

RBMS Curators and Conservators Discussion Group Draft Minutes

ALA Midwinter Meeting

Saturday, 26 January 2013, 10:30–11:30 AM

Westin Seattle Hotel, Grand Crescent Room

Convener: William T. La Moy, Syracuse University

Attendees: Rachel D'Agostino, Library Company of Philadelphia; Scott Duvall, Brigham Young University; Deborah Green, Fort Hays University; Alexander Johnston, University of Delaware; Beth Kilmarx, Binghamton University; Kathryn Leonard, University of Washington; Daryl Morrison, University of California at Davis; Moriah Neils, University of Washington; Rose Oliveira; Blynne Olivieri, University of West Georgia; Jane Penner, University of Virginia; Michelle Strizever; Marten Stromberg, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Julie Tanaka, University of Notre Dame; and Ann Marie Willer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1. The attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
2. Blynne Olivieri volunteered to record the minutes.
3. Ann Marie Willer reported that an opening for a conservator at MIT is expected to be announced during the week of 28 January 2013.
4. The major discussion topic was the collaborative relationship between curators and conservators as they plan and execute exhibitions. The following questions were posed to facilitate the dialogue.

What institutional structure is in place for the planning and implementing of exhibitions?

How are the subjects of exhibitions selected?

How is the exhibition's lead person identified?

What is the methodology for the selection of an exhibition's content?

How are preservation and security issues addressed?

Who is responsible for the writing and editing of the textual matter?

Who is responsible for designing exhibitions?

What are the problems that regularly arise in exhibition planning and execution?

Are conservation units separate entities or are they subsumed under the special collections department?

Are outside contractors routinely used?

What is the role of the library information officer?

What is the role of the development or advancement office?

How are digital or online exhibitions executed and preserved?

5. There was a solicitation of topics for discussion at the ALA annual meeting in June.

6. Additional news items were invited.