

**PTPL 97th ANNUAL MEETING**

October 15, 2021

Online via Zoom

**Minutes - Draft**

The 97th annual meeting of the Potomac Technical Processing Librarians (PTPL), “Adaptability in Technical Services” was held online due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic.

1. Opening of meeting
2. The Annual Meeting began at 9:55 with introductions.
3. Opening remarks
4. Rebecca Case began the meeting with remarks on how the circumstances of the pandemic have pushed the library profession to adapt to the present circumstances. She also noted the passing of PTPL Board Maryland Representative Kelly Swickard.
5. Rebecca went over the three items being voted on at this meeting: proposed amendments to the bylaws, the approval of last year’s meeting minutes, and the voting in of board members to new terms.
6. Attendees were asked to review the PTPL Code of Conduct and asked to email Rebecca should any issues arise. The Zoom-based chat was available throughout the event for comments and questions. Board members took note of questions during presentations and compiled them for an end Q&A for each presenter.
7. Morning Speaker
8. Catherine Soehner, Director of the Eccles Health Science Library at the University of Utah, presented a talk titled “Managing Change When You’re Not in Charge.” The talk invited audience participation as Catherine presented the attendees with scenarios and discussed the responses.
9. Soehner recommended that those at the top of an organization involve others more often in big issues, remember to ask for help, and be as transparent as possible. To those at the bottom of an organization, she recommended not relying on leadership to fix everything, to offer actionable suggestions, and to try to help others when the circumstances allow. For those in the middle of an organization, she asked that they try to lead from the middle and to mediate between both sides, as it is easier to see both perspectives from a mid-level position. To all, regardless of position, she advised listening to the perspectives of others and not being afraid to apologize.
10. Recommended reading: The Possibilities of Organization by Barry Oshry.
11. Poster Sessions
12. Rebecca introduced Christine Dulaney, who in turn acted as the moderator for the poster session.
13. “The Daily Unit Check-In Meeting: Developing a Technical Services Standup” by Mark Winek, Cody Hackett, and John Kimbrough of Georgetown University.
14. These three presenters described their experiences in implementing a regular meeting for their unit, which helped facilitate better communication during the COVID pandemic and beyond.
15. “Flexibility During COVID: Lessons Learned” by Alissa Willis, University of Arkansas, narrated by Chelsea Hoover.
16. Willis presented on her experiences working as a special collections cataloger during a time of remote-only work, and how their department used this time to improve the skill sets of employees and position the department for growth after a wave of retirements.
17. “Tackling 508 Compliance/Accessibility in the IR: Activating Student Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic” by Elyse Fox from California State University Sacramento and Daina Dickman, National Library of Medicine.
18. Fox and Dickman discussed their experiences in managing a project updating previously digitized institutional repository materials to better adhere to accessibility standards.
19. “Can We Automate This? Exploring Automation and Programming Opportunities in Electronic Resources Collection Management” by Carolyn Pecoski, McGill University.
20. Pecoski presented her approach to building the skills to automate electronic resource tasks, beginning with work in Excel and OpenRefine, and branching out to more advanced techniques in Python and through the use of APIs and Git/GitHub.
21. Afternoon Speakers
22. The second speaker, Shana McDanold of the DC Public Library spoke on the topic “Social Media for Professional Purposes”
23. McDanold educated the attendees on the professional uses of social media, and how it can help you to build your personal brand, to network at a fast pace, and to find support or help with issues, especially when you might be the only person responsible for a specific type of task at your institution. She also outlined the limitations of the medium and potential privacy and security issues involved in its use.
24. The final presenter of the day was Colin Rhinesmith from Simmons University, speaking on the topic “Sustaining Digital Equity Ecosystems During the COVID Pandemic and Beyond.”
25. Rhinesmith discussed the increased focus the pandemic has put on the digital divide, and approaches a digital inclusion strategy might take to mitigate this issue.
26. Business Meeting
27. Bylaws Amendments
28. Bylaws amendments were voted on via Zoom poll. Changes included codifying the scholarship as a core function, altering the parts of the bylaws that referred to ALCTS and updating that language to ALA/CORE, and amending officer duties to reflect current practice.
29. Elections
30. The elections were also conducted through Zoom poll. Elected for the next period was the following slate of candidates (running unopposed):
31. Mimi Games, Vice chair/chair
32. Leigh Ann Martin, Secretary
33. Jessica Robertson, Virginia Representative
34. Aimee Plaisance and Nirmal L. Gomes, Maryland Representatives
35. Christine Dulaney and Brook Darnell, D.C. Representatives
36. Recognition of Scholarship Winners
37. Caroline acknowledged this year’s three scholarship recipients, Aliaksandr (Alex) Audziayuk, Cody Hackett, and Coleman Holth.
38. Historical Moment
39. Kim Edwards gave the PTPL historical moment as her final act as past chair.
40. The Passing of the Gavel
41. Rebecca virtually passed the gavel to Caroline Saccucci, recognizing her as the new president of PTPL.
42. Adjournment
43. Caroline moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:52.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Martin

PTPL Secretary