

NMRT Board Member Planning Report

1. Office Name: Outreach Director

2. Office Term (Date: Ex. 2005-2006): 2016-17

3. How do you plan to help committees address the four NMRT goals? (If it does not apply, put N/A.)

Each of my committees contributes to one or more of the four NMRT goals. SCOTYA contributes to goal #4, by implementing the Student Chapter of the Year Award, encouraging professional involvement from library school students. MPDR contributes to goal #2 by planning the Membership, Networking, and Committee Interesting Meeting at ALA Midwinter. MPDR and SASCO both contribute to all four goals by communicating the programs, training, and other opportunities available through NMRT specifically to library school students (SASCO), and by encouraging membership, promoting diversity in programs and membership, and seeking feedback from NMRT members (MPDR).

I believe I can help my committees address the four goals of NMRT by making sure they have a clear understanding of their committee's charge and goals, as well as how their committee contributes to the overall mission and goals of NMRT. For those with more flexibility in the tasks to be accomplished in a year (e.g., MPDR), I can direct them to the four NMRT goals to help focus and develop a plan, if needed.

4. How do you plan to create a positive committee experience? What type of support do you plan to provide to chairs and committee members, and how often do you plan to provide such support?

I think that my communication with committee chairs will be a main factor in creating a positive committee experience. I hope to help my chairs feel supported and that they are part of a community in NMRT leadership. I will do this by keeping them informed of relevant information I receive through the NMRT board, and also making sure each of my chairs are introduced to each other.

I will support chairs and committee members by being as responsive as possible to questions via email. I will mark important dates and action items on my own calendar, following up with chairs when needed to remind them of certain deadlines. This should mean we're in pretty regular communication, but in quieter times, I will at least check in about once a month with each of the chairs.

5. What future directions do you see your office or NMRT needing to take this year or the following year? What kind of strategies do you envision for addressing projects that affect committees outside of your supervision?

I think a focus on communication is key for both the Outreach Director as well as NMRT. Based on my own experience, and an ongoing conversation currently happening with one of my

committees, it would be incredibly helpful for committees to be more aware of what the other committees are doing. I will definitely keep the committees I supervise in connection with each other, as some do related work, but I will also help them with strategies to stay connected with what's going on in the rest of NMRT (which is also essential for some of them).

I think there are ways that various committees can inform each other's work and lead to greater success throughout the roundtable (those within and outside of my supervision). For example, a member in the current MPDR committee offered the idea that the results of last year's member survey could be shared with all committees or even all members. The feedback received directly from NMRT members and non-members could directly inform NMRT programs, discussions, opportunities, etc.

This can also work the other way around – data and feedback from various NMRT programs and resources could be used to inform recruitment and outreach strategies. Overall, I think making use of communication strategies within the infrastructure of NMRT can lead to enhancing the opportunities we offer, as well as better outward communication and outreach.

6. Date of report: October 1, 2016

7. Submitted by: Ariana Santiago