RBMS Seminars Committee

ALA Annual Meeting: Washington, D.C.

Saturday, 26 June 2010

Renaissance Washington, Meeting Room 10/11, 1:30-3:30 pm

Attendees:

Members present: Erika Dowell (Indiana University) *Committee Chair*, Shannon K. Supple (University of California, Berkeley) *Incoming Co-Chair,* Lynne M. Thomas (Northern Illinois University) *Incoming Co-Chair*, Gerald Cloud (Columbia University), Doug Denné (Hanover College), , Megan Lewis (Duke University), Agnes Widder (Michigan State University), Emily Epstein (University of Colorado, Denver), Martha Lawler (Louisiana State University—Shreveport), Jennifer Macdonald (University of Delaware)

Guests: Hjordis Halvorson (Newberry Library), Jackie Dooley (OCLC Research), Danielle Culpepper (Rare Book School), Aislinn Sotelo (University of California, San Diego), Meg Meiman (University of Delaware), Anne Bahde (San Diego State University), Jennifer Lowe (Saint Louis University), Jessica Pigza (New York Public Library), Deborah Whiteman (Santa Clara University)

1) Call to Order & Introductions
   The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

2) Selection of Recorder for Minutes
   Lynne Thomas volunteered to take minutes.

3) Approval of Minutes from Midwinter meeting in Boston
   The minutes from the Midwinter meeting were approved.

4) Changes in Seminars Committee Membership
   Incoming members Danielle Culpepper, Aislinn Sotelo, Meg Meiman, and Anne Bahde were welcomed. Thanks were given to outgoing members.

5) Old Business
   a. Review of Seminars presented in Philadelphia 2010

   The seminars presented at the Philadelphia preconference were generally very well-received. It was noted that we weren't certain which seminars were recorded and which were not, but we are looking forward to seeing those available posted on the RBMS website.

6) New business
   a. Report on Preconference 2011 in Baton Rouge, LA (Deborah Whiteman, Member, Preconference Program Planning 2011)

   Deborah Whiteman reported on progress for plenary speakers for the 2011 conference.

   b. Review of Proposed Seminars for Preconference 2011 (separate document available)

The individual seminars proposed were reviewed by the group, and suggestions made. See the seminars proposed document for detailed descriptions.

The following possible seminars, furnished to the committee before the meeting, were discussed:

1)Assessing Special Collections Public Services (C. Dupont). There was some discussion of this session possibly becoming a plenary instead.
2) Cataloging *& Security (Sponsored by Bib Standards)
3) Hidden Collections & Small Institutions/Budgets (A. Myers). This was considered as a possible case study.
4)Bibliographical Pecha Kucha Session. (D. Culpepper/J. Ascher) This idea needed more detail/refinement, but the committee was intrigued by the format.
5) Next Generation Library Catalogs (E. Johnson) it was suggested that Johnson discuss this topic with J. Dooley, to possibly combine their seminar ideas into a single session.
6) Next_Gen Patron Initiatied Request Infrastructure (J. Schaffner).
7) What makes a successful collaborative collection development project? (J. Dooley)
8) Rare Book Cataloging in the new metadata environment (J. Dooley). It was suggested that Dooley discuss this topic with E. Johnson, for possible combining of seminars.
9)Models of collections assessment (M. Proffitt)

Postponed proposals from last year about working with unusual patron groups, and reconsidering our rules for new results were withdrawn.

Additional proposal topics introduced at the meeting:

1) Web 2.0 assessment for Special Collections: is it working? (M. Taormina)
2) Borrowing & Lending /ILL (H. Halvorson)
3) Donor Relations/Fundraising (L. Thomas)
4) Exhibition Awards: evolution, best practices, online exhibits & catalogs (J. Lowe)

Session proposers were encouraged to make use of the web form to submit their proposals.

7) Other

A round of applause and the thanks of our committee were given to our outgoing chair, Erika Dowell.

8) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne M. Thomas
Northern Illinois University

SEMINARS COMMITTEE   June 26, 2010
SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FOR 2011 PRECONFERENCE

PROPOSAL A

Assessing Special Collections Public Services
Christian Dupont

Purpose: Explore statistics used to measure public services activities and examine the means available for collecting, evaluating and comparing them across different institutions.

Description: This seminar would build upon the seminar that Jackie Dooley will be leading at our 2010 Preconference on OCLC Research survey on special collections and archives, which has been designed to update the findings of the 1998 ARL special collections survey and help refine our sense as a community of what statistical measures are appropriate for assessing special collections public services and evaluating them in the light of the services provided by parent academic libraries and institutional peers. Specific areas of service assessment would include circulation, onsite and external reference, photoduplication and digital image requests, interlibrary loan requests.

Possible presenters: Jackie Dooley/Jennifer Schaffner, Christian Dupont, Shannon Bowen, others.

PROPOSAL B
 [Cataloging & security]
Nina Schneider, nschneider@humnet.ucla.edu

Speakers:
1. Randal Brandt
2. Ellen Cordes
3. Steven Galbraith

Equipment needed: computer with monitor, screen, projector, podium with microphone, table for 4 with four chairs, 4 tabletop microphones.
Software needed: Powerpoint, Adobe

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?

Randal Brandt is Principal Cataloger at The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, where he led the development of campus-wide guidelines for the inclusion of copy-specific information in catalog records. He is a past chair of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee and was one of the editors of Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials) (DCRM(S)). He is also instructor of Rare Book Cataloging at California Rare Book School.

Ellen Cordes brings experience and insight from both sides of the table. She is currently Head of Technical Services and Library Security Officer at the Lewis Walpole Library. Previous to that, she was Head of Public Services at Yale University's Beinecke Library where she played a key role in the aftermath of the Ben Johnson case and was responsible for the arrest of E. Forbes Smiley. She is one of the editors of the forthcoming Descriptive Cataloging Rules for Rare Materials (Graphics) (DCRM(G)).

Steven Galbraith is Curator of Books at the Folger Shakespeare Library. He was instrumental in identifying and assisting in the recovery of the a stolen copy of Shakespeare's first folio. The accused thief, Raymond Scott, showed up at the Folger Shakespeare Library with the copy in his hand, claiming he had obtained it in Cuba, when in fact it was missing from the collection at Durham University in the United Kingdom. At the time of this writing Scott has pleaded "not guilty" to the theft of the "Durham Folio," and his trial is set for June 14th, 2010.

Nina Schneider is Head Cataloger at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA. She chairs the 2010 RBMS Conference Program.

PROPOSAL C
[Hidden collections & small institutions/budgets]
Ann Myers (amyers@lib.siu.edu), Southern Illinois University

Description: Melissa Hubbard and Ann Myers recently conducted a survey of rare book catalogers investigating how they are addressing the "hidden collections" problem and have submitted an article based on this research to RBM. Many respondents to the survey from smaller institutions felt they couldn't increase cataloging productivity due to limited resources, but at the same time, many respondents indicated that they were doing interesting things to streamline cataloging processes that would not require additional funding or new positions.

We propose a seminar that 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.

Melissa Hubbard will discuss the results of our survey, including some of the solutions mentioned by respondents. Ann Myers will present a comprehensive case study on low budget cataloging based on recent changes made at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Special collections cataloging workflows and priorities were completely reorganized and cataloging projects were developed which can be done by staff and graduate assistants with minimal training. James P. Ascher will discuss strategies of short-title cataloging with graduate students, progressive description, institutional collaboration, and survey methods based on his research into these areas at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

We will need a PC computer with projector and Microsoft Office Powerpoint software.

Presenters:

Melissa Hubbard, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Rare Book Librarian. Her most recent research projects have focused on approaches to hidden rare book collections, and educational

credentials for academic librarians. She has experience speaking and presenting research at conferences and other venues, including ALA Annual and the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Ann Myers, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Special Collections Cataloger. She has conducted research on the differences between professional and paraprofessional catalogers as well as on the hidden collections problem, and has presented on cataloging-related topics to library staff and students. She has 10 years of rare book cataloging experience, including designing short-term cataloging projects and workflows at a variety of institutions.

James P. Ascher, University of Colorado Boulder, Rare Book Cataloger. His research explores bibliography and cataloging using new media and techniques, the infrastructure of printing, and submerged histories in libraries. He has published on bibliographic methods in RBM, has been awarded the Reese Fellowship in American Bibliography and the History of the Book in the Americas, and serves as a Trustee for the American Printing History Association.

PROPOSAL D
[Bibliographic notes discussion—Pecha Kucha style]
Danielle Culpepper & James Ascher

From wikipedia: "Pecha Kucha, correctly pronounced in four syllables as "peh-cha koo-cha", is the onomatopoeic Japanese word for the sound of conversation. The equivalent English term is "chit-chat".

Pecha Kucha Night was devised in 2003 by Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham of Tokyo's Klein-Dytham Architecture (KDa), as a way to attract people to Super Deluxe, their experimental event space in Roppongi.[1] Pecha Kucha Night events consist of around a dozen presentations, each presenter having 20 slides, each shown for 20 seconds. Each presenter has just 6 minutes 40 seconds to explain their ideas before the next presenter takes the stage. Conceived as a venue through which young designers could meet, show their work, exchange ideas, and network, the format keeps presentations concise, fast-paced and entertaining."

From James Ascher: "It seems like it might be a neat way to talk about the "stuff" of our profession at the preconference, but avoid the show-and-tell and rambling presenter issues."

PROPOSAL E
Next Generation Library Catalogs
Elizabeth Johnson, Indiana University

PROPOSAL F
NextGen Patron-Initiated Request Infrastructure.
Jennifer Schaffner, OCLC Research

Speakers would discuss approaches to streamlining cradle-to-grave reading room workflow from request of a digital copy of a collection item on through addition of the image file to a digital asset management system and network-level delivery of digital images. An RLG Partnership working group is authoring a report titled Scan and Deliver—a follow-up to the same working group's winter 2010 report Capture and Release, which defined various approaches to implementing researcher use of digital cameras in the reading room. These two reports could serve as background to the seminar but would not be its direct focus.

PROPOSAL G
What makes a successful collaborative collection development project?
Jackie Dooley, OCLC Research

The OCLC Research survey of special collections archives shows that only 5-6% percent of the responding academic and research libraries have formal collection development collaborations in place; ARL's 1998 survey had the virtually identical data. One of our recommended action items is "Move toward formalized collaborative collection development. Define key characteristics and desired outcomes of an effective collaboration. Identify barriers. " What makes a successful collaboration? What factors make it desirable? Would we better serve researchers if collections were better sited at the most appropriate institution? Do few special collections engage in such activity because we don't know how? Has anyone defined appropriate characteristics? Do we have things to learn from colleagues who collaborate on "general" collection development? Is there possibly a role for RBMS to play in fostering such collaborations to better coordinate collection development and thereby benefit scholars' work?

PROPOSAL H
Rare book cataloging in the new metadata environment.
Jackie Dooley, OCLC Research

The evolution of WorldCat's capabilities and interfaces, together with increasingly widespread implementation of WorldCat Local, are changing the cataloging paradigm. Libraries (including most of the prominent independent research libraries, the smaller colleges, and others that hold special collections) 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—in more than one thread on the dcrm-l listserv—significant issues associated with the guidelines that instruct catalogers about when to input a new record to the WorldCat database. The Bibliographic Standards Committee cannot currently take up these issues due to a very full agenda of projects to publish new cataloging rules and other activities. It is important that the r.b. cataloging community engage with these issues at the big-picture level if we are to maintain legitimacy in the evolving metadata environment.

PROPOSAL I
Models for collections assessment
Merrilee Proffitt, OCLC Research

In recent years an increasing number of large institutions (such as the Smithsonian and UC Berkeley) and special collections consortia (such as PACSCL) have conducted collections assessments, with a variety of objectives in mind. Reasons range from inventory control, priority setting for processing, preservation analysis, and digitization projects. What are the characteristics of an effective assessment? What characteristics of these models are generalizable?