

Minutes

Business Reference Sources Committee

BRASS

ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 26, 2003

Courtyard by Marriott, Meeting Room 104

Members Present: Pinar Arcan, David Flynn (Chair), Mary Gilles (Recorder), Doreen Harwood, Colleen Seale, Irene Weiner, Eve Wider

Guests Present: Sara Beck, Terrence Bennett, Jennifer Boettcher, Anne Bradley, Dori Cowan, Linda Dausch, Arlyne Jackson, Michele LaMeau, Margaret Reinert

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Flynn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. BRASS Section Review, Jennifer Boettcher

Jennifer Boettcher, BRASS Executive Committee Member, reviewed the purpose and duties of the committee and asked if they were appropriate and sufficient. David called attention to the duty "To review issues involving access to business information" and noted the new column. The Committee may want to investigate the link to the RUSA Reference Tools Advisory Committee that appears in the list of duties. The Committee agreed that the description seemed appropriate. The discussion shifted from committee specific to BRASS. David mentioned virtual participation and the need to reach out more to the profession; the need for a unified voice regarding licenses and contracts. Guests noted that they were somewhat puzzled about BRASS and had questions about how to become involved. An orientation of new BRASS member was initiated at the 2002 Annual Conference in Atlanta; the Committee supports this type of activity. A suggestion was made to add interns to committees as a means of introducing new members to the BRASS organization. Jennifer thanked the group for the helpful discussion.

3. Approval of Minutes for June 16, 2002

The minutes were approved as distributed.

4. BRASS Announcements

David announced the BRASS dinner on Monday evening at the Astral Plane restaurant. 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.

5. Chair's Report

David reported on his activities since the 2002 ALA Annual Conference. He also thanked Doreen Harwood for preparing the minutes from June 16, 2002 and Mary Gilles for her work on room and equipment assignments for Midwinter and Annual.

6. RUSQ Column

David reviewed the criteria and revised timelines for the new RUSQ column to recognize the year's outstanding business reference sources. He also reviewed the subject areas that each member is responsible for. To be considered for the first column a source should have a publication date of around June 2002 or thereafter. Committee members are to send the titles of their nominations to Nels Gunderson.

Concern was expressed about the requirement that at least three BRSC members have an opportunity to review a physical item before the Annual Meeting and the possible difficulty this might pose. Members were instructed to contact publishers directly to try to secure sample view copies of prospective nominations or contact David Flynn or Nels Gunderson for assistance. The draft copy for the column will be due to RUSQ in August 2003 for the Winter 2003 issue.

David acknowledged Colleen Seale's recommendation to send a letter to selected publishers announcing this inaugural column. Colleen and Doreen Harwood agreed to compile a list of selected publishers. David will prepare the letter.

7. 2003 Publishers Open Forum

David reported on the Publishers Open Forum and distributed copies of the promotional flyer. Jennifer Boettcher will moderate the panel. David announced that each of the three publishers – Euromonitor, Marketresearch.com Academic via ProQuest, and Simmons Market Research – would have 15-20 minutes in which to address the 15 questions forwarded to them in November 2002. There will be 30 minutes for questions. David and a few other committee members will take the presenters out to lunch immediately following the forum.

8. 2004 Publishers Open Forum

David 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. David posed the idea of trying a little different format and panel size, but the majority of committee members supported the current design. The Committee will continue the discussion via email and at the Annual Conference.

9. Ongoing Communications with Publishers

U.S. Industry & Trade Outlook

Pinar Arcan reported that Francine Krasowska, U.S. International Trade Administration, had informed her that she is on the list of people to beta test the online version of the U.S. Industry & Trade Outlook. Nothing is available yet.

Morningstar

Doreen Harwood reported on her contact with James Pryor of Morningstar. It was prompted because of the dramatic increase in the cost of the print edition of Morningstar. Doreen inquired about an online product. She was informed that there is an abridged edition of Morningstar for libraries, available online. After some discussion Mr. Pryor agreed that academic libraries might need complete coverage; it is more than three times the cost of the CD-ROM edition. Doreen suggested that a public library representative contact Morningstar in hopes that that might have some impact.

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

There was comment about the lack of use of NAICS in many print sources. Many print publications have been slow to adopt NAICS and are still using SIC. Members were encouraged to forward new ideas to David for distribution to the committee.

11. 15th Anniversary of BRSC

David noted that this year is the fifteenth anniversary of both BRASS and BRSC. The Committee suggested that David note the committee's anniversary at the Publishers Open Forum and encourage BRASS to celebrate the anniversary at Annual Conference.

12. Other Business

David encouraged committee members who might be interested in chairing the committee next year to contact him or Gary White. Committee members were reminded that the current appointments run through the Annual Conference in Toronto.

Irene Weiner reported on the approach that she used to identify nominations for the RUSQ column. She also brought several books that she may consider for nomination to this meeting for others to review.

13. Adjournment

David adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.