

## **URSUS Special Collections Committee meeting notes**

**August 13, 2014**

### **Meeting conducted via video conference**

In attendance: Julie Cismoski (USM); Kathryn Donahue (UMFK); Peggi Loveless (UMA); Laurie MacWhinnie (UMF); Peggy O'Kane (MSL); Adam Fisher (MSL); Abraham Schechter (PPL); Kim Sebold (UMPI); Marianne Thibodeau (UMM)

Absent: John Barden (MSLaw); Susie Bock (USM); Bill Cook (BPL); Ian Fowler (Osher); Richard Hollinger (UM); James Myall (USM-Lewiston Franco-American Collection); Ben Noeske (UMM); Suzanne Parent (UMLaw)

### **Purpose/Mission of Committee and meeting format suggestions:**

Abraham suggested that the committee include a discussion of current trends in special collections/archives. The group agreed this will be helpful. This committee will meet to provide the URSUS special collections archivists/librarians with a venue to discuss current trends and best practices, brainstorm and discuss problems addressed both as a system and as individual campuses, and work on cross-campus projects and goals.

### **Digitization**

A number of campuses/libraries are using Digital Commons for their archival materials, in addition to published materials. USM (Julie) is digitizing their university archives in Digital Commons, as well as finding aids. Currently both UMF and UMFK are using Maine Memory Network for our digitization projects. Adam Fisher (MSL) offered to discuss Digital Commons best practices with the group at a future meeting.

One concern raised by Peggy regarding the digitization projects is the potential for overlap/redundancy across campuses. This pertains primarily to published materials, rather than manuscript collections. Katie will create a document accessible to committee members where digital projects can be listed, with the hopes this will help prevent unnecessary doubling of efforts.

Maine State Library (Peggy) is currently applying to serve as the Maine hub for DPLA. The purpose of participation in this project will be to "shine a light" on the resources available in our state. No metadata is sent to DPLA; DPLA instead directs users to the individual institution's resources on their individual sites.

Deb Rollins has compiled a list of Maine resources available in Hathi. This list is helpful both for discovering available materials and for deciding what to digitize on an individual campus. Both Orono and Colby have full subscriptions to Hathi; as part of this, they will be adding to the collection.

### **MACON**

Work on the Maine Archive Search (formerly MACON) continues. The group is meeting the first week of September and a report will be brought back to the URSUS Special Collections committee. The

committee would like to know if the project will/could serve as a place for digital objects as well as finding aids.

### **URSUS Special Collections Institutions page**

Julie stated that at the last meeting Susie Bock had requested all members send their institution information (hours, services, etc.) and a picture to her to compile as a webpage/digital brochure. Only one institution sent their information. Abraham mentioned that at a previous meeting, the group discussed creating an URSUS Special Collections blog where all members could add blog entries about current projects, collections, and other items of interest to the public. Adam asked about the intended audience: other archivists or the public? The focus of this blog will be the public, although some entries that would be of interest to archivists/librarians are not prohibited. Many committee members stated they like the idea of a cross-campus blog, as a number of us have considered creating our own but do not have the volume of material/projects to keep a vibrant presence. Abraham will create the blog using BePress. Committee members will email blog title suggestions to Abraham, as well as our institution names and the links we would like to have listed along the blog for people to discover our services.

### **Rare Books**

The committee will discuss rare books at our next meeting. Melanie Mohny from MSL has been appointed to the NEDCC Advisory Committee and is a great resource for anyone with questions.

### **Retreat**

The URSUS Special Collections committee desires to have a retreat during the summer. Discussion was begun on the topics we would like to cover at a retreat; currently the list consists of: a forum on preservation; a keynote speaker, possibly from NEDCC; MACON; Digital Commons. This will be discussed further. Katie will notify the directors the group is interested in a retreat.

### **Goals/Projects for next meeting:**

- Email to Abraham blog title suggestions, as well as institutional info to include
- Katie will create a digital projects list to send to the group
- Next meeting we will hear updates on Hathi, DPLA, MACON
- Next meeting will include further discussion of what we want to accomplish from a retreat

**Next meeting:** Rather than waiting until May, the group would like to meet via video conference in January or February. Katie will send out a poll in early fall to determine the best date and time for committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Donahue, Chair