

## **MARS Publications Committee 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Present: Deborah Bezanson (2005-2007); Shannon Jones (2005-2008); Anne Haynes (2000?-2005); Carolyn Larson (2005-2007); Katherine Ott (2005-2007); Mary Popp (Chair Elect, RUSA-MARS); Ann Viles (2004-2006); Rob Withers (2001-2005).

Excused: Jean Alexander; Valerie Boulos; Elaine Coppola; Hui-hua Chua; Rebecca Miller.

Shannon Jones reviewed the draft version of the RUSA-MARS Web Task Force report, which will be finalized at annual. Significant findings of this report are that (a) many people who are not current RUSA-MARS members are seeking information from this web site, and that (b) information has not been as up-to-date as might be desired. Now that we have worked through the difficulties involved in implementing the new content system, we hope to be able to present information in a more timely manner.

Copies of RUSA Publications draft of policies for the RUSA web site were also distributed to committee members (see attached).

ALA is also investigating a new content management system to enable committees to work together in between conferences.

The User Access to Services Committee has also indicated that they are interested in publishing slideshows or handouts from their Annual 2005 session Do You Trust Your IT Managers? Do They Trust You and possibly a summary of this session in RUSA Updates.

At the ExComm Meeting following on the Monday following our committee meeting, we learned of two other possible publications: (1) The Virtual Reference Committee is forming a Sub-committee to develop an electronic index of information related to virtual reference services, and (2) the Local Systems and Services Committee is interested in creating a site where people can compare features of online reference services.

Among the goals of the RUSA-MARS ExComm are investigating the use of interactive technologies such as RSS feeds, blogs, and Wikis. Publications should investigate these, perhaps by focusing on attempts to use these technologies to see what we'd like to borrow and avoid.

\* LITA blog: <http://litablog.org/>

\* PLA blog: <http://www.plablog.org/>

\* unofficial ALA wiki

[http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)

Another possibility is to use RSS feed to disseminate news items that appear in the spotlight area of the MARS web site.

A survey of MARS members identified out-of-date information MARS web pages as a significant problem, particularly committee pages. Since Publications is responsible for approving and reviewing publications, we discussed the idea of assigning each committee member one or two committees to monitor to make sure that it includes up-to-date information, including minutes, rosters, and information from any recently-sponsored programs.

Other issues that the committee might want to explore include:

- \* Archiving older editions of the web site
- \* Participating in revision of the MARS Handbook, particularly instructions for Messages to MARS submissions
- \* Making the MARS handbook more readily searchable/browseable.

Thanks to Jean Alexander for running the committee meeting and attending ExComm at Midwinter during my mother's illness and thanks to all those who have completed their appointment on this committee. This has been an outstanding group of people to work with.

Rob

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