

RBMS Exhibition Awards Committee Minutes

ALA Midwinter Conference, Seattle WA

Sunday, January 27, 2013

8:30 am – 12 noon, Washington State Convention Center – TCC 203

Note: the first hour of this EAC meeting was closed to ensure that all the judging was completed during the shortened Saturday session.

Members present: Cherry Williams (Chair, Indiana University), Elizabeth Call (Brooklyn Historical Society), Jessica Lacher-Feldman (University of Alabama), Michael Taylor (Louisiana State University), David Faulds (Emory University), Juli McLoone (University of Texas at San Antonio), Jason Kovari (Cornell University), Jennifer Lowe (Saint Louis University), Deborah Whiteman (Santa Clara University),

Guests: Athena Jackson (University of Miami), EAC liaison to Exec

Call to order for EAC business meeting: 9:30 am

1. Designation of recorder: Deborah Whiteman

2. Welcome, introductions, announcements

The committee welcomed liaison, Athena Jackson, to the EAC meeting.

3. Minutes of June 2012 business meeting approved

4. a) Financial: Update on Leab account, current year expenditures, etc.

Leab endowment principal is \$32,165.00

9/1/2012–11/31/2012 : \$274.00 in interest

 \$53.00 in bank charges

 \$221.00 Balance in spending account

b) Discussion of new ALA endowment rules and new information:

Williams gave a recap of the current situation:

- ALA now requires all endowments to have a minimum balance of \$50,000; this is required to justify the administration costs paid by ACRL for maintaining the fund
- Leab endowment is the only RBMS fund that does not meet this criterion
- RBMS has five years to devise a plan and ten years to implement a plan for dealing with this 'under-endowed' issue
- Three options presented to us at ALA Annual, 2011 were:
 1. Increase the endowment
 2. Spend down the endowment

3. Petition to have it grandfathered

Williams (Chair) noted that option 3, petition to be grandfathered, has been discussed and is no longer a possibility.

She also noted that, with reference to option 1, RBMS has verified that the Leabs themselves will not be contributing additional funds to increase the endowment of the Awards fund.

The RBMS Budget & Development Committee is aware of this situation, but are firm in their commitment to keeping the Leab Awards going: no one wants to see this competition go away.

B & D Chair, E. C. Schroeder, believes that RBMS can come up with a way to raise the \$18,000 needed to bring the Leab endowment up to the required \$50k. ACRL has already volunteered to contribute part of the \$18k; RBMS would raise the remaining funds

Williams asked for a group consensus to take to the Exec meeting on Monday:
do we want to continue with the Awards? Or do we want to spend the endowment down?

There was general discussion of this by the EAC Committee members:

Ideas discussed for raising funds to increase the endowment were:

Things that RBMS could do:

- EAC could offer workshops on such things as: how to do winning catalogs and exhibitions; ways to produce good exhibition catalogs that don't cost \$40k; the principles of a good brochure; more offerings like our workshop on online exhibits at the 2013 Preconference
- Offer an online course on best practices for exhibitions – like our discussion on Digress.it; pay the moderators and have participants sign up for a fee
- We could look for outside funding/donors
- Athena Jackson's idea to hold an RBMS black tie dinner – could it be a fundraiser for the Leab Awards?
- Hold a silent auction of new/old exhibition catalogues from our various institutions
- RBMS could pay the shipping costs for the Leab boxes; this is only \$350 annually.

Things that ACRL could do:

- Might consider using some of the money from Preconference profits (but we need to consider RBMS Scholarships program here)
- Have an option on the Registration from that would allow people to contribute to the Leab Awards when they register for the Preconference
- ACRL/RBMS together: inform the RBMS membership of this issue, put out call – would RBMS members be willing to contribute?

The EAC also discussed the option of spending the endowment down.

Low proposed spending it down and giving out cash awards to winners; we could also give out money to winners for travel to Annual to accept the award.

Williams reiterated that Erica Dowling and Exec, as well as B & D, are fully supportive of keeping the Leab Awards going, and asked for a vote on whether EAC supports this position as well.

Vote was taken to support a motion to fundraise to increase the endowment for the Leab Awards:

Results: 8 affirmative; 1 opposed

5. Follow-up to action items in EAC Minutes from ALA Annual (Anaheim, June 2012)

a) Completed Action Items:

The following action items from FY2011-2012 have been completed or canceled and need no longer be included in the action items list for the upcoming ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago (June 2013):

- **ALA Annual 2011 Action Item 2:** Pending information from one of the holding institutions. *"Molly will provide institutional data (Grolier, HRC, Bancroft) to the Web team."* - **Completed**
- **ALA Annual 2011 Action Item 3:** *"Jessica will forward to Molly a list of additional regional archives list serves such as the National Council on Public History, AASLH—Association of State & Local History Societies, SAA, etc."* - **Cancelled**
- **ALA Annual 2011 Action Item 4:** *"Molly (and future chairs) will maintain a master list of organizations & contacts of organizations to receive the annual announcements, as part of the chair checklist."* – **Completed**
- **Midwinter 2011 Action Item 8:** Suggestion by Jason Kovari that Cherry resubmit request to editor@rbms.info, as technology continually improves re *"Creation by Web Team of an online submission form for the award, since current PDF form is very time-consuming to process."* - **Completed**
- **Midwinter 2011 Action Item 9:** *"Placing Richard Noble's files on ALA Connect."* – **Cancelled**
- **ALA Annual 2011 New Action Item 5 and 6 (merged):** *Digress.it Seminar Moderator issue.* See **Continuing Action items list below**
- **NEW ACTION ITEM 2: NEW ACTION ITEM 3:** **a)** Incoming Chair wishes to investigate possibility of a workshop on online exhibitions and **b)** possibly a live webcast as well: Jason

Kovari stated that he is very willing to pursue webcasting. - **a Completed; b Canceled** (planning for workshop is underway; decision was made not to webcast this workshop)

- **Midwinter 2011 Action Item 7:**
"The committee will use the Digress.it site to discuss the submission guidelines and the brochure guidelines criteria." Resolved that the new definition of "Brochures" is as follows: "Brochures are printed leaflets, booklets, and folded or flat single sheets that orient visitors to an exhibition or serve as a loosely documentary keepsake." The wording of the section "Brochure Design 5" will be amended to begin as follows: "Paper should be, ideally, acid-free...." – **Completed**
- **ALA Annual 2011 New Action Item 9: & Midwinter 2012 New Action Item (Merged):** Leabs OK with inclusion. Final decision to come from Exec.
Explore boundaries and legalities of including Latin America and the Caribbean. "Molly will contact the Leabs to see if they approve the awards being expanded to include the Americas." – **Completed**
- **Midwinter 2012 New Action Item:** Completed. Catalogs must either be in English or include English in a multi-language format to be considered.
"Molly will seek guidance regarding language issue (bilingual w/English or English) for submissions. The committee will be prepared to suggest guidelines to Exec by Annual." - **Completed**

b) Continuing/Pending Action Items:

- "Gallery of Winners" – Kovari reported on this; Melanie Griffith is working on this with Cherry; Griffith is creating a new site in Word Press
- *Jessica Lacher-Feldman will begin process of investigating the moderator role for the Digress.it seminar. JLF to contact James Ascher to discuss Digress.it."*
Committee will continue to pursue new instantiation of online seminar. Incoming chair will research possibility of paying the moderator, and will contact Jane Gillis as Chair of the Workshops Committee - **Pending**
(Lacher –Feldman is interested in taking this on; she will also be contacting Melissa Hubbard; discuss at Annual)
- *Expansion of Leab Awards display to include all breaks between meetings at the Preconference.*
(We did not do this at the 2012 Preconference; packing up at lunch was a problem; this was discussed at Midwinter 2013; Williams would like to do an expanded schedule at the 2013 Preconference in Minneapolis; she will send out schedule so that EAC members can sign up for shifts at the Leab table – **Pending**

c) New Action Items

1. Action Item: Williams will send link to new “Gallery of Winners” to EAC members
 2. Lacher –Feldman will contact Melissa Hubbard re instigation of a new EAC online seminar on Digress.it
 3. Williams will check on term limits for EAC and for incoming chairs
 4. Williams will follow up on Lowe’s questions re Leab bequest: what would happen if we spend the money down? Where would the money go, and what would be the process re reformulating the EA Committee?
 5. Williams will send out a schedule for shifts at the Leab table during the Minneapolis Preconference in June
- ### **6. Review of 2013 award cycle**
- Kovari asked whether we would like Publications Committee to handle printing of the awards certificates this year? Williams affirmed that she would like Lamoy to do this again for the 2013 ceremony.

7. Other business

- Athena Jackson (liaison) visited the meeting and asked if members had any questions for the Exec
- Kovari suggested that EAC should advertise for new members; Fernando Pena sent out an announcement/call for volunteers; volunteers submit thru ALA website; Pena forwards these to Cherry. If you have suggestions, let Cherry know.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Whiteman

Edited by Cherry Williams