OBS-SIS Annual Report, 2012-2013

The Executive Board consisted of Christina Tarr, Chair; Betty Roeske, Past Chair; Katrina Piechnik, Vice Chair; Barbara Szalkowsi, secretary; Marjorie Crawford and Corinne Jacox, Members-at Large. Our TSLL representatives were Marily Nicely and Victoria Sukhol. Our MARBI representative was Pat Sayre McCoy. Our OCLC representative was Karen Selden. Christina Tarr, as chair of the Executive Board, was chair of the Education Committee. Marjorie Crawford was chair of the Local Systems Committee. Kathy Faust, as outgoing past chair, was chair of the Nominating Committee. Hollie White was chair of the Joint Research Grant Committee. Karen Selden was chair of the OCLC committee. Tim Knight was chair of the Web Advisory Committee. Members leaving the OBS Board as of July 2013 are Betty Roeske and Marjorie Crawford.

OBS will put on three official programs in 2012: B6, Linked Data: the New Bibliographic Framework in the PostMARC world; F8 Rethinking the Cloud: Legal Aspects of Cloud Solutions; and I3, Joe Janes discusses The Library of Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow. One of those (B6) was sponsored and paid for by OBS. One (F8) was selected later by AMPC as a hot topic, and paid for by AALL, and the third, I3, was selected by AMPC and paid for by AALL. In addition, the OCLC user's group, the local systems roundtable, and the research roundtable are all programs this year put on by OBS during meeting times. This has worked very well this year to gain us a variety of programs, in a year when it seemed like it was going to be difficult to get programs through AMPS, because we had the money to do it. It may be worth considering doing this routinely as a means of ensuring that there are OBS programs, and a way for us to be somewhat more independent in our programming decisions, as long as OBS can afford to do so.

OBS does have a VIP at the 2013 conference -- Joe Janes, who gave program I3 on The Future of the Library. Despite being in the very last slot of the very last day, the program was well attended and really inspirational.

The OBS election was held in the spring. Karen Selden was elected incoming vice chair, Elaine Bradshaw incoming secretary/treasurer,and Ilona Tsutsui incoming Member-at-large.

OBS participated in CONELL Marketplace. There were not many attendees, but there were a number of good prospects for OBS membership. For CONELL and for the activities table, OBS ordered green OBS ribbons, to make our membership more visible.

In addition to the normal Annual Meeting activities and program planning, important activities this year were:

1. **Redoing the website**. Tim Knight moved the website to the new AALL platform, and with the help of the Executive Board and the Committee Chairs examined all the links and content. It had fallen quite out of date, but is mostly current now, although this is a continuing process. Incoming committee chairs must be reminded to look over the content for their sections and think about things that could be added and taken away.
2. **Rewriting the strategic plan**. Katrina Piechnik chaired a committee to rewrite the Strategic plan. The new plan was approved at the OBS business meeting.

3. **I will use the categories put forth in our new strategic plan to map out other things we did this year** --

OBS Communicates

Communication was mentioned in the OBS survey as something our members are interested in, so we attempted to remember that and to communicate a lot. We communicated via AALLNET, TSLL, and the OBS facebook page.

The new website is a good vehicle for communication. The OBS Board and Committee Chairs need to remember to use it, and to keep it current.

We communicated to the SIS Council the concerns many people had about the difficulty of using AALLNET. They took these concerns to the Executive Board, and I'm not sure what the Board has decided to do about it. People do not like AALLnet because you have to sign in, but realistically, I think the Executive Board likes it. It works for them because they sign in in the morning and then are on it all day long. I believe that OBS should accept AALLnet, get used to it, and try to figure out how to use its strengths -- i.e. documents can be shared; lists can be created. You do have to sign in, I know.

OBS Educates

In the face of some concern that OBS would be granted no programs, we actually managed to have a lot of programming. One, an open talk by our VIP Joe Janes, was approved immediately. A second, on legal implications of cloud storage, was approved as a hot topic. We paid for two programs ourselves. These include a very well received program on BIBframe with Eric Miller, the consultant LC has hired to create the new Bibframe, and Karen Coyle, and another program on the formation of the Orbis Cascade Consortium, a consortial catalog shared by some 30 libraries in the pacific Northwest, including UW and Lewis and Clark. These were both great programs. The Bibframe catalog was very well attended. The Orbis Cascase was less well attended than it should have been, because it had to be presented at 5:00 in the afternoon in the Local Systems Roundtable (meeting) spot. We really tried to advertise is, but it was still hard to attract a large audience. The Research Roundtable, which was also really a program, suffered as well by being in a 7 am meeting spot, despite the enormous amount of work that chair Hollie White put into it. I do think that paying for programming ourselves is the way to go, as long as we can afford it. It gives us the degree of autonomy we need to be able to put on programs that we know we need (and, as it proves, that are also of value to people outside OBS). But we do need to really work on advertising these programs. Also, it may be better to put these programs at the noon spot, and keep the less desirable 7 and 5 spots for our meetings, which people may feel more obliged to attend.

We need to begin to think about new ways of education -- roundtables as programs, webinars, youtubes posted on Google groups, clearinghouses for solutions of how to map RDA to ILS's. I plan to investigate this as past chair.

TSLL Techscans provides another vehicle for education, as does TSLL.

OBS connects

OBS connects in many ways. We connect through the OBS Facebook page and through AALLnet. We communicate at the annual meeting, through the Alphabet soup reception, our meetings, our table in the activities area, and our programs. I think the value of actual face to

face communication at the meeting should not be underestimated. Getting to know colleagues connects people to the organization. Knowing people in person means that you have colleagues to contact for professional advice and product or procedural recommendations. It also means that you hear about new things that other libraries are doing before you are even aware of them. OBS also connects us to the outside world, for example the website of the month. Longtime volunteer Yumin Jiang has moved to a different job. Keiko Okuhara has volunteered to take up this job. It provide some visibility for OBS, as it has been picked up by the Law Library of Congress Twitter Feed.

OBS Advocates

This is the area we need to work on. We need a membership push. Lots of new Electronic resource librarians/ systems librarians -- need to capture them and interest them in using OBS as their vehicle. We need to attract new members who will have different ideas of what Online Bibliographic Systems are.

We need to advocate for our programs outside normal program slots.

We need to begin looking up. We need to infiltrate the association. There is a widespread feeling among technical services librarians that "they" don't understand or appreciate "us," but I think we need to become "them." We need to be included among the decision makers. If you're interested, contact me.