

Washington Preservation Initiative
Advisory Group Minutes
October 6, 2004, Conference Call

Present: Gary Menges, UW Libraries, Chair
Gudrun Aurand, WSU
Jill Bourne, Seattle Public Library
Lee Dirks, Microsoft
Eric Palo, Renton Technical College
Linda Pierce, Gonzaga University
Kathryn Hamilton Wang, WSL
Susan Barrett (WSL Project Manager)

Basic Book Repair—September

This was well taught, by Elizabeth Ferguson Keathley of Solinet, and well received. Unfortunately each day had one no-show attendee. Two workshops were held at King County Library Headquarters in Issaquah and one at the Eastern Washington Regional Archives in Cheney. WPI spent the remaining \$2,500 in our 2004 training budget for these workshops, plus a contribution from variances from other initiatives, in part to satisfy the waiting list left from August. The question of offering a class in Intermediate Book Repair next year will be discussed later, balancing with other needs for workshops. WLA has been contacted about the possibility of offering beginning book repair as a spring pre-conference, with no response yet.

Grants

Council has received much feedback about satisfaction with the workshops, grants, and other activities of WPI and the speed and consistency with which we have produced activities within this initiative.

For the 2004 “large grant” cycle, twelve proposals were received totaling \$160,036. With a slight addition of variance funding, ten were fully funded and two were partially funded, for a total of \$144,821. These contracts are currently in process. Information will be posted on the website.

Burlington Public Library	\$ 4,635
Centralia Community College, Kirk Library	\$ 5,584
Kettle Falls Public Library	\$ 7,820
Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI)	\$20,000
Pend Oreille County Library	\$ 2,000
Samish Indian Nation	\$17,630
Seattle University, A.A. Lemieux Library	\$11,202
University of Washington	\$20,000

UW Ethnomusicology Archives	\$11,180
Washington State University	\$20,000
Whitworth College	\$14,770
Yakama Nation	\$10,000

For the “small grants” for a preservation assessment, OCLC was selected as the vendor, with Tom Claerson to do the site visits, and Gayle Palmer of OCLC Western to accompany him, with only per diem being charged for her. There were 13 applications; three withdrew after having been successful with their larger grants, which also included an assessment component. Only five applicants can be funded; that decision should be finalized next week. Whether a similar assessment grant cycle should be offered for 2005 could be a topic for our future discussion.

Gary suggested that we consider doing a sort of pamphlet at the end of WPI, summarizing all that has been accomplished. The projects resulting from all the grants could be presented in some detail. Gudrun suggested that this information also be put up on the website. Gary remarked that the list of last year’s winners should be kept on the website even when the new ones are added.

Future Workshops

Jill will send out an announcement about Jim Reilly’s Environmental Monitoring workshop to the Assistant Directors list. This could also be a place to publicize future workshops.

Potential topics to be discussed later—photographs and negatives; moving images; sound recordings; mold; general care and handling of collections from a preservation viewpoint.

As the LSTA 2005 availability of funding comes closer, we will discuss again whether Intermediate Book Repair should be part of our workshop offerings for that final year of WPI.

Depending upon Congressional action on LSTA for 2005, The Library Council of Washington has approved a third, and final, year for WPI, with anticipated funding of \$300,000. Another grant cycle would presumably be offered, with more workshops, possibly grants for assessment surveys, and perhaps activities stemming from the WPI spring survey.

Survey

If copies of the actual survey of preservation needs have not yet been shared with the Library Council of Washington, Susan should enable this. They have seen summations and some excerpts already.

Discussions of findings:

Begin with p. 10, # 6-Most Serious Problems and # 7-Disaster Planning:
Beyond general deterioration, lack of funding was important. Gudrun stressed the need for education and training, and commented that a lack of a Disaster Plan was linked to lack of education also. Eric mentioned that most people don't understand that they usually will be facing a water problem. He wondered if we should offer another round of Disaster Planning workshops, and/or check to see if former attendees implemented Tom Claeson's suggestions.

Eric suggested we also could publicize disaster plan templates that are already available on the web. Linda wondered if we should compile regional disaster plans that people have already done and make them available. These could be put up on our website and on WebJunction, perhaps also via Portals.

For section # 7, Preservation Services, the link, and highest need, for most libraries is to their local history collection.

For Top Five Preservation Goals, Eric mentioned that people are likely to keep expecting WPI to fund and offer free workshops.

For the Telephone Survey section on p. 14 and the expressed need to identify unique materials, the Self-Survey Guide on the NEDCC website was mentioned as a helpful aid. Gudrun suggested establishing networking between institutions as a way to promote exchange of information. (WebJunction may have a part to play here.)

Eric commented that we still need to find ways to raise interest in preservation; he will suggest the importance of training to CLAMS meetings.

Linda wondered if we could share our information with other library organizations, perhaps by issuing a position paper? Talking to other library groups also sponsoring training, such as LAMA or ACRL, may help to integrate the need for preservation training. We should make a concerted effort to get the preservation issue before various library leaders.

Eric mentioned another Key Finding about electronic formats—possibly explore a workshop for optic-electronic archives?

Part of the State Library's request package to the new Legislature will be funding for WELL—Washington Electronic Library, to support ProQuest and/or other databases in a fully statewide offering. If this were to occur, federal funds now used for this would be freed up for other initiatives. Whether the Legislature will be able to view this with enthusiasm has yet to be determined.

On next meeting, survey discussion will continue with Section IV, p. 17—Future considerations for WPI.

Next Meeting:

Conference call Nov. 3, 1 pm.