ACRL Literatures in English Section
Publications Committee
ALA Midwinter Meeting
Boston, MA
Monday, January 18, 2010
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

MINUTES

Attendees: Laura Braunstein, Julie Buchsbaum, Chris Ruotolo (via telephone), Amanda Rust, Aline Soules, Karen Tatarka

Not attending: Vince Graziano, Timothy Hackman, Naomi Lederer, Laura Taddeo

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Welcome and Introductions

The group warmly welcomed Laura Braunstein (Dartmouth) and Karen Tatarka (Auburn), who were sitting in with Pubs for the first time.

Announcements from LES Executive Committee Meeting I (Amanda)

LES Exec discussed the possibility of creating an ad hoc group to explore virtual meeting technologies, and support more virtual attendance at conferences. Other ACRL sections have apparently moved to virtual committee meetings with some success. Pubs seems like a logical committee to steward this activity. Amanda would be interested in serving on the ad hoc task force.

ACRL has accepted LES's proposal to create a video about how librarians work with faculty. Liorah Golomb is looking for volunteers to work on the project, and for names of potential faculty interviewees.

The LES job shadowing program was announced, and has already generated some response. There are ACRL funds available that could potentially support activities like travel for the job shadowing program.

The LES strategic plan has been updated, and needs to be published on the LES website and/or the blog.

Reports:

LES-L mailing list (Amanda)

There are currently 435 members on the mailing list. There was a brief problem with Yahoo email accounts bouncing LES-L messages as spam, which Amanda has now resolved. The number of LES-L subscribers has declined somewhat in recent years.

There has been some discussion on the list about whether book advertisements from non-LES members are appropriate. Opinions were mixed, but most members seem to prefer letting these announcements go through, as long as they don't overwhelm the list. If the number of these announcements increases, we will revisit the issue.

Website (Chris)

The new website design for the home page has been implemented. It features the logo designed by Jackie Hackman, who is now credited on the LES homepage. It also features a sidebar with a blurb and link to the volunteer form, as well as a rotating RSS feed pulled from the LES blog, as suggested by Tim Hackman and others. There's also a new link from the home page to information about the new LES job shadowing program, which in turn includes a link to a form where members can sign up for the program.

LES Bibliography (Chris)

The bibliography is currently maintained on the wiki, which is easy for more than one person to edit, but poses some difficulties with formatting and categorization. At Annual last July, Pubs discussed the possibility of using a citation management tool for storing the bibliography; this might make it easier to update and organize the citations, and to assign multiple tags or categories. Chris has experimented with importing some citations into a Zotero group library, which could be edited by other LES members and viewed by the general public.

Julie Buchsbaum, Laura Braunstein, and Karen Tatarka volunteered to work on the bibliography. They have been added to the Zotero group library, and will explore that tool to see if it looks like a good solution.

***Biblio-Notes* newsletter (Laura)**

Laura circulated her update to LES Exec via email. Highlights:

- The deadline for the final version of the spring issue of *Biblio-Notes* is April 12, 2010, and Laura will need submissions by the last week of March.

- As announced at last Annual, *Biblio-Notes* will be produced in electronic format only, starting with the spring 2010 issue. Section members will receive an email with the URL for the newsletter, and ACRL can also send printed postcards to the few members who do not have email accounts announcing that the newsletter is available online.

- Laura's term as *Biblio-Notes* editor ends after Annual 2010, and we will need a volunteer to take over her role.

LES Blog

Tim Hackman continues to handle all aspects of the blog, including the technical maintenance and the lion's share of the posting. The blog has been updated 15 times since July, or about twice per month, and there have been 13 different authors altogether. Highlights include the first "Tech Tips" post, by Aline Soules, on using Adobe Captivate; an author conversation with R. Neil Scott; and the first post in a series of chapter-by-chapter discussions of *Teaching Literary Research: Challenges in a Changing Environment* (Kathleen Johnson and Steven Harris, eds.) Tim is actively seeking volunteers to continue working on each of these series. Comment activity on the blog is relatively low.

All LES members, and Pubs members in particular, are encouraged to post and comment on the blog. Pubs will seek a volunteer to assist Tim with the blog, and discuss ways to promote it. A RECAPTCHA widget may be added to the blog to reduce comment spam.

The group discussed the possibility of posting tutorials to the wiki, and discussing them on the blog. Although tutorials focused on literature might be appropriate, creating a repository of general tutorials about topics like EndNote would duplicate the efforts of more established websites like MERLOT. It might be useful to create a separate channel in MERLOT for LES or for ACRL; we could check in with the Instruction Section about this. Since most MERLOT resources have not yet been peer reviewed, the LES blog could be used to highlight particularly good tutorials on a given topic (e.g. RSS readers).

LES Wiki (Aline)

Vince Graziano has been managing the wiki; Aline's primary role is to approve new member requests. We need to make sure that the PBWiki renewal is processed (annual renewals now go directly to ACRL).

The group discussed the membership directory, and whether or not the current format is useful. Different options for the directory have been discussed and experimented with in the past – including PBWiki's internal spreadsheet format, and Google Docs – but all have their drawbacks. Chris will check in with the Membership Committee and we

will continue to look at different directly publication options. Amanda noted that there is a WordPress plug-in for creating directories, which we might be able to use in conjunction with the blog.

Virtual conferencing discussion

Aline discussed some of the virtual conferencing options she's familiar with. Although videoconferencing requires a lot of technology, and can be expensive to set up, it's still far less expensive than the cost of travelling to meetings twice a year. Teleconferencing is easier to set up, and there are free options worth exploring, including Skype and Google Voice. Adobe Connect is a web conferencing platform used by the Instruction Section. Google Wave is another possibility.

Other business

The group thanked Aline Soules for letting us use her Blackberry to set up the teleconference.

Addendum: LES Executive Committee Meeting II (Amanda)

Amanda attended Exec II and reported on the Publications Committee meeting. LES Exec agreed that Pubs would be a good home for a permanent "virtual meeting task force".

The following Publications tasks emerged from Exec II:

- Send out a message to all members via LES-L calling for volunteers to serve as the blog co-admin and new Biblio-Notes editor
- Post the revised LES mission statement on the home page, in a more prominent location
- Explore new formatting options for the LES Bibliography
- Consider writing a Biblio-Notes article about our low-tech teleconferencing at the Pubs Committee meeting
- Check in with the Membership committee to see if they're happy with the LES directory on the wiki, or if we should continue to explore other solutions

Submitted by Chris Ruotolo, 29 January 2010