Library History Round Table
Midwinter meeting
January 31, 2019 1 – 2:30 pm
Online via Zoom.

Agenda:
1. Introductions and Past business (1:00 – 1:05)
2. Guest speakers – ALA candidates, 1:05 – 1:15.
3. Approval of officer and committee reports (1:15 – 1:25)

***PLEASE NOTE***: Attendees should read all officers’ reports *ahead* of the meeting, since they will not be delivered orally at this meeting. Available reports are attached here.

4. Approval of Annual 2018 meeting minutes (1:25)
5. Discussion and Approval of 2019 Budget (1:25 – 1:30)
7. Action Items: (1:40 – 2:10)
   a. Announce speakers for the Holley Lecture
   b. Finalize any changes to bylaws (see attachment).
   c. MOTION to reduce Corporate membership cost to align with other Round Tables (see Current: Article I — Membership and Dues)
   d. MOTION to change the Publications Committee to “Communications Committee”

8. Discussion items (2:10 – 2:30)
   8.1. Communications: should we be using Google Drive to coordinate efforts?
   8.2 Communications: should we create a new Twitter feed? The password is lost and we can’t retrieve it.
   8.2. Helen Haines and other 100 Notable Librarians: how to communicate about this (NYT obituary; etc.)/coordination.
   8.3. Candidates for 2019 LHRT elections
   8.4. The handbook has been updated according to actual practice. See attachment.

Adjournment
1. Meeting brought to order, and attendees welcomed at 8:30 a.m. CST by Stauffer.
2. Before the meeting, minutes from the 2018 Midwinter Meeting were distributed and corrected. Hunter made a motion to approve and distribute the minutes as previously adjusted. Minutes were unanimously approved following a second to the motion.
3. Officer reports and old business:
   a. Stauffer made the committee aware of the new ALA Liaison, Danielle Alderson, who was unable to attend due to a conflict with another ALA meeting. Stauffer gave a report on the LHRT-sponsored tour of the Southern Food and Beverage Museum Library, which took place on Saturday, June 23. Stauffer reported that the proposed Lee Shiflett Historical Research Essay Award—offering $10,000 for research support at the masters level (awarded in yearly increments of $1,000), and $1,000 to defray costs to attend the conference—is still with an ALA committee with no current updates to report.
   b. Bossaller reported on 2018 awards: The Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award—a certificate and five hundred dollars—will be awarded to Margaret Yu-Yin Hung for her dissertation “English Public Libraries, 1919-1975: Vocation and Popularisation” at the Edward G Holley Memorial Lecture today. The Eliza Atkins Gleason Book Award is presented every third year. It will be given next in 2019. The Donald G. Davis Article Award—a certificate honoring the author—will be presented to Dr. Jennifer Burek Pierce for her 2016 article, “The Reign of Children: The Role of Games and Toys in American Public Libraries 1877-1925” published in Information & Culture” at the LHRT Research Forum this afternoon. The Justin Winsor Library History Essay Award—a certificate and a $500—will not be presented this year. There was discussion about the awarding of Certificates of Merit for the Dain by the outgoing committee. The Executive Committee voted to remind the Incoming Chair of the Committee that the charge is to select the single best dissertation, and that no other recognition should be made in the future.
c. Hunter reported totals for the fiscal year: total revenues $5,621; total expenses: $2,652; total assets: $59,206; budget remaining $3,789 (of $5,867 budget). (Stauffer noted that Danielle Alderson would be writing a check for the $500 for the Holley lecturer).

d. Past Chair Report: Pozzi reported on three committee meetings—the Membership Assembly, the Conference Planning Committee, and the Roundtable Coordinating Assembly.
   i. Pozzi reported that LHRT membership numbers are up by 13.1% to 422 members. Membership has been steadily growing, and committee members noted that the journal may be helping overall membership.
   ii. The Conference Planning Committee is planning to restructure the ALA Midwinter Conference. They are discussing the elimination of Midwinter and starting with something different that will have a different name.
   iii. ALA will continue the jury system for conference submissions, although there will likely be changes to the rubric being used. August 15 is the deadline for submissions. The Committee formed a group made up of Ellen Pozzi, Emily Spunaugle, Cindy Welch, and Brett Spencer to look at Conference program submissions. Emily will work with Spencer on a program related to local history.
   iv. ALA membership is up overall. While Round Tables are growing in membership while ALA divisions are declining. This may be due to membership costs. Several divisions are merging or considering mergers. The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has a Genealogy Committee and a History Section that have some natural connections to LHRT.
   v. Pozzi noted that the Education Assembly could offer valuable resources that LHRT could draw on and that LHRT should consider having someone attend that meeting.
   vi. Pozzi noted that the Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) is worth having a LHRT representative attend.
   vii. Stauffer made a motion to have the LHRT Chair appoint a member-at-large to attend each of the committees so that LHRT had representation on each of the committees mentioned above. The motion was seconded and approved.

e. Report on LHRT News and Notes: Spencer was unable to attend the Committee Meeting. Committee members noted that the News and Notes looked great and provided interesting content. The Committee issued a formal expression of
gratitude to Spencer for his hard work on keeping this important means of communications going.

f. Libraries: Status of publication
   i. Volume 2 (Issue 1) came out in 2018 and looks great with 4 articles and 3 book reviews. Volume 2 (Issue 2) is at the Press. Novotny reported that the editors have received a good crop of submissions for the Spring 2019 issue, the next issue being worked on now. The journal has a 25-30% acceptance rate. The editors have a good relationship with the Press and believe work with the Press on the Journal is going well.

4. New Business
   a. Revival of the Position of Webmaster for LHRT’s ALA Website
      i. Pozzi and Spunaugle did a lot of work this year cleaning the site up and providing improved organization. ALA still needs to work on some things to make the websites work better, particularly in regards to how it works with ALA Connect.
      ii. Stauffer made a motion to appoint a webmaster. The motion was seconded and approved. Pozzi was charged with creating a position description for "webmaster," which would include all of the relevant duties and might suggest an updated term for the position

   b. Improving Communication
      i. In her role as Past Chair, Stauffer plans to update the handbook and to post useful items from the handbook for the committee and membership. For example, easy access to Award Committee Chair duties could be very useful. Stauffer will also work on an organizational chart.

Adjourned at 10:00 a.m. CST
Brett Spencer, *LHRT News and Notes* Editor

**Activities:**

- The blog continued to publish news and “notes”, informal papers about library history. The blog strives to complement the work of LHRT’s scholarly journal by providing an official venue for non-scholarly contributions to library historiography.
- The blog started a new column featuring papers about how libraries are celebrating their histories in order to inspire other libraries to do the same: [https://lhrtnews.wordpress.com/celebrations/](https://lhrtnews.wordpress.com/celebrations/)
- At its last meeting, the Publications Committee recommended recruiting volunteers to help with the blog. This is a very positive development, as the additional volunteers will make it possible to increase and enhance the content in 2019. We have had three volunteers:
  -- Natalie Romano, Librarian, Denver Public Library
  -- Dana Hettich, Reference Librarian & Liaison to School of Education, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Sterne Library
  -- Dr. Mary Carroll, Course Director, School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University

We are currently having one-on-one virtual meetings to brainstorm responsibilities and projects.

**Traffic:**

- The number of blog views increased from 3,871 in 2017 to 4,349 in 2018 (12% increase)
- The number of visitors to the blog increased from 1,600 in 2017 to 2,369 in 2018 (48% increase)
- The largest number of views came from the United States, followed by Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, and India.
- Most of the submissions came from public librarians and library science graduate students.

*Year-by-Year Statistics*

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<th>Year</th>
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**Questions/Recommendations for Discussion by LHRT Executive Committee and the Membership:**

- Would LHRT like to purchase a subscription to Wordpress to increase the functionality of the blog? Currently the blog has a free subscription with basic functionality (I think this possibility will be discussed further at the
Mid-Winter meeting. The cost of a Premium subscription is $8.00 per month billed yearly and a Business subscription is $25.00 per month billed yearly. However, Wordpress has offered a 15% discount for the first year.

- Would we like to formalize the roles of the blog volunteers? Under the Handbook, should we define the volunteers as a committee, task force, editorial board, or something else?
Donald G. Davis Article Award Committee
2016-2018 Report

The 2018 Donald G. Davis Article Award was presented to Dr. Jennifer Burek Pierce for her article:


Dr. Pierce received her award at the LHRT Research Forum, at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 24, during the American Library Association Annual Conference.


Committee members included Christine D'Arpa (Wayne State University), Ben Brick (Omaha Public Library), and Brett Spencer (Penn State Berks).

The committee suggests that ALA send out a call for nominations at an earlier date and disseminate the call more widely to increase the number of nominations.