

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 25 - 27, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

Action: Revise RLG Roundtable Name and Statement of Purpose

(Prepared by: RLG Roundtable Chair Erik Moore and Steering Committee Members Lisa Carter, Paul Constantine, Ben Goldman, Susan Hamson, Christie Peterson, Merrilee Proffitt, and Megan Sniffin-Marinoff)

BACKGROUND

The RLG Roundtable proposes a name change for the Roundtable and a revision of its Statement of Purpose.

Research Libraries Group merged with OCLC in 2006 and no longer exists as a separate entity. Beyond this fact, however, current roundtable leadership is re-envisioning the group as one that promotes innovation and investigation of issues common to archivists working in all research libraries, not just those that are members of any particular external organization. The proposed changes in name and purpose support this goal.

The current roundtable name is: RLG Roundtable.

The proposed name is: Research Libraries Roundtable.

The current Statement of Purpose is: Promotes discussion and exchange of information about current RLG program initiatives and research projects affecting the archival community.

The proposed Statement of Purpose revision is: Promotes discussion, exchange of information, and collaboration on initiatives and research projects that **impact** archivists working in a research library context.

DISCUSSION

In June 1986, the SAA Council established the RLIN Users Roundtable as one of the first SAA roundtables. In January 2002, the Council approved a name change from RLIN Users Roundtable to RLG Roundtable.

As the names suggest, RLIN Users/RLG Roundtable was a community of members who worked closely with RLG and were interested in learning more about services and products being developed for archives users (e.g. Archival Resources and Cultural Materials) and sharing their experiences of implementation. The RLG Roundtable also served as a place for discussion of description and metadata standards (e.g. MARC, AMC, and APPM), early introduction of EAD, and in general as a venue for new archival practices.

In 2006, RLG merged with OCLC and its program initiatives became part of OCLC Research. In 2011, OCLC established the OCLC Research Library Partnership as a transnational venue for engagement around issues shared by institutions with a research mission and responsibility for collections. Although OCLC Research continues to inform the work of archivists and inspire innovation, a SAA roundtable focused solely on creating a community of members based on OCLC activities is limited in its functions and exclusive of other opportunities. Archivists in a variety of research libraries are initiating solutions to institutional, cultural, and technological challenges, and they need a place for sharing, feedback, and further collaboration. As the environment for research libraries evolves to be more dynamic, global, and technology-dependent, archives can play transformative roles in redefining services, partnerships, and delivery of unique and distinctive collections. A Research Libraries Roundtable will provide a forum to explore the unique transformative role that archives play in advancing the goals of the 21st century research library.

At its 2011 annual meeting, RLG Roundtable chair Susan Hamson led a discussion about the proposed shift in mission and focus from an OCLC-centric group to one that considers broader issues that research libraries are facing. Because OCLC Research presents its work at many other SAA group meetings, it makes sense for this roundtable to become a venue for discussion of issues that are of special interest to archives that function in all research library settings and are not limited by their membership in an external organization.

In September 2011 a steering committee consisting of Erik Moore (chair), Susan Hamson (past chair), Lisa Carter, Paul Constantine, Ben Goldman, Christie Peterson, Merrilee Proffitt, Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, and Thomas Frusciano (Council liaison) formed to begin the strategic planning process for re-envisioning the RLG Roundtable, its purpose, and name. The steering committee's recommendations are listed below.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the SAA Council approve a change in the RLG Roundtable's name to Research Libraries Roundtable; and

THAT the SAA Council approve the revised Statement of Purpose for the roundtable to read:

Promotes discussion, and exchange of information about current RLG program, and collaboration on initiatives and research projects affecting the archival community that impact archivists working in a research library context.

Support Statement: The scope of new initiatives for archival programs in research libraries is expanding at a phenomenal pace. Solutions may be found in or influenced by partnerships with external groups, or they may be completely organic to a particular institution and applicable to the wider world of research libraries. A re-imagined Research Libraries Roundtable is an opportunity to provide a defined space within SAA to discuss the implications of these changes, gather input as to what is needed next, and envision the future of archives and special collections within all research libraries.

Impact on Strategic Priorities: None submitted.

Fiscal Impact: This proposal is anticipated to have no fiscal impact on the organization beyond the ongoing fiscal considerations of the current roundtable.