

AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee
Report for 41st AAASS Annual Convention
Boston, MA
November 12-15, 2009

Overview of the Committee:

Purpose. The AAASS Bibliography & Documentation (B&D) Committee, consisting of scholars and librarians in the fields of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies, works throughout the year on a wide range of topics and ventures that include, but are not limited to: copyright, digital initiatives, microfilming projects, vendor issues, collection development, and the ABSEES online database [American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies]. These tasks are carried out by B & D subcommittees (Subcommittee on Copyright Issues, Subcommittee on Digital Projects, Slavic & East European Microfilm Project [SEEMP] Subcommittee, Subcommittee on Collection Development, and Subcommittee on ABSEES).

Meetings. The B&D Committee has two meetings annually, both at the AAASS national convention. The first is a working meeting for the B&D Committee members, but is generally open to any interested AAASS members. The second meeting is more informational in nature, and is attended by all librarians, archivists or other information specialists in the field.¹ Outside of the annual meetings, the B&D Committee members also communicate by e-mail and telephone throughout the year.

Activity. The B&D Committee oversees and supports the work of its various subcommittees, (occasionally directing work, or suggesting project proposals as needed) and is responsible for their membership. The B&D Chair facilitates the organization of the annual vendor presentation session at AAASS and the biennial Faculty Digital Resources Workshop (also at AAASS). S/he works with AAASS Convention organizers to ensure there are no conflicts in the scheduling of library-related events/panels or committee meetings and facilitates the suggestion and submission of topics for conference panels or roundtables on library topics for the AAASS Convention. Beginning this year, the Chair will also begin serving as an ex-officio member of the AAASS Board of Directors.

Current B&D Membership:

- Michael Brewer [Chair] — University of Arizona (2005-2010)
- Angela Cannon — Library of Congress (2008-2009)
- Janet Crayne — University of Michigan (2008-2009)
- Marcus Levitt [Faculty liaison] — University of Southern California (2008-2010)
- Daniel Pennell — University of Pittsburgh (2009-2011)
- Janice Pilch — University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign (2009-2011)

New Information from the Committee:

B&D Committee Membership Changes (*pending approval by the AAASS Board*). Two members, Angela Cannon and Janet Crayne, will be rotating off the B&D Committee in January. B&D is recommending to the AAASS Board that they be replaced by Kristen Regina (Hillwood Museum Library, Washington, D.C.) and Ksenya Kiebusinski (University of Toronto) with terms

¹ There are over 100 AAASS members that identify themselves as librarians, archivists or information professionals of some kind.

beginning in January 2010 and running through December 2012. Both Ksenya and Kristen have been active members of AAASS, with Kristen having served on the Collection Development Subcommittee, and Ksenya as chair of the Slavic and East European Microfilm Project [SEEMP]. They both will bring significant knowledge and expertise as well as a diversity of perspectives (from a major Canadian institution and from a well-known museum library) to the Committee.

B&D Subcommittee Changes. At last year's annual convention, it was proposed that the B&D Subcommittee on ABSEES would be discontinued and that the work of that subcommittee would be moved to the Collection Development Subcommittee. The work of ABSEES has always been advisory in nature, overlaps with the work of the Collection Development Subcommittee, and only takes place at AAASS. As such, the consensus on B&D was that folding this work into the work of the Collection Development Subcommittee would be both feasible and appropriate. The Chair of B&D included the membership of the Subcommittee on ABSEES (which includes the editor of ABSEES as an ex officio member) as well as the membership of the Collection Development Subcommittee in this decision. A letter has been written to the editors of ABSEES at UIUC formally making them aware of this decision and ensuring them that our willingness to continue to serve in an advisory capacity and our strong support for the ABSEES database remains unchanged.

B&D Subcommittee Membership Changes. The B&D Subcommittee on Digital Projects and the B&D Subcommittee on Collection Development will each have vacancies beginning in January 2010. For the Subcommittee on Collection development, Heghine Hakobyan (Oregon) and Diana Greene (NYU) will be added (coming over from the Subcommittee on ABSEES) and two current members, Wook-Jin Cheun (Indiana) and Liladhar Pendse (UCLA) will have their terms extended. For the Subcommittee on Digital Projects, Robert H. Davis (Columbia University) and Kirill Tolpygo (University of North Carolina) will be added. These names were forwarded to B&D by the subcommittee chairs and are supported by the B&D Committee membership. The terms for the new appointments for Digital projects will be for three years (2010-2012). For the Subcommittee on Collection Development, terms will be staggered (as noted below), so that two members cycle off the subcommittee each year.

- Michael Biggins (U. of Washington) 2005-2010, Chair
- Wook-Jin Cheun (Indiana U.) 2010-2012
- Diana Greene (New York U.) 2010-2012
- Liladhar Pendse (UCLA) 2010-2011
- Heghine Hakobyan (U. of Oregon) 2010-2011
- Christina Peter (Frick Reference Library) 2008-2010

Recent Activities:

Vendor Presentation Session at AAASS. Each year at AAASS, B&D organizes a venue for vendors of Slavic & East European books, databases and other information products and services to make presentations to Slavic librarians. At the session in 2008, we split the session in two, using the first half to allow for formal presentations by vendors, and left the second half for more informal discussions between vendors and librarians over "wine and cheese." This approach proved very popular for both groups and we had hoped to repeat it this year until the economy intervened. We will return to this format next year if we are able. Thanks to Karen Rondestvedt (Stanford) for agreeing to organize and manage the vendor session this year on short notice.

AAASS Panels & Roundtables. A number of library-related panels and roundtables were proposed and will take place at this year's convention. Many of these are notable for their broader appeal to (and inclusion of) Slavic scholars, researchers and educators.
<http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/panels2009.html>.

Distinguished Library Service Award. B&D is investigating how we might establish a Library Distinguished Service Award. This would be an occasional (rather than an annual) award that would be established to recognize AAASS member librarians, archivists or curators who have had a significant impact on the field of Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies librarianship. This impact could be the result of continuous or distinguished service to the profession, but might also be the result of extraordinarily active, innovative or collaborative work that has emerged only recently, but deserves national recognition.

Scholarly Communication. The B&D Committee, as well as members of the Subcommittee on Digital Projects, the Subcommittee on Copyright Issues and others have had continuing discussions this year about how best to encourage and support open access publishing models in our field that are sustainable and best serve the interests of the field. These conversations have included editors of commercially published journals as well as journals self-published by departments or associations. While these conversations are ongoing, we have agreed that, as librarians, we feel a responsibility to seek out opportunities for actively informing the larger Slavic studies community about the crisis in scholarly publishing and the various alternatives that libraries and library consortia across the country are making available to reduce its impact.

International Council for Central and East European Studies [ICCEES] World Congress. Nearly a dozen AAASS librarians will be chairing or participating on library-related panels at the ICCEES World Congress in Stockholm on 26-31 July 2010. The theme will be "Eurasia: Prospects for Wider Cooperation." Janet Zmroczek (British Library) and Janet Crayne (University of Michigan) coordinated the submission of panel topics and participation by AAASS librarians. More information on ICCEES is available at <http://www.iccees2010.se>

2010 Digital Preconference (in Los Angeles)

B&D sponsors a biennial digital preconference for AAASS members. Planning for this preconference (which is free to AAASS members and usually takes place from 9-12 on first day of the convention) will begin at this year's conference. In the past we have provided various program tracks to meet the needs of the attendees. These have ranged from practical information on copyright, to updates on new digital information resources, to hands on instruction using common and specialized information search systems. Planning and oversight for next year's conference will be taken care of by the B&D Subcommittee on Digital Projects. If you are interested in suggesting topics for this preconference, please contact one of the Subcommittee on Digital Projects' chairs, Ernest Zitser (Duke) ernest.zitser@duke.edu or Patricia Thurston (Yale) patricia.thurston@yale.edu

Request for B&D Name Change. For many years, the AAASS Slavic librarian community has been contemplating changing our committee's name. The thinking behind this has been twofold.

1. First of all, there was a feeling that this name no longer adequately represented the work of the committee or its subcommittees.
2. Secondly, it was clear that in the broader community of librarians (outside of Slavic Studies), B&D by itself did not indicate our subject discipline, and AAASS B&D was not workable as a name or acronym.

The majority felt that we needed a name that was more descriptive of our work and which would also be meaningful to the library community outside of AAASS. We also discussed the possibility that the full acronym would only be used outside of AAASS (to avoid redundancy), and that the short form would be our “official” AAASS name. After a great deal of discussion, a number of surveys, and approval from the Executive Director of AAASS, we’ve decided to change our name to the Committee on Libraries & Information Resources [CLIR]. Outside of AAASS (and within the greater library community), we’ll unofficially call ourselves the Slavic, East European & Eurasian Committee on Libraries & Information Resources [SEEECLIR] [pronounced “see clear”]. This name change will go into effect at the same time that AAASS moves to ASEES.

Subcommittee Reports. Current (and past) subcommittee reports are available online at: <http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/subcommittees.html>. Most subcommittee reports for 2009 will not be completed until November, shortly before the AAASS National Convention.

Submitted by:

Michael M. Brewer, Chair
AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee
September 1, 2009