**ALCTS Metadata Interest Group Minutes**

**ALA Annual 2012**

**8-10am, Sunday, June 24, 2012**

**Anaheim, California**

**PROGRAM**

The first part of the Metadata Interest Group meeting featured four presentations which focused on the changing role of the cataloger.

1. Rebecca Lubas from the University of New Mexico presented “Cataloging Partners: Collaboration across the Library.” As the title indicates, Lubas’s presentation discussed ways in which the catalog department can collaborate with other departments and become a full participant within the library. Lubas asserted that catalogers have a very valuable skillset and described the ways in which each department of the library already benefits from the work they do and possibilities for further services catalogers could offer.

(Amy Jackson also contributed to the preparation of this presentation, but was unable to attend the meeting.)

The slides for Rebecca Lubas and Amy Jackson’s presentation can be found here: <http://connect.ala.org/node/182786>

1. Debra G. Skinner from Georgia Southern University presented “The Ever Changing Role of the Cataloger and How Catalogers Manage the Changes.” Skinner spent much of her presentation discussing changes catalogers and catalog departments face or will face in the future, such as an increase in electronic book and serial cataloging, the possibility of switching to data driven acquisitions, and the impact of new digital collections/repositories, to name a few. Skinner detailed a handful of ways these changes can be managed. Her suggestions included: reorganizing the department and shifting staff responsibilities to better handle the workload, regularly evaluating and revising workflows to keep them efficient, taking advantage of cataloging tools, and regular training for staff in order to stay up to date. Skinner concluded her presentation by stating that change is here to stay and that catalogers need to continually search for ways to cope with that change.

The slides for Debra G. Skinner’s presentation can be found here: <http://connect.ala.org/node/182788>

1. Anna Craft and David Gwynn from the University of North Carolina Greensboro presented “Thinking Outside the Search Box: Redefining the Roles for Catalogers in an Academic Library.” As a result of budget cuts and a desire to promote collaboration within the library, UNCG Libraries realigned their library staff in 2011. Many catalogers are now working alongside librarians in other departments. An advantage of this arrangement is that strong teams made up of professionals with a wide variety of expertise can be more easily formed to work together on projects. However, this can also be challenging in many ways. Staff needed additional training in order to work to their full potential in their new environments and reporting structures and workflows needed to be reorganized. However, Craft and Gwynn affirmed that the experience has been a positive one and they hope to continue to build relationships across departments in the future.

The slides for Anna Craft and David Gwynn’s presentation can be found here: <http://connect.ala.org/node/182787>

1. The final presentation, “21st Century Cataloging, Changing Priorities,” was given by Sandra Lahtinen, Julie Swann, and Pat Headlee from Northern Arizona University. Like many libraries, Northern Arizona University libraries have suffered from budget cuts and employee loss. As a way of coping with the situation, and to ensure a more even workload among staff, the library began cross-training employees to allow them to function in multiple departments. The presenters found that their catalogers were particularly easy to cross-train because the skills and knowledge catalogers possess are easily transferable to other departments. The catalogers proved to be a valuable asset in their new environments and the experiment was a success. In conclusion, the presenters pointed out that an important lesson they learned from this experience is, when hiring new employees, one should look for flexibility, openness to learning new things, and a high level of comfort with technology.

The slides for Sandra Lahtinen, Julie Swann, and Pat Headlee’s presentation can be found here: <http://connect.ala.org/node/182789>

**BUISINESS MEETING**

Reports

1. Programing: Meghan Finch
* Tomorrow morning LITA and MIG are co-sponsoring the program “Data Management: What is the Library’s Role?”
* Looking for recommendations for future programs.
1. Blog: Kristin Martin
* The blog is down right now. It’s a massive outage; it’s not just our blog that’s been affected.
* Few blog posts have been done between conferences.
* Kristin’s time as blog coordinator is up. The new blog coordinator should think about how to cover conferences and what to post in between. She has received some interest over email about this position.

Liaisons

1. LITA: Susan Cheney
	* There are still a number of LITA programs available before the conference ends. Technology Trends is happening today at 1:30. Susan can provide a list of sessions for today and tomorrow to anyone who is interested.
2. CCDA: Nathan Putnam
	* The Library of Congress has contracted with Zepheira and Eric Miller to provide management for the bibliographic framework transition (more will be discussed later in the conference).  Barbara Tillet stressed that Eric will start with linked data first, but LC hopes that several models will come out of this process.
	* Of the various task forces that CC:DA talked about, there was one on machine actionable items.  This would provide instructions in RDA to record AUQ statements.  These contain aspect, unit, and quantity and because they would remain independent of each other, a machine could interpret them and compute various things with them.
3. MLA: Jenn Riley
	* The session “RDA and Linked Data: Moving Beyond the Rules” given at the MLA conference in February went really well.
	* There has been progress on the online metadata music clearing house. They had hoped to have it live this summer but it has been delayed. Jenn will keep us updated on their progress.
	* Jenn’s term is up at Mid-Winter.

Election

* Before voting for the new MIG officers, the candidates up for election each introduced themselves to the group. The results of the election are below.
	+ **Vice-Chair (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013):** Maureen P. Walsh, Institutional Repository Services Librarian, Ohio State University
	+ **Program Co-Chair (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014):** Ivey Glendon, Metadata Librarian, University of Virginia
	+ **Blog Coordinator (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014):** Jason Kovari, Metadata Librarian, Cornell University
	+ **Publications Chair:** Unfilled

Approximately 50 people attended the Metadata Interest Group meeting at ALA Midwinter 2012

Submitted by Jackie Blonigen, MIG Secretary, 2011-2013