

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

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TITLE OF PROJECT: “Z702 is for Book Thief: The Role of Technical Services in Collection Security”

Time Period of Grant: June 21-24, 2011

Amount of Award Received: \$500.00

Original Abstract as Submitted: (see below)

Abstracts of seminar and paper accepted for presentation

Seminar:

“Z702 is for Book Thief: The Role of Technical Services in Collection Security”

Following the 2010 RBMS Conference Program, *To Catch a Thief: Cataloging and the Security of Special Collections*, this seminar will explore cataloging rare materials while being ever mindful of securing those collections. This seminar will look at those questions, and possible answers, from a cataloger’s point of view. Are they practicable? What happens if the best answer is in direct conflict with department priorities? What is the responsibility of technical services when it comes to collections security? How should we prioritize our limited time when we consider our responsibility for our collections?

- Nina Schneider, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA (moderator)
- Randal Brandt, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
- Ellen Cordes, Yale University
- Steven K. Galbraith, Folger Shakespeare Library

Paper:

Drawing on the “ACRL/RBMS Guidelines Regarding Security and Theft in Special Collections”

(http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/security_theft.cfm), my paper will focus on the catalog record itself as a measure of security for rare and special collections materials. A detailed and accurate bibliographic description that includes copy-specific information (such as evidence of provenance, library markings, imperfections, bindings, etc.) is a crucial piece of evidence when a library is faced with the theft or loss of materials. Not only does it provide investigators with a detailed description of the missing item, but it plays a crucial role in the identification and proof of ownership of recovered materials. It is the responsibility of the cataloger, in conjunction with curators and selectors, to include this type of information in the catalog record. It is also the responsibility of the cataloger, in conjunction with library administrators, to develop policies about what types of information to routinely include and to balance the amount of time spent on description against the value of the information.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.
- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.
- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?

- Include any relevant quantitative data, if applicable (e.g. How many individuals have benefited from this project? In what way? This may include various output measures such as circulation, reference transactions, program attendance, survey responses, etc. as appropriate.)
- Include any anecdotes, if applicable.
- What would you do differently next time, if anything?
- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?

As described in the original abstract above, this seminar focused on the roles that technical services librarians play in contributing to the overall security of special collections materials. My paper examined the ways in which the catalog record can provide layers of security by providing a detailed description of the physical item, crucial in identifying items after a theft occurs.

In the wake of several high-profile incidents involving special collections around the country, this seminar was timely and topical. It was very well-attended and a lively discussion ensued after the presentations of the papers.

I am very grateful to the LAUC Research Committee for awarding this research grant. I encourage UC librarians to continue to take advantage of this valuable resource for professional development.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes_X_ No__

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

ORIGINAL BUDGET

Travel:

Airfare (Continental Airlines, San Francisco to Baton Rouge): **\$189**

Ground transportation: **\$100**

Lodging:

Louisiana State University East Campus Apartments, 3 nights at \$50/night = **\$150**

Total: \$439

My original budget was very close to the actual expenses incurred. There were some airline baggage fees and other miscellaneous expenses not accounted for in the original budget. My actual expenses totaled **\$480.91**, which was under the total award amount.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

What are your plans for disseminating the results of your work? If it will be a web page or product, or published article or book, when will it be available to the public? Include citations/URLs if known.

The program was recorded and audio files are available online via the RBMS website:
<http://www.rbms.info/conferences/preconfdocs/2011/2011docs.shtml#seminars>

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.