

**Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee
ALA Midwinter Conference, 2007
Washington State Convention & Trade Center (WCC) – Room 2A
Sunday, January 21, 2007 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: Tanya Finchum, Rebecca Hyde, August Imholtz, Linda Johnson, Donna Koepp, Yan Han, Andrew Laas, Michael North, Steve Sexton, Michael Smith, Charley Pennell

Others Present: George Barnum, Kristina Boki, Bert Chapman, Hui Hua Chua, Janet Dixon, Bob Dowd, Michele Reilly Herrick, Jennie Gerke, Jenny Marie Johnson, Malica Oxnam, John Phillips, Bill Sleeman, Louis Takacs, David Utz, Yvonne Wilson

Meeting was called to order by Rebecca Hyde (chair) at 10:35 am.

Those present introduced themselves. Rebecca thanked Tanya Finchum for previously volunteering to take minutes.

Agenda approved by general consensus.

Minute summaries from the Midwinter and Annual 2006 minutes were approved by general consensus.

Report of Chair

Rebecca apologized that there was no tour for midwinter. She acknowledged Geoff Swindells' hard work in planning the tour, but the Seattle Historical Society backed out at the last minute citing staff shortages.

The committee is seeking a PARS liaison. Rebecca asked for people to please inform her or Aimee Quinn if they know anyone in PARS interested in government documents.

Rebecca thanked Linda Johnson for attending Steering I in her absence.

Announcements

Janet Dixon and Jenny Marie Johnson, from the MAGERT Task Force on Library Security of Cartographic Resources, announced a Program to be held at the Annual Conference on "Library Security for Maps." Speakers will include representatives from the Library of Congress and the U.S. Attorney General's Office. The Task Force is also developing guidelines on library security for cartographic materials. These guidelines will hopefully be put on the web once they are complete.

Malica Oxnam (Chair, GWLA Federal Technical Reports Task Force) announced a digital preservation project being undertaken by the Greater Western Library Alliance and the Center for Research Libraries to digitize selected pre-1975 technical reports from U.S. government agencies.

Reports from Task Force Representatives

SLDTF- Tanya Finchum reported on SLDTF activities including surveys directed at the Committee of Eight and Public Library Association, partially regarding digitization projects.

FDTF - Sheri Irvin was not present, so Rebecca Hyde gave a brief report. There was an update from the Government Printing Office at the FDTF meeting regarding the harvesting of the EPA website. GPO is looking for suggestions from the community on how to sort the large number of sites harvested and determine which ones should be included in the depository program. FDTF is working on a possible program on elections for Annual 2008.

IDTF - Linda Johnson, filling in for Catherine Morse, reported on IDTF, including:

- IDTF is sponsoring the 2007 pre-conference on "International Documents in an Electronic Age." It will be held at the World Bank.
- Liaisons are needed for the World Health Organization, Organization of American States and the region of Africa. If interested, contact Susan White at Princeton.

Reports from Liaisons

RBMS – Michael North reported that RBMS is working on guidelines for the transfer of materials from open stacks to special collections. The “RBMS Transfer Guidelines” will likely be approved during the Midwinter conference.

LITA – No Report.

MAGERT – Mike Smith reported on a variety of MAGERT projects currently underway. MAGERT will be sponsoring a two-day pre-conference before the 2007 Annual meeting on the cataloging of pre-twentieth century cartographic resources.

PARS - No Report.

Updates

Donna Koepp gave an update on the Serial Set book she is working on with Aimee Quinn. The book proposal was turned down by ALA publishing in September--this was expected--as it is not really in their scope. They will be looking for another publisher, focusing on university presses.

George Barnum gave an update on the paper standards research as part of the recommendations in the “Digitization of Federal Government Publications, 1932-1963” report. Although there was a massive amount of information uncovered, the research raised more questions than it answered. GPO generally purchased paper in large quantities from what was available on the market, and it is difficult to determine what paper qualities were used to print which publications. The finished paper on the research is almost complete, and once submitted to DttP, it will be published as space allows.

August Imholtz gave an update on the Program for the 2007 Annual conference, including the planned speakers. The Program will be called “What Difference Does It Make What Congress

Published? American History in the Earliest Congressional Documents.”

GPO Evaluation of the Demonstration Project for Digitization of Legacy Publications Report

Yan Han gave a report on the evaluation of the demonstration project for digitization of legacy publications that was held at GPO on January 11, 2007. Yan attended as a representative of GODORT. George Barnum and Geoff Swindells also attended the demonstration and added their input as well (George in person, Geoff by email).

Some of the highlights of their reports:

- NARA technical standards for digitization were used and optical character recognition (OCR) was 90% accurate.
- There wasn't much information given on authentication of documents, or how these will be integrated into FDsys.
- A question of whether the original publication or original content is the most important part. For example, should the cover be digitized in addition to the document content?
- A preservation master will be created with the goal of grabbing as much information as possible from the original document. An access version will also be created. OCR is done from the preservation master.
- GPO is not given authority for this type of project in Title 44. The Joint Committee on Printing approved the pilot project, but the new JCP will need to approve any further work done on this project.

REGP & Digital Preservation Subcommittee Report

This subcommittee was formed at Annual in 2006 and consists of George Barnum, Geoff Swindells, Catherine Morse, Steve Sexton, and Charley Pennell. The subcommittee report was given by George Barnum.

The subcommittee found that according to the language in the PPM, REGP is format neutral. They concluded that REGP is not and should not be a committee limited to the preservation of paper, and that the committee is eager to cooperate with initiatives regarding born digital and digital collection preservation. The subcommittee also concluded that REGP has a concern with the “content” of the derivative file, not necessarily *how* that derivative file is created (that is more GITCO's domain), but that the content is preserved regardless of original format.

Discussion of the report ensued. REGP agreed that both tangible materials and born digital are in danger of disappearing. We are not working with GITCO as we perhaps should or could. Rebecca said REGP should have a liaison with GITCO. Currently the REGP description in the PPM includes a liaison to GITCO, but the GITCO description does not. David Utz mentioned that the REGP PPM was changed in the summer of 2005, but GITCO's was not changed at the same time.

Bill asked what the next step regarding the report is. George said they were just “words to the chair” and no recommendation was to be officially made at this time. There is no basis at this time for concrete action.

Motion to accept Subcommittee Report

1st Charlie
2nd August

Report was unanimously accepted.

Discussion – Future Steps: Endangered 1932-1962 Federal Documents Project

(Original report can be found at:

http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/REGP/swindells-quinn_report.pdf)

There was a discussion of what the next steps should be regarding the recommendations in the “Digitization of Federal Government Publications, 1932-1963” report. The committee agreed that the uncompleted recommendations (approved by the committee at the 2005 Midwinter meeting) are still important. A subcommittee, consisting of Rebecca Hyde, August Imholtz and Andrew Laas, was formed to report back to the committee at Annual on a strategy for continuing or completing the work recommended in the report.

New Business – Oral History Project

Aimee asked the committee to work jointly with Publications on this project being headed by Tanya Fitchum and Kris Kasianovitz.

There was a discussion of the project including a question of whether it is part of the committee's charge? It was suggested there should be a plan including a priority list for interviews, a question guide, who would claim ownership (ALA?), and a budget.

Kris and Tanya will prepare a report for Annual in regards to the Oral History Project.

Motion to adjourn.

1st - Steve
2nd – August

Meeting was adjourned.