

OBS-SIS Annual Report 2013-2014

As the 2013-2014 Chair, I was leading and participating in all OBS Executive Board Activities. I lead the way, making sure that things are done and on schedule. I found that working with volunteers is hard, we all have things to do in our regular lives, work, hobbies and our professional volunteering responsibilities.

This year, the Board was very busy and accomplished a lot.

From July to October 2013, I was chairing the 2013-2014 OBS Education Committee. For AALL in San Antonio, our Education Committee, Christina Tarr, Amy Moberly, Karen Selden, Keiko Okuhara, Corinne C. Jacox, Stephanie Edwards, and myself (chair), worked diligently to create and deliver interesting programs for the 2014 American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Annual Meeting. We selected and invited as our VIP Nicole Engard, whom I had the pleasure of working with for a few years at Jenkins Law Library.

Nicole C. Engard is the Vice President of Education at ByWater Solutions. Her primary role at ByWater Solutions is to educate librarians about open source software with a focus on the Koha ILS. In addition to her daily responsibilities, Nicole keeps the library community up to date on web technologies via her website "What I Learned Today..." (<http://www.web2learning.net>) and volunteers as a community moderator on opensource.com. In 2007, Nicole was named one of Library Journal's Movers & Shakers, and in 2009, she was the editor of "Library Mashups," a book published by Information Today, Inc. In 2010, she authored "Practical Open Source Software for Libraries," a book published by Chandos Inc., and in 2012, the second edition of "The Accidental Systems Librarian," which she worked on with Rachel Singer Gordon, was released. Nicole's program was extremely well received; she talked about Open Source Software: a Community and a Philosophy of Freedom. She explored tools libraries can use right now to improve their efficiency, customer service, and product offerings.

Our other program was accepted by AMPC as OBS-SIS independent program. Chris Tarr, submitted and coordinated program "Orbis Cascade Alliance Summit: A Library Management Service Model for the Future". This program was a continuation of the Local Systems Roundtable presented in Seattle last year. The Orbis Cascade Alliance is implementing a new library management service to be shared by all 37 members of the consortium. Soon, all these libraries in the Pacific Northwest will be sharing not only a catalog but also cooperative collection development, digital initiatives, and discovery services. This program was extremely well presented and attended.

This is very unfortunate that SIS's are expected to take financial responsibilities for their programs. I think that this is no very good model, especially for smaller SISs, they very soon will be dried out of their funds and unable to present worthwhile programs.

When time came to work on our election, we lost our Secretary/Treasurer, Elaine Bradshaw, and quickly found replacement in Melanie Cornell. However due to the time sensitive issue, I took

over on myself creating a ballot and running election. I did not mind doing so and looked at this as a learning opportunity. Everything went well and I held election from May 1 – 19, 2014.

This year, OBS-SIS Executive Board spent many efforts on communication and recruitment of new members we tried to be as visible as we could, by utilizing; AALL Communities and OBS-SIS Facebook page as well as our OBS-SIS website.

Our Motto was PARTICIPATE-RECRUIT-GROW OBS-SIS NOW

Since our OBS-SIS is small, with as such budget we tried to use many low cost incentives to involve our OBS in survey, ballot, and membership. Two incentives to participate in the survey were used, both benefitting Colorado flood relief. First, respondents were entered into a raffle drawing for a pound of Higher Ground coffee. Forty percent of the proceeds of this Colorado blended coffee were donated to Colorado flood relief. Second, for every respondent, Karen Selden donated one dollar of money to Colorado flood relief in her town of Lyons, Colorado.

The OBS-SIS Board and Committees Chairs were working on updating OBS-SIS Website and revising OBS-SIS Procedure Manual (<http://www.aallnet.org/sections/obs/About/manual>) work on the revision of the manual will continue in the coming year. It is important that this manual remain current, since it guides our work.

The OBS OCLC Users Group meeting invited again, our perennial favorite speaker, Glenn Patton from OCLC to hear about OCLC happenings.

This year the Executive Board made decision to expend to all AALL members, and to distribute it to the ALL-SIS lists in addition to the OBS and TS lists, the OBS “Website of the Month,” service that started as a service just to OBS-SIS. We did this in the effort to publicize our section

Looking ahead, for AALL in Philadelphia in 2015, Karen Selden, as an experienced member of the Board assembled the 2014-2015 OBS Education Committee. She significantly increased number of committee members to magical number 13. This group includes a nice combination of experienced OBS members and newer members. The composition of the committee presents the potential for mentoring opportunities; the addition of some new ideas and vibrancy to the program development process; and a higher possibility of some continuity of committee membership in the years to come.

All OBS-SIS Committees Reports are located <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/obs/Committees/2013-2014-Committee-Reports.html>

Our OBS-SIS Nominations Committee, including Kathy Faust, Ruth Funabiki, Keiko Okuhara, and chaired by Chris Tarr, has assembled the 2014 slate of candidates for OBS offices. After elections and some resignation our finalists for the coming year are Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: Marjorie Crawford, and Members at Large: Barbara Ginzburg and Jennifer Noga.

Our new editor, for Technical Services Law Librarian (TSLL), Michael Maben, kept after us to submit articles on time. This was not an easy task, but he did it.

We participated in organizing and socializing during the Joint Reception of the TS/OBS/RIPS/CS SISs (sponsored by Innovative Interfaces) also known as Alphabet Soup Reception

During CONELL Marketplace and at the OBS Activities Table we had drawings for two free OBS-SIS memberships, as well as pottery donated by me.

Personally, it has been very rewarding experience to Chair OBS-SIS this year. I would like to complement the very supportive OBS-SIS Board that closely as every year worked with the Technical Services Special Interest Section (TS-SIS) Board.

Submitted by,

Katrina Piechnik
2013-2014 OBS/SIS Chair