

## **RBMS Seminars Committee**

ALA Midwinter Meeting 2011

San Diego, California

Saturday, 8 January 2011, at 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego – Edward C/D

### **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** *Shannon Supple (UC Berkeley), Donia Conn (NEDCC), Anne Bahde (San Diego State University), Gerald Cloud (Columbia University), Danielle Culpeper (Rare Book School), Emily Epstein (University of Colorado), Martha Lawler (Louisiana State University), and Aislinn Sotelo (UC San Diego)*

**Members Virtually Present:** *Megan Lewis (Duke University), Lynne Thomas (co-chair, Northern Illinois University), and Jennifer Borderud (Baylor University)*

**Members Absent:** *Douglas Denné (Hanover College), Meg Meiman (University of Delaware), Dennis Moser (University of Wyoming), and Agnes Widder (Michigan State University)*

**Guests:** *Christian DuPont (Atlas Systems), Deborah Whiteman (Santa Clara University), Jackie Dooley (OCLC Research), Elizabeth Johnson (Indiana University), Hjordis Halverson (Newberry Library), Heather Smedberg (UC San Diego), Steven Smith (Texas A&M), Michael Inman (New York Public Library), Jennifer Schaffner (OCLC Research) Francis Lapka (Yale University), Michael Taylor (Louisiana State University), and Ellen Cordes (Yale University)*

#### **1. Call to order**

Co-Chair Shannon Supple called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Co-Chair Lynne Thomas and two other members joined the discussion via Skype.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

After introductions and selection of recorder (Anne Bahde), the minutes of the virtual meeting conducted on DimDim on 16 November 2010 (1-2pm CST) were approved.

#### **3. Update on the 2011 Preconference**

##### **a. Report from the Chair**

Steven Smith, Chair of 2011 Preconference Program Planning Committee, gave an informative progress report. There will be eight seminars in two concurrent sessions of four each. One session will be Wednesday, June 22 from 11:00am-12:30pm. The second session will be Thursday, June 23 from 2:00pm -3:30pm.

## **b. Seminars Updates**

Shannon requested that all seminars liaisons finalize the seminar title, speaker list with short biographies, speaker contact info, a publishable synopsis, and equipment requests by the end of January. These details should be added to the Seminars Committee wiki.

Liaisons reported on the status of their seminars (with summaries taken from the Seminars Committee wiki):

### ***Seminar A. Assessing Special Collections: Techniques and Benefits***

Liaisons: Emily and Gerald

Co-Organizers: Christian Dupont, Shannon Bowen-Maier

Panelists: Joyce Chapman (Libraries Fellow, North Carolina State University), Magia Krause (PhD Candidate, University of Michigan, School of Information), and Debra Davis (Archivist, Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections)

Moderator: Shannon Bowen-Maier

Onsite Coordinator: Emily

Summary: The purpose of this seminar will be to introduce the audience to a variety of means of conducting systematic assessment of special collections functions, focusing in particular on the public services delivery and instructional outreach. Specific objectives include demonstrating how assessment activities can be folded into existing workflows, how assessment outcomes can be used to refine or transform current operations, and how implementing an assessment plan can be used to strengthen the strategic positioning of special collections in larger institutional contexts.

### ***Seminar B. Cataloging and Security (Title TBA)***

Liaisons: Aislinn and Donia

Presenters: Randal Brandt (Principal Cataloger at The Bancroft Library), Ellen Cordes (Head of Technical Services and Library Security Officer, Lewis Walpole Library), and Stephen Galbraith (Curator of Books, Folger Shakespeare Library)

Moderator: Nina Schneider

Onsite Coordinator: Donia

Summary: Following-up on the 2010 RBMS Conference Program, TO CATCH A THIEF: CATALOGING AND THE SECURITY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, this seminar will explore cataloging rare materials while being ever mindful of securing those collections. Specific questions will depend upon what occurs during the 2010 Conference Program, but this seminar will look at those questions, and possible answers, from a cataloger's point of view. Are they practicable? What happens if the best answer is in direct conflict with department priorities? What is the responsibility of technical services when it comes to collections security? How should we prioritize our limited time when we consider our responsibility for our collections?

### ***Seminar C. Hidden Collections and Small Budgets***

Liaisons: Jennifer and Dennis

Presenters: Melissa Hubbard (Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Rare Book Librarian), Ann Myers (Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Special Collections Cataloger), and Anna Farris (Head, Special Collections & Archives Cataloging, University of Colorado at Boulder)

Onsite Coordinator: Dennis? (*tentative – to be confirmed*)

Summary: This seminar will provide an overview of techniques for exposing hidden collections that require little or no additional funding. We intend to make the information relevant to those from small institutions with few cataloging resources, as well as larger institutions with limited or diminishing funds.

***Seminar D. A Pecha Kucha with Our Stuff: Teaching with Special Collections***

Liaisons: Anne and Danielle

Moderator: James P. Ascher

Presenters: Jennifer Borderud, Kathryn DeGraff, Lori Dekydtspotter and Cheryl Torok Fleming, Julia Gardner, Sarah Horowitz, William Modrow, Jennifer Sheehan, and Heather Smedberg

Onsite Coordinator: Danielle

Summary: Pecha kucha is a fast-paced and entertaining new format for presentations using brevity and clarity. Each presenter is limited to exactly twenty slides, progressing automatically at twenty seconds per slide, resulting in a 6 minute, 40 second focused showcase of their work. For the first RBMS Preconference seminar using this format, we're taking a pecha-kucha peek inside each other's special collections classroom. Presenters will demonstrate innovative in-class exercises, experimental instructional approaches, or tried-and-true tricks and tools for teaching with the "stuff" of our profession.

***Seminar E. "Yes, We Scan!": Patron-Initiated Request Infrastructure (Title TBA)***

Liaison: Shannon

Moderator: Jennifer Schaffner, OCLC Research

Presenters: Julia Gardner (University of Chicago), and two additional speakers to be announced

Onsite Coordinator: Gerald

Summary: Different institutions have decided on a broad spectrum of strategies to manage the explosion in requests for copies of rare books, manuscripts, and archival materials. Speakers would discuss approaches to streamlining workflows, from the request to delivery.

***Seminar F. Digital Intermediation of Physical Stuff: How Technology Influences the Movement of Books from Bookseller to Curator to Cataloger to Professor***

Liaisons: Doug and Dennis

Moderator: Michael Inman, New York Public Library

Presenters: Andrew Gaub (Bruce McKittrick Books), Heather Cole (Assistant Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts, Houghton Library), and James P. Ascher (Assistant Professor and Rare Book Cataloger, University of Colorado at Boulder)

Onsite Coordinator: Doug

Summary: The evolving challenges of digital technologies and documentation sometimes obscure the physical objects that constitute the seed grain of special collections. We all look for newfangled digital technologies to speed the plough, yet, our work remains fundamentally tied to the physical material, and while electronic technology is often sexy, it serves merely as an intermediary by which we explore and interpret our collections. This seminar will discuss the role of the digital intermediary in the life-cycle of books.

***Seminar G. "Tell Us Your Story": Putting Diversity in Action***

Liaisons: Megan and Meg

Moderator: TBD

Presenters: Melissa Conway (Head of Special Collections, University of California Riverside), Jennifer Abraham (Director of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, Louisiana State University), and Chris Harter (Director of Library and Reference, Amistad Research Center, Tulane University)

Onsite Coordinator: Megan

Summary: Special collections libraries have become increasingly open-minded about issues of diversity over the past several decades. This seminar will ask speakers to tell a brief personal story that raises philosophical issues while offering practical advice on how to put diversity "into action."

***Seminar H. Next Generation Library Catalogs/Rare Book Cataloging in the New Metadata Environment (Title TBA)***

Liaisons: Martha and Aislinn

Moderator: TBA

Presenters: Jackie Dooley (OCLC Research), Aislinn Sotelo (Special Collections Cataloger, UCSD), and one additional speaker to be announced

Onsite Coordinator: Martha

Summary: The evolution of WorldCat's capabilities and interfaces, together with increasingly widespread implementation of WorldCat Local, are changing the cataloging paradigm. Libraries that don't subscribe to FirstSearch and therefore have access to global holdings only via the open-access WorldCat.org interface cannot see other libraries' institution-specific notes and access points. In addition, rare book catalogers have recently discussed significant issues associated with the guidelines that instruct catalogers about when to input a new record to the WorldCat database. This seminar will allow the rare book cataloging community to engage with these issues at the big-picture level in the evolving metadata environment.

**c. Onsite Coordinator Assignments**

On-site coordinator duties (which include taking a headcount, phoning for technical assistance if necessary, and keeping time) were assigned. (See assignments in seminar descriptions, above.)

#### **d. Seminar Timeslots Assignments**

The seminars were scheduled into the two seminar blocks at the 2011 Preconference:

- Wednesday, 22 June 2011 at 11:00-12:30: Seminars B, E, F, and G
- Thursday, 23 June 2011 at 2:00-3:30: Seminars A, C, D, and H

#### **e. Other Concerns**

Danielle wondered whether it is possible to reserve a large room for the pecha kucha, based on anticipated attendance due to the novelty of the format. Elizabeth Johnson asked whether we can ask registrants for the preconference which seminars they plan to attend on the registration form, in order to better be able to plan for rooms; Lynne reported that Exec. has determined in the past that this action is not practical, as minds change between February registration and June attendance, and some attendees attend multiple seminars by moving between them while they are in session.

#### **4. Idea Brainstorming for the 2012 RBMS Preconference**

Members and guests held a brainstorming session to generate potential seminar topics for the 2012 RBMS Preconference in San Diego. These include:

- Practical handling guidelines for handling when scanning (Donia) [workshop?]
- Tips and tricks for caring for rare book collections (e.g., what to do with smelly books) (Donia)
- Grant-writing (Emily) [workshop?]
- Preservation of audio-visual collections (Anne) [workshop?]
- Technological progress in translation tools for catalogers, et al. – What to do when you don't know that language (Elizabeth)
- Special collections cataloging and RDA implementation (Lynne)
- Resource sharing and cooperation between institutions in California, elsewhere in touch economic times (e.g., 2CUL, ReCap) (Elizabeth)
- Collaborative collection development (Jackie):  
[http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/What\\_makes\\_a\\_successful\\_collaborative\\_collection\\_development\\_project%3F](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/What_makes_a_successful_collaborative_collection_development_project%3F))
- Models for collection assessment (Merrilee Proffitt):  
[http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Models\\_for\\_Collections\\_Assessment](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Models_for_Collections_Assessment))
- Cloud-sourcing Research Collections: Managing Print in the Mass-digitized Library Environment (Jackie)
- Guidelines for borrowing and lending special collections materials (Hjordis)
- Practical implications of RBMS Security Guidelines (Michael)
- DCRM(G) (Ellen) [workshop?]
- Examination of recent consolidations of multiple special collections departments/locations at institutions (Hjordis)
- Creative solutions to space management problems for public services or collections (Heather)

- New technological innovations (Jackie and Elizabeth)
- Working with volunteers and interns
- Tapping subject-specialty and technological expertise
- Revisiting Core Competencies (Lynne)
- Born-digital materials: next level and next steps (Anne)
- Legal issues with digital collections
- CLIR fellows and assessment (Hjordis)
- Working with digital collections librarians for metadata/public service implications of other metadata schemas (Aislinn)
- Book arts in southern California (Jennifer S.)
- Advances in digital humanities scholarship (Hjordis)
- Skill sets of hiring decisions and matching recruiting efforts to those skill sets (Heather)
- Cultural institutions (LAMs) and object management (Francis)
- EAD (Ellen) [workshop?]
- Digital humanities scholarship
- Book arts and fine press printers in Southern California (Jennifer) [forum?]

#### **5. Discussion of Virtual Meeting**

Shannon requested member impressions of our virtual meeting in preparation for reporting to Exec. Members agreed that though DimDim was flawed, it was useful to have reminders of what steps needed to happen in planning seminars, and was a nudge to make progress where necessary. Several members agreed that it was fun to meet this way, and many expressed the wish to try the concept with a better provider.

#### **6. Recording Seminars**

There was some discussion of recording seminars for 2011.

#### **7. Revising the Preconference Planning Manual**

Elizabeth asked the co-chairs to review the section on seminars in the preconference planning manual, as it is currently under revision and needs to be updated.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

## **Additional Suggestions for Seminars for RBMS 2012:**

From Ellen Cordes:

- \* Practical implications of RBMS Security Guidelines (Michael)

Michael mentioned to me later at the Security Committee meeting that he liked my suggestion for a seminar on implementing RBMS Security Guidelines and that he volunteered himself as a speaker after the meeting. I am glad he liked the idea. I have been thinking about this for some time since the Smiley theft and since become LSO for my library. I would love to be involved in developing this seminar if in fact the committee moves ahead with the idea. I have an outline of topics that I think should be covered which I am happy to forward in any event. ... and we have at least one person interested in speaking!

- \* DCRM(G) (Ellen) [workshop?] Could the minutes reflect this workshop should be run by Erin Blake first?

Thanks! It was a fun meeting. I love the brainstorming. I have forgotten who first suggested the "working with volunteers" but that seemed to have great potential, too.

From Heather Smedberg:

I would be interested in hearing something from the folks on The Social Networks and Archival Context Project (SNAC):  
<http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/index.html>

According to their website the project, "...will address the ongoing challenge of transforming description of and improving access to primary humanities resources through the use of advanced technologies. The project will test the feasibility of using existing archival descriptions in new ways, in order to enhance access and understanding of cultural resources in archives, libraries, and museums."

Are you very familiar with this project? No idea when they might be ready to report out, but man, this sounds interesting. Our own Mary Lacy is on the project, too.

From...