

RBMS Seminars Committee Draft Minutes  
ALA Midwinter Meeting 2016, Boston  
Sunday, January 10, 2016  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Location: Westin Copley Plaza, St. George CD

Present: Sarah Horowitz - Haverford (Chair), Mark Greenberg - Western Washington, Elizabeth Call - Columbia, Veronica Reyes-Escudero - Arizona, Maggie Kopp - Brigham Young, Julie Grob - U of Houston, Melissa Hubbard - Case Western Reserve, Molly Dotson - Yale, Caro Pinto - Mount Holyoke, Lisa Conathan - Yale, John Overholt - Harvard, Will Hansen - Newberry, Kimberly Tully - Temple (Recorder), Haven Hawley - U of Florida

### **Introductions and Selection of Recorder**

Kim Tully agreed to act as recorder.

### **Changes/Adjustments to 2016 Session Information**

Any changes/updates to seminars must be submitted to the conference planning team asap as the conference site will be live in approximately two weeks from Midwinter Meeting, also AV requirements if beyond the typical must also be requested asap

Addressed question of time allotment for Q&A session from seminar organizer (approximately 20-30 minutes ideally).

### **Review of Proposed Dates/Times of Seminars in the Conference Schedule**

There were no issues with timeslots. There will be fewer concurrent sessions this year and attempts to not have competing topics. Conference capped at 400 attendees this year

### **Process and Responsibilities for Onsite Coordinators for Seminars**

Onsite Coordinator works with the seminar organizer to provide AV help, check in with speakers, and provide feedback to the chair on how things went (timekeeping, attendance, etc). They will also liaise with moderators to assist in timekeeping and other issues.

### **Deadline for Submitting Seminar Proposals for 2017 Conference is June 3rd**

2017 Conference theme is Storytelling, but seminars do not have to be on the theme. The Committee traditionally will accept a few late proposals that come out of programs/discussions at the 2016 RBMS Conference.

### **Brainstormed Ideas for 2017 RBMS Conference Seminars**

Project management

Directors in their first 30/60 days, including how to work with new directors, role of new director from multiple perspectives

Managing the definition of success - how to grow in your current position without moving into a management position

Money in special collections - case studies by development officers, storytelling in fundraising, special collections as bridge to development, looking critically at development and its effect on collecting and processing priorities

Special collections and digital humanities intersections, including lessons learned from working on documentaries and multimedia projects, storytelling and oral history projects

The stories we can't tell (such as topics related to security, restrictions and communicating about theft)

Cataloging work done in other departments and workflow issues

Talking about failure in special collections

Generational differences in the profession

Language accessibility issues - telling stories in different languages and telling cultural stories (instruction component)

Media relations - the state of storytelling about special collections

Programming tools and how they can be useful in our work (maybe a workshop?)

The wonder of digital archives; related: working with the public using e-mail collections, born-digital materials and distance reading

Distant reading as a general topic

Student internships/graduate assistants and student engagement in special collections work

Early career professionals and diversity topics (temporary positions as stepping stones, ie resident librarians), possibly related to Dropped Member Survey that M&PD Committee will be undertaking

Difference between "librarians" and "archivists" and the rhetoric around it (maybe better as a discussion group), benefits of a blended department, cf. CALM

Doing assessment on your own, maybe something coming out of the RBMS/SAA task forces related to assessment, what do we get out of assessment and how does it help us tell stories

Disaster planning - perhaps related to Iowa City floods in 2008, lessons learned, how do we help our neighbor institutions

HR evaluation of early career, performance reviews, translating library speak to HR, maybe tied to new Core Competencies

Open access and special collections

(At the end of the brainstorm session there was a brief discussion of linking these minutes to the CFP, especially to assist with first-time proposer, but the committee was cautious about appearing proscriptive)

**Meeting adjourned**