

**ACRL Literatures in English Section  
Publications Committee**  
ALA Annual Conference  
New Orleans, LA  
Monday, June 27, 2011  
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** John Glover, Blake Landor, Chris Ruotolo (outgoing Chair), Amanda Rust

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**Welcome and introductions**

John and Blake were welcomed as incoming members of Publications. After Annual, the new chair of the committee will be Laura Braunstein. Chris and Amanda will continue on as webmaster and list administrator, respectively. Other Pubs members include Josh Finnell, Laura Fuderer, Aaron McCollough, and Karen Tatarka.

Chris described the various projects maintained by Pubs, including the LES-L mailing list, the LES website, the *Biblio-Notes* newsletter, the LES blog and wiki, and the bibliography of resources in language and literature. Pubs is also responsible for the LES print brochures, and anything else related to promotion or communication. Although the Membership committee founded and currently maintains the LES Facebook page, Pubs should have some involvement in the social media presence of the section as well.

**Announcements from LES Executive Committee Meeting I**

Chris gave a quick update from the LES Exec meeting. The most important issue was the discussion of virtual meetings for Midwinter 2012. The Virtual Participation Committee has been charged with establishing a timeline for the running the virtual meetings (publicizing the meeting details, posting the agenda, circulating the minutes, etc.) as well as recommending possible meeting technologies. Although some LES committees and discussion groups may need to use more sophisticated virtual meeting tools, a committee like Pubs might do best with a simple conference call, during which members can discuss updates that have been circulated via email in advance of the call.

**Reports:**

**LES-L mailing list**

Amanda reported that the LES-L membership has remained consistent at about 500 current subscribers, with no major issues to report. The list requires little moderation. Amanda pointed out that because the list is for subscribers only, posters sometimes speak more candidly than they would in a public forum like a blog, and may have a greater expectation of privacy. The group discussed the possibility of drafting some etiquette guidelines for the list, including a reminder that subscribers should avoid reposting content from the list that might be inappropriate for the general public. The guidelines could be sent out to the list quarterly.

## **LES Website**

The entire ALA website, including the LES pages, will be migrating to the Drupal CMS this fall. Drupal should be much more flexible and easy to update than the current CMS. However, the current LES website design, which largely uses tables to position items on the page, will not be valid in Drupal. Chris is in the progress of removing tables and fixing other errors on the pages. The LES home page will require the most revision, and the current design will be simplified. Once all of the pages have been edited and the migration takes place, Chris will try to reintroduce some of the earlier features, like the sidebar and the scrolling blog headlines. Eventually, other LES members can be granted editing privileges to portions of the website, making it a more dynamic and useful tool.

Pubs and the Membership committee have agreed to move the directory of LES literature librarians from the wiki to the website. The membership committee will update the information semi-annually, and send the data to Pubs, which will create a PDF version that can be linked from the home page. The current version, updated as of June 2011, is up on the site now.

## ***Biblio-Notes* newsletter**

John Glover was enthusiastically approved as the new editor for *Biblio-Notes*. He will check with Dawn Mueller at ACRL about deadlines. In addition to issuing general calls for content on LES-L and the blog, John can approach LES members about contributing, and is also welcome to contribute his own writing. The incoming LES chair, Faye Christenberry, will likely want to write a column. Sarah Wenzel, the ACRL liaison to the MLA, has volunteered to write something for the next issue about her experiences at MLA 2011. Angela Courtney and Harriet Green might also be willing to write something about attending and presenting at the 2011 Digital Humanities conference.

## **LES Bibliography**

Pubs decided to convert the LES Bibliography to Zotero last year, and several members volunteered to work on the project. A "LES Bibliography" group has been set up in Zotero, and about 65 citations have been imported into the group library. However, work on the conversion has never really gotten off the ground. Blake Landor volunteered to help organize and reinvigorate this important project.

Citations can be added to the Zotero library manually, or automatically captured by export from an online database. At Midwinter 2011, Aline Soules suggested a "LES Bibliography Day" where Pubs would recruit a large number of volunteers to each input a small number of records into Zotero; this approach may still be worth trying. Because Zotero entries can be categorized using tags, a taxonomy should probably be developed for that purpose. It might also be time to revisit the scope of the bibliography and consider updating the criteria for inclusion.

Once the conversion is well underway, LES can consider migrating related materials, like the bibliographies for its annual conference programs, to the Zotero library.

## LES Blog

Aaron took over administration of the blog in January, and has been responsible for all of the posting since then. Aaron's posts have included some wonderful open-ended questions for discussion, and Pubs members should make an effort to join in the conversation. Chris will ask LES Exec members to do the same.

Overall, the level of activity on the blog has decreased. Although the blog administrator has always done the bulk of the posting, in the past, other LES members made frequent contributions as well. Pubs should consider recruiting a co-administrator to share responsibility for posting, as well as encouraging posts from other members. Announcing the blog posts on LES-L seems to be a good strategy for raising visibility.

## LES Wiki

Now that Aline Soules has rotated off of Pubs, a new wiki administrator is needed. Technical duties for the wiki are generally light, consisting mostly of approving accounts for LES members who request them. But with the LES directory and bibliography moving off of the wiki, and overall activity on the wiki in decline, the administrator will also want to consider optimal uses for the wiki in the future. In addition to hosting conference information, such as hotel maps, meeting agendas and minutes, the wiki is an ideal platform for sharing documentation about instruction, collection development, and other professional activities of interest to LES members. For example, one member has suggested that Pubs compile the recommendations about selection tools for world literature from a recent LES-L thread and post them to the wiki; this could be the first of many entries under the heading of "Resources for Collection Development". Members might also consider posting their lesson plans, syllabi, exercises, etc. to a section devoted to instruction. This kind of information exchange could reinvigorate the wiki and would be a wonderful resource for LES members.

Chris noted that LES used to pay a \$99/yr hosting fee for an upgraded version of the PB Wiki software, but the upgrade package has been discontinued and LES is once again running the free version. LES Exec would probably be willing to continue paying for enhanced wiki functionality if the need for it is apparent.

## Addendum: LES Executive Committee Meeting II

Chris, Amanda, and John attended Exec II to report on the Publications Committee meeting and provide updates on the website, *Biblio-Notes*, and LES-L.

LES Exec approved a one-year trial subscription to WebEx, a virtual conferencing tool. LES committees and discussion groups will have the opportunity to test it out for the Midwinter meetings and provide feedback.

*Submitted by Chris Ruotolo, 15 July 2011*