

LIBRARY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 16, 2014

[In these minutes: Archives as scholarly sources; Unique holdings at U of M; Open Access Policy Update.]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Jennifer Alexander (Chair), Brandon Adams, Michelle Brasure, Phil Buhlmann, LeAnn Dean, Michelle Englund, David Fox, Judith Garrard, Vicki Graham, Wendy Lougee, Neil Olszewski, Daniel Pesut, Luke Plutowski, Matthew Rosendahl, Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran, Marlo Welshons

GUESTS: Kris Kiesling, Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections, Dr. Tom Misa, director, Charles Babbage Institute for the History of Information Technology

REGRETS: Mary Alice Ford, Ronald Hadsall, Connie Lenz (for Joan Howland), Bo Hu, Evan Roberts, David Schulist, Owen Williams

WELCOME

Professor Alexander called the meeting to order and updated members on the status of the Open Access Policy. The Faculty Senate passed the Open Access Policy on May 1, 2014.

ARCHIVES AS SCHOLARY SOURCES

Professor Alexander introduced Dr. Misa, director, Charles Babbage Institute for the History of Information Technology, and outlined some of the work he has done. Dr. Misa explained that the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) is an archives and research center dedicated to preserving the history of information technology and promoting and conducting research in the field (<http://www.cbi.umn.edu/>). He distributed a copy of the book he authored, titled Digital State: The History of Minnesota's Computing Industry. He discussed the following points:

- Currently there is an enthusiasm for big data, but he cautioned that this level of interest has been seen before. In the 1970's there was enthusiasm for quantitative history, due to new computerized tools that were available. The most notable project from this period is the Philadelphia Social History Project. However, the project has not been fully utilized because the data is not easily connected to a context.
- He emphasized the importance of the carrier or archival box in which items, artifacts, or documents are stored. They give information as to where the item came from, which is information that would not be available from searching for the artifact on a database.

- Members shared their struggles with digitizing efforts in their disciplines.

UNIQUE HOLDINGS AT MINNESOTA

Professor Alexander introduced Kris Kiesling, Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections. Ms. Kiesling used a PowerPoint to accompany her presentation and the following points were highlighted:

- Archives and Special Collections
 - The University has one of the largest collections in the country.
 - Items range in age from 2000 B.C.E. to present day.
 - The collection does not depreciate in value, the archives only become more valuable over time.
- What are archives?
 - Materials created or received by a person, family, or organization, public or private, in the conduct of their affairs and preserved because of the enduring value of the information they contain or as evidence of the functions and responsibilities of their creator.
 - Archives are inherently interdisciplinary and agnostic.
- She explained that archivists often piece together seemingly random bits of information and try not to disturb the order they were intended or created to have.
- Programming
 - Collections are not just for scholars. There are events created for the community as well.
 - 53 public events last year
 - First Fridays at noon
 - 12 exhibits per year in 3 venues
- Challenges
 - Access
 - Organize and describe the collection
 - Make collections discoverable
 - Digitization!
 - Four Grants
 - Bell maps in books--digitize and describe (NEH)
 - Exploring Minnesota's Natural History—digitize and describe (Legacy)
 - Processing the Tretter Collection (Legacy)
 - African American Theater and Culture widget (IMLS)
 - Born Digital Materials
 - Hardware and software needed for accessioning and description
 - Variety of file formats
 - Secure, long-term storage
 - Making the files available for research use
 - Space – the caverns are full. The first is called the Minnesota Library Access Center, which is shared storage for Libraries in the State of Minnesota. The other is Archives and Special Collections. They are

renting space in Printing Services and other locations on campus, as a result of the lack of space.

- Collections
- Users
- Programming

Ms. Kiesling then led members on a tour of the caverns. At the end of the tour, the meeting was adjourned.

Jeannine Rich
University of Minnesota