

RBMS Collection Development Discussion Group

Sheraton Dallas Hotel – Trinity 1

Dallas, Texas, ALA Midwinter

Saturday, January 21, 2012 -- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

I. Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Reports from attendees on recent acquisitions and hires

3. Discussion Topic: Insuring and Ensuring Special Collections. Questions for discussion include:

- Are your permanent collections insured and if so, by whom?
- For insurance purposes, how did your department determine collection value?
- Does your insurance provider require periodic/regular collection value updates? If so, who performs this task?
- Who at your institution bears the expense for insurance?
- If your collections are “self-insured,” what are the terms and conditions of this insurance?
- What kinds of experiences (if any) have you had making a claim with your insurance provider?

4. Suggested topics for next Collection Development Discussion Group meeting

II. Minutes from the Discussion Group

Nine people met at 10:30 am on Saturday morning to discuss their mutual interests in collection development. We likely would have had several hundred more, but they were all at metrics and assessment! After brief announcements by discussion group convener Mark Greenberg, the group shared information about recent and upcoming hires and acquisitions. BYU has a position open for a curator of modern manuscripts; Emory will soon re-open its search for a new Special Collections director; and University of Miami is pleased to have a new Special Collections librarian. Recent acquisitions from member institutions include book arts, literature, home movies, modern poets' manuscripts and papers, African American history, local and Mormon history, architectural and decorative arts, women's activism, and LGBT studies.

Much of the discussion surrounded the topic for the day: "Insuring and Ensuring Special Collections." There was a lively, sobering conversation about the trials and tribulations of

securing and maintaining appropriate insurance for Special Collections in order to ensure their survival. The group barely scratched the surface of this complex but important topic and is seeking opportunities at future ALA meetings and/or RBMS pre-conferences to explore the subject further.

Respectfully submitted by Mark I. Greenberg, CD Discussion Group convener