

Washington Preservation Initiative
Advisory Group Minutes
April 19, 2005, Conference Call

Present: Gary Menges, UW Libraries, Chair
Gudrun Aurand, WSU
Lee Dirks, Microsoft
Eric Palo, Renton Technical College
Linda Pierce, Gonzaga University
Susan Barrett (WSL Project Manager)

Absent: Jill Bourne, Seattle Public Library
Kathryn Hamilton Wang, WSL

WPI Grants—“Large Grants”

Application deadline for the 2005 WPI (LSTA) \$200,000 grant cycle was 5 pm Friday, April 15. Sixteen proposals were received, totaling \$269,000. The ceiling on requests had been set at \$30,000, but there is a wide range in the amounts requested. Another proposal which had arrived electronically, but not yet in hard copy, per application instructions was forced to be eliminated. The proposal review process will now begin, with expectations of announcements by July 5, and Sept. 16 for all contracting to be completed, so that the recipients can begin their projects. Projects must be completed by the end of August 2006, with final reports, and invoices, submitted by Sept. 30, 2006.

WPI Site Assessment Grants—“Small Grants”

For these grants to five libraries seeking a preservation site assessment, the text of the RFQQ to hire a site assessor is near final approval. It will be sent to six possible vendors (an expanded number demanded this year by the state contracting process) and should be published Friday in the (Seattle) Daily Journal of Commerce with a one-day notice.

The amount of funding is listed at \$35,000, with the activities to mirror those of a similar preservation assessment cycle from 2004. The application process for libraries to “win” one of the five slots should open in the late spring/early summer. In addition to the site assessment, since this is likely to be the last year for preservation funding, the assessors from this year and from 2004 will be invited to facilitate a one-day conference on assessment best practices and future planning for any Washington library which has received a preservation site assessment in recent years. Assessment of the 2005 recipient libraries probably will begin around August 15 and be completed during the fall of 2005; the conference may occur in the spring of 2006.

WPI Environmental Monitoring Initiative

A third variety of WPI grant, new this year, is expected to offer five libraries a one-year lease on environmental monitoring equipment with a quarterly monitoring of automatic reports.

Gary had recently attended a national advanced training session on such systems, at which it was announced that Image Permanence Institute hopes to develop national environmental standards for preservation of collections, based upon their large database of environmental monitoring readings.

Heritage Health Index Data

Data collection for this national survey of the preservation needs of archives, historical societies, libraries, museums and scientific organizations is now complete. A query on whether individual states' data could be drawn out into a separate report has received an answer. Gudrun mentioned that the website offers a national and a regional ("West" covers AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA, AS, GU, MT) profile of data for free.

Preservation Workshops

Discussion continued on whether a workshop on book binding, prompted by a session by Julie Arnott at the February Preservation Management Institute, would be of sufficient interest to be offered statewide by WPI. Susan asked for the group's opinions. Lee felt that it might be of intense interest to a relatively small number of participants, and Linda agreed. Gudrun wondered what audience would be interested, and Eric commented that it should be marketed as being about book structure, binding formats and purchase decisions, as in-how do I decide what to bind when doing mending.

Gary mentioned a workshop held at Linda Hall University which focused on what to send for binding and what not to. Gudrun asked that he send the group a description of this workshop and one of the Solinet binding workshop.

Susan offered to create a draft text for a solicitation of a presenter for a binding workshop, which she would then send to the group and invite them to amend freely.

Other workshops might involve photo negative conservation, one on the practical aspects of film preservation, and a follow-up on disaster planning.

Gudrun asked about Intermediate Book Binding, perhaps with the sponsorship of a regional conservation center, so that WPI need only offer support or partial tuition subsidy. Susan said that we still would have to provide many articles, although we do already own a set of wrapped bricks.

This question, and that of other workshops, will be re-examined at our next meeting. An audience would likely be immediately available for another round of Basic Book Repair, but the logistics and high cost per hands-on attendees would be a prohibitive factor.

Other Business

Susan mentioned that we could still consider ordering a supply of salvage wheels (ie, a graphic hand-out showing what to do in which emergency). Eric said that LMDC has authorized their Professional Development Committee to order some for distribution to each of the community college libraries, and also a copy of the NEDCC self-survey preservation assessment document for each. Stephanie Carter of Centralia College's Kirk Library is a 2004 assessment grant recipient. She and Eric are both in the PNW Preservation Management Institute. They hope to continue an education component on preservation at the LMDC meetings for the next year.

Gary asked if more preservation books could be ordered to add to the State Library's collection, and Susan replied that this was still under discussion but could be possible.

Gary will check back with Heritage Preservation about the Washington Alliance for Response Forum. (Post meeting—Heritage Preservation has not yet received a response regarding their grant funding request but is optimistic that at least partial funding will be received.)

Discussion about the Preservation Forum at the end of the site assessments will continue in future meetings.

Next Meeting

Conference call on Thursday, June 9, at 2 pm.