Since I last wrote you, the RMRT Steering Committee has been busy in a major outreach effort to different groups in the Society of American Archivists. In November, I sent e-mails to SAA student chapters and their chapter faculty advisors, informing them of RMRT resources available to them and inviting them to join the RMRT. I still need to do some follow ups with some chapters. If I missed your student chapter, please let me know.

In addition to student groups, the RMRT Steering Committee sent an e-mail message to the RMRT community, appealing for volunteers and suggestions. I want to reiterate that message in my column. I welcome and encourage RMRT members to share their ideas and suggestions with me.

Besides sending your ideas and suggestions to us, you might consider joining one of our committees. Presently, we have three active committees: ARMT/RMRT Joint Working Group on Diversity, the Travel Grants Award Committee, and the Education Committee.

The AMRT/RMRT Joint Working Group on Diversity is charged with contacting individuals with physical impairments who are involved in the archives and records management professions, either as professionals, researchers, or patrons, analyze the challenges presented to them these fields, and create tools to help them in overcoming these challenges. Since its inception, the AMRT/RMRT Joint Working Group has changed its focus to attempt to address broader issues, such as people with cognitive impairments.

The purpose of the Travel Grants Award Committee is to raise monies for the RMRT Travel Grants Award. This competitive award will help RMRT members, with a demonstrated need, to defray some travel expenses to attend the RMRT meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting. The goal of the Web Design Committee is to aid the web master in keeping the RMRT website looking fresh.

The RMRT Steering Committee is also in the process of forming a standing Education Committee. Historically, this committee has been ad hoc, but because of the growing need for records management education in the archival profession, a permanent committee will better serve the RMRT. The mission of this committee will be to develop continuing records management resources, including workshop proposals, electronic resources guides, and handbooks.

The RMRT is a large roundtable, so I know everyone has a talent or idea that they can contribute to the RMRT. The strength of the RMRT has not just been its large membership, but what its membership has put into the RMRT. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or are interested in becoming involved, please feel free to e-mail at: mikecourtney1974@yahoo.com.
We have exciting news for SAA 2010! To build upon our work on Accessibility Recommendations and our presentation at SAA 2009, the Joint Working Group has been given a time slot to host an Accessibility Forum at the SAA 2010 annual meeting. The Forum will include three speakers and time for discussion, and will be held on August 12, 2010, from noon to 1:15, at the conference hotel.

The Working Group is hard at work lining up speakers—two have already signed on and a third has been invited. One of them is SAA Past President, Mark Greene and another will be a representative from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library Memorial Library Adaptive Services Division in Washington, D.C. The third has only recently been invited—we are unable to provide a name without his confirmation.

This will be a very useful and interesting Forum. All RMRT members should make a point to stop by to learn about accessibility in archives and to contribute practical ideas to the discussion!
RMRT/AMRT Joint Working Group on Diversity in Archives and Records Management Members

Last Updated February 22, 2010

Group charge
To contact and network with persons with physical impairments in the archives and records management profession (archivists, records managers, and researchers/patrons), identify and study the challenges for them in same, and develop tools to assist them in overcoming these challenges.

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RMRT/AMRT Joint Working Group on Diversity in Archives and Records Management Members (cont.)

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To begin, I want to remind RMRT members of the charge of the RMRT Travel Grant Awards Committee. This committee was created in fall 2009, with the purpose of raising monies to fund the RMRT Travel Award. This competitive award will assist RMRT members, with financial need, to defray some travel expenses to attend the RMRT meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting.

But before we start raising money, the RMRT Travel Grant Award Committee needs a design logo to put on our merchandise. I am asking for assistance from the RMRT community in this endeavor. The design logo must be based on either a records management concept, current issue in records management, or a records management slogan.

Because the travel grant award is for the benefit of the entire RMRT community, I hope you will consider sharing your artistic talents with us, or if you are not artistically inclined, but want to help, consider joining our committee. Please e-mail your designs to me, Michael Courtney, RMRT Travel Grant Award Chair, at mikecourtney1974@yahoo.com.
Cherry Blossoms in Washington DC: A Photo Essay

By: Lorette S.J. Weldon, MLS, BSIFSM
The New RMRT Resume Guide

In early 2010, a resume guide: *Effective Resumes: Resources for Archivists and Records Managers* made its debut on the RMRT website. Work on the resume guide began in 2009 with a committee made up of Nancy Freeman, Holly Geist, Analisa Archer, Larissa Woo, Erin O’Meara, and Glenn Cook. The project focused on analyzing the similarities and differences between hiring managers at different organizations. To that end, those involved represented various archival and records management entities including government, academic, and private organizations.

The resume guide contains tips, practical advice, examples, and resources on job searching and resume writing. The RMRT Resume Guide Committee hopes it will be an invaluable resource, not only for students who are just beginning their careers but also for seasoned records managers and archivists who just need to spruce up their resumes. The guide is available on the RMRT web site:

About Our SAA Records Management Roundtable…

The Records Management Roundtable encourages discussion of current issues in records and information management and promotes better understanding of the importance of collaborative efforts between archivists, records managers, and other information professionals. The roundtable works with SAA to promote proactive and responsible records and information management practices that benefit SAA, archival and records management institutions and professionals, consumers of records and information management services, and society as a whole through the verification of authenticity and accuracy of records.

The roundtable endorses and upholds the profession's ethical standards and guidelines, while encouraging a strong commitment to professional development of its members through continuing education; developing professional standards and practices; and educating society about records and information management. The roundtable encourages diversity, initiates discussions and training in records management technologies, and promotes public awareness of the records and information management profession and its close ties to archives management.