

Minutes of the LES 2013 Conference Program Planning Committee

ALA Annual Anaheim | Monday, June 25, 8-10am

In attendance: Harriett Green, Naomi Lederer, David Oberhelman,

NOTE: I and some members of the LES committee met jointly with the WESS 2013 Conference Program Planning Committee on Saturday, June 23 4-5:30pm. These notes cover the recap that I gave of our Saturday meeting, and areas we covered in our follow-up meeting of just LES committee members on Monday.

1. Changes to Scheduling for ALA Annuals

ALA will be implementing changes in its scheduling starting next year which will affect all programs offered at conference. First, all programs will be located in the convention centers (only business meetings will be held in hotels), so the total number of programs to be offered by ALA and all its divisions in any given year will be determined by the size of the convention centers—probably fewer than in the past.

Also, importantly for us, the Sat-Sun-Mon ALA schedule, which currently has 4 programming/meeting time sessions per day, will now have 5 sessions, and they will be 90 minutes or 1 hour in length instead of 2 hours or 90 minutes. As our initial plans were for a two hour session, this will take some adjustment. Info on this from Mary Ellen Davis of ACRL along with PDFs with the new times, are on this public ALA Connect post:
<http://connect.ala.org/node/178761>.

We have not received any information on when our program will be offered, so while we hope we get a 90 minute slot (Saturday 1:00-2:30 is the closest to the time we had originally requested), we may have to work with a program of only an hour.

2. Timing of Session and Speakers

Since we will have less time, we decided not to have a 4th speaker/respondent from the NEH. If we get 90 minutes, we will have all three (Service Perspective, Librarian Perspective, and Researcher Perspective). Should we only get an hour, we will leave off the Service Perspective speaker; the sections could perhaps incorporate aspects of that perspective (skill sets necessary for the new collaborations, the practical how-to p.o.v.) into Discussion Group meetings they offer.

Funding came up as well. We will know more once we get our budget figures, hopefully soon. We cannot use ALA/ACRL money to pay librarians honoraria or travel, but since we are to get vendor funding, we can use that outside money to give something to our librarian speakers. We will coordinate with the WESS Fundraising Committee on the finances and logistics, and turn in that budget info to ACRL in September when it is due.

We then went to the Google doc list of speakers we had been editing, and came up with more suggestions for names. What had been more of an IT collaboration perspective (#2 on our list) has evolved into more of a librarian perspective focusing on the big picture of forging collaborations and the vision behind such collaborations. We came up with some new names for the lists, and have a first draft at an order in which we'll contact them. We discussed how best to approach some of them, and who would be the best contact.

3. Bibliography

Once we have our speakers and our topics shaped into a final form, we will start compiling bibliographies of resources both to hand out at the session and to post on the web—we will find the best place to make the bibliographies available online for all the sections involved. We'll divide up the work on this among the various committee members.

4. Evaluations

Finally, we briefly discussed evaluations, though it is early in the process. Heidi asked Marcus Richter of WESS to be our door greeter to give out evaluations, and we have assigned Jennifer Bonnet and Barbara Alvarez to work on the text. ACRL gives us some stock questions, but we can add ones of our own. Colin and I will work on the final assessment summary of the session for ACRL.

Respectfully submitted by

David Oberhelman