Date: Annual Report 2008

Name of Section/Roundtable: Metadata and Digital Object Roundtable

The Metadata and Digital Object Roundtable promotes discussion, education, and collaboration among archivists interested in digital archival objects and the metadata that enables their access, management, and preservation.

Officers
Cochair - Janet Carleton, Ohio University Libraries
Cochair - Deborah Green, University of Idaho
Steering Committee -   Mark Matienzo, New York Public Library
                                          Lisa Miller, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Web Liaison -   Mark Matienzo, New York Public Library

Report from annual meeting:
     Number of attendees: 85 people signed in
     Election results: Janet Carleton and Deborah Green elected cochairs
     Summary of meeting activities: Meeting minutes attached

Completed projects/activities
-Presented a formal program, a debate on a resolution relating to metadata standards with four debaters and a moderator, at the roundtable's annual meeting.
-Received three SAA 2008 session proposals for endorsement, and endorsed two, both of which were accepted by the SAA Program Committee for the 2008 annual meeting.

Ongoing projects/activities - The roundtable continues to host sample administrative-side metadata records on its Web site, though no new records have been submitted for some time.

New projects/activities - None at this time.

Diversity initiatives - None at this time.

Questions/concerns for Council attention - None at this time.

--------------------------------Attachment---------------------------

Minutes of the Metadata and Digital Object Roundtable Annual Meeting
Society of American Archivists, San Francisco, August 27, 2008

Cochair Lisa Miller ran the meeting. She introduced herself and announced that cochair Janet Addison resigned in fall 2007 due to changes to her position.

1. Announcements

Margery Sly, Council liaison, described some of the decisions made at the Council meeting earlier in the week.

Lucy Barber, NHPRC, discussed upcoming rounds of NHPRC grants and the Archives Leadership Institute it will cosponsor again next year with the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

2. Business

Roundtable Web liaison Mark Matienzo mentioned the administrative-side metadata samples on the roundtable's Web site.

Two candidates were elected as cochairs of the roundtable: (1) Janet Carleton, digital initiatives coordinator at Ohio University Libraries, and (2) Deborah Green, digital initiatives librarian at University of Idaho.

Lisa thanked several steering committee members who stepped down: Stephen Fletcher, Sammie Morris, and Kathy Wisser. The new cochairs will handle replacing them; watch the metadata Listserv for more information about this process.

Lisa invited audience members to submit topics for program proposals for the SAA conference in 2009, as well as future directions for the roundtable. None were made at the meeting.

3. Program

The program consisted of a debate.

Resolved: A repository that adapts, alters or modifies metadata standards to fit practical realities (for example, to implement a particular digital asset management system or deal with limited resources for metadata creation) can create effective metadata records for discovery, sharing, and ongoing management of digital objects.

For the Affirmative:
Brandon Burke, associate archivist for recorded sound collections, Hoover Institution Andy Wentink, curator of Special Collections and Archives, Middlebury College

For the Negative:
Robin Chandler, director, Digital Library Program, University of California at San Diego
Kathy Wisser, School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Moderator:
Bill Landis, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University

After the debate and a lively audience discussion led by Bill Landis, the meeting was adjourned.

Lisa Miller
Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford University