

RBMS Exhibition Awards Committee Meeting

ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois

Saturday, June 29, 2013

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Hyatt Regency Hotel, Skyway 272

Members present: Cherry Williams, Chair (Indiana University), David Faulds (Emory University); Julie McLoone (University of Texas, San Antonio); Jason Kovari (Cornell University); Jennifer Lowe (St. Louis University); Elizabeth Call (Brooklyn Historical Society)

Absent with notice: Michael Taylor (Louisiana State University); Jessica Lacher-Feldman (Louisiana State University)

- 1. Call to order for EAC business meeting:** 8:30 a.m.
- 2. Designation of recorder:** Deborah Whiteman
- 3. Introductions:** completed
- 4. Review and finalize agenda:** completed
- 5. Approval of minutes from ALA Midwinter 2013, Seattle:** Midwinter minutes were approved
- 6. Financial Report from Leab Endowment:**

As of April 30, 2013, the Leab breakdown is:

- Leab endowment: \$34, 920 is current principal
- from September 1, 2012 - April 30, 2013, the endowment earned \$742 in interest
- there were \$165 in bank charges and committee reimbursements of \$42.30
- balance of \$534.70 in spending account

Williams discussed the Leab finances with Mary Ellen Davis (ACRL) and E.C. Schroeder (RBMS Budget & Development Committee).

As discussed at Midwinter, ALA now requires all endowments to have a minimum balance of \$50,000. RBMS has five years to devise a plan and ten years to implement a plan to deal with the 'under endowed' issue. RBMS needs \$16,000 to make the \$50k goal.

Williams said that the RBMS Executive Chair, Erica Dowling, and E.C. Schroeder both expressed a desire to keep the Leab Awards going; RBMS is committed to fundraising to raise \$8,000 by 2022; ACRL has volunteered to match this with an additional \$8,000.

There was some discussion of fundraising ideas: donations on the RBMS registration form (similar to what is done for Scholarships); call for donations; fundraiser party/event

This discussion and proposal will be taken to the executive committee of ACRL; ACRL is very supportive of the concept and value of the Leab Exhibition Awards.

Williams noted that this year's entries and awards for both print catalogs and online exhibitions showed value for scholarship, cultural diversity, and a broadening and deepening of the committee's mission.

7. Follow-up on action items in EAC Minutes from ALA Midwinter, 2013

a) "Gallery of Winners" - Williams reported on this:

- this has now been completed
- Melanie Griffin worked with Williams and Kovari to create a new web site for the Gallery in Word Press
- the committee reviewed the new pages online

b) Kovari reported on this year's Digital Exhibitions workshop (presented by Kovari and Lacher-Feldman)

- workshop had 22 participants
- Kovari spoke from technical point of view
- Lacher-Feldman represented the curatorial point of view
- Kovari demonstrated Omeka; discussed technical enhancements you can add to a digital exhibit
- group critiqued 2013 Leab Award winners for online exhibitions
- group discussed 'what is a digital exhibition?' - how does it differ from a digital collection/digital library

Williams thanked Kovari and Lacher-Feldman for getting this workshop together so quickly.

Williams also acknowledged Casey Kinson of ACRL, who designed the Leab Awards flyer that was in Preconference bags.

c) Discussion of Leab Awards display at the 2013 Minneapolis Preconference

- the committee noted that location of the table for the awards at the booksellers showcase was not ideal since it was located at the very back of the room and originally the table had been set up facing the wall and not the center of the room. However, being in the same room with the book seller's showcase was great.
- better location; use stands to prop up catalogs - make winners more visible
- expanded schedule at the EAC table worked well

e) Term limits:

Members cycling off: Williams, Kovari, and McLoone will go off the EAC committee June 30, 2014; Williams' term as EAC Chair will end in 6/14.

New members coming on are: Jocelyn Karlan (University of Houston); Maggie Kopp (Brigham Young University), Gabriel Swift (Princeton University)

Kovari suggested that we make sure we have the necessary technical expertise among EAC committee members to competently judge an increasing number of electronic exhibitions; suggestions were made for new members to consider inviting.

We should court new members to add strength and depth to the committee, at Midwinter, 2014.

f) Discussion of future on online Digress.it

Online discussion group/seminar; could continue and pay someone to moderate it; web team could help; can put articles to comment on; hard to keep going; needs structure; an online class might be better; maybe we won't continue on with Digressit - pursue idea of symposium

Question was raised as to whether ACRL supports online learning.

8. Review of 2013 award cycle and anticipation of 2014 award cycle

Williams mentioned that exhibition catalogs that are sent to the Leabs from the Chair's set are generally a little tattered, due to packaging and mailing; there was some discussion of how to address this for the 2014 cycle.

Williams announced that we already have 2 entries for 2014 cycle.

Are there other places we could announce the awards?

Kovari - the Smithsonian hosts thousands of exhibitions - could we partner with them on cross-marketing?

Williams - suggested example of SHARP print newsletter, which solicits reviews of exhibits; could we add an exhibits blog on the RBMS page?

Kovari: rbms.info has the ability for blogging capability; can subscribe currently to RBMS news rblog; Kovari will bring this up with Publications Committee;

9. Other business

Kovari: we are getting a lot of online exhibition submissions that are being taken down; should we be archiving the websites as we archive the print catalogs. Committee strongly agreed that should be the case. Discussion regarding how to accomplish this followed.

Could crawl and archive these sites?

Should we build into Leab awards submissions stipulation that we will crawl websites?

These sites will eventually be moved, or taken down; get dated; people will get 404 error messages.

We could discuss with Illinois about doing web archiving for our digital exhibit winners; University of Illinois is the RBMS archive; Martin Stromberg is the current archivist - could put some pressure to get this done - use Archiv-it.

This should be easy to do; similar to Wayback Machine crawl used by the Internet Archive.

Williams asked Kovari to prepare something on this to present to Exec; she will bring this up at Executive meeting on Monday.

Williams adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Whiteman, 7/6/2013

Edited and approved by Cherry Williams 7/19/2013