

RBMS 2012 Preconference Program Planning Committee

ALA Midwinter 2011

Sunday, 9 January 2011

at 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Hilton Bayfront, Indigo 202A

Attendees: Nina Schneider (*co-chair*, Clark Library, UCLA), Shannon Supple (*co-chair*, UC Berkeley), James Ascher (University of Colorado at Boulder), Anne Bahde (San Diego State University), Virginia Bartow (NYPL), Lynda Claassen (UC San Diego), Erika Dowell (Indiana University), Melinda Hayes (University of Southern California), Mike Kelly (Amherst College), Jason Kovari (University of Mississippi), Jennifer Lowe (Saint Louis University), Melissa Nykanen (Pepperdine University), Tory Ondrla (ACRL), Henry Raine (New-York Historical Society), E.C. Schroeder (Yale University), Heather Smedberg (UC San Diego), Elaine Smyth (Louisiana State University), and Mattie Taormina (Stanford University)

MINUTES

1. Preliminaries:

Nina called the meeting to order, Shannon volunteered to record the minutes, and the attendees introduced themselves.

2. Timeframe and Logistics:

The 2012 RBMS Preconference will take place 19-22 June 2012 in San Diego, California. The conference hotel will likely be the Westin San Diego (<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1762>), adjacent to the San Diego train station and within close walking distance to the Gaslamp District, downtown, and Little Italy. The hotel has an appropriate amount of space for us and will offer enough conference rooms to accommodate six concurrent sessions. The ceilings are quite tall and there is a lounge area, with couches, chairs, and tables, in the middle of the conference rooms, enabling attendees to easily interact informally.

Lynda Claassen, Chair of the RBMS 2012 Local Arrangements Committee, reported that there is a lot to do in downtown San Diego and that the hotel location offers easy access to the train station. There will also be dorm rooms available at San Diego State University. SDSU is easily reachable by the downtown trolley. James Ascher noted that the YMCA next to the Westin San Diego also offers very affordable accommodation.

All those interested in joining the 2012 Preconference Program Planning Committee should contact Vice Chair/Chair-elect Mike Kelly and fill out ACRL's

online form:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/resources/forms/volunteer.cfm>.

3. *Brainstorming Themes, Plenaries, and Speakers:*

The attendees spent the remainder of the meeting brainstorming ideas for themes, titles, session formats, and speakers for the 2012 Preconference.

THEMES

Theme ideas included: Futures (of the book, of information, of use), interactivity, how people use/will use special collection materials in the 21st century, the relation between technologists/programmers and special collections librarians and archivists, borderlands, and collecting Latin American and Asian materials (Pacific rim).

Tory and Erika reminded us that we can find additional ideas in the 2010 RBMS Preconference evaluations. Some of the ideas from the evaluations include: 21st century research, haves/have nots, digital collections, integration, materials-based preconference (a la ephemera in 2007), library-archive-museum (LAM) collaborations, copyright, e-books, digital forensics, teaching and instruction, access points, user contributions, the future, data mining, coding, donor relations, geographic information systems (GIS), and born-digital materials. Henry suggested that it would be useful to look at past preconference program and discussion session topics as well.

TITLES

While titles cannot be seriously considered without a theme in place, Nina and Shannon shared some of the titles they find compelling: Event Horizon, Conduit, Difference Engine, and Futures.

SPEAKERS

We discussed the idea of focusing on scholars and users as speakers. Another idea is to invite theorists to speculate about the future of books/works, with speakers like Verner Vinge (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernor_Vinge) or Neal Stephenson (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neal_Stephenson) but to ground them with a respondent from librarianship/book history. Digital humanists could be involved as well.

Digital humanists also could be well positioned to discuss how people use our materials in the 21st century. Suggested speakers included Dan Cohen, Bethany Nowviskie, Tom Scheinfeldt, Matthew Kirshennbaum, Dave Lester, et al.

Other ideas for speakers:

- Christopher Morgan on the relation of e-books to traditional books
- Karen Smith-Yoshimura on the work of the OCLC Research social metadata working group
(<http://www.oclc.org/research/activities/aggregating/>)
- David Wilson on the Museum of Jurassic Technology (<http://mjt.org/>)
- David McCandless on data visualization
(<http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/>)
- Someone from the San Diego Supercomputer Center
- Johanna Drucker
(<http://is.gseis.ucla.edu/events/showEvent.htm?eid=232>)
- Virginia Kuhn on the techno-humanist interaction
- Bob Stein from the Institute for the Future of the Book
(<http://www.futureofthebook.org/>)
- Clive Thompson on coding for the masses
- Nina K. Simon on cultural institution interactivity
- Geoffrey Nunberg on the cultural implications of new technology
- Michael Buckland on what kind of science is information science
- Chris Borgman
- Adrian Johns
- etc.

SESSION FORMATS

There are numerous formats that our sessions could take: plenaries, seminars, short papers, breakout sessions (discussion sessions following from plenaries), independent discussion sessions, “unconference”-style session (a la THATCamp: participants create their own session), pecha kucha, sandbox session (where people can come together and show off their projects and discuss), etc. Plenaries should be big picture, but the other formats can vary. What other formats are there for sharing and learning?

The group discussed the possibility of dueling or parallel tracks – they could begin together, break apart and interweave, and then come together again in the end. This could feature both future and traditional perspectives; it could also explore false dichotomies.

Potential workshop ideas include working with born-digital materials, working with donors, and working with booksellers (??).

4. Adjournment:

The committee adjourned at about noon.