

Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (MA SHRAB)

Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Wistariahurst Museum

Holyoke, MA

10 am to 12 noon

Attendance:

Pleun Bouricius, Rob Cox, Penni Martorell; Veronica Martzahl (Deputy Coordinator and Secretary), Cliff McCarthy; Dan McCormack, Rachel Onuf, Kaari Mai Tari, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Jack Warner (Coordinator)

Absent:

Vicky Kruckeberg

Start time discussion

The group agreed to adjust future meeting times to start at 10:30 am.

Minutes

Pleun Bouricius mentioned to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting; Kaari Mai Tari seconded this motion and the minutes passed unanimously.

WordPress catablog

Rob Cox reported to the group on the status of using a WordPress catablog for a state-wide directory of cultural heritage institutions. Installation of an instance is occurring and it is ready to be played with at U-Mass Amherst. U-Mass IT is concerned about security features; we may need a MOU at some point, particularly if the system moves from a Special Collections server to a different server.

Set-up

Town level record

Institutions - individual records with the possibility of a catalog

The group discussed that there are multiple lists floating around that can provide a strong seeding for the directory. The group also discussed including a field for discussion the documentation of a town, including omissions in the records (due to loss from fire, flood, etc.) - basically a scope and context note for each town.

Rob is meeting with the New England Genealogists Association and will bring up the possibility of support for this project.

Roving Archivist check-in

Rachel Onuf reported that she has been working with the following institutions:

- Scituate Public Library
- Leverett Town application (2 visits – one more)
- Fairbanks House
- Hamilton Historical Society

She is scheduling into June – Heath; North Adams.

Roving Archivist applications

The group reviewed the following applications for Roving Archivist services:

- American Textile History Museum – approved unanimous
- Wilbraham and Monson Academy – approved unanimous

Regrant application

The group reviewed the following applications for regrant funding:

- Andover Historical Society - \$1000 approved unanimous
- Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archeology - \$1000 approved unanimous

Status update on form revision

Penni Martorell reported that work is continuing to update the Roving Archivist and Regrant applications.

Update on MBLC planning and possible impacts

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall provided an overview of the history of the MBLC library preservation assessments since 1995. The program has evolved over time with additional services, but throughout the whole of the program, a preservation assessment has been a requirement. This program has led to the creation of the scanning center and Digital Commonwealth at the Boston Public Library.

A strategic planning process is underway to assess the program to determine best ways for it to continue to evolve. They are reviewing a process model for communities – continue Preservation Assessments, but approach it from the community point of view. There is also discussion of taking on the Roving Archivist program to roll it out in a more comprehensive manner.

Gregor has talked to Kathleen Williams from NHPRC and Robin Dale at IMLS about collaborative funding options.

CY 2016 grant

The group discussed approaches for the upcoming NHPRC State Board Grant application in light of potential changes to the MBLC program. The group decided to move forward with the assumption for the CY 2016 that the Roving Archivist will remain within the MA SHRAP purview.

40,000 maximum grant

- 25,000 RA
- 2,000 RA travel
- 9,000 Regrant
- 3,000 Archives Track of History Day
- 1,000 Support of intern to work on Directory

Mass History Conference sessions

The group reviewed the tops for the Mass History Conference.

1:30 to 2:45– SHRAB and Roving Archivist Program

Jack Warner

Rachel Onuf

Betsy McGee – Longmeadow ?

Kai – EcoTarium ?

Molly – Perkins School ?

3:15 to 4:15 – No Food in the Archives – Pest Control and other issues in archival preservation

Jessica Bitely

Gregor Trinkuas-Randall

Gregor will follow up with people at NEDCC

Easy first steps toward a disaster plan

The MA SHRAB has committed \$2000 from AAC account to support History Day.

Publicity

The group discussed publicity outlets and methods including creating a press release template for awardees of roving archivist and regrant and sending notifications to the representatives and senators that represent the institutions that receive awards. Gregor suggested speaking with a woman named Rachel at MBLC about letters and templates.

The brochure also needs to be updated with the current membership.

Next Meeting

May 13, 2015

10:30 am

America Antiquarian Society if available