.

Tory to advise on scholarship situation for 2010 once 2009 figures have been finalized.

F. PROGRAM

Ruth has put a program schedule up on the wiki for Local Arrangements

We can now add the two workshops just approved. Two others were suggested in January for potential: Joel Silver's Reference workshop (well attended when last offered), and perhaps one on grant writing. Discussion of potential for increased federal funding through NEH and NEA under the Obama administration. Lisa Brauer offered this in Austin. A good topic for the current climate, to help make the case for the Preconference being a good investment, and it tackles a topic that everyone needs and could use help with. Proximity of the Preconference to DC would facilitate getting folks from federal grant agencies to appear.

John suggested that interested committee members pursue this, since there is no one actually proposing to do such a workshop.

Lois suggested we might pursue a workshop on ARCHON and Archivist's Toolkit. A workshop on this topic in California was not well attended. Discussion of the commercial issues involved.

G. CALL FOR CASE STUDIES

Preparing a draft for case studies. At January meeting, we discussed replacing short papers with reports on projects, likely those involving collaboration. We now need to discuss structure, timing, and selection. Dan Slive reported that a call for short papers went out for the 2009 preconference, and suggested that the call should go out before Labor Day. He recommended that the call should raise questions and suggested topics. Perhaps 3 case studies might be included per session. Charlotte Brown and Pat Bozeman offered some ideas: include faculty, cover inter and intra-institutional collaborations, and include failures. Dan recommended two case studies and a moderator in order to ensure sufficient time for questions and answers, which Charlotte indicated are the strong suit of the case study presentation. Lynne suggested framing the call to include small libraries, smaller collaborations, mistakes made and lessons learned. The more interactive the sessions can be, the better. John suggested that moderators would need to be charged to ride herd on the speakers so that they don't run substantially over time and chew up interactive time.

Plenary Sessions: First plenary will explore PACSCL's collaborative relationships, and speakers have been selected. John is organizing a plenary on collaboration with users. Third plenary is yet to be determined.

E.C. asked how this is going to interact with seminars. John responded that the seminars have a team jointly teaching about a subject, while the case studies are a series of individuals, each reporting on a separate project. Discussion sessions take place across a larger group, with facilitators. E.C. thought it was important to emphasize this distinction. Erika thought it would take some work among the committee to think through the definitions, and mentioned a seminar proposal for collaborative exhibitions.

E.C. asked how many case study sessions we are looking to schedule. We'd like to have more proposals than we need to schedule in order to have a choice, but probably 3-5 concurrent panels. Seminars is planning to repeat seminars of higher interest to fill an extra block of programming.

John suggested we put together a subcommittee to write the call for case studies. E.C., Margaret and Charlotte volunteered to serve as the subcommittee.

DISCUSSION SESSIONS

John inquired about development of discussion topics for the 2009 Pre-Conference. Lynne reported that this evolved at Midwinter, when Arvid asked her to moderate a discussion group. These were not tied to the plenary sessions. Dan mentioned that they were topics that had come up in the last few months. He suggested virtual membership and participation. Pat suggested collaborative teaching. E.C. suggested there should be something about security. E.C. further suggested collecting ideas and then selecting the topics at next Midwinter, and also that there be two moderators for the session in order to assist in the logistics of getting the microphone around to the participants in the audience.

John will set up a page on the wiki for collecting potential discussion topics.

General discussion about whether to tape the sessions. Ruth felt taping would inhibit discussion. Taping of plenaries is routine; John wants discussion sessions to feel as freewheeling as possible, and taping could inhibit that.

Can we make parts of the preconference accessible virtually? Wireless access in each room may not be feasible, but we need to price it in order to respond. Tory commented that live online simulcast allows the distant audience to participate, which is not the case with a taped session. Deborah commented that the virtual membership discussion session should really be simulcast.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:02 a.m.

Addendum, 1:00 PM:

Erika spoke with Joel Silver, and he is willing to offer the reference sources workshop as well.