

OBS-SIS

Annual Report 2014-2015

The Executive Board of the Online Bibliographic Services Special Interest Section (OBS-SIS) consisted of Karen Selden, Chair; Katrina Piechnik, Past Chair; Marjorie Crawford, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; Melanie Cornell, Secretary-Treasurer; Jennifer Noga (2014-2015) and Barbara Ginsburg (2014-2016), Members-at-Large. Katrina Piechnik and Jennifer Noga left the Board at the conclusion of the July 2015 OBS Executive Board meeting.

The standing committees were chaired by: Karen Selden (2015 Annual Meeting) and Marjorie Crawford (2016 Annual Meeting), Education; Kevin Carey (2014-2016), Local Systems; Betty Roeske (2015 Election), Nominating; Kerry Skinner (2013-2015), OBS/TS Joint Research Grant; Jackie Magagnosc (2013-2015), OCLC; and F. Tim Knight (2009 to present), Web Advisory. Barbara Szalkowski (2013-2015) and Marijah Sroczynski (2014-2016) served as the OBS representatives on the *Technical Services Law Librarian* (TSL) Editorial Board. Ellen McGrath (2013-2015) and Christina Tarr (2014-2016) served as the OBS representatives on the OBS/TS Joint Research Grant Committee. Keiko Okuhara (2013 to present) continued to serve as the Website of the Month coordinator. Jason LeMay (2015-2017) became chair of the OCLC Committee at the conclusion of the AALL Annual Meeting in July 2015, and Caitlyn Lam (2015-2017) replaced Barbara Szalkowski on the TSL Editorial Board in July 2015.

In October 2015, the OBS Education Committee assisted with proposing seven programs for consideration by the 2015 Annual Meeting Program Committee. Three of those proposals were accepted: (1) “BIBFRAME: How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Going?” (co-sponsored with TS-SIS); (2) “Google Analytics: Using the Software, Using the Data”; and (3) “Striking a Balance in Your Library: TMI vs. TLI in the Catalog.” The Education Committee chose the “Striking the Balance” program as the one AMPC program guaranteed to OBS, but that meant that OBS incurred the expenses of presenting it. In addition, the OBS Board agreed to self-sponsor and pay for an additional program during the OBS Local Systems Committee timeslot: “Migrating to Open Source: Koha and Kuali OLE in Law Libraries.”

In November 2014, the OBS Education Committee assisted OBS member Sarah Morris Lin with proposing a two-part User-Friendly Library Websites webinar for inclusion in AALL’s 2015 Monthly Educational Webinars series. The proposal was accepted, and the webinars were broadcast free of charge to pre-registered AALL members in March and April 2015.

In October 2014, the Task Force to Revise the Procedures and Guidelines of the OBS/TS Joint Research Grant submitted its final report to the OBS and TS Executive Boards. Among the Task Force’s recommendations were: (1) the application process should be simpler; (2) grant language should be broadened to include “research or assessment projects”; (3) institute a rolling deadline for the grant; and (4) rename the grant. These recommendations resulted in the creation of a new Guidelines document and a web-based application form. Both the OBS and TS Executive Boards accepted the report, new guidelines, and new application form. The contest to rename the grant ended in June 2015, resulting in the new grant name of FROG (Funding Research Opportunities Grant).

The OBS election was held in February 2015. Because incumbent OBS Secretary-Treasurer Melanie Cornell was running for a full term in that position, OBS Past Chair Katrina Piechnik administered the election. The election results were: Calmer Chattoo, in-coming Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; Melanie Cornell, who will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer (2015-2017); and Jackie Magagnosc, in-coming Member-at-Large (2015-2017).

In March 2015, The Executive Board of AALL voted to discontinue funding several representative positions, effective in July 2015. Among them were the three TS-SIS representatives who also serve the needs and interests of many OBS members: CC:DA, MAC, and SAC. With a groundswell of support from many TS and OBS members, the OBS and TS-SIS Executive Boards asked the AALL Executive Board to reconsider this decision. It was gratifying to see the AALL Executive Board reconsider and ultimately reverse their decision. During this process, the AALL Executive Board learned a lot about the important work that OBS and TS-SIS members accomplish. Additionally, OBS and TS-SIS members learned that we cannot take for granted that our non-technical services colleagues understand and value our contributions to our libraries, to AALL, and to librarianship in general. To paraphrase TS-SIS Chair Suzanne Graham's announcement when the AALL Board restored funding for these three representative positions:

TS and OBS members should build on our momentum by continuing to:

- nominate and support AALL Executive Board members
- serve on professional committees
- craft quality programming for the AALL Annual Meeting
- write for *TSLL*, *Law Library Journal*, *Spectrum*, and other professional publications

During the July 2015 AALL Annual Meeting, out-going OBS Member-at-Large Jennifer Noga coordinated the OBS table in Exhibit Hall. Katrina Piechnik, and Jackie Magagnosc staffed the OBS table at the 2015 CONELL Marketplace. In order to increase awareness of OBS, especially among newer law librarians, we offered drawings for free OBS memberships at both tables. Member-at-Large Barbara Ginsburg was the OBS representative on the committee that organized the annual "Alphabet Soup" CS/OBS/RIPS/TS SISs Joint Reception (sponsored by Innovative Interfaces).

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Selden
2014-2015 OBS Chair