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LACUNY Multicultural and Diversity Roundtable Meeting Minutes, December 2005

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Meeting Minutes – Multicultural/Diversity Roundtable of LACUNY – 12/16/05

Held at NYCCT.

In attendance: Monica Berger, (NYCCT); Lisa Finder, (Hunter); Madeline Ford, (Lehman); Román A. Santillán, (CSI); Scott Sheidlower, (York); Tess Tobin, (NYCCT)

Absent:

Excused: Martha Corpus (Brooklyn); Geraldine B. Hébert (BxCC); Kenneth Schlesinger (LaGCC)

Meeting was held at NYCCT. Called to order at 10:10 AM.

I. Collection Development – We discussed purchasing of non-English language material for CUNY. We also discussed a need for a better source of vendors and concluded that we would put a link to non-English vendors on our webpage when we worked on it. During a discussion of Multicultural review sources we identified two of many:

1. *Criticas*, an on-line source of reviews on Spanish language media available through <http://www.criticasmagazine.com/>
2. *QBR*, book reviews for material on African-American culture.

II. Minutes – Minutes from the last meeting were amended as suggested by Michael S. Borries in e-mail. The second word “and” in the mission statement was stricken so that the sentence now reads as: The purpose of this Roundtable is to enable libraries, library faculty, and staff to

It was agreed that in the future minutes would first be sent to the entire roundtable with a deadline by which to respond to the secretary with corrections, then to Monica Berger for posting on the LACUNY web page and to CULIBS.

III. Spring Program – The theme of the program was determined to be: “Providing Reference Services to Multicultural/Diverse patrons.” Marie Radford was contacted as a possible speaker for this program but her fee proved too expensive for LACUNY, so the roundtable decided to ask around CUNY and find faculty and librarians who have published on such issues and to ask them to sit on a panel. Because it is concentrating on reference services, Prof. Louise Klusek of Baruch, one of the two co-chairs of LACUNY’s Reference Roundtable is interested in co-sponsoring the event. Prof. Virgil Blake of the Library School was mentioned as a possible moderator. The topic was narrowed to cross-cultural communications in academic libraries. It was decided not to invite speakers from the public libraries. It was also decided that we might look for a communications person for the panel or someone from either ESL or business (where communicating with customers is a current “hot” topic). It was suggested that we invite someone from RUSA to give a brief overview of the “perfect” reference transaction.

Some of the specific issues identified for this program were:

1. Rote Memorization;
2. Body language;
3. Barriers due to gender;
4. Consciousness of word choice; and
5. Challenges when dealing with different educational backgrounds in CUNY.

In the future it was agreed that possible program topics could be how to focus this at the circulation desk and some topic with the faculty that do instruction.

IV. Miscellaneous – Prof. Scott Sheidlower gave out copies of the book, *Open the books and see all the people*, a book of children’s multicultural books put out by the Queens Library and donated to the roundtable by the library. It was shown as an example of multiculturalism in the public library sector.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 10 from 10-12 at NYCCT.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. Scott Sheidlower,
York College