SAA Electronic Records Section 1999 Annual Report

1. Section Meeting

The Electronic Records Section held its annual meeting as part of the 1999 SAA Annual Conference in Pittsburgh. The meeting was held on Friday, August 27, 1999 from 8:00 until 10:00 a.m. At 8:00, Weston Thompson, section chair, called the meeting to order and announced the agenda: session on ERS followed by brief business meeting. Thompson then thanked David Wallace for organizing the session and turned the floor over to him.

Wallace introduced the first-rate panel of speakers and chaired a very interesting and informative session. Adrian Cunningham, National Archives of Australia, and Sue McKemmish, Monash University, presented "AS4390 - The Australian Records Management Standard." Rich Medina, Doculabs, presented "Evaluating and Benchmarking Records Management Systems." Bruce Miller, Provenance Systems, presented "DoD 5015.2 - The U.S. Department of Defense's Design Criteria Standard for Electronic Records Management Software Applications." The session covered document & records management applications, with specific reference to emergent standards and implementations. McKemmish and Cunningham provided insights into the Australian records management standard, while Miller addressed the US Department of Defense design criteria standard for records management software applications and how these standards are being expressed within existing and emergent software and implementations. Medina provided a brief overview of the methods and findings of a comparative benchmarking analysis of records management systems currently on the market. Following the speaker's presentations, Wallace took questions and comments from the floor.

Wallace then turned the floor over to Thompson who ran a brief business meeting. Thompson thanked Wallace and the distinguished panelists for the excellent session. Thompson announced that in reply to calls for volunteers and nominees in the newsletter and on the listserves, he had compiled a handsome leadership list. Charles Thomas, University of Minnesota, had agreed to serve as the new newsletter editor and web master; Thomas already has a prototype web page in place and hopes to have a revised version ready for SAA review by September 1, 1999. Thompson noted that he had put together a working group to continue examining the CART Curriculum/Foundation Cluster issues. Finally, Thompson presented the slate of candidates for office: Vice Chair: Cheryl Stadel-Bevans, National Archives and Records Administration; Steering Committee Joe Laframboise, Kansas State Historical Society, and Jean Deken, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Thompson asked the membership to elect the slate to office in one motion, and this was passed by a voice vote. Thompson noted that the third opening in the Steering Committee was automatically filled by Tom Ruller, immediate past chair of the section.

Thompson then asked David Wallace to address the group from his perspective as member of the 2000 Program Committee. Wallace briefly addressed the "future-oriented" focus of next year's meeting and asked members to submit proposals with that in mind.

Thompson then announced that he would be leaving the University of Kentucky on September 3, 1999, and might be hard to reach for a period of time. Given that this is often the busiest period for the Section, Thompson asked new Vice Chair Cheryl Stadel-Bevans to serve as point-person for session proposals.

Thompson then turned the floor back to David Wallace for a few more minutes of discussion relevant to the session.

Approximately 55 members attended the ERS meeting.

Following the section meeting, Thompson met briefly with section leadership: Charles Thomas, Nancy McGovern, Cheryl Stadel-Bevans, and Jean Deken. The group discussed the logistics of preparing session proposals and potential topics/agenda items for next year's section meeting.

2. Other ERS Activities at SAA 1999

While the Chair of the ERS regrets that he cannot say specifically how many sections at SAA 1999 were sponsored or proposed by the ERS, it is sufficient to say that there were multiple sessions every day of the program which addressed electronic records issues.

On Sunday, August 28, 1999 from 10:00 until 11:00, the ERS sponsored a forum for discussion of current electronic records projects, especially those funded by the NHPRC. Weston Thompson called the session to order, and turned the floor over to the featured speakers: Philip Eppard, SUNY Albany, who spoke about the InterPARES Project;

Patricia Galloway, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, who spoke about their electronic records project, and Mark Conrad, NHPRC, who discussed the NHPRC's perspective and ideas. Thompson then opened up the session to questions and discussion.

Approximately 25 people attended the forum.

Submitted by Weston Thompson, 8/30/99

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