FROM THE CHAIR

Jennifer Meehan

Welcome to 2013 which promises to be an exciting year in the world of archival description!

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the 2012 Description Section meeting in San Diego. This time around, we mixed things up a little bit with the meeting format. First on the program was a round of lightning talks on a range of topics related to archival description, from surfacing accessions in Archivists' Toolkit (Audra Eagle Yun, UC Irvine) to putting library data into Wikipedia (Merrilee Proffitt, OCLC) to reimagining archival access systems (Regine Heberlein, Princeton University), amongst many others. To see a full list of presenters with links to their presentation slides, please visit the Description Section website. The lightning talks were followed by an abbreviated business meeting with reports from related groups, liaisons, and other groups. The meeting minutes are included in this newsletter and can also be found on the Description Section website. With planning for the 2013 meeting about to get under way, I encourage people to contact me with ideas for the agenda or program.

Another item of note is the 2012 Description Expo, which featured eleven projects, reflecting a wide array of creative and innovative efforts to promote the discovery, access, and use of unique archival holdings. Featured are: projects that explore new approaches to or models of archival description, including The Doris Duke Timeline, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University; projects that implement new tools or systems for description and access, including the new Archival Access System at Princeton University; projects that enhance discovery and access to archival holdings across institutional boundaries, including ArchiveGrid, the Marcel Breuer Archive, and Nordic: The Norwegian American Digital Catalog; and projects that expose hidden collections in new and creative ways, including the Archives Project at the American Natural History Museum, the Field Book Project at the Smithsonian Institution, and Uncovering Hidden Audiovisual Media Documenting Postmodern Art at the Archives of American Art. Information about all these projects and more are available on the Description Section website.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a word of thanks to the Description Section leadership: Kira Dietz (Vice-Chair), Patricia Rettig (Secretary), Joyce Chapman (Past Chair), Elizabeth Nielsen (Web Liaison), Olga Virakhovskaya (Newsletter Editor), Diana Michelle Beldon (Steering Committee), Jaime Margalotti (Steering Committee), and Bill Landis (Council Liaison). I would also like to encourage other members to consider running for a leadership position in the Description Section. It's a great way to get more involved in the section and the larger SAA organization. So give it some thought when the call for nominations goes out in the spring!

Happy reading, and I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans!

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Kira Dietz

Welcome to 2013! If you are like me, it is already shaping up to be a busy year, but I hope everyone is looking forward to the Annual Meeting in New Orleans as much as I am. It may only be January, but the start of a new year is always a good time to think ahead.

The 2013 Description Expo will be on us quickly and it's a great chance for you to share with the section and the larger archival community. As with past years, the Expo will collection and present examples of archival description and imaginative re-use of description, as well as tools, technologies, and techniques for search, discovery, and retrieval for presentation online. If you found a new and/or resourceful way to share hidden (and not-so-hidden collections), we want to hear about it!

The SAA Description would like to encourage you to share your projects (and hopefully, foster some discussion and inspire others) by submitting them to the 2013 Description Expo. Entries for this year will be collected through July 31, 2013. Projects will be exhibited on the section website beginning in August 2013. If you have a project, tool, or technology you would like to submit, please send a description (300 words or less), along with a link, to me at kadietz@vt.edu.

"RECENT ACCESSIONS" BY MICHAEL BUCCI©2013

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS DESCRIPTION SECTION MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2012

I. Welcome, introductions and general business
Vice Chair Jennifer Meehan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Chair Joyce Chapman was unable to attend.

II. 2011-2012 Election Results
Jennifer Meehan announced the results: Kira Dietz, vice-chair/chair-elect; Patricia Rettig, secretary; Diana Belden, Steering Committee member-at-large (one-year term); and Jaime Margalotti, Steering Committee member-at-large (two-year term).

III. Description Expo
Jennifer Meehan discussed this year's Description Expo, which features new and innovative projects. There were 11 submissions this year from a variety of institutions

IV. Lightning Talks
Immediate Past Chair Jerry Simmons introduced the Lightning Talks. The Steering Committee decided to implement this format this year instead of the traditional program, which usually featured one speaker. This format will allow more exchange of ideas amongst the members. The presenters responded to the Steering Committee's call for presenters and were invited after a review process.

The program included these presenters and topics:

- "Forget About the Backlog: Surfacing Accessions Using Archivists' Toolkit" Audra Eagle Yun, University of California, Irvine
- "The Visual History Archive (VHA): Access Through Indexing" Donna D. Casey, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, ITS
- "Putting library data into Wikipedia" Merrilee Proffitt, Senior Program Officer, OCLC Research
- "Case study on collaborating with a researcher to describe an unprocessed collection" Ruth Bryan, University of Kentucky Special Collections
- "Crowd-Sourcing Tags and Transcriptions for Use in AT Searching" Martha Bace, Assistant Professor, Processing Archivist, University of Alabama, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library
- "FRBR and archival description" Jinfang Niu, University of South Florida
- "Disruptive Components: Reimagining Archival Access Systems at the Princeton University Library" Regine Heberlein, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University
- "We put our "stuff" on the Web, did anybody notice? Google Analytics for archives" Michelle Belden, Access Archivist at Penn State University

V. Announcements and Reports from Subcommittees, Liaisons and other groups
Mike Rush: TS Encoded Archival Description
Updated the section on EAD revisions
Since last year's annual meeting, the subcommittee has gone through the public's comments. They met for 3 days in March 2012 to discuss them.
An alpha version is scheduled for release in late October

Announcements and Reports from Subcommittees, Liaisons and other groups (cont.)

January 15 is the deadline for the release of the beta version. They will then take comments for about a month and make final changes in the spring.

July 1—hope to release the final version

Gordon Daines: Technical Subcommittee (TS) Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACS)

New version has been released ; the committee is taking comments until September 15

Changes: moved items from Chapter 9 into Part I; refocused Part II on authority records and provided augmented rules.

Jerry Simmons: EAC Scholarships

To date, 3 people have received scholarships to EAC workshops

Look at the SAA Continuing Education website for more information

John Chapman: OCLC Research

Discussed the handout "Mobilizing Unique Materials," which is also a page on the OCLC website: http://www.oclc.org/research/activities/mum.html
ArchivesGrid reps will have a booth in the exhibit hall

Matthew Beacom for Jennifer Schaffner: RBMS

Reviewed the RBMS preconference held in San Diego in June

Next RBMS preconference is in Minneapolis

Methods and Assessment Task Force article will be in the next RBMS publication

Putting together a diversity toolkit, which will be presented at the Librarians of Color conference in 2013

Guidelines on loaning and borrowing materials is going through the process of being an accepted standard for SAA

Jennifer Meehan for Diane Ducharme: Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (DCRM-MSS)

Single-item, post-1600 manuscripts cataloging manual editorial committee has met several times and created draft text for areas 1-7

(Full report is posted on the Description Section website)

VI. Closing

Jennifer Meehan made a few closing comments and encouraged member to get in touch with her. She's looking for suggestions/comments for next year's meeting since this new format seemed so successful. She's also interested in ways to work with other groups within SAA.

Submitted by Donnelly Lancaster Walton, Section Secretary

✳✳✳

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED EAD REVISION TIMELINE
BY MIKE RUSH
EAD/ACCESSIONING ARCHIVIST
THE BEINECKE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Since the 2012 SAA Annual Meeting, the Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description (TS-EAD) has been busy with the ongoing work of revising EAD. TS-EAD has continued its deliberations on the revision via email and conference calls, the Schema Development Team met for two days in October, and an EAD Tag Library editorial team meeting is being planned for late February.

An updated timeline for the revision of EAD follows below. There will be two additional comment periods, one each for the alpha and beta releases.   Announcements regarding upcoming revision milestones will be made to the appropriate email lists.
Questions regarding the revision of EAD should be directed to Mike Rush, TS-EAD co-chair, and
michael.rush@yale.edu.

Updated EAD Revision Timeline:
February 2013: Alpha release, open alpha comment period
February 25-26, 2013: Tag Library editorial team meeting
May 1, 2013: End of alpha comment period
July 1, 2013: Beta release, open beta comment period
August 2013: Present Beta at SAA 2013 EAD Roundtable Meeting
September 1, 2013: End of beta comment period
November 1, 2012: Deliver final schema and tag library to the SAA Standards Committee
Winter 2014: Submit new version to SAA Council for adoption, publish after adoption.

✤

LAUNCH OF A MONTHLY RSS FEED FOR ARCHIVAL FINDING AIDS
BY MARY LACY
MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress is pleased to announce the launch of a monthly RSS feed for its archival finding aids. This feed identifies both new finding aids and those that have undergone substantial revision in the past month. Subscribe to RSS or e-mail delivery of these announcements at
http://www.loc.gov/rss/#updates (listed under the category Library Web Site Updates.) More than 1,800 LC finding aids are searchable at: http://findingaids.loc.gov and lead remote and onsite researchers to 51 million archival items in the Manuscript, Music, American Folklife, Prints and Photographs, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound, and other Library of Congress research centers.

✤

SAMUEL H. KRESS FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO ENHANCE ONLINE ACCESS TO AAA'S WORLD WAR II PROVENANCE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

BY BARBARA D. AIKENS

CHIEF, COLLECTIONS PROCESSING

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution The Archives of American Art received a $100,000 grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation to support a project to preserve, arrange and create EAD finding aids for eleven archival collections that are central to World War II art provenance research. Selected highlights from each collection will also be digitized. About one-half of the collections targeted for this project are the personal papers of World War II "Monuments Men" George Leslie Stout, Walter Horn, Thomas Carr Howe, S. Lane Faison, James J. Rorimer, and Perry Townsend Rathbone.


Photograph of Thomas Carr Howe with other Monuments Men, most likely at the Altausse Salt Mines in Austria, July 25, 1945. Unidentified photographer. Thomas Carr Howe papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

During and after World War II, a small team of unlikely heroes was composed of American and British art curators, scholars, architects, librarians, and archivists. Charged with identifying and protecting European cultural and historical sites and monuments from bombing, this U.S. Army unit was officially named the **Monuments, Fine Art and Archives Section,** but quickly became known as the Monuments Men. As the extent of the Nazis' systematic looting of the cultural and artistic heritage of Europe became known, the Monuments Men were tasked with locating and recovering the fine and decorative arts, national treasures, and cultural properties stolen by the Third Reich. Essentially, these men were heroes who saved the cultural and artistic heritage of Europe from disappearing.

Monuments Men George Stout and Thomas Carr Howe discovered a large cache of stolen artwork at the Altaussee salt mines in Austria. There, they identified, salvaged, and transported priceless works of art, including Michelangelo's *Madonna and Child* sculpture and the Ghent Altarpiece or *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* by Hubert and Jan van Eyck. Monuments Men James Rorimer worked closely with


Frenchwoman Rose Valland, an employee of the Jeu de Paume Museum in Paris who spied on the Nazis and recorded in detail the movements of artwork stolen by them, including Hermann Wilhelm Goering and Joseph Goebbels. With Valland's assistance, Rorimer discovered a large hoard of stolen artwork at the famed Neuschwanstein Castle in the Bavarian Alps.
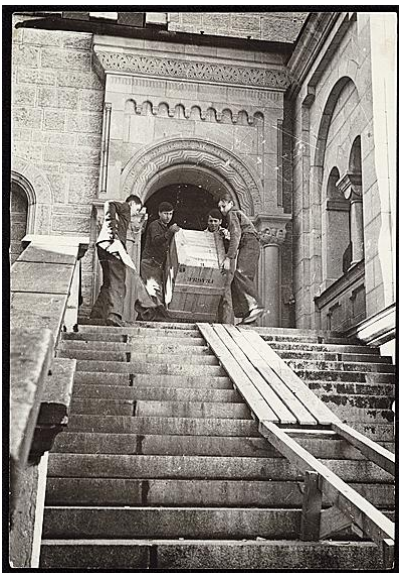
Four soldiers removing a crate of recovered artworks down a staircase at Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, 1945. Unidentified photographer. James J. Rorimer papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Diaries, letters, manuscripts and writings, extensive photographs, and recorded interviews document the work of these extraordinary curators, historians, and conservators and their efforts to save Europe's historical sites, icons, artifacts, and art from total destruction. These papers provide researchers with a personal perspective that is often lacking in the official government record.   This project will allow these collections to be used in a new context to one another and offers the potential to engender new understanding and insight into the role of American art historians in the art world during the war and its aftermath.
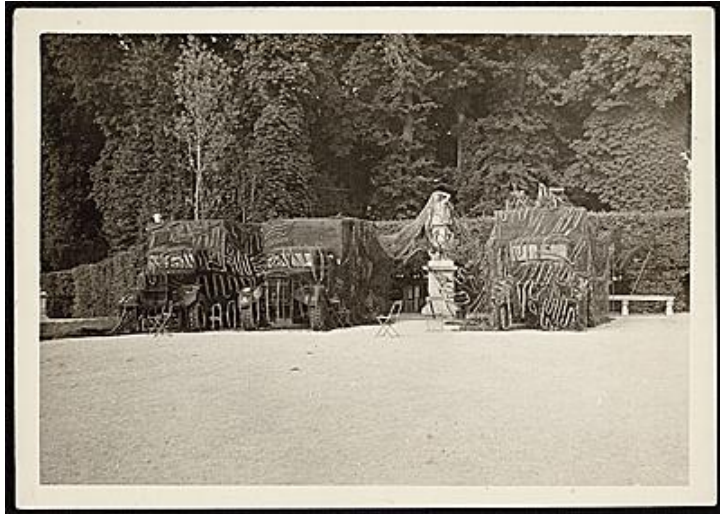
Camouflage netting over Gardens of Versailles during World War II, 1945. Unidentified photographer. James J. Rorimer papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

*

THE MARK POSTER DIGITAL FILES, 1985-2009
BY AUDRA EAGLE YUN, MLIS, CA ARCHIVIST
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE LIBRARIES

The University of California, Irvine Libraries has completed a project to provide access to the born-digital files of Mark Poster (1941-2012), emeritus professor in History and Film and Media Studies. First hired in 1969, Poster played a central role in UC Irvine's emergence as a leading center for work in critical theory. He helped launch the Critical Theory Institute, first as an informal reading group and then as a formal research center in 1987. He also served as director in its early years and in 2002 became the founding chair of UC Irvine's Department of Film and Media Studies. He authored or edited more than 17 books and 90 articles on European intellectual history, the social and cultural theory of electronically mediated information, postmodernism, and cultural and critical theory, among other subjects.

The Mark Poster digital files, 1985-2009
http://ucispace.lib.uci.edu/handle/10575/1336

Materials include research files, notes, and email correspondence related to his books and other publications, lectures, as well as Poster's work with the Critical Theory Institute. Portions of the digital files are presented as part of the UCISpace @ the Libraries' Virtual Reading Room [http://special.lib.uci.edu/using/docs/rules-of-use-virtual-reading-room-ucispace.pdf], which allows limited access to approved researchers.

Multiple staff from the UC Irvine Libraries contributed to the project, including research librarian John Novak, head of special collections, archives, and digital scholarship Michelle Light, metadata librarian Shu Liu, archivist Audra Eagle Yun, digital projects specialist Matthew McKinley, intern Margaret Phung, and former archivist Dawn Schmitz.

<div align="center">✻</div>

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE ANNOUNCES LATEST RELEASE OF ITS "HISTORY OF MEDICINE FINDING AIDS CONSORTIUM"
SEARCH-AND-DISCOVERY TOOL NOW INDEXES OVER 3,600 FINDING AIDS FROM 35 INSTITUTIONS
BY JOHN P. REES
ARCHIVIST AND DIGITAL RESOURCES MANAGER
HISTORY OF MEDICINE DIVISION
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

The History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library and a component of the National Institutes of Health, is pleased to announce the latest release of its History of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/consortium/index.html). The Consortium now indexes over 3,600 finding aids from 35 institutions. The consortium supports a search-and-discovery tool for archival resources in the health sciences that are described by finding aids and held by various institutions throughout the United States and Canada. As with the initial release the new content crawled consists of finding aids delivered as EAD, PDF and HTML from a diverse institutional cohort.

The new content contributors (finding aids count) are:
American Philosophical Society (80)
Bellevue Alumnae Center for Nursing History (12)
Boston Children's Hospital Archives (36)
Duke Medical Center Archives (147)
George Washington University (20)
Rockefeller Archive Center (69)
Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College (82)
State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center (22)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County Center for Biological Sciences Archives (8)
University of Mississippi Archives and Special Collections (69)
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (20)
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston (148)
Eskind Biomedical Library Vanderbilt University (87)
DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry Weill Cornell Medical College (22)
Wright State University Special Collections and Archives (59)

NLM invites libraries, archives and museums with finding aids for collections in the history of medicine and health sciences to join the Consortium.

For more information about the project or to request to join the Consortium, please visit:
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/consortium/about.html.

<div align="center">*</div>

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN THE HUMANITIES JOINS GRANT TO DEVELOP CROSS-SEARCH AND CONTEXT UTILITY

BY JODI ALLISON-BUNNELL

PROGRAM MANAGER, NORTHWEST DIGITAL ARCHIVES ORBIS CASCADE ALLIANCE

EAD Digest - 10 Jan 2013 to 14 Jan 2013 (#2013-7) The Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia has partnered with the Northwest Digital Archives program of the Orbis Cascade Alliance to build, evaluate, and demonstrate the long-term viability of the Cross-Search and Context Utility (XCU). The XCU will bring together digitized content from thirty-six systems at twenty-five institutions and detailed metadata from archival and manuscript collections at thirty-three institutions. The result will be access to digitized objects in the context of the collections to which they belong, greatly improving the presentation and usability of digital content and associated metadata and better meeting the needs users. The project is funded with a $249,904 National Leadership Grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Daniel Pitti said. The project aligns closely with our research interest in exploiting existing archival description in innovative ways to improve access to archival resources and open archives to new and diverse users." IATH, in close collaboration and communication with Alliance, will design and develop the software infrastructure for XCU.

The XCU will become publicly available in September 2013. The XCU concept stems from three years of needs assessment and planning for digital services conducted by NWDA and Orbis Cascade Alliance member libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies. While great advances are being made in the discoverability of widely replicated content, unique materials remain difficult to find and none of the existing or emerging discovery systems successfully convey the connections between related digital objects. User studies demonstrate that the ways that unique materials held by cultural heritage organizations are currently presented in the online environment are confusing to users because of a lack of sufficient context and metadata. Through the further development and implementation of the XCU, this project will address both the aggregation of content and the integration of results to better represent the intellectual and/or physical collections of materials offline. If successful, the XCU will be a valuable proof of concept for cultural heritage organizations that have digitized content and metadata about unique collections in disparate systems but lack the means for searching and presenting material these objects in context. Partner institutions in this effort with the University of Oregon (as grant fiscal agent) and the Orbis Cascade Alliance are Lewis & Clark College, Oregon State University, University of Oregon Libraries, Pacific University, Seattle Municipal Archives, Western Washington University, Washington State University, and the University of Montana. The Orbis Cascade Alliance is a consortium of 36 academic libraries in Oregon and Washington. Alliance member libraries work together to provide outstanding services to students and faculty, share information resources and expertise, develop library staff, and help members allocate financial and human resources to serve the unique needs of each member. To this end, the Alliance considers the combined collections of member institutions as one collection. The Alliance supports a number of services that support this vision, including Summit, a system that allows students, faculty and staff to easily search and request library materials owned by member libraries; courier service offering delivery of library materials in Oregon, Washington and Idaho; the Northwest Digital Archives, which offers enhanced access to primary sources in the Northwest U.S.; cooperative purchasing for databases, ebooks and ejournals; and other digital library services. For more information: www.orbiscascade.org.

IATH (www.iath.virginia.edu/) is a research unit of the University of Virginia established by the University of Virginia in 1992. Its goal is to explore and develop information technology as a tool for scholarly humanities research. It offers consulting, technical support, applications development, and networked publishing facilities to its Fellows, drawn from UVA=92s Humanities Faculty. IATH also cultivate partnerships and participate in humanities computing initiatives with libraries, publishers, information technology companies, scholarly organizations, and other groups residing at the intersection of computers and cultural heritage.

*

WORKFLOW AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS STUDY CONTINUES

BY JESSICA SCHAENGOLD

MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION, 2013 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Analysis is underway on the November/December 2012 survey request sent to the Description Section. The survey is part of a master's thesis at the University of Michigan School of Information. To everyone who responded, thank you! The final response rate was 41%. Responses came from a wide variety of institutions. In the coming weeks, many volunteers will be receiving requests for interviews. Upon completion of the thesis, the anonymized data will be made available at www.jschaen.com/thesis/. Once again, thank you for your participation. The survey and upcoming interviews will provide a comprehensive overview of practices and expectations within the archival community.

Research Abstract:

This research is examining the question: How do different content management systems and access systems influence workflow in archives? Despite the existence of formal systems as well as individually designed databases that can manage and provide access to both digital object records and physical object records, many archives use multiple systems. This study will examine the consequences of those systems, and if these processes are the result of a conscious decision or something that evolved organically over time, and how such decisions are made. By examining this aspect of archives, this research will provide insight into the mindset behind the choices of archives, if they decide on content management systems and access systems based on their workflows, and if they are aware of consequences. The study's goal is to determine ways in which databases and other systems can be better integrated into the archive's workflow.

*

BRITISH LIBRARY GUIDE TO RDA NAME AUTHORITY RECORDS

BY RICHARD MOORE

AUTHORITY CONTROL TEAM MANAGER, THE BRITISH LIBRARY

In the hope that it might be helpful, we have shared our British Library Guide to RDA Name Authority Records as a global workflow in the RDA Toolkit.

This guide describes British Library best practice for the creation of RDA name authority records. It results both from discussions with the Library of Congress, and from the contributions of many cataloguers in weekly RDA policy review meetings over a period of months, without whom the guide would not have been possible.

The guide is not intended to be the letter of the law, but should be read in conjunction with the LC-PCC-PS, and DCM: Descriptive Cataloging Manual, Z1. Name and Series Authority Records.

It is under continuous review, and will be revised again when the full text of changes to RDA agreed recently by JSC becomes available.

Queries concerning this Guide may be directed to me. We'd be grateful for any feedback, criticisms or suggestions.

*

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY-INSTRUCTORS NEEDED WHO CAN TEACH EAD, DC, AND ENCODED ARCHIVAL CONTEXT

EAD Digest for Friday, November 30, 2012. San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science is looking for instructors who can teach in the area of EAD, Dublin Core and Encoded Archival Context. Our Masters degrees in library and information science and archives and records administration are delivered in a 100% online format so location is unimportant. We may have need either in Spring 2013 or Fall 2013. We use D2L Learning Management System and Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing. Though any instructor is free to build or use their own platforms.

The class caps at 30. Salary for an instructor with a PhD degree is: $5,950.80; for a Masters degree: $4,971.60, payable at the end.
Here is some information about our school:
http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/ http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/programs/master-library-and-information-science-mlis
http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/programs/mara
http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/prospective-students/discover-online-learning
Please email a CV and a cover letter addressing your ability to teach in this area to Dr. Linda Main at
linda.main@sjsu.edu

*

OCLC RDA POLICY EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2013
BY GLENN E. PATTON
DIRECTOR, WORLDCAT QUALITY MANAGEMENT

(Source: AUTOCAT Digest - 10 Jan 2013 to 11 Jan 2013 (#2013-11) OCLC is pleased to announce that a new policy statement about RDA records in WorldCat is now available as part of the RDA pages on the OCLC website (http://www.oclc.org/us/en/rda/default.htm). This new policy becomes effective on March 31, 2013. The current policy, which has been in effect since the beginning of the U.S. National Libraries testing, will remain in effect until that date.

This policy statement grew out of a discussion paper, Incorporating RDA Practices into WorldCat, and the many comments received from member libraries in response to that paper. OCLC staff are grateful for those comments. OCLC also acknowledges the work of a number of task groups of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, whose discussions of RDA practices have also influenced this policy statement. Questions about the policy may be submitted to rdapolicy@oclc.org.

✳

Join "RDA Cataloging" a Google+ Community for sharing information, questions, answers, and news on RDA

AUTOCAT Digest - 27 Dec 2012 to 28 Dec 2012 (#2012-335) RDA Cataloging <https://plus.google.com/communities/114381713914946747854>is an online community or group or forum for library and information science students, professionals and cataloging & metadata librarians. It is a place where people can get together to share ideas, trade tips and tricks, share resources, get the latest news, and learn about Resource Description and Access (RDA), a new cataloging standard to replace AACR2.

✳

54th RBMS Preconference: O Rare! Performance in Special Collections
By James P. Ascher

Archives and Archivists (A&A) List digest Dec. 12, 2012.

The 54th Annual RBMS Preconference O Rare! Performance in Special Collections Minneapolis, Minnesota Sunday, June 23 - Wednesday, June 26th
Come one! Come all, to the Annual Preconference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

This year expect sterling performances by old and new faces with familiar and brand-new programming. We're planning over ten panels, nine superb seminars, ten enriching discussion sessions, three brilliant workshops, unconferences running parallel to every session, and--brand new this year--poster sessions. We'll have the traditionally excellent Book Seller's Showcase and a return of the Book Arts Fair and Tech Petting Zoo. We have receptions at the Mill City Museum, a performance by the Rose Ensemble, and a whole slew of tours.

Housing is open now and you can see a preview of the programming at:
<http://www.preconference.rbms.info>
Scholarships are available to subsidize first-time preconference attendance. The deadline for application is March 22, 2013.

Check out the website for the most current details and stay tuned for more. We have an excellent slate of plenaries on the way and other surprises for the conference.

We will talk of these things at the 54th Annual RBMS Preconference. Tickets go on sale February, 2013.

✳✳✳

FEATURE ARTICLE

SEEKING OUT COLLECTIVE WISDOM: EXAMINING CATALOGUERS' USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
BY BRIDGIT SIDDALL
RESOURCES LIBRARIAN
THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, NEW ZEALAND

This piece of research was undertaken in 2012 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Information Studies, at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Research Objective

The objective of this research was to test the assumption that cataloguers use social media tools (blogs/wikis/forums/electronic mailing lists) to access what Hopkins has dubbed a "community of cataloguers" as one means of accessing informal continuing education (Eustis, 2011; Farkas, 2007; Hill, 2002; Hopkins, 2002). This objective can be summarised with the question: Does social media play a part cataloguers' day-to-day functioning at work, based on their frequency of use to access an online professional community? The study also sought to test how the number of years working as a cataloguer and the number of cataloguers an individual works with within their organisation might impact on the frequency of their use of social media to seek cataloguing-specific information.

There were two types of cataloguing-specific information referenced throughout the study both of which are based on previous research by Judith Hopkins (2002) into cataloguers' use of the Internet (by which she meant Listservs). These two types of information are: "general current awareness" which involves keeping up to date with current trends and issues, and "specific (and immediate) current awareness" which involves seeking quick answers to specific questions.

Research Design

Sample survey research was selected as the method for this study. The study used an online questionnaire sent out via electronic mailing lists (AUTOCAT, CatSIG listserv, NZLibs listserv). Respondents were self-selecting. 176 respondents provided usable data. As the cataloguer population is unknown any statistical analysis is based on the sample population alone.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to explore the make-up of the sample population. The null hypothesis was tested using Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test, which is a non-parametric test which relies on differences between the medians rather than the means of data collected. Research hypotheses were tested using Spearman's rho which is also a non-parametric test which measures the strength and direction of the relationship between the interval scale variables.

Findings

The sample population provided some interesting descriptive statistics about the number of cataloguers in their organisation and the number of years each respondent had been working as a cataloguer:
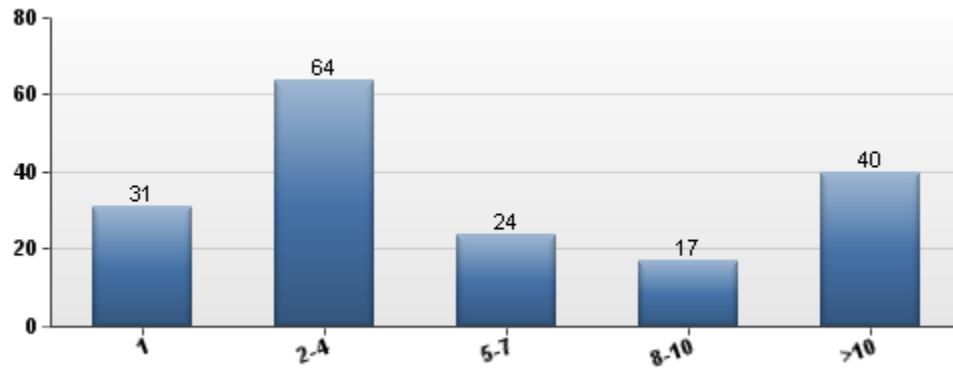
Number of cataloguers working in an organisation (176 respondents)
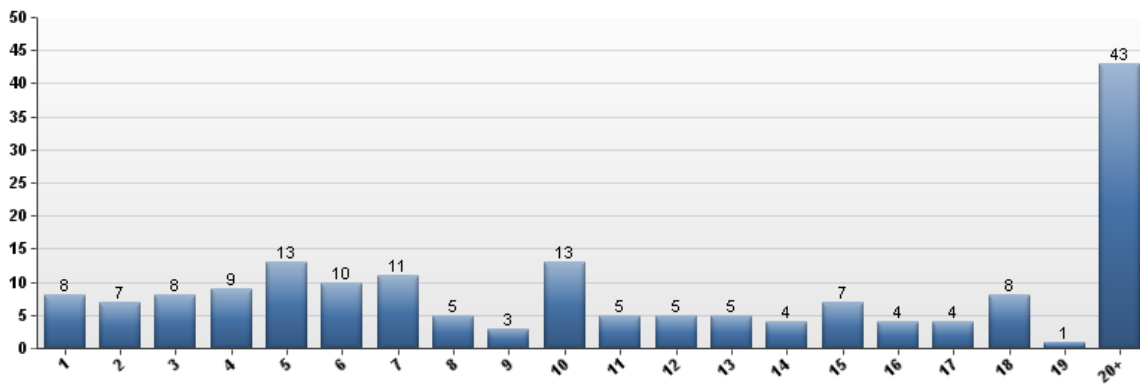

Number of years working as a cataloguer (173 respondents)

93% of respondents stated that they used Internet-based social media for cataloguing-specific information seeking.

There was a statistically significant difference (so this result can be applied to the cataloguer population as a whole) between the frequency with which cataloguers sought out "specific (and immediate) current awareness" and "general current awareness" – this lead to the rejection of the null hypothesis.
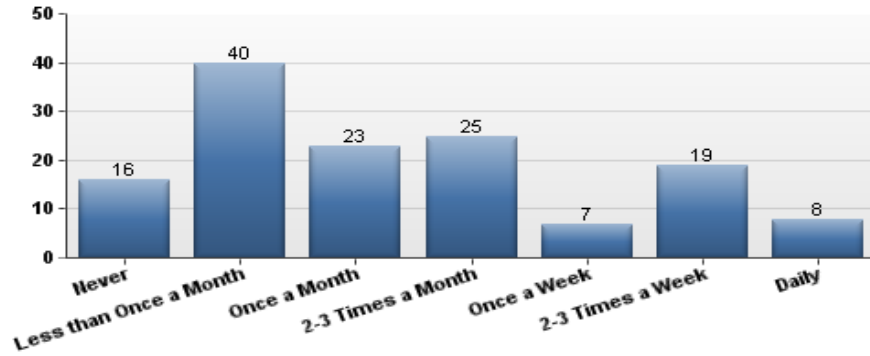
Frequency of seeking specific current awareness information (138 respondents)
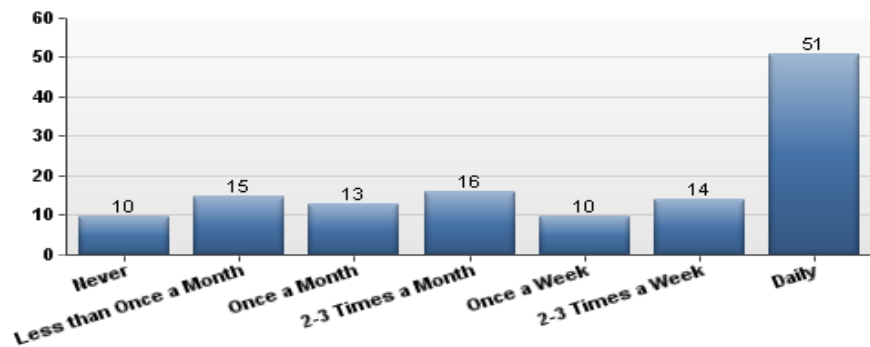
Frequency of seeking general current awareness information (129 respondents)

In addition, a statistically significant, weak positive correlation was found between the number of cataloguers working in an organisation and the frequency of seeking cataloguing-specific information. Therefore, as the number of cataloguers working in an institution increases the frequency with which they use Internet-based social media to seek out cataloguing-specific information increases.

Qualitative responses

Respondents were asked why they chose to use internet-based social media to seek out different types of cataloguing-specific information. Word maps are used here to provide some insight into the answers provided by respondents.

What are your reasons for choosing to use internet-based social media to seek out "specific (and immediate) current awareness" information?

What are your reasons for choosing to use internet-based social media to seek out "general current awareness" information?

Conclusion

The results of this study suggest that internet-based social media is a useful, and used, tool for cataloguers to access cataloguing-specific information to support their day-to-day practice and learning, opportunities for professional development, and contact/networking with peers.

References

Eustis, J. M. (2011). Blogs and their place in the continuing education of catalogers. In Sanchez, E. R. (Ed.), *Conversations with Cataloguers in the 21st Century* (pp. 219-225). Santa Barbara, Cal.: Libraries Unlimited.

Farkas, M. (2007). *Social Software in Libraries: Building Collaboration, Communication, and Community Online*. Medford, New Jersey: Information Today.

Hill, J. S. (2002). What else do you need to know? Practical skills for cataloguers and managers. *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*, *34*(1-2), 243-259. DOI:10.1300/J104v34n01_15

Hopkins, J. (2002). The community of cataloguers: Its role in the education of cataloguers. *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*, *34*(3), 375-381. DOI:10.1300/J104v34n03_09