

Reference/Processing Collaboration Group (RPCG)

2010 Report

I. History of the group

The Reference/Processing Collaboration Group began in 2007 as the MPLP Task Force, a small committee of three members of the Reference, Access, and Outreach (RAO) section. It was formed to investigate the potential impacts of basic/lite/customized processing on public services. At the 2008 annual meeting of SAA, the group reported on a small survey of the membership of RAO regarding its opinions of MPLP, and the primary conclusion coming out of that survey was that responding archivists wanted guidance on how to implement MPLP. Concern for the impact on public services was only beginning to emerge. After a year of discussing the various forms that such guidance might take, the group was reconstituted and refocused last winter, and it now represents the interests and perspectives of a variety of SAA constituencies, including the Manuscripts Repositories, Description, and College and University Archives sections, as well as the Congressional Papers Roundtable.

II. Group representation

The group is constituted of the following members:

Shannon Bowen Maier, Co-chair, American Heritage Center

Dan Santamaria, Co-chair, Princeton University

Gordon Daines, Brigham Young University

Steve Fisher, University of Denver

Sarah Keen, Colgate University

Heather Fox

Thomas G. Lannon, New York Public Library

Christie Peterson, Bates College

Jennifer Meehan, Yale University

Joanne Archer, University of Maryland

Jackie Dean, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill

Dawn Schmitz, University of California- Irvine

Greg Kocken, American Heritage Center

Jill Severn, University of Georgia

Casey Babcock, La Guardia and Wagner Archives

III. Charge

The group has been charged with compiling and synthesizing extant thought and discussion regarding basic processing, and with offering models for implementing it and assessing its

impact. The group will conduct follow-up surveys regarding processing and reference practice to build upon the information already gathered by Greene, Meissner, and others. Lastly, the group will communicate regarding its work using an interactive platform that allows for commentary and additions by our colleagues in the profession and other interested parties.

IV. Group progress

The group has created various resource pages that list citation information regarding articles and other publications, blogs and online resources, and conference presentations; links to full text are included where available. Additionally, we have compiled a number of processing manuals from the institutions represented in the group. We are in the process of reviewing, tagging, and annotating our citations so that they can be grouped appropriately and effectively searched. Updates regarding the progress and content of our work are being posted at <http://raonews.blogspot.com/>, in section newsletters, and in discussion lists.

V. Plans for the upcoming year

RPCG is currently investigating the feasibility of a number of applications to allow us to post our content online and enable commentary. We hope to finalize this process over the course of the fall and make the content we've collected and created available by the end of the year. This content will form the skeleton from which we will construct other resources that help archivists to make reasoned decisions about MPLP implementation. Also, the group will be designing one or more survey instruments that enhance and refine those created by Greene and Meissner and RAO's MPLP Task Force. These will be deployed sometime early in 2011, with preliminary results being reported at SAA's 2011 annual meeting.