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January 11, 2013

LAUC Committee on Research and Professional Development:

I would like to submit the following proposal for a LAUC Presentation Grant.

I submitted a proposal to the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) to present a paper at their 2013 annual conference, to be held June 16-19, 2013 in Houston, Texas. The presentation details the ways in which the work culture changed within the UCLA Cataloging & Metadata Center after a move to a considerably smaller space that was physically remote from the collection. I detail the workflows I developed to make our unique holdings available to our users and to find creative solutions for cataloging language materials for which the Center had no expertise. The basis of this paper was originally presented at an OCLC event held at the Huntington Library in March 2011.

One of my goals is to demonstrate to others how UCLA has gone to great lengths to reinvent our catalogers and our cataloging. The presentation for the AJL conference will discuss the methods we are employing to bring access to a long neglected collection of Hebrew materials. The challenges faced in this collection are quite different than those in the previous collections and language backlogs we have worked with. This Hebrew collection contains books that are difficult to identify not because of the language, but because the publication practices are specific to rabbinical literature. Determining the author and date require intensive reading of text often in specialized script and an understanding of the language, typography and culture. Additional issues with this collection are the prevalence of books lacking title pages and due to the rarity of these books, special considerations need to be made about preserving duplicate volumes.

I am requesting a presentation grant to assist me in my travel and conference attendance. I estimate the costs below. I have \$320 remaining in my professional development allocation to cover expenses.

Registration	\$460
Airfare	\$500
Hotel	\$250
Total	\$1210

I am a member of the Unit 17 represented by UC-AFT. My proposal is below.

Re-creating Cataloging Culture: Backlog Reduction as Empowerment

Staff and librarians in the Cataloging and Metadata Center at UCLA became concerned about their growing backlogs, especially those in non-roman scripts, when new Library initiatives coincided with space limitations. The Center created workgroups to find solutions to our concerns. I was appointed chair of the “Eliminating Backlogs” group that was charged to develop new workflows and methods to eliminate or reduce Center backlogs for monographs. We developed workflows for mainstream materials, which created a steady stream of materials moving through the cataloging process and a new sense of collegiality and authority among the catalogers. We then focused on workflows for materials for which there was no expertise within the Center. I will discuss the specific methods chosen for different historic backlogs held in the department including Southeast Asian, the general backlog and our newest project, the Cummings Collection of Hebraica and Judaica.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Benamou