

Washington Preservation Initiative  
Advisory Group Minutes  
Nov. 29, 2005, Conference Call

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

Absent: Jill Bourne, Seattle Public Library

### **Library Preservation Needs Assessments**

Signed contracts are in place, and site visits have been arranged by Tom Claerson, to Everett Public Library and Mount Vernon Public Library the week of Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, and to Ritzville Public Library the week of Jan. 17, 2006. A date for a spring/summer gathering of assessment recipients and PMI attendees remains to be settled. Gary has a list of 17 libraries which have had assessments from various sources, plus those PMI attendees who have completed their surveys/assignments.

### **Environmental Monitoring Initiative**

Four applications were received and are in the process of being approved, from Mount Vernon Public Library; Collins Library, University of Puget Sound; Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington; and Renton Technical College. Some discussions are underway regarding versions of the final contract with IPI. It is hoped that the libraries can receive their data loggers by the first of the year. Seattle Public Library will also be doing environmental monitoring, through their own contract.

### **“Protecting Library Collections” Workshops**

Gary has had preliminary discussions with some California librarians about aspects of this program with a template that has been utilized in California. Susan is working on a solicitation to send out for possible trainers. This is a two-part sequential workshop; attendees must commit to participating in both sessions, and to completing homework in between. February and May have been mentioned as possible dates. As part of the first workshop, people do a self-addressed postcard, listing three actions they expect to take as a result of attending.

### **Alliance for Response/ Heritage Preservation meeting**

Gary attended a planning session with this group in Washington D.C. in early November, postponed from an earlier date. State sessions in Chicago and possibly Atlanta, as well as Seattle, are expected sometime in the spring. Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, and New York City were sites for last year. Gary will be coordinating a planning committee, including representatives from the local emergency management community; attendance at the sessions will be by invitation.

The goals of the gathering will be to:

- 1) Initiate an ongoing dialogue between cultural institutions and emergency managers and first responders;
- 2) Raise awareness of the need to protect cultural and historic resources within communities;
- 3) Encourage disaster planning and mitigation at museums, libraries, archives, and historic sites; and
- 4) Develop strong networks among these institutions to facilitate effective local response to emergencies.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services has allocated \$100,000 in state monies to hold sessions in four areas of the state this year—the San Francisco Art Museum, Balboa in San Diego, the Getty in Los Angeles, and the Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Although the funding is separate from Alliance for Response, the California forums will be coordinated with the Alliance for Response.

Linda asked in what capacity would Gary be involved in this, if it was as part of his job at the University, and he said yes. Eric asked if this would be for just the state of Washington, and Gary said perhaps just the Seattle area for starters. As a second tier, a statewide network may be forthcoming.

### **WPI Survey Sent to PMI Participants**

Gary has received about half of the surveys back. Since the Preservation Management Institute's respondents will now have more preservation background than many of the respondents to last year's WPI survey, it will be useful to see their differences in perception of their agencies' potential disaster response and preservation situations.

### **Other Possible Workshops and Budget**

Funding is available for several more WPI workshops before the cut-off date of late September, 2006. Possible topics might include—mold; photographic negatives; care of maps, posters, and oversized artifacts/ephemera; preservation microfilming. Others may develop later.

### **Next Meeting**

Conference call on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006, at 2 pm.