

DRAFT Minutes of the 2011 RBMS Preconference Program Planning Committee
Grand Hyatt-Latrobe Room, Washington, D.C.
June 26, 2010 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Steven Escar Smith, chair; Patricia Bozeman; Jackie Dooley; Kevin Graffagnino; Melissa Gallup Kopp; Jason Kovari; Jessica Lacher-Feldman; Tori Ondrla, ACRL Staff Liaison; Jennifer Paustenbaugh; Henry Raine, RBMS chair-elect; Elaine Smyth; Lynne Thomas; and Deborah Whiteman

Members Absent: James Ascher; Tina Budzise-Weaver; Beth Turcy Kilmarx; Martha Lawler; Todd Samuelson; and Dan Slive

Guests Present: Nicole Bouché; Mark Danley; Erica Dowell; Eric Holzenberg; Ruth Hughes; Athena Jackson; Elizabeth Johnson; Jessica Pigza; and Michael Taylor

Chair Steve Smith called to order the second meeting of the 2011 RBMS Preconference Program Planning Committee at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Midwinter in Boston.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Updates on Conference Theme and Abstract

Smith reported that a committee had continued to work with the conference title. The proposed title is “In the Hurricane’s Eye: Challenges of Collecting in the 21st Century” with the following tentative breakdown of sessions:

- 4 plenary sessions (with topic and lead committee member noted)
 - Assessment of Collections, Jennifer Paustenbaugh
 - Small, Regional, and Niche Collections, Kevin Graffagnino
 - Disaster Planning and Recovery, TBD
 - Cultural Preservation and Promotion of Collections, Steve Smith and Dan Slive
- 9 seminars
- 6-8 case studies
- 3-4 discussion sessions
- 2-3 workshops on first day

These numbers can and probably will change as the planning progresses.

There will be opportunities to help with workshops. Subcommittees will be needed on case studies and discussion sessions. Smith also distributed a revised conference abstract. Elizabeth Johnson asked for clarification on whether there would be case studies and discussion sessions instead of short papers. Tori Ondrla reported that based on the comments from the 2009 preconference, the discussion sessions were rated highly and they were also well attended at the 2010 preconference. Ondrla asked whether the committee felt they were too big or whether that contributed to the energy. After further discussion it was decided that there would be two sessions of discussion groups with four discussion groups per session and one session of case studies with three to five case studies. Smith said that for rough planning we should allow for

four 90-minute sessions per day with a 30-minute break in between sessions, a minimum of 90 minutes for lunch and a 9:00 a.m. start time.

A lengthy discussion of the merits of a competitive review process and scholarly content (i.e., short papers) followed. To balance the needs of a practical conference with those of scholarship, Smith proposed having a mixed format session at which discussion groups, case studies, short papers (panel of three with a commentator), and pecha kucha are options. Ondrila urged that if we try pecha kucha, it should be given a legitimate shot at success and that it shouldn't be held on Tuesday when people are straggling in. She wondered whether we could do a pecha kucha session opposite campus tours?

Review of Potential Plenary Topics and Speakers

Smith reported that there were three plenary sessions at the 2010 conference. In 2011 he wants to add a fourth plenary that does something different. He wants to consider a keynote speaker from outside the special collections community. Nick Spitzer, a folklorist and professor of anthropology and American studies at Tulane and host of public radio's "American Routes" program, might be a possibility. He would fit well into the cultural preservation track. He has not been approached yet. Lynne Thomas suggested the possibility of pairing a younger speaker with a seasoned speaker addressing the same topic. Elaine Smyth thought Nick Spitzer could do a good job in addressing the crossing of cultural boundaries to collect. Thomas suggested that perhaps the regional theme plenary might make a good pairing with someone older and newer to the profession because some of those jobs were going to younger professionals. Kevin Graffignino and Smith agreed that this might be a good direction. Mark Danley suggested that conceptually cultural preservation and promotion is the broadest of the four proposed plenary topics and might provide the best opportunity for pairing a seasoned and new professional. Smith asked whether there was an equivalent to a pecha kucha format for a plenary session. Onderla said that there could be roundtable discussions, for example there could be multiple 10-top tables where attendees go to the table with the topic they want to discuss.

Elizabeth Johnson said that she liked the format that Susan Allen used two years ago and thought this might be good for the disaster planning topic. Nicole Bouché noted that there's the practical side and then the very conceptual side of how calamitous events can transform the way an institution thinks about itself. Smith suggested that perhaps we should consider having two speakers: one who speaks conceptually on the topic and one who can tell a more personal story. Henry Raines cautioned that we need to be careful that in taking different approaches to the plenary sessions that the session can be distinguished from a seminar. Mike Taylor from the Local Arrangements Committee suggested a Charlie Rose-style plenary in which someone has a set of questions that several discussants answer could be a good approach but observed that you need to have the right moderator to pull this off. Thomas offered another approach to the disaster planning topic: what happens to professional identity when the collection you have so painstakingly built is wiped out?

Smith asked Jennifer Paustenbaugh to talk about the assessment session. She said that Seminars chair Erica Dowell had received three different seminar proposals focusing in some way on assessment and many in the room had followed online conversations on RBM and elsewhere this spring on assessment. In particular there had been a lot of interest in how we are measuring the

use of special collections. Prior to today's meeting, Paustenbaugh had been in touch with Christian Dupont, who submitted one of the proposals and initiated much of the RBM discussion, to figure out how duplication between seminar proposals and a plenary session could be best avoided and whether the plenary could set the stage for more in-depth explorations of assessment in the seminars. Eric Holzenberg said that different people (scholars, curators, etc.) assess in different ways so there should be ample room to have a plenary and seminars. Bouché agreed that the context for this session needs to be quite explicit. Jackie Dooley commented that although special collections is all about collections we rarely talk about collections. She noted that Susan Allen has talked recently about how general collection assessment is affecting special collections assessment and Alice Schreyer has been talking about whether we know what is the corpus of digital special collections. She also noted that Constance Malpas at OCLC manipulates the WorldCat database and might be able to do something interesting. Smith said that sounded like there were many interesting possibilities, and that for this topic and the others we would need to have the topic defined by the end of the summer.

Updates from Local Arrangements

Local Arrangements Chair Elaine Smyth reported that Ondrla did an excellent job of negotiating rates at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center Hotel, the five -star host hotel. Tours will be within easy walking distance. Some tours could be set up for people to do on their own; others could be arranged as an add-on. There are lots of options. We will be meeting in the LSU Rural Life Museum Thursday evening for a picnic supper in their new indoor event facility. Wednesday we will be downtown, and Thursday we'll be on campus. Smyth is looking into riverboat transportation for those continuing to New Orleans for the ALA Conference. The preconference will be June 21-24 and she is hoping that there will be a strong regional showing.

Update from Seminars

Seminars Chair Erica Dowell noted that in addition to the three assessment-related proposals for seminars, which were previously mentioned, she has also received proposals on:

- Cataloging and security in special collections
- Hidden collections—specifically how small libraries can expose hidden collections with no additional resources, grants, etc.
- Next generation catalogs
- Next generation patron-initiated digitization request structures
- What makes a successful collaborative collection development initiative?
- How do we train people to do collection development?
- Follow-up on the recently introduced RBMS guidelines for borrowing and lending of special collections
- Best practices for online exhibits and (perhaps) print exhibits (from the Lieb Exhibition Awards Committee)
- RDA and special collections cataloging

Website

Smith reported that there is a banner for the 2011 preconference. The website is under construction but in its current form, it can be viewed at <http://www.rbms.info/conferences/preconferences/2011/>. He hopes that local arrangements

information will be available at the site this fall. Thomas is pushing out content about the preconference on Facebook and will use the RMBS twitter stream.

Smith thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Prepared by Jennifer Paustenbaugh, recorder