

Sarah M. Horowitz

Chair's Note

It is a privilege to serve as the chair of RBMS. As we move toward a conference focused around “Momentum,” I have been thinking about the ways RBMS has changed over the fifteen years I have been a member of this community, as well as the amount of work undertaken by this all-volunteer organization. RBMS writes guidelines and best practices, provides cataloging resources, hosts webinars, and organizes a national conference each year, all of which is a truly massive amount of work. I’m lucky and grateful to step into my role as chair following behind many wonderful people who have held it in recent years, and who have inspired me in my work in RBMS and beyond.

Like much of the library and archives profession, RBMS has been in a state of transition since 2020, and we are working to make sure that our goals, events, documentation, and practices align with what our members want and need. Sometimes we have made changes to practices but not yet documented them, and sometimes we need to change our procedures so that we can make needed changes to our practices. In that vein, I want to share a bit about a number of initiatives which are currently ongoing in RBMS.

The Documentation Task Force is working to transfer old conference presentations, committee minutes, and other documents from the rbms.info website to the ALA Institutional Repository. This will allow RBMS to continue to provide access to these important documents, while making our website more flexible and easier to maintain. We will also have the benefit of long-term preservation for these materials.

RBMS will hold its second hybrid conference this June, in Costa Mesa, California. The Conference Development Committee is working to revise how we think about conference hosting, in order to allow for virtual conference proposals, ensure we ask the right questions about support for hybrid conferences, and think more expansively—geographically—about host sites since we have updated the RBMS Manual (at the winter 2024 Executive Committee meeting) to indicate that the default for RBMS business and committee meetings will now be virtual.

Work on a new Diversity Action Plan continues, growing out of the call to action by former RBMS chairs Verónica Reyes-Escudero and Petrina Jackson. The Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group is wrapping up the work of their Prejudicial Materials Working Group and upgrading their software to allow for better and more frequent updates to the vocabularies they maintain. The Instruction and Outreach Committee is conducting a review of the *Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy*; like all guidelines issued by ACRL, they are periodically reviewed to make sure they are up to date.

One of the roles of the Executive Committee is to answer questions about RBMS and to help members do their work. If there are questions you have, or projects you want to undertake, I encourage you to reach out to us at exec@rbms.info. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming RBMS conference in Costa Mesa, the summer Executive Committee meeting, or some other event in the future.

Editor's note: the author is Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts and Head of Quaker & Special Collections at Haverford College. Horowitz is RBMS Chair for 2023–2024 and, as such, also serves as Chair of Nominating Committee for the RBMS Executive Committee 2025/2026. While the Editor requested this update, the content remains solely the author's; no influence or suggestions were made regarding subject matter, nor was the content revised, except for punctuation.

Alison Fraser and Rachel Makarowski

RBMS 2024 Conference Preview

We are just a month away from RBMS 2024 and we hope you are as excited as we are! The Conference Program Planning Committee received an overwhelming response to our call for proposals on the theme of *momentum*, and we are thrilled to bring you the second hybrid RBMS conference with the help of our host sponsor University of California, Irvine. Whether you are joining us in sunny southern California or online from your favorite chair, we hope you have a transformative, informative, and collaborative experience at RBMS's sixty-fourth annual conference.

We are gratified that members from the Community Archives Lab at UCLA will give the opening plenary. Co-director Dr. Thuy Vo Dong and graduate student researchers Sadaf Ahmadbeigi and James Epps will discuss their work supporting identity-based memory organizations throughout Southern California and beyond, such as La Historia Historical Society and Museum in El Monte and the Texas After Violence Project.

We are equally excited for our closing plenary, led by Holly A. Smith, College Archivist of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, who will be joined in conversation by Elvia Arroyo-Ramírez, a digital archivist at UC–Irvine. They will discuss the theoretical and practical applications of stewardship and social justice and their relationship with community, capacity, and intentionality. Both plenaries will be livestreamed and available for both in-person and virtual-only attendees.

The RBMS community submitted a staggering number of exceptionally strong proposals to our call for papers. While the selection process was incredibly difficult, we are proud of the richness and depth of the lineup, which will include in-person, livestreamed, and virtual-only panels, discussion sessions, seminars, workshops, and posters. Attendees can expect topics ranging from preserving gay cowboy archives, to diversity and inclusion hiring practices, to cataloging bound-withs in Alma. We hope that this program reflects the needs and interests of the community, whether you work in public services or technical services, are new to the profession or have been a member for decades. A full schedule can be found on the RBMS 2024 website. We look forward to the productive conversations and information-sharing these sessions will initiate, and we thank everyone who submitted a proposal.

The RBMS conference is not all work, however: we have also planned a schedule of in-person and virtual social and casual gatherings. If you are joining us in Costa Mesa, the conference will be held at the Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa, a fifteen-minute drive or less from UC–Irvine, the John Wayne Airport, and Pacific Coast beaches. From the conference hotel, walk to the anti-mall, the LAB (“Little American Business”) Anti-Mall and the CAMP, two alternative retail developments with public art, independent stores, and plenty of great restaurants. If you are participating virtually, join us for a lively discussion of the weirdest objects you have in your collection and for post-plenary discussions with other virtual members. However you attend RBMS 2024, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Editor’s note: The authors served as Co-chairs for the 2024 RBMS Conference Program Planning Committee. While this contribution was solicited, the content remains solely that of the authors. Other than adjustments made to conform with house style, the Co-chairs’ statement is presented here without revision, except to correctly name two Costa Mesa locations.