

RBMS Leab Exhibition Awards Committee Agenda

ALA Annual Conference, Las Vegas

Saturday, June 28, 2014

Location: LVCC Room N214

Time: 8:30-11:30 AM

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 AM.

B. Introduction of members, new members and visitors

Introductions were made around the table and a sign up was sheet circulated.

Members present were:

Cherry Williams, Lilly Library, Indiana University, Outgoing Chair; David Faulds, Emory University, Incoming Chair; Alex Johnston, University of Delaware; Molly Dotson, Yale University; Jocelyn Kaplan, Harvard University; Elizabeth Call, Columbia University; Gabriel Swift, Princeton University; Juli McLoone, University of Texas, San Antonio; Jason Kovari, Cornell University; Maggie Kopp, Brigham Young University, Marten Stromberg, University of Illinois; Deborah Whiteman, University of Toronto.

Guests: Natasha Lyandres, Notre Dame University

C. Designation of Recorder

Deborah Whiteman

D. Announcements

There were no announcements

E. Review and Approval of Minutes from ALA Midwinter 2014 meeting

F. Minutes from the 2014 ALA Midwinter committee meeting in Philadelphia were approved.

G. Financial Report

The Leab Endowment breakdown from Sept. through April 2014 is as follows:

The Leab endowment principal is \$38, 013.

From September 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014, the endowment earned \$975.

There were \$184 in bank charges, and \$48 in postage charges, which leaves a balance of \$743 in the spending account.

Between 9/1/13-4/30/14, there have been \$175 in donations for building the endowment.

H. New Business

Lists & Flyers for the RBMS Preconference bags:

In the past, the Exhibition Awards Committee created a list (usually about six pages) of bibliographic citations for each printed catalogue or electronic exhibit entry submitted by various institutions that year; the list went into every RBMS Preconference bag.

Former Leab chair, Molly Schwartzburg, had questioned the validity of this practice - is it necessary? The Leab committee felt (at that time) that this may be more paper that people were just throwing away. The list was not included in the bag items this year. Instead, we have included an attractive flyer advertising the 2014 Leab competition and the October 15 deadline for submissions; the cost of this is paid for by ACRL.

The question was raised: what do we want to do going forward?

Swift noted that he had a couple of people asking for the list this year, so perhaps we shouldn't get rid of the idea altogether; he suggested that we make a bookmark with a QR code on the back; people could then access the Leab web page and get this information there.

Williams agreed and suggested we do a colorful, 'flashy' bookmark, with pictures of the winners on it; the committee members all supported this idea.

Leab display at 2014 Preconference Booksellers' Showcase:

Williams remarked that we didn't have as many people looking at the electronic exhibitions this year, even though we had a larger space for the Leab display. The group suggested that maybe this was because we just had only one laptop computer this year (as opposed to two last year) or perhaps it was due to the location of laptop off to the far side of the table. Williams and others noted that there was lots of interest in the print catalogues on display.

We had exceptionally long, spacious tables and a great location at the entrance to this year's Booksellers Showcase. Williams noted that Tory Ondrla helped us to get the tables and space; she emphasized that Tory is happy to do this again next year; we need only ask.

Archiving the electronic exhibits submissions:

Marten Stromberg (RBMS Archivist), from the University of Illinois, is joining the Leab committee this year and will be helping to archive the electronic exhibitions. The Leab committee should give the URLs of the electronic exhibitions to him for archiving at the University of Illinois (which is the official archive for ALA/ACRL). Kovari noted that RBMS.info is moving to WordPress and that the Leab site will be web archived with Archive-It. He said that we don't actually have a plan for the web archiving; does Illinois want us to have permissions from the submitting institutions?

Williams and Kovari: we have asked Web Team to work on the entry form, so that the Chair doesn't have to cut and paste all of the information from the form into an excel spreadsheet, which is extremely time-consuming work for the Chair. The goal is to have an electronic submission form that automatically populates a spreadsheet.

Williams: we are now able to have one or two Leab interns who can help with some of the committee work - i.e. some of these technological challenges. (The Chair can put out a call for interns, along with the general call for members in spring.)

Julie McLoone volunteered to assist Marten by writing to ask institutions for permissions to archive their electronic exhibit submission websites, going back to 2002.

Kovari recommended also doing a quick google search to make sure that the URLs are still the same.

McLoone will word the request for the permissions as an opt-out option; we should also add this request to the new submission form: add - "ACRL/RBMS reserves the right to preserve and make accessible electronic exhibitions submitted ..."

G. Old business

Swift: As discussed at past judging meetings, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between categories, such as: expensive, moderately expensive catalogues, brochures, etc. Swift is working with Kovari to modify the current form and criteria: the current cost per catalogue is determined by the production cost divided by the no. of copies printed; this can vary a lot - how to make this more fair? With small print runs (under 100 copies), this raises the price considerably.

Other things to consider: is it a commercial publication or is it free?; was it created with in-house design and printing? What constitutes a brochure? Swift volunteered to review the print submissions for the last couple of years in order to see what the issues are here, recognizing that it is sometimes difficult to assign a fair category to a submission. How do we want to move forward? Maybe look at the historical data, and see if there were other examples of previous anomalies that would help us to reevaluate the way we are assigning print submissions to categories. Our ultimate goal is to make this categorization process as fair as possible, in terms of what is competing with what.

October 15, 2014 is the cutoff date for all submissions for the 2015 competition.

H. Other Business

Member-at-large to Executive Committee, Athena Jackson, joined the meeting. Jackson made a public announcement at the Preconference, saying that RBMS welcomes contributions to the Leab Awards and to Scholarships.

We are committed to exploring different ways to do vibrant fundraising for the Leab. Jackson mentioned that Caldex sponsored breaks at this Preconference; every event was sponsored this time.

Idea for promoting Leab Awards more at Preconferences: maybe have a Leab ribbon, with "ask me about my exhibit" or "Leab contributor" on it; the committee felt that it would be nice to acknowledge contributors; all agreed ribbon would be a nice touch.

Jackson suggested that we ask Budget & Development what it would cost to make Leab ribbons; we can then let Exec know that we are planning to do this; ACRL would probably pay for it.

Williams: maybe we could have a Leab banner made for the table?
There was general support for the ribbons and for the banner idea as well.

It was also confirmed that Liz Call and David Faulds will liaise with B & D for fundraising, if and when this becomes necessary.

McCloone noted that the Preconference table offers limited visibility - asked whether we could we add a bibliography; perhaps we could have institutions attach a JPEG image of the cover of the catalogue? This could be part of the submission process.

Other suggestions for more Leab visibility: next time, showcase the computer and electronic exhibitions more. Jackson: maybe showcase this via a laptop at the Technology Petting Zoo next year. Committee liked this suggestion.
Also, have members talk it up - at New Members Mixer, etc.

Williams talked about new practice of doing "speed dating" chats with people at the New Members Orientation - much more interactive - we got more interest in the Leab Committee for this year.

We could also promote the Leab Award winners on the Preconference blog; Laura Micham and Danielle Culpepper are the contacts for blog submissions; could also add images of catalogues to blog.

Kovari asked Stromberg about the permissions: we should ask for permissions to put our material on CDL; Martin has already sent the URL's to the ALA Archives: the ALA Archivist is responsible for putting things into the CDL, and ultimately to the University of Illinois repository; Illinois now has an IR in CDL; Stromberg stated that we could put PDFs of entire exhibition catalogues into the University of Illinois IR. The Committee liked this idea.

Chris Prom is dealing with the CDL part of this. Stromberg: there are different community spaces within the CDL; the hierarchy still has to be set up for this in CDL

I. Review of 2014 Award Cycle

Questions about shipping schedule at Christmas, especially with a larger committee - can be tight for people over Christmas.

Most times, you have two weeks with your box; we try to ship in a way that makes sense geographically.

We had 31 catalogues; 22 electronic submissions this year.

Point was raised that we will want to pay attention to cutoff dates for catalogue and electronic exhibit submissions: make sure they fit within our parameters.

Faulds spoke to Jennifer Sheehan at the Grolier Club; asked them to submit their catalogues regularly to Leab

J. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Whiteman, recorder