

Task Force on Competencies & Education for a Career in Cataloging
January 11, 2008
ALA Midwinter 2007
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Angela Kinney (Library of Congress, notetaker), Raegan Wiechert (Missouri State University), Mary Larsgaard (University of California at Santa Barbara, chair of CETRC), Martha Bace (University of Alabama), Sylvia Hall-Ellis (University of Denver, chair of the Task Force), Lori Osmus Kappmeyer (Iowa State University), Mary Lou Beran (Idaho State University), Rebecca Pernel (Thomas Jefferson University), Michael Dulock (University of Colorado at Boulder), Thomas Ma (Harvard Medical School), Linda Smith Griffin (Louisiana State University), Michael Scott (Yale University), Lisa Gardinier (Indiana University), Karen Snow (University of North Texas), Laurie Chipps (Art Institute of Chicago), Sharolynn Pyeatt (Brigham Young University), Mary Woodley (California State University Northridge), Matthew Davis (Pennsylvania College)

Handouts: Agenda for the Task Force Meeting
Agenda from the June 2007 Preconference
Roster of Task Force Members
Proposal for an ALCTS Paper Series Publication
JELIS Call for Papers on Cataloging
Task Force Initiatives
Task Force Website Information

I. Introductions:

Sylvia Hall-Ellis, chair of the Task Force, opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves and sign the roster of attendees. Angela Kinney volunteered to serve as notetaker for the meeting.

II. Background on June 2007 Preconference

At this first meeting of the Task Force on Competencies & Education for a Career in Cataloging, Sylvia Hall-Ellis gave background on the reason for the creation of the Task Force, which was formed as a result of a June 2007 Preconference, "What They Don't Teach in Library School: Competencies, Education and Employer Expectations for a Career in Cataloging," held at Catholic University during the ALA Annual Conference. The conference, sponsored by ALCTS Committee on Education, Training and Recruitment for Cataloging (ALCTS/CETRC), Catholic University and the Library of Congress, featured managers, practitioners and educators from various institutions, who presented their professional perspectives and viewpoints on educational, training and career opportunities that should be made available to information professionals working in the field of cataloging. The idea for the preconference originated in 2004 at a meeting of the ALCTS/CETRC, during which there was expressed a growing concern among committee members about promoting professional growth within the field of cataloging. During the preconference, attendees signed up for the Task Force, which was established

by ALCTS/CETRC to serve as a subcommittee that will assess the current state of education and employment in cataloging and recommend changes and new programs that seek to promote continuing education and training in the profession. Sylvia Hall-Ellis was selected to chair the Task Force. The preconference organizers Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Martha Bace and Angela Kinney, in addition to assisting with establishment of the Task Force, have also been approved by the ALCTS Publications Committee to publish the papers from the preconference, which will be published as part of the "ALCTS Monograph Paper Series." Companion papers will be published in a special issue of the "Journal of Education for Library and Information Science." Sylvia explained to Task Force members that the preconference coordinators are in the process of compiling the papers for these two publications, which should be ready by ALA Annual 2008.

III. Review Roster of Task Force Members

Sylvia asked the members of the Task Force to review their data from the Task Force roster of members, which is growing exponentially. Library of Congress has developed a website at www.loc.gov/aba/, that contains information about the preconference and Task Force, including presentations and webcasts of the speakers and a volunteer form one can use to sign up for the Task Force. Sylvia asked that Task Force members get back to her with any changes on the roster, which will be updated and posted to the LC website. The roster contains location information for each member of the Task Force and indicates the initiative under the Task Force for which the member volunteered. Angela Kinney will send out an advertisement of the Task Force and website on AUTOCAT, to increase membership in the Task Force and inform the library community of its existence.

IV. Review Task Force charges and assignments:

The group reviewed the three initiatives under the Task Force, including: 1) establishment of a Cataloging Education Fellows Program, to provide programs, grants and educational opportunities for catalogers; 2) connecting cataloging practitioners and employers with library educators, which seeks to increase methods of communication between those who wish to hire catalogers and those seeking positions in the field, as well as to establish a formal network for mentoring, lectures and practicums; and 3) a clearinghouse for cataloging resources, or a location on the Internet where one can seek out and locate various resources and all sorts of information pertaining to cataloging. Sylvia noted that one of the purposes for holding the first meeting at ALA Midwinter was to begin the work of the Task Force by selecting chairs for each initiative. Consequently, Sylvia volunteered for the first initiative, Linda Smith Griffin volunteered for the second and Angela Kinney for the third.

One of the Task Force members suggested that a Wiki be established to link to the clearinghouse and that the Wiki include a glossary of terms and reference sources related to cataloging. Another member asked how one connects with prospective educators to assist them with pursuing a career in cataloging education. In order to move forward on the first initiative (Cataloging Education Program), it will be necessary to locate those educators in order to promote their entry into the field of teaching cataloging. There were various other suggestions for the three initiatives, including creating a video or on demand web course to demonstrate cataloging, and the introduction of paid internships to

attract students to the field. Another suggestion was for the clearinghouse subcommittee to communicate with Metadata Education and Research Information Center (MERIC) to find out ways in which we can work with them, since they have done some work already with finding a central portal for displaying online information about cataloging. Angela will look into this with her subgroup. Another suggestion was to contact network resources and metadata groups, to determine if they wish to assist with building the clearinghouse. Yet another suggestion was to put an online comment form on the LC website, so that feedback on the Task Force can be contributed by the wider library community. Angela will work with LC to get this done. A final suggestion was to link the LC website to the ALCTS and ALISE websites, to further spread the word about the Task Force. The chairs of the Task Force were then charged to meet as separate subcommittees during the year and deliver a first report at the ALA Annual meeting 2008 in Anaheim, California. Chairs should work with their groups to assign persons to each bullet under each initiative.

V. Next steps:

a. frequency of meetings: All agreed that twice yearly meetings at ALA were appropriate.

b. size of the Task Force: In a subsequent meeting of the preconference planners, a decision was made to keep the Task Force to 40 persons, so as to have a manageable amount of persons working on the initiatives.

c. agenda for next meeting: The meeting at ALA Annual 2008 will have on the agenda reports from the chairs of the Task Force initiatives. The next meeting will be June 27, location to be determined. Martha Bace will provide the details of the meeting in a message to Task Force members.

d. communication between meetings: Most agreed that communication among the subgroups will have to take place via email or through teleconferencing.

e. resources needed: Sylvia suggested that a listserv be established for the Task Force. There was some question about who would maintain the Wiki and listserv. This topic should be picked up at the annual ALA meeting.

f. coordination with other groups (MERIC): The Clearinghouse subgroup will communicate with MERIC.