

## Meeting Notes

RBMS Publications and Communications Committee

Wednesday, 2014 January 15. 3-4pm (Virtual Meeting)

### **Call to order: 3:04PM**

#### Attendees:

Jason Kovari (Chair. Cornell University); Elizabeth Call (Brooklyn Historical Society); Katharine Chandler (Free Library of Philadelphia); Christian Dupont (Atlas Systems); Melanie Griffin (University of South Florida); Elspeth Healey (University of Kansas); Ethan Henderson (University of California); Melissa Hubbard (Colgate University); Kate Hutchens (University of Michigan); Francis Lapka (Yale University); Deborah J. Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library); Laila Miletic-Vejzovic (University of Central Florida); Nancy Poehlmann (University at Albany, SUNY); Valerie Prilop (University of Houston); Garth Reese (University of Idaho)

**Designation of a recorder:** Kate Hutchens

### **Introductions**

The Committee Chair, Jason Kovari, noted that this was the first time the Publications Committee had held a virtual meeting, and as such participants might anticipate snags that we would hopefully be able to overcome.

### **Reports from working groups and ex-officio liaisons**

#### 1. Web Team (Melanie Griffin reporting)

Melanie first acknowledged the "fabulous group" of liaisons and thanked them for all their hard work. She summarized for the Committee a report regarding website usage statistics which indicated that hits continue to increase, and that the most heavily visited sections of the website continue to be "Your Old Books," Educational Opportunities Directory, controlled vocabularies, and seminars.

The web team has migrated the domain registration to DreamHost, who hosts rbms.info; this registration is bundled with our hosting and will cost the section no charge. The Chair posed the question of whether the NameSecure account (belonging to Everett Wilkie) is now closed, given the move of the domain registration to DreamHost. Elspeth Healey posited that the account should no longer be active, and noted that this would be confirmed soon and communicate directly to the Chair. The chair thanks Everett Wilke for his many years supporting rbms.info by registering the domain on his personal account.

The web team is still working on a migration to a content management system. They have been working with Budget and Development in the hopes that funds could be made available to assist with this

migration, primarily to hire a web designer. Preliminary indication seems that this is beyond what they could be supported by RBMS funds alone.

The web team is also still working on the thesaurus design. They are looking for assistance with language skills in Portuguese; all TemaTres documentation is written in Portuguese.

The web team completed work on the online Leab Awards Gallery; the Chair acknowledges this hard work and expresses appreciation for what the team has accomplished.

Work has also continued with the revised standard citation forms site, in conjunction with that task force.

The web team recently made the contact information for the RBMS News editor/content editor evident on the site to facilitate the posting of relevant information as supplied by members of section and the public.

The web team will be having a meet-up at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia on Sunday, January 26, at 9:30am at Old City Coffee Shop on 12th Street (PubComm members welcome).

## 2. Documentarian (Francis Lapka reporting)

Francis Lapka, Melissa Hubbard, and Kate Hutchens served as the recording team at the 2013 RBMS Preconference in Minneapolis, and that the resultant documentation page should be ready to be published within the next few weeks. The Committee had mostly positive feedback on the draft web page, though suggested that the images on the page be accompanied by captions indicating from which sessions/presentations they were extracted.

Overall, there is less content available for 2013 than in the recent past. For this Preconference, the audio recordings were of varying quality - some recordings were too "hot," and some too quiet - and the reason for this is not entirely clear. Francis expressed that the team is disappointed with this result, but is still glad to be able to at least offer recordings of majority of sessions to some extent. In the future, the committee may pursue training for the Documentarian for both recording and post-processing work. Post-processing has recently been assisted by the institution of the Documentarian (at Yale as Francis has been Documentarian), and hopefully this can continue via resources at the University of Michigan while Kate Hutchens, the incoming Documentarian, services in this role. Francis also suggested looking into possibly contracting for some of these recording services, referring to peer organizations like SAA who do this for their major conferences.

After the Preconference, Francis had put out a call for slides/powerpoints from presenters, but did not receive as much material as in years past, and from fewer presenters, though he assumes presenters likely have good reasons for choosing not to share. There was some discussion of how presenters have been approached with requests to share their material from the most recent Preconferences. It was

posited that the 2012 presenters were contacted directly, but that for 2013 these requests were meant to have gone through the session organizers to the presenters, so as to relieve the Documentarian from having to contact so many individuals; this indirect communication might partially explain the decreased response from presenters. It was decided that the Documentarian should communicate with the Seminars and Preconference Planning Committees in order to ensure that all presenters expect to be asked to share their presentation materials.

The documentation team has been able to capture the Twitter activity related to the 2013 Preconference via the hashtag #rbms13. Merrilee Proffitt generated a static spreadsheet that records all of the tweets, and Melissa Hubbard is working using Storify to organize the tweets and other information. Once this is compiled and added to the web page, it will go live.

### 3. News Editor (Ethan reporting)

Ethan gave a “shout out” to the web team for their diligence in forwarding to him so many emails requesting that info be posted to the news blog, and also expressed appreciation for the new widget on the left side of the news blog page that makes this information readily apparent to site visitors.

Ethan also expressed disappointment in the amount of announcements of collections and other acquisitions information, and mentioned that he regularly turns down requests that have nothing to do with RBMS or appear to him to be a bit too self-promotional.

Overall, It’s been a good year of newsworthy items being posted to the News blog. Ethan requested ideas for how to find things that are more specific to the membership without too much duplication of what comes across listservs, etc. Valerie Prilop suggested that there might be reluctance on the part of those who aren’t really sure what type of content is appropriate, and suggested the inclusion of some note indicating as much within the new widget.

Ethan reminded the Committee that one can be sure to be notified of news as it’s posted via the News blog’s RSS feed, and also mentioned that he might include this line as a tag or signature line in emails as he calls for submissions of content:

<http://www.new.rbms.info/?q=blog/10/feed>

### 4. Listserv (Jason Kovari reporting on behalf of Everett Wilkie)

The membership of RBMS-L is still increasing and the moderator receives a couple of requests each week. As of the report there were 1245 members on the list, though it is not readily apparent how many of these are, in fact, RBMS members. The list sees the most activity around conferences. The listserv is coming up on its 8th anniversary as currently hosted, though it was originally founded 1996 and so has been active for 17 years.

## 5. RBM (Jason Kovari reporting)

There was no formal update from Beth Whitaker, but ACRL should soon announce the incoming editor.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### 1. "Your Old Books" editing (Katherine Chandler reporting)

The subcommittee, which consists of Katherine and four others, set up a development draft text for new *YOB* and invited people to comment from ExLibris and RBMS listservs; there was a low volume of responses. Katherine noted that there was some delay around and assumes that it's just a slow start. Hopefully the subcommittee will be able to have their own edits and cumulative crowd-sourced edits within a couple of months, likely by mid-March. The subcommittee projects they can have the edited draft ready for review by the Publications Committee at the ALA annual meeting.

There was some discussion about the costs and benefits of printing a new edition of "Your Old Books," and how to best estimate the proper number to print. For the last printing, the demand exceeded the print run by thousands of copies. Further, "Your Old Books" is regularly the most frequently visited section on the website. Both print and online versions are in demand.

The use and fate of the printed copies was discussed, with comments about the "ambassadorial" role of this publication to booksellers and the public, and questions of how many copies were requested by institutions who have likely not distributed some or most of those copies.

The Chair suggests that, in deciding how many copies of the new edition ought to be printed, the Committee should reach out to the Executive Committee, Budget and Development, etc., who have longer institutional memories and deeper knowledge of the budget issues relevant to this expenditure.

#### 2. Policy Recommendation for Re-using Content posted on [rbms.info](http://rbms.info) (Jason Kovari reporting)

This policy request is pertinent to RBMS.info, as well as social media sites being used on behalf of the Section.

As a result of an inquiry from a user wanting to repost content from the RBMS Facebook page, the Executive Committee had asked that the Publications Committee investigate whether or not RBMS has any policy published concerning a user's ability to reuse images posted online by the Section.

In reference to the ALA/ACRL copyright statement, Jason has drafted the following statement for

submission to the Executive Committee:

"For content posted on rbms.info and other domains (e.g.: facebook.com) by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (RBMS), users are allowed to re-post and otherwise re-use this content under the CC BY license [<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>]. For material posted on rbms.info or other domains that have not been created by RBMS (e.g.: presentation slides from Preconferences), the user must seek permission of the copyright holder for re-using or re-posting this content."

In the discussion, it was determined that the Preconference documentation page already has a disclaimer regarding the content of the sessions (which is a copy/paste legacy from Preconference websites of the past).

There was some follow-up discussion about what rights Facebook and venues claim for themselves regarding material posted on their platforms. Though the group generally believes that all such rights belonged to the person posting said materials, it was decided that this should be confirmed.

## **New Business**

### 1. Other business

The Conference Development Committee has requested the help of the Publications Committee and the Web Team for the reformatting of the conference development manual. The web editors have agreed to help out with this project. They are investigating strategies for this task, and will have updates to follow soon.

## **Announcements/Wrap-up**

The participants of this virtual meeting thought that overall the process was positive, though a few participants experienced frustration with their access and functionality issues. The Chair requests that others with feedback to offer regarding the virtual meeting email him. Further, he suggests that before the next attempt, the committee tests the setup for members; the chair will also draft instructions on using the platform.

**Adjournment: 4:02pm**