

Minutes of the LES 2014 Conference Program Planning Committee
ALA 2013 Annual Conference – Chicago, IL
Monday, July 1, 8-10 am

Present: David Oberhelman (chair), Priscilla Finley, Chris Ruotolo, Sarah Wenzel,
Zara Wilkinson

Program sponsorship and theme

The 2014 conference program proposal will be co-sponsored by LES, WESS, and SEES. The total number of programs at ALA is limited due to the size of the convention center. Because only 30 program slots are available across ACRL, co-sponsorship by multiple sections is a big plus, and significantly raises the chances that the proposal will be accepted.

David and Sarah attended the WESS 2014 Conference Program Planning Committee Meeting, which was held on Saturday, June 29 at 2:30pm. They agreed to draft a broad abstract for the program, from which other documents can be derived – including the 75-word description to be submitted to ACRL by September 1.

The theme of the program, as yet untitled, will be embedded communities or cultures trying to maintain their identities within larger communities. The speakers will address the language, literary, and cultural identity issues faced by these groups, as well as the implications for librarians supporting them through liaison activities and collection development.

The Planning Committee will aim to relate the program to the location of the 2014 Conference (Las Vegas) by attempting to include embedded communities with a strong presence in the region – for example, the Basque community or Native American groups within Nevada.

Timeline

The program proposal is due to ACRL on September 1, and we will be notified of approval in early October. In mid-October, program planners attend a virtual meeting. The program planning committee should start contacting potential speakers soon afterward, as the online speaker form must be submitted by December 15.

We will generate an email list of all the LES/WESS/SEES program committee members, and use this to divide up the work on the proposal form. We will want to take care to demonstrate how the program will support the ACRL learning outcomes and relate to the strategic plan.

Funding

In 2012 we had \$1,700 from ACRL to support the program, so hope to receive a similar amount if this program is approved. In addition, WESS usually can contribute book vendor funds toward the program. We can't use the ACRL funding to pay for travel and honoraria for anyone holding a library degree or who works in a library, so the vendor funds will be used for those expenses.

Bibliography

The committee will create a bibliography to accompany the program, to be posted online, probably using Zotero. We will need to decide what kinds of resources to include. We may want to think about the bibliography as a springboard for a proposed follow-up program at ACRL 2015.

Other details

We may want to encourage LES and the other sponsoring sections to reinforce the programs theme in the discussion groups that take place during the conference.

The committee will request a 90-minute slot for the program, tentatively one of these times:

First choice: Saturday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Second choice: Sunday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Possible speakers for the program

Oksana Marafioti: Romani author in residence at the Black Mountain Institute (UNLV). She has written a memoir about growing up in Russia and coming to the US at 17. She could talk about cultural identity and Romani culture, and might be willing to address the complexities of representing a group that's so geographically dispersed.

Shannon Sisco: Basque Studies Librarian at the University of Nevada – Reno. She could provide the librarian perspective on the panel, perhaps as the respondent.

Native American speaker: the Planning Committee should connect with Native American groups within ALA and ask for help in identifying an appropriate speaker. Possible names: Lotsee Patterson, Loriene Roy

Moderator: it might be helpful if the moderator were from an underrepresented group.