

Education Outreach Program Rolls Out Successful Train-the-trainers Program at the Newport Meeting of MLA

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The Educational Committee of the Music Library Association has worked on an Education Outreach Program for almost two years. They have done this in conjunction with MOUG, the Outreach Subcommittee, the Library School Liaison Subcommittee and chapter chairs have been developing this program. With the pre-conference workshop that were held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, the program has been officially launched.

The idea for this program began during a brainstorming session in an Outreach Subcommittee business meeting at the annual MLA conference in 2006. The subcommittee was looking for ways to reach out to groups who are underrepresented in MLA. Those groups include public library librarians and library support staff whose job responsibilities include music, anyone new to music librarianship or recently assigned to do music tasks as part of his/her position, as well as library school students and anyone needing a refresher on the basics of music librarianship. At the same time, an MLA member suggested that the Education Committee develop a series of educational workshops similar to those organized by ALA that would be offered regularly by MLA members. From there, the Education Committee developed a proposal for a program whose main goal was to provide educational opportunities to groups that MLA would like to reach.

We began circulating the idea to the MLA board and various MLA committees and subcommittees. Since several MLA members have been offering workshops on the basics of music librarianship, the Education Committee decided to draw on their expertise, organize these workshops, and provide training for new instructors. Last year at the MLA annual meeting, potential instructors and chapter chairs attended an organizational session that further developed the program.

Several MLA committees have been instrumental in developing the program, including the Outreach Subcommittee, the Library School Liaison Subcommittee, the Membership Committee, and the Public Library Committee. The MLA chapter chairs and MOUG have assisted with recruiting instructors for the program and providing valuable advice. Chapter involvement is crucial to the success of the program, and the Education Committee hopes that now that the instructors are trained, chapters will begin offering these workshops to library schools, consortiums, and libraries.

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A goal for the program was to have two instructors per workshop topic, for a total of six instructors from each chapter. Most of the chapters have exceeded this goal. Chapters will maintain control over the workshops, selecting how many of the workshops to offer, when and where to offer them, and how much time they would like to invest in outreach efforts to those potentially interested in these educational opportunities. The Education Committee will continue to train the instructors, organize the program, maintain a blog for instructor communication, and develop a web page that will market the workshops.

At the pre-conference workshops there were two tracks: One for those people in our targeted audience that wanted to learn the basics of music librarianship, and those who want to become instructors for their chapter. The instructors observed and critiqued a model workshop, learned about teaching techniques and outreach methods, shared their syllabi from previously taught workshops with other instructors, and discussed ways to make a workshop shorter or longer depending on local need.

The model workshop instructors were Jay Weitz, OCLC: Music Sound Recordings Workshop; Jeanette Casey, University of Wisconsin: Music Reference Workshop and Marci Cohen, Northbrook Public Library: Collection Development Workshop. Each workshop has a coordinator who is responsible for establishing learning objectives, creating a workshop description, and communicating with instructors of that workshop. This is important because the intent is to have a consistent curriculum. The coordinators for the workshops are Greg MacAyeal, Roosevelt University (Acquisitions/Collection Development), David King, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, (Reference), and Mac Nelson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Jean Harden, University of North Texas, (Cataloging).

We are planning to repeat these workshops to train trainers as needed at the MLA annual conferences, and we want to find ways to have refresher sessions for the trainers to improve their skills. Also, a task force is working to investigate a distance learning component for the future.

Four CAML members participated in the workshops, and it would be great to find a way to do some of these programs in Canada—either as a pre-conference workshop at a future CAML meeting or as part of a regional training session or conference. It would provide a way to reach out to people working with music as part of their job responsibilities, to public librarians, or to others new to the field or in need of a refresher. Feel free to contact me if you would like to be put in touch with the right workshop coordinator to plan one of these workshops in Canada.

You can contact Holling Smith-Borne, Vanderbilt University, or me if you know of library conferences that would benefit in having one or more of these workshops as part of their annual conference. We will continue to add new workshops to the program and we need your ideas on workshops that we should develop. We believe there will be great interest in these workshops; so far we've already had three requests for workshops.

So, the instructors have been trained, the workshops have been developed, the procedures are written, the web page is in development and we are ready to educate the world on the greatness of music librarianship.

If you have any comments or questions about the program, please feel free to contact me – Joseph Hafner joseph.hafner@mcgill.ca or (514)398-4788 or visit our blog at <http://eopmla.blogspot.com/>

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