

Washington Preservation Initiative
Advisory Group Minutes
August 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
Susan Barrett (WSL Project Manager)

Absent: Linda Pierce, Gonzaga University
Jill Bourne, Seattle Public Library
Kathryn Hamilton Wang, WSL

Basic Book Repair Workshops

This has proven to be a very popular class, with waiting lists on both sides of the state, and attendees from all kinds of libraries. Gary mentioned that a hands-on class is generally four times as expensive as a regular one, because of the attendance limitations. There was discussion of possibly charging for this training in future, to not also be burdened with the added cost of materials, but this does bring in additional fiscal costs.

Tina Mason from Solinet will train 12 people in Issaquah at the King County Library System Headquarters on August 17, and 12 at the Eastern Washington Regional Archives in Cheney on Aug. 19. She would have been willing to add one day to this, but the contract could not be amended in time.

Susan has put out an Informal Solicitation for possible trainers for September workshops, with the thought that there could be two Westside ones, one north of Seattle and one south, an idea which Eric liked. (The KCLS site will be unavailable for a repetition of the training, since the time required to host it is too interruptive of the general work flow.) Without any advertising at all, the Westside classes are likely to be filled just from the waiting list. Doing the training by videoconference was suggested, but others felt the hands-on aspect was too important to miss. Given the apparent need, Susan will mention to WLA that Book Repair might have potential for a pre-conference, to be sponsored by WLA, not WPI. Selection of a September trainer, completion of a contract, and coordination of dates, will have to occur quickly.

Other Workshops

Future workshop topics will be discussed at forthcoming meetings, after we know more about future possibilities and budgets for WPI for next year. It is extremely likely that next year will be the last for Preservation as an initiative, given the recent pattern of three years for an initiative topic.

Gary mentioned that Steve Dalton of NEDCC had done some sort of preservation workshop for tribal librarians in Montana, but upon rechecking, discovered that it had been specifically for librarians of tribal colleges.

Preservation Grants

The regular grant cycle for 2004 grants, limited to \$20,000, is now closed, with review in process. Scoring should be completed by the end of August, with announcements in mid to late September, after management review. Twelve grant applications were received, for a total of \$160,036.

The application process for “small grants” is now open, to close by the end of August. These \$5,000 grants would fund a preservation needs assessment of a library’s collection. The assessor will already be selected, via a contract with the State Library, so the individual library will not have to deal with this phase of the process. Three applicants responded to the RFP, and this selection process should be complete by the end of the month.

At the Sept. 14 meeting of the Library Council of Washington, final selection of 2005 initiatives and determinations of funding will be completed. The federal monies are likely to arrive near the end of the year.

Preservation Institute

Gary discussed the three-week Preservation Institute which will begin in October; he had just returned from a planning meeting in Boston. Applicants for attendance will soon receive letters letting them know whether or not they were accepted.

It is likely that some speakers at the Institute may also be willing to present a workshop for WPI. One possibility would be Jim Riley, of the RIT Image Permanence Institute, who is well known in the field of environmental monitoring. He would be available for one day only, October 26, probably for a Western Washington workshop site.

Preservation Needs Survey

This topic was put forward until our next meeting. It was suggested that the report might be added to the website, and with the group’s approval, this will be done, when it is possible for the webmaster to do so.

Gary mentioned that the national Heritage Health Index will be mailed soon from DC to 16,000 institutions across the country.

Gary mentioned that the California Preservation Program has developed a new preservation survey model that focuses on immediate problems that might be changed instead of a comprehensive preservation survey.

Next Meeting

Friday, August 20, 2004, 9 am OR Thursday, August 26, 10 am—conference call.

Primary topic: Preservation Needs Survey