

ACRL/RBMS - SAA Task Force on the Development of Standardized Statistical Measures for the Public Services of Archival Repositories and Special Collections Libraries

ALA Midwinter Conference 2016, Boston, MA

Sunday, January 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Location: Westin Copley Place hotel - Parliament Room

Members present: Christian Dupont, ACRL/RBMS co-chair (Boston College), Moira Fitzgerald (Yale University), Emily Hardman (Harvard University), Gabriel Swift (Princeton University), Bruce Tabb (University of Oregon), Elizabeth Yakel (University of Michigan)

Members who joined via Skype: Amy Schindler, SAA co-chair (University of Nebraska, Omaha), Tom Flynn (Winston-Salem State University), Jessica Lacher-Feldman (Louisiana State University), Sarah Polirer (Cigna Corporation)

Members who could not attend: None

Visitors: Anne Bahde (Oregon State University), Cynthia Etkin (U.S. Government Printing Office), Elizabeth Grab (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Robin Katz (University of California, Riverside), Sara Logue (Princeton University), Fernando Peña (Long Island University, Palmer School), Heather Smedberg (University of California, San Diego), Mark Sweeney (Library of Congress)

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Dupont convened the meeting at 1:00 and invited task force members and visitors to introduce themselves. Four task force members joined the meeting remotely via Skype. Dupont offered to take the meeting notes.

Due to the relatively large number of visitors, Dupont spent a few minutes providing background on the task force's charge and progress to date. Discussion of the structure of the draft document followed, with visitors being asked what measures they use or would like to use in order to collect statistics pertaining to various aspects of public services, from reading room registration and circulation, to remote reference, reproduction requests, instructional outreach and exhibits, and website usage. The discussion served to validate the selection and descriptions of the principal domains addressed in the draft document as well as the definitions of basic and advanced measures for each domain. The task force will continue to flesh out the draft document in the coming months with the aim of making it available for comment by ALA Annual.

Schindler and Hardman reported on the progress they have been making on compiling the results of a large-scale (more than 300 responses) survey of a broad spectrum of special collections libraries and archival repositories conducted last fall. The report should be completed by ALA Annual.

Hardman also reported that she had proposed a session on the work of the three SAA-ACRL/RBMS joint task forces for the New England Archivists annual meeting along with Emily Gustainis (co-chair of the holdings counts task force) and Morgan Swan (member of the primary source literacy task force). The proposal was recently accepted. The meeting will be held in Portland, Maine, on March 31-April 2, 2016.

During the last half hour of our meeting, we were joined by several members of the joint task force on holdings counts and measures, who had been holding their meeting in an adjacent room. Co-chairs and members from all three task forces were thus present and used the time to share advice, progress reports, and other updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.