AALL Online Bibliographic Special Interest Section
Chair Annual Report, 2018-2019

The 2018-2019 OBS-SIS Executive Board consisted of: Jackie Magagnosc, Chair; Jessica Pasquale Vice-Chair/Chair Elect; Kevin Carey, Treasurer/Secretary; and Jason LeMay and Barbara Szalkowski, Members-at-Large. Committee Chairs were: Jackie Magagnosc, Education Committee; Gypsy Moody, F.R.O.G. Committee; Keiko Okuhara, Local Systems Committee; Jennifer Noga, Nominating Committee; Gypsy Moody, OCLC Committee; and Barbara Ginzburg, Web Advisory Committee.

Gypsy Moody accepted a position outside of law libraries and was unable to continue as chair of F.R.O.G. and the OCLC Committee. Jessie Tam agreed to assume the chair of F.R.O.G.; Christopher Thomas graciously agreed to fill out the balance of Gypsy’s term as OCLC Committee chair.

Activities and Accomplishments

Re-positioning Initiative:

The section continued its revised mission and rebranding discussion in light of the revised object approved at the OBS-SIS Business meeting in July 2018. The question was addressed in the biennial survey as “Does the name of our Special Interest Section, "Online Bibliographic Services" convey the nature of the work you're involved in at your organization?” Ideas were solicited at the OBS poster in the Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall display area, and time was set aside for brainstorming and discussion during the business meeting.

Programming and Professional Development:

The OBS-SIS Chair heads the section’s Education Committee for the first half of his or her term. From July through December of 2018, the Committee was very active, planning programming and educational opportunities requested by OBS-SIS members. The committee’s efforts culminated in selection of two OBS-coordinated deep dive programs for the 2019 AALL Annual Conference schedule:

- Deep Dive: DIY API: From Inception to (Successful) Implementation (AALL-funded program)
- Deep Dive: Clean It Up! Transforming Messy Data with OpenRefine (OBS-SIS sponsored program)

Building on 2018’s well received Hot Topic session “When Systems Change”, the SIS sponsored “A continuing conversation on systems migration” featuring both new and continuing panelists. This session immediately preceded the TS-SIS sponsored deep dive program “Things You Need to Know Before Moving to a New ILS” effectively providing and entire afternoon of programming focused on systems migration.

Additionally, the section coordinated its regular Local Systems roundtable, providing an opportunity to confer with peers using various library systems.
The OCLC Update Forum was repurposed to provide a venue for discussion of the mission and utility of the OCLC Committee. See the section of Online Content for discussion of the OCLC Update webinar.

The Education Committee was successful in keeping programming costs low at the annual meeting by taking advantage of the expertise of AALL members, who were graciously part of our programming content, we chose to forgo designation of a VIP for Annual Meeting 2019 as none of our speakers met AALL’s suggested criteria for selection of a VIP.

**Online Content:**

OCLC Update Webinar - The section experimented with delivery of the regular OCLC Update session via webinar. Delivery of an OCLC update at Annual Meeting was dependent on the speaker being part of the OCLC team in the exhibit hall. OCLC is no longer exhibiting at AALL Annual Meeting and bringing in a speaker for this session is prohibitively expensive. We hope delivery of this information via webinar will present a viable solution for the future. The webinar recording will be distributed to registrants and, with permission from OCLC, posted on the OBS-SIS website.

Website review – The Executive Board of OBS-SIS initiated a review of the OBS-SIS Website. Outdated and/or inconsistent content was flagged for update and correction. The review is not complete, but a good start has been made. The Executive Board concentrated on revision of the section procedures manual. That work is complete and has been forwarded to the chair of the Web Committee for inclusion in the section website.

OBS-SIS’s long standing “Website of the Month” service, for which one of our members, Keiko Okuhara, sends out a monthly email to the OBS community with an online resource and corresponding record, continues to be very popular.

**Support for ALA Liaisons:**

OBS-SIS continued its support of for the ALA liaisons. As section chair, and a member of the ad hoc subgroup of the SIS Council working on issues around the liaisons, Jackie helped draft a resolution for the Executive Board of AALL creating a dedicated fund to support the work of these positions. The fund is available for member contributions; it is hoped that we will eventually be able to solicit contributions from vendors and have a fund that is large enough to provide funding from income rather than needing to fundraise each year.

There are some outstanding questions around governance of the funds still needing resolution. A subcommittee is being convened by the SIS Chairs Council to draft guidelines.

**Membership and Leadership:**

OBS-SIS membership held steady. As of May 1, 2018 we had 205 members; after a mid-year dip, the section membership recovered to 201 members.

**Summary**

2018-2019 was a successful year for OBS-SIS. We were successful providing high quality programming to our membership at Annual Meeting. It is hoped that by continuing work on the
sections’ repositioning initiative we will clarify our mission and focus, enhancing efforts to recruit new members.

The section continues to enjoy a small core group of active members and leaders dedicated to making OBS-SIS a productive group that is responsive to the needs of its members and continues to lead conversations about systems in law libraries.