

Minutes

**Business Reference Sources Committee (BRSC)
Business Reference and Services Section (BRASS)
Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)
American Library Association (ALA)**

**ALA Annual Conference, June 22, 2003
Sutton Place Hotel, Amsterdam Room**

Members Present: Pinar Arcan, David Flynn (Chair and recorder), Mary Gilles, Doreen Harwood, Colleen Seale, Irene Weiner

Guests Present: David Bickford (incoming BRSC member), Nancy Cunningham (incoming BRSC member), Chris LeBeau (incoming BRSC member), Susan Phillis, Lynn C. Westney (BRASS Executive Committee, Member-at-Large)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Flynn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes for January 26, 2003

The minutes were approved as distributed.

3. BRASS Announcements

Flynn announced the BRASS program and BRASS dinner, both to be held on Monday, June 23. He also reminded members to report any new publications they have authored to Judy Nixon. Guests were encouraged to become involved at the committee level and were informed of the committee volunteer forms available at the meeting and online.

4. Chair's Report

Flynn thanked Mary Gilles for her work on the previous minutes and with conference room arrangements. He also thanked the outgoing members for their work during the last two to four years. Flynn then announced the new incoming BRSC members and welcomed those present. He then reported on his activities since the 2003 ALA Meeting, highlighting the follow-up work on the 2003 Publishers Open Forum and the ongoing work for the RUSQ column.

5. 2004 Publishers Open Forum

Flynn outlined the forum topics for the last six years and the Committee discussed possible themes for the 2004 Publishers Open Forum in San Diego. Ideas included country information, NAFTA, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, hospitality and tourism, data sets, statistics, and industry information. The Committee agreed to pursue the topic of "Industry Information: Domestic and International." Flynn will work with the committee via email to secure two to four appealing publishers, and will prepare the invitation letters. Flynn and Gilles will prepare draft questions and distribute to the committee for review.

6. RUSQ Column

Flynn reviewed the development of the original proposal and the ground rules for discussion and voting. It was agreed that the members present would constitute the final working group for voting and drafting of the column. Before beginning the discussion, a final call for questions was made. Harwood recommended that more work on the nominations and discussion be done at Midwinter. The committee will look at workflow during the next few months. Seale asked if additional nominations could be made. Flynn agreed that we could consider quickly introducing additional titles, but would need to wait until after the conference to see if it is feasible.

The final slate of nominations was introduced and each title discussed. To ensure adequate review, four titles were tabled for discussion and voting via e-mail by the working group immediately following the conference. Voting on eight titles was conducted and recorded. Final column reviewers were assigned. Flynn will draft introductory matter.

Flynn called for recommendations on changing/improving procedures for the column. Timing and workflow issues were raised, as well as the importance of having copies of all nominated titles available at the committee meeting. It was also recommended that the committee review the subject designations and assignments.

Flynn will discuss with the 2003-2004 committee plans/recommendations for continuing the column and, if necessary, appointments for the next column editor and nominations coordinator.

7. Ongoing Communications with Publishers

U.S. Industry & Trade Outlook

Arcan reported that she wrote another letter to the primary contact person and was told that the beta product should be up before the end of the year.

8. Discussion of Needs for New (or Improved) Reference Sources

No recommendations.

9. Other Business

Flynn reported that he was approached about the possibility of BRSC pursuing counter compliance with database producers and vendors. BRSC agreed not to engage officially in this endeavor.

10. Adjournment

Flynn adjourned the meeting at 4:30pm.