

Washington Preservation Initiative
Advisory Group Minutes
February 9, 2005, Conference Call

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

Absent: Linda Pierce, Gonzaga University

Alan Lewis Workshop

This workshop, on Preservation Management of Machine-Based Legacy Audiovisual Collections, was held Friday, Feb. 4th at the UW, Seattle, and Tuesday, Feb. 8th, at Gonzaga University, Spokane. Attendance totaled 73; the evaluations (which will be compiled soon) were uniformly satisfactory.

Mr. Lewis also generously visited the Yakama Nation Cultural Center and Museum on his way across the state, to examine some early wire recordings held there, and also spent some time examining the resources of Gonzaga's Bing Crosby Collection.

Grants

The new WPI general grant cycle for 2005, for \$200,000, has been opened, with applications due April 15th. The group discussed and agreed to again offer a preservation assessment grant cycle, in the late spring or summer, for a total cost of \$30,000. An RFP to hire an assessor to do this work will begin to be written soon, perhaps to be published in March. A query has been sent to the 2004 participants regarding any suggestions or changes to the process which they might suggest. The 2004 RFP went out in July, with a request that a letter of intent to respond to the RFP be submitted by July 15, and a full proposal a few weeks later.

The site visits from the 2004 assessment grants have been completed, some in December and the rest the last week of January, and the reports to the libraries are presumably in process, although not yet received by the libraries.

Additionally, a grant cycle to offer environmental monitoring for a year was approved to move forward. Jill inquired about details of the process, and Eric suggested that one of the criteria be a commitment from the applicant to act upon the results of the monitoring. This solicitation will be offered after the RFP for the preservation assessor. If it appears

that a sole source offers the services required, there are some necessary intermediate steps required to verify this.

An Assessment Survey Implementation Conference

Gary suggested that one of WPI's final events might be an assessment survey implementation conference to which all the recent recipient libraries would be invited. This would include the, presumably, ten libraries from the direct survey grants for 2004 and for 2005, and other libraries which have used part of their regular grants to fund a survey or have funded such a survey out of other funds or grants, such as the national CCAHA survey or Native American Professional grants. The participant Washington libraries from the current Pacific Northwest Preservation Management Institute could also be invited, as they are all doing self-assessments as PMI homework. With overlap in some of these categories, around 30-35 attendees might be expected. The WPI assessor(s) from 2004 and/or 2005 might be hired to facilitate this conference.

The intent for this implementation conference would be for the attendees to discuss their preservation experiences so far, and their progress in implementing survey recommendations, to share best practices and problems encountered, and to receive encouragement in follow-up activities. Funds encumbered for the purpose of this conference would not be over \$10,000.

Disaster Planning

Alliance for Response/Heritage Preservation for Emergency Response organization has contacted Gary about holding a forum in Washington. Forums have already been held in New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Texas. They are interested in Washington for this year, probably in the fall of 2005. The expected result of the forum would be to build a disaster response network in the state.

Disaster planning appears to be a potentially popular WPI workshop topic, from evaluation responses. There was discussion that perhaps this should be split into two workshops, one on Vulnerability and one on Salvage

Preservation Forum

There was a brief mention of the Preservation Forum that the University of Washington Libraries are discussing hosting. This might include speakers on digital preservation, Google's initiative to digitize the collections of several major libraries, the future of hard copy collections (regional print repositories), and the state of audio and film preservation. Some potential speakers such as Abby Smith of the Council on Library and Information Resources would only charge travel expenses. Including a speaker on the Washington State Digital Archives was suggested. The group did not have time to discuss a possible WPI contribution towards such a Forum.

Salvage Wheels

Whether WPI might purchase and distribute these information wheels has been raised in prior meetings. Eric suggested that they not be sent to libraries in a wholesale distribution, since some may still retain theirs from a distribution in 1997. He also suggested that the wheels could be distributed to attendees at our disaster workshops. Susan wondered whether we might buy a set of 100 of the salvage wheels, then announce their availability, one to a branch, and interested libraries could send in requests to her.

A Disaster Mitigation Workshop

The one organized by CCAHA and offered by Portals last fall used two speakers, Julie Page, head of the Preservation Department at the University of California and Michael Smith, Associate Professor of Communication at La Salle University.

The third and last Pacific Northwest Preservation Management Institute will occur the week of May 16, with Shelby Sanett from Amigos. A meeting of experts from various preservation centers will follow on Saturday May 21, to discuss long-distance learning for preservation.

Other Workshops

Among other possible workshop topics besides disaster planning, Gudrun felt that one on photographic negatives would be a very specific emphasis, and how many photographic curators exist for a feasible audience.

Gary mentioned other topics, such as local history collections, which might also include something on scrapbooks. Gudrun suggested a workshop on library bindings, which Julie Arnott had offered as part of the second week of the Pacific Northwest Preservation Management Institute. Eric said he was surprised at how interesting this had been, with information about how a book is made. Gudrun felt that it could assist book buyers to know about stability of bindings, etc. Eric said that this would require careful marketing with an explanation of its basic usefulness, but that it should be possible.

Gudrun mentioned that we should first determine what is the highest priority for this set of preservation workshops. This is likely to be the last year (2005 to Sept 2006) for preservation activities, though some advisory group members may intend to suggest preservation-related topics in the Library Council of Washington's currently open search for topics to emphasize with next year's LSTA dollars.

Members

Some members of the group had had to leave early, so it was decided to continue the workshop discussion later. Gudrun will be on a sabbatical during the month of March; Gary will be on annual leave from mid-February to mid-March.

Next Meeting

The advisory group's next conference call will be Tuesday, April 19, at 2 pm.