

VRT Executive Board Meeting

Monday, August 27, 2018
via Adobe Connect

Link to meeting recording: <https://ala.adobeconnect.com/pj23ts93l00y/>

Present: Andrea Battleground, Brian Boling, Jenifer Carter, Benjamin Franz, Andy Horbal, Tiffany Hudson, Athina Livanos-Propst, Lowell Lybarger, Samantha Mairson, Melanie McCartney, Steven Milewski, Erin Miller, Leigh Rockey, Elliott Stevens, Gisele Tanasse, Lorraine Wochna

Announcements (Lowell, 5 minutes)

Reminder—the general date for meetings is the last Monday of every month at 2 p.m. Eastern, except for Midwinter and Annual.

We are on track to convert to FMRT. According to Danielle, our listserv will change to FMRT-L. We also have the website update and the changes to the governance document. In terms of updating the website, Andrea says there were a lot of problems upgrading her regular ALA account to website editor, but it seems to be just some technical snafus. Finally all the problems were solved last Friday, and we can make all the updates by September 1. Lowell says that we need some marketing about the name change, and the communications committee will direct that. We can discuss it at the next meeting in September.

Debbie Benrubi has been re-appointed to her IFLA post.

Review of minutes from Executive Board and Membership meeting at ALA Annual (Lowell + Leigh, 5 minutes)

Leigh says that people did suggest changes to the minutes, and they were incorporated. She also noted that our name change was made in the ALA repository, ALAIR.org.

Notables committee report (Tiffany 5 minutes)

Tiffany says she just put out the second call for nominations for films. She's not sure if the number of films we have at this point is standard, but we have about 24 nominations. The challenge for Tiffany has been requesting the screeners. She sent a lot of emails and didn't get any responses.

Since we're changing the name of the round table, should we change the name of the Notables committee to Notable Films instead of Notable Videos? Lowell says that's a good question. Tiffany is in favor of changing the name to stay in line with the overall name change. Lowell is also in favor.

Tiffany says the current requirements for nomination to the list say that the films must have been released on DVD within the last two years. Do we want to allow nominations for things that are only streaming?

Gisele highlighted the historical distinction that the founding members had in which video refers to independent and educational documentary. As long as we're preserving this idea of educational documentary, then we can change the name if we want. She also points out that allowing for streaming-only video is fine, but it should be available to public and academic libraries. We probably shouldn't nominate things that are available solely via Netflix personal subscriptions. Lowell says a snap decision is not needed. Do we have a general consensus that we don't feel a lot of pressure to change the name right away? Gisele suggests assembling the current Notables members and some past Notables members or leadership to try to draft something for Midwinter. Tiffany says that it feels like an

overwhelming amount of work just to keep up with the films, so she hesitates to ask them to work on something else. Lowell says we will wait until Midwinter and make this an agenda item.

Program committee report (Erin, Melanie, Athina 15 minutes)

Report back on survey responses of ALA 2018 programs: Erin says the surveys on the sessions we had in Annual showed positive feedback. One of the programs was NOVAC, an organization in New Orleans that works with libraries to do filmmaking workshops for young people. The response to this was overwhelmingly positive. People liked hearing about real world experiences. Melanie has already identified a similar type of organization in D.C. for next year—the Art Lab at the Hirschhorn Museum, a dedicated space for digital creation.

We also did the streaming video panel. People liked this as well. People like that it was a panel with multiple perspectives involved. Erin will send the results to the program committee and for the repository. The deadline for ALA Annual 2019 program submissions is August 31.

Online membership meeting/webinar to continue streaming video pricing models panel discussion: As far as the webinar is concerned, we have four people who have agreed to be on the panel. Sarah McCleskey from Hofstra and the National Media Market is one of them. Michele and Gisele have both agreed to be on the panel, we have and Amanda Scull from Dartmouth. Do we want to get a public librarian? Erin has tried to find a public librarian in the past and hasn't been successful. Melanie is also working on this. Webinar will probably be the early weeks of November, so the next step is to set a date and start promoting it.

Adobe Connect (or other platform?): Melanie suggested using a different platform instead of Adobe Connect, like GoTo. Erin asks if ALA wants us to use Adobe Connect. Andy says we have used different platforms in the past. Andy thinks that we don't need to be concerned about that, but maybe we should ask Danielle about it. Lowell says we might not need to use GoTo. Melanie was just offering it as an option because it is really easy to use. There is a difference in the chat feature, though. Brian says that ALA is moving away from using Adobe Connect for webinars. So the best thing is to check with Danielle and see what options for webinars are available.

Erin asks how long we want this webinar to be. Would an hour be sufficient? The last time, it was an hour. Gisele suggests trying for an hour and a half. She wonders if we are willing to offer the streaming video panel as an open forum regularly at Annual? Should we try to set it up as a program? Lowell says that's a good point because this is an ongoing issue and it might be a great attraction for people at ALA meetings. Discussion groups are really easy to set up at the meetings now. Gisele says the discussion group option is probably best.

Lowell asks Erin if she has any ideas for date and time for the webinar. She thought early November, but it can be any time. We'll have to ask the people on the panel about their availability of course. Gisele has concerns with the first week of November because people might be doing election-related activities. Lowell moves to make it after the elections, the second week of November. We should do it midweek, the 13th 14th or 15th. It looks like Tuesday the 13th seems to be the agreed-upon date. Should we do it at 2 p.m. Eastern? No objections from the board. Erin will check with the speakers to make sure that time works for them, and she and Melanie will work on getting the word out. Erin hasn't heard anything about the jury she's supposed to be on. Lowell will ask Danielle about it.

Gala committee report (Lavoris, Ben 15 minutes)

Continued discussion of Gala 2019 Program from ALA Annual 2018 meeting: Ben says that the committee has decided to go along with a new idea for this year's Gala in DC. We are going to have a

presentation from Bridget Maher, who is the program director at American University's School of Communications Film and Media Arts Division. She will discuss a film she is working on about the life and times of the first woman who curated an exhibit on American avant-garde films, Sally Dixon. It looks like it will be a really cool event. Ben will continue to look into the 130 Year Road Trip as a preconference workshop.

Possible collaboration with AMIA? Lorraine was contacted by Dennis Doros from Milestone, and AMIA wants to work with us. Lorraine sent them our programs from this past Annual. They are interested in being in the exhibit hall and in a night of screening archival films. AMIA's Andrea Leigh sent this proposal to Lorraine:

"Dennis and I looked over these options and liked the idea of a mini-archival screening night. Depending on the amount of time that is allotted, we could present 4-5 clips with intros and discussion with the archivists involved in preserving/restoring the content. As for a presence in the exhibit hall, we do believe we can staff an AMIA table. It would be terrific if we could be placed next to VRT if you are having a table and we can look into that possibility if that's of interest. One of the ideas that came up was to have Ask an Archivist sessions scheduled on preservation issues. How does this all sound? We look forward to hearing back from you."

Lorraine told her about Now Showing and how it was tricky to get on that. Lorraine isn't sure about a night event, and she doesn't want to make more work for everyone. Lowell suggests that AMIA could be some kind of sponsor for the Gala, or they could be part of our presidential program. Lorraine says that they don't seem to want to have a program. They do want to know if they can do a night of archival shorts or an exhibit.

Lowell says that a night of shorts would be more like the Gala, which we already have set. Could they do it during the day as a program of some kind? They could work with us for our chair's program. Lorraine confirms that they can only make a proposal through an ALA member, right? Lowell says yes. Lowell says they could be involved as sponsors for the Gala, or they could be involved at some level with a program we come up within the next few months. Collaboration would be great. Lowell thinks we might have some time to work on this. Lowell thanks Lorraine for making this connection and introducing this possibility.

Preconference update: Ben is putting a proposal in for the 130 Year Road Trip by the end of the week. Ben says if you want to help out, that would be great. If we can combine the preconference with AMIA, that would be even better.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) statement (Lowell 5 minutes)

Proposal for EDI statement: Lowell says we were contacted last year about including an equity statement and having inclusion language in our mission statement. Most other round tables do not yet have an EDI statement in their guidelines or mission. Lowell doesn't feel comfortable being the person who actually puts this together. It might be better to have a group of people with one person to lead constructing an EDI statement to put into our official documentation and on our website. If we did it quickly we would be the first round table to comply. Gisele and Jennifer say they will be happy to help. Lowell says we would then present it to the board for review and discussion and come to a consensus. If there's anyone else who wants to be involved, you are welcome to it.

New business (5 minutes)

No new business. Lowell says thank you to everybody. This is the last VRT meeting! Huzzah! The next meeting for the FMRT is September 24 at 2 PM Eastern!