

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the CBD Board

Videoconference using Zoom

Wednesday, 2015 June 24

Sao Paulo 1am-3am / Vilnius 7am-9am / Melbourne 2pm-4pm

Present: Birute Railiene (Chair, President of CBD), Gavan McCarthy (Vice President of Archives), Stephen Weldon (Vice President of Bibliography / Temporary Treasurer), Silvia Waisse (Secretary)

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1. Welcome – Birute Railiene (Chair)

2. Attendees and Apologies

Invitations to participate were sent to all Advisory Board members. Apologies: Anne Barrett, Simon Chaplin, Francesco Gerali, Jennifer Rampling, Urs Schoepflin, Markus Schnöpf

3. Confirmed the Agenda and Additions

4. CBD website

The new webpage of CBD (<http://cbd-histsci.org/>) was created by John Stewart. It was proposed that the minutes of meetings and other documentation produced by the CBD be published on the website. Stephen and John will determine the structure of these records. All documents placed on the site will be PDFs. (Minutes as PDFs could be linked under the Board menu item. Documents are to be listed by date. Not published as blog posts.)

5. Bibliography Prize announcement

The current announcement can be found at

<http://cbd-histsci.org/projects-and-prizes/neu-whitrow-bibliography-prize/> Discussion led to significant changes to the announcement that are summarized below. The entry form needs to be updated to reflect these changes.

The name of the prize was changed to The Neu-Whitrow Prize in order to prevent people from thinking of the eligible projects as simply standard bibliographies.

The following changes were agreed upon and new and revised text is shown below:

The Commission on Bibliography and Documentation of the IUHPS/DHST established in 2013 a prize to be awarded for the most innovative research tool for managing, documenting and analyzing sources in the history of science and technology.

The prize will be offered again in 2017. The entries will be judged on their content, usability, and precision. They can be either printed or digital. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2017. Information about the prize can be found below.

The inauguration of the prize commemorated the centenary of the Isis Bibliography of History of Science, which was started in 1913 by George Sarton. After Sarton, two bibliographers, John Neu at the University of Wisconsin, and Magda Whitrow at Imperial College, London, carried on Sarton's legacy. This prize recognizes the efforts of those two bibliographers for the work that they did to support history of science scholarship around the world.

The Neu-Whitrow Prize will be awarded to a scholar of history of science and technology. (We welcome submissions by archivists, librarians, undergraduate students, graduate students, and independent scholars as well as professional teachers and researchers). The primary goal is to encourage the development of innovative research tools which includes bibliographies and archival finding aids and

Judging:

...One of the three judges will be selected to chair the committee. A member of the governing board or advisory board who is closely associated with one or more proposal for the prize is not eligible to be on the judging panel....

THE PRIZE

The winner receives a prize of \$500 and a certificate. The winner will also be invited to be a member of the Advisory Board of the Commission on Bibliography and Documentation (CBD).

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List of past winners:

Jennifer Rampling

6. Interviews to promote bibliographical, archival, and digital tool creation

It is the plan of the CBD to publish occasional interviews of scholars who have created bibliographies and similar tools. Stephen has asked the following questions to Jennifer Rampling and is expecting to hear her answers in a few weeks:

The Commission on Bibliography and Documentation's award committee really liked your work. Readers can read about the prize award at the CBD website, and those interested in the Catalogue itself can find it in *Ambix 57* (2010), pp. 125-201. (Electronic paid access to the article can be found here on the publisher's website.)

1. In a few sentences, how would you describe the Catalog of the Ripley Corpus? What do you believe its most important contribution to scholarship is?
2. How did you begin this project? When did you decide to create the CRC?
3. Creating a tool like this requires a lot of work. What standards did you follow? How did you learn what needed to be done? Did you follow a previous model? If so, to what extent were you able to rely on existing tools as a guide? To what extent did the problems you faced require innovative approaches?
4. What did you learn from creating your catalogue?
5. Who do you envision to be the biggest user of your work?
6. I think that a lot of people don't see research tools as scholarly projects in their own right, but it is clear from reading your catalogue that you could not have created the tool unless you were a scholar with deep knowledge of the material. Can you comment on how you see the relationship between building tools for research and doing original scholarship?
7. Finally, what advice would you give to young scholars who are starting projects that require the creation of a research tool like this?

7. The IsisCB

The transformations of the IsisCB will be discussed in a symposium at the DH2015 Sidney conference, Panel Session on “The history of Science in the age of networked digital humanities.” Papers to be given: “Mapping the History of a Discipline through Curated Bibliographic Data: A Case Study of Social Networks as Found in the Isis Bibliography of the History of Science, 1913-2013” (by Stephen P. Weldon, Sylwester Ratowt, Birute Railiene, John Stewart); “The case of the missing records: The long journey of the Correspondence of Ferdinand Von Mueller into the world of digital history of science” (by Gavan McCarthy).

8. Archiving strategy for CAPHES in Paris

Under Projects and Prizes in our website we need to have this item listed as a project. This project will then be recorded as an official CBD activity. The report should talk about goals, what we need funding for, etc. Some items discussed are as follows:

- Birute's study visit was supported by IUHPS/DHS.
- We will want to encourage the creation of a digital archive of the published international congress papers. This will be linked to extensive bibliographic documentation in the IsisCB.

9. 2014 Summer conference on "New Directions in Digital History of Science"

There is a summary already posted on the CBD webpage. We also need to record the dissertation project as an activity of the CBD on the website. Urs Schoepflin proposed that we discuss potential outcomes of this conference in Berlin, and explain clearly what we intend to do.

10. Acta Baltica <http://www.bahps.org/acta-baltica>

Acta Baltica has asked the CBD to present a scientific paper or short communication.

11. Treasurer

The board thanks Amy Rodgers for her enthusiasm, but we recognize that she is no longer able to participate on the board. Stephen Weldon has taken over as temporary treasurer.

12. Finances

The funding allocation for CBD activities from the DHST has arrived. The allocation nominally includes US\$1500 for conference organising, US\$600 for the website maintenance, US\$300 for general running expenses. It was decided that we use US\$500 to cover per diem allowances for the President's work on the CAPHES archive project in Paris, US\$1000 for Weldon to begin the inclusion of International Congress presentation data in the IsisCB dataset (beginning with the most recent Congress).

13. Picture contest

The website will host a contest to identify individuals who are in photographs of the 1968 Congress. Weldon will talk with Stewart about this.

The meeting concluded after two hours.