

Bibliographic Standards Committee
Program Planning Subgroup

1. Update on Submissions for RBMS 2020 (Bloomington, IN)

In 2019, BSC approved seven potential topics to be turned into session proposals for RBMS 2020 in Bloomington, IN. In the end, PPG assisted in the submission of five proposals. One of the original proposals for a seminar on managing in technical services was not written because we did not have a proposer. A proposal for a second participant driven session to foster conversation between catalogers and non-catalogers was written but not submitted, because several of the participants were also involved in other session proposals, and the guidelines for the 2020 submissions limited participants to a single proposal.

A summary of the status of the five proposals submitted is below:

- Workshop: Cataloging Artists' Books
 - Final decisions haven't come from the workshops committee yet; we will update the committee once we've heard if the session is accepted.
- Seminar: LD4P2 and Rare Materials: Reports from the Field
 - This session was accepted; congratulations to session organizer Audrey Pearson and to all the presenters!
- Paper/Panels: Mitigating Pejorative Terminology in Descriptive Standards
 - This session was accepted; congratulations to session organizers Sata Prescott and Christian Lash and to all the presenters!
- Paper/Panels: Culturally Competent Catalog Description
 - This session was not accepted; it might be worth resubmitting the proposal for the new People's Choice category.
- Participant-Driven Session: My Favorite Mistake: Technical Services Edition
 - This session was not accepted; it might be worth resubmitting the proposal for the new People's Choice category.

2. Potential Topics for RBMS 2021 (Milwaukee, WI)

An initial note: We received a response to our topic solicitation e-mail from Moira Fitzgerald, chair of the Seminars Committee, and we wanted to share a few of her comments with BSC. She mentioned that she is advocating for the program planning committees to make available sample proposals to serve as a guide for anyone drafting a proposal. Additionally, she suggested that technical service librarians consider volunteering for program planning committees and that PPG reach out to past committee chairs for advice while proposals are drafted.

The following is a list of potential session topics generated and solicited by PPG. We plan to discuss these topics at the BSC meeting on February 3, so please be prepared to offer feedback and comments. We will prioritize discussion of the newly generated topics, but we've also included topics from last year for further review. After the meeting, we will circulate a survey to gauge relative interest in each of the topics. From that survey, we will draft a list of recommended topics for BSC approval. Once the topics are approved, we will work with proposers to draft proposals, which we will discuss at Annual.

Newly suggested topics:

- "A Little Goes a Long Way" about how learning just a little bit of something (like a new tool) can help you get a lot done and one doesn't necessarily need to become an expert in something for it to make a big difference in how much you can accomplish. For example, I recently worked to replace all the links within our finding aids in ArchivesSpace with new links using SQL queries, OpenRefine, Visual Basic in Excel, and Python. I'm not an expert in any of those things but I have learned enough to largely automate an otherwise time-consuming task. Let me know how I might go about drafting a session proposal if you think that sounds relevant. Suggested by Michelle Paquette, mpaquette@smith.edu
- I'm very much interested in this topic, and would be interested in proposing an idea as part of a panel for RBMS 2021. I have a very unique career position, in that, I'm both a rare book cataloger at UC, San Diego Special Collections (part-time) and a bookseller, bibliographic specialist, so I see variances in cataloging. I've been adamant about book trade cataloging adhering to certain standards. I'm a big proponent of generating trade cataloging records to RDA and/or DCRM compliance. That may not be appropriate for everything or everyone, but I think it is an exploratory exercise. I know there is a push to have a bookseller voice at RBMS even if small, so this might be one avenue, and working cooperatively. Suggested by Kim Schwenk, kim@luxmentis.com
- I would like to see something about local practice documentation: how it is developed, maintained, and updated; what role it plays in training; what degree of specificity is useful, etc. This seems to me to be suited for the seminars format, but might also work as a discussion. Suggested by Jennifer MacDonald, jsmacdon@udel.edu
- Seminar on DCRM2. The RBMS RDA Editorial Group is preparing to publish the first iteration of DCRM2 in 2020. This revised standard will integrate the DCRM manuals as a single, RDA-compliant integrating resource. The Editorial Group would like to present a seminar at RBMS 2021 to introduce the revised standard, demonstrate its use, and talk about future developments.
- Your post on the exlibris list caught my attention. I'm not a librarian, but instead an independent researcher in the visual history of books. My research takes me often to on-line catalog records of special collections. Just last evening, I was perusing records of the British Library, thanks to their posts about the Polonsky Project. I noticed that catalogue records do not yet include tags for individual illuminations within a manuscript. Could

that be a topic for RBMS? My BASIRA Project is designed to record fine details about book objects portrayed in a work of art. To date, we're concentrating on paintings and sculptures, but we plan to include illuminations & illustrations from manuscripts as the work progresses. I'm not suggesting that catalogue records be expanded to minute details of illuminations, but wonder if there might be a goal of including a general description of individual images? Something along the lines of: 56r Annunciation; 72v St. Jerome and St. Peter; 90r harvest scene. (These are made-up examples.) There is such rich social history embedded in manuscript illustration. While being mindful of time constraints on cataloging work, I'm just wondering about ways to make that history more findable. Suggested by Barbara Williams Ellertson, basirabew@gmail.com

- Unsiloing Copy Specific Information: Designer book bindings. The focus of this research is to investigate information relegated to copy specific notes, subject headings, contributors, etc. that are siloed in library catalogs, specifically focusing on designer book bindings, due to institutional practice are unsearchable without visiting the institution's specific catalog. There are a couple case studies I've put together on extracting this information, such as cataloging bindings separately as unique "art" objects in a MARC21 framework or in a digital collection capacity. (Note, Graham is unsure about what category this topic could fall under. Suggested by Graham Skinner, skinner@bostonathenaeum.org)
- #1: "eResources Librarian Bootcamp" on the skills necessary for being an eResources Librarian. #2 Automation, the good the bad & the ugly. #3 I'd love to write / present on #2. Automation has a bad reputation in the cataloging world (at least my narrow view of it). I'd like to go over some issues and some solutions. Suggested by Cori Arnold on TCMMF on Facebook.

Approved but not submitted topics from last year:

- Managing in technical services (seminar)
- Topics of conversation between catalogers and non-catalogers (participant-driven session)

Topics discussed last year, but not approved to be proposals:

- Introduction to cataloging non-Roman languages. Try to get a few language specialists to talk about handling these materials
- Backlogs: "I think dealing with backlogs in special collections without being able to add staff is very much an elephant in the room for cataloging managers and catalogers (I'm both). There are issues of access, ethical considerations for materials, preservation, and what counts as "good enough" cataloging. This also touches on questions of what we are willing to give up / what services we may want or need to let go." Suggested by Beth Shoemaker, elizabeth.shoemaker@emory.edu

- Retrospective conversion: both current, ongoing projects and the results we still deal with from previous projects. Suggested by Katharine Chandler, kchandler74@gmail.com
- Outsourcing cataloging work. “Some questions that could be addressed: Does the number of staff hours put into planning such projects outweigh the benefits of outsourcing? What does a successful outsourcing project look like? How viable are outsourcing projects for special collections with small TS departments?” Suggested by Liz Adams, elizabeth.adams@duke.edu, and Lauren Reno, lauren.reno@duke.edu
- The differences between special collections cataloging and general collections cataloging. What are the different skills, focuses, expectations? How do you make the argument to your administrators that separate experts should be hired for both? OR A panel of special collections catalogers talking about cataloging as a career path: how they got into it, what they love about it, what the challenges are, etc. Perhaps aimed at students/new professionals. Suggested by Erin A Leach, eleach@uga.edu
- My favorite (little-known) web resource: This session would allow each participant to describe an online resource (preferably of the lesser known variety) that proves particularly useful in the cataloging or interpretation of special collections material. As a secondary benefit, the session could draw attention to BSC’s (by then) recently redesigned Web Resources for the Rare Materials Cataloger. Suggested by Francis Lapka, francis.lapka@yale.edu

A final note: It was suggested last year that BSC sponsor a rotating selection of workshops on cataloging special formats of materials. If anyone has a particular format that they would be interested in learning (or teaching) about, please bring that to the meeting.

Report submitted for discussion at the Bibliographic Standards Meeting on February 3, 2020, on behalf of the Program Planning Subgroup:

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