

Draft minutes
2010 Preconference Program Planning Committee
RBMS Midwinter Meeting
2009 January 24 2009 8-10 a.m.
Denver, Colorado

Members present: John Overholt (Harvard Univ., chair), Pat Bozeman (Univ. of Houston), Charlotte B. Brown (UCLA), Jane Gillis (Yale Univ.), Jennifer Schaffner (RLG Programs/OCLC Research), Margaret Tenney (Univ. of Texas at Austin), Lynne M. Thomas (Northern Illinois Univ.)

Members excused: E.C. Schroeder

Ex-officio members present: Erika Dowell (Indiana Univ., Seminars chair) Ruth Hughes (Library Company of Philadelphia, Local Arrangements co-chair), Elizabeth Johnson (Indiana Univ., Conference Development chair), Deborah J. Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library, RBMS vice-chair/chair-elect), Elaine Smyth (Louisiana State Univ., Budget & Development chair)

Visitors: Katie Carr (Univ. of Missouri), Athena N. Jackson, Lois Fischer Black (Lehigh Univ.), Kasia Leousis (Washington Univ.), Sarah Fisher (Yale Univ.), Mary Lacy (Library of Congress, RBMS chair), Nicole Bouché (Univ. of Washington)

1. Overholt called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Leslie volunteered to be recorder.
2. Hughes reported on local arrangements.
 - The preconference will be held 2010 June 22-25.
 - Based at the Doubletree Hotel on Broad St. Reserved the Ormandy Ballroom, 600 capacity, to serve as opening reception/booksellers' showcase, plenary meetings, and can be divided into two for seminars. Two small reception areas for coffee breaks. Several small meeting rooms: Maestro, Aria, and Concerto will hold about 400 spread out. Separate staircase will allow fairly easy access to the 3rd & 4th floors, with good traffic flow and coffee break area.
 - Block of 180 sleeping rooms reserved at the Doubletree; Holiday Inn Express just a couple of blocks away will be used as the overflow hotel. Negotiations are in progress for dormitory housing at the University of Pennsylvania.
 - ABAA is showing continued interest in the Booksellers' Showcase. In 2009 there were 39 applications for 28 spaces. For 2010, the space can hold an amount in the 30's.
 - Tours: Probably to be offered Tuesday afternoon, with a possible open house during the long Thursday lunchtime break. No sites yet approached, but there

are many interesting possibilities, including the Masons' Grand Lodge (which has a terrific library), Rosenbach, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Library Company of Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. Tours offered on Friday afternoon will include an optional bus drop at Union Station in Delaware, which will be very convenient for those going on to ALA in Washington.

- Restaurant Night. Many excellent restaurants in the area; Local Arrangements plans to solicit the restaurants to offer discounts. Overholt added that the era of unlimited free cocktails at receptions are over. Registrants may be given a ticket for a free drink in their packets. Ondrla reported that RBMS had the highest average drink-per-person in ACRL, at about 1.33.

3. Budget and Fundraising

- PACSCL is paying for an afternoon plenary and reception at the Union League.
- Showcase exhibitors pay \$500 for booth space. ABAA will give an additional donation of \$3000 to be used as RBMS sees fit, not necessarily the whole cost of a reception. Registration right now is budgeted at \$255.
- Perhaps cultivate donor relationships; provide an outlet for booksellers who were shut out of the Showcase. Maybe ask them to pay for some audio/video delivery.
- We won't know what the 2010 scholarship situation will be until 2009 is over. ACRL will give matching funds to scholarship funds raised by RBMS. Increasingly generous donations by members and friends.
- Lacy: Think about offering paraprofessional scholarships.

4. Discussion of conference theme and title.

Productive brainstorming session, with the following broad themes and agreements:

- Conference theme is "Collaboration," defined pretty broadly: e.g., between libraries, with scholars within an institution, with vendors, funding agencies, &c. Each plenary unit will be on collaboration of a certain type, with an emphasis on the practical rather than the abstract.
- First plenary will zero in on PACSCL as an exemplar of library-library collaboration.
- Possible conference titles:
 - Many hands make light work
 - Collaborate or die

- “Join or die”: collaboration in special collections (this seemed to be the favorite among those present)
5. Discussion of conference schedule structure.
- Schedule: tours, workshops, 9 slots of programming
 - Tours, Workshop(s) on Tuesday
 - Wednesday: 2 morning, 2 afternoon (Doubletree)
 - Thursday: 2 morning (at American Philosophical society, Chemical Heritage Foundation) , long lunch period, 1 afternoon (Union League)
 - Friday (Doubletree) 2 morning
 - Friday afternoon bus tours to Winterthur, &c. Buses can make drops at the train station
 - Overall structure: 3 plenaries, 4 seminars, 1 case studies, 1 discussion group
 - Popular seminars can be repeated to help ease the space demands for growing numbers of attendees (confirmed by Dowell). May also schedule tours opposite seminars.
 - Provide a session of case studies instead of short papers. This gives a place for people to present projects &c. they’ve done and how they worked, now that such presentations are discouraged from seminars with insistence on teaching.
 - Discussion groups
 - Give communities of practice a chance to talk with each other
 - Size: successful in Austin despite their large size; tied to particular plenary sessions. Took time for discussions to get going, but energetic once they did.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah J. Leslie