

ACRL/CLS Communications Committee

2006 Annual Conference Meeting
Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA
Napoleon Ball Room B3
Saturday, June 24, 2006 - 10:30 am

Present: Philip Swan (chair), Alice Crosetto, Rhonna Goodman, Christopher Millson-Martula, J. Michael Thompson

Committee chair Philip Swan convened the meeting and began with introductions and a review of the various responsibilities of the each committee member. Phil informed the group that Peter Gilbert has assumed responsibility for the CLS Website. Currently, Peter has been cleaning up the code on the site and removing bad links. Peter is looking forward to the improvements that should accompany the new content management system that is due out sometime this summer.

Phil mentioned that editor of the *CLS Newsletter*, Anne Garrison, plans to publish the next issue in early October 2006. She is interested in finding members who have ideas for future articles, especially articles that discuss community-based activities or that have a human interest aspect to them. Additionally, she would welcome any images of the Annual Conference programs and section activities that might have been taken with digital cameras.

Chris Millson-Martula reviewed his responsibilities for identifying the CLS “College Website of the Month.” He informed the committee that he forwards the URL address of the winning site to Peter who loads it onto the CLS Webpage. The group discussed the various merits of this program, and all agreed that it has been worthwhile. Libraries winning this award can use it as a marketing tool with donors, put it into their annual reports, ect. Chris agreed to provide Peter with the criteria that he uses to determine which institutions are qualified for the award so that this information is available on the CLS site.

Another Communication Committee initiative, the “CLS Member Profile,” has not been as well received. According to Phil, it has been tough to find nominees and, once found, difficult to get the profile questionnaires completed and returned. The committee discussed what might be done to make this program more successful. Because the member who has been in charge of the profiles has rotated off of the committee, a new individual will need to be assigned once it is revamped. In-coming chair, Mike Thompson, will solicit input from the committee members in the coming months to see which direction the committee wants to go with the member profiles.

Alice Crosetto has been looking into alternate ways for the committee to hold virtual meetings. She reviewed her findings with the committee. She informed the group that

while audio conferencing is a very effective means of meeting virtually, it has the problem of substantial start-up and maintenance costs. It would also force all of the meeting participants to have the necessary technical capabilities at their home institutions. Additionally, she does not know how it would be possible to have an open meeting if the committee were to set up a conference call for committee members only. She took some time to review MyALA, but it does not appear to have the live connectivity capabilities that a virtual meeting would require. She also looked into Microsoft's LiveMeeting. Much like audio conferencing, LiveMeeting has initial purchase and annual maintenance costs that will likely make implementation difficult or impossible. It is hoped that the ALA's new Online Community software package will provide a better means for holding virtual meetings, but no one on the committee has had any experience with the program yet. Alice will continue to look into alternative ways (including the Online Community software) to hold our Midwinter virtual meetings.

Mike provided a brief report on the latest activities related to the section's electronic discussion list, COLLIB-L. He is currently working on a set of posting guidelines for the list. Once these guidelines are drafted, they will be sent to the section council for review, then on to the ACRL board, and once approved will eventually be included in the *ACRL Guide to Policies and Procedures*.

The last part of the meeting involved a discussion of potential enhancements to the CLS Website. Phil mentioned that he has received requests for greater integration of visual elements on the CLS site. He also suggested that the site be reviewed to ensure compliance with ADA accessibility standards. There might be room for improvement with respect to some of the design elements as well: drop down boxes are a bit out-of-date, "become a member" information could be placed more prominently, roster list might include each member's specific committee responsibilities, etc. Issues related to improvements to the Website will be addressed at the virtual Midwinter meeting after Peter has had a bit of time to complete the site maintenance.

Phil has completed his 2-year term as committee chair. As mentioned above, Mike is the incoming chair. Mike's first act as chair will be to contact Lisabeth Chabot regarding the possibility of getting a few additional committee members to fill in some unexpected vacancies and to provide a bit of additional support. Mike will also need to find a committee member to replace him as moderator of COLLIB-L as he assumes his role as committee chair.

With scheduled committee business concluded and no additional new business put forth, Phil thanked the committee members and adjourned the meeting a few minutes after 12:30 pm.

Submitted by:

J. Michael Thompson