Meeting minutes 7/9/14

Present: Trish Rose-Sandler, Mike Lichtenberg, Joe DeVeer, John Mignault, Doug Holland, Mike Blomberg, Connie Rinaldo

Absent: William, Marty, Holly

Updates

*Cornell (Marty)*

I sent a note to the local birdwatching email list about the transcription of the Brewster diaries and journals and have already received interest from two people.  One is a retired biology professor who used Brewster’s journals for his research on blue winged and golden-winged warbler hybridization.  The other is a retired librarian who is also an active birder and found this project very interesting or in her words “totally cool”. Others may have gone to the links I provided and accessed one or both of the sites without being in touch with me.

Yesterday we held our monthly meeting on seed and nursery catalog digitization.  Included for the first time were 4 staff from NAL:  Pat Murphy, digitization project staff, Kay Derr, digitization project staff, Jennifer Gilbert, metadata and cataloging, Stan Kosecki, Chief of Digitization and Access Branch, etc!  We did introductions all around and updated each other on our relevant projects.  Quick summary of NAL’s report (more in the minutes soon):  have been scanning catalogs since Feb 2012, through IA.  Selected 100 large American firms first.  Provide a MARC record for each item, rather than cataloging them as serials.  7,700 items to date.  Continuing to scan as they are on the shelf, which is by date, rather than selecting firms.  Are considering to digitize all catalogs in their collection for preservation purposes and then make publically available those that are out of copyright or with permissions.  When their NAL repository is ready, they plan to add all the seed catalogs now in IA to a separate collection at NAL.  Investigating OCR software that doesn’t have the page layout problems/weaknesses that Abbey 11 has, which is apparently what IA is using.  Seed catalogs, like newspapers, have widely varying layouts and they will be contacting Michigan who has had a newspaper digitization project.

We discussed several possible ways to collaborate.

How can we manage and share copyright permission information?  NAL will look into HathiTrust’s approach.  Marty will get clarification from Bianca on BHL’s approach.

How best to share our lists of scanned items and what we plan to scan?  Merge spread sheets?  Create a database?  Future discussion

How to agree on metadata?  NAL creates a MARC record for each item.  NYBG and Cornell treat the catalogs as serials, adding holdings info to a single record for a firm.  Discuss more next time.

Editing the Seed & Nursery Catalog Collection description in BHL.  NAL would like it clearer that the vast majority of the items in the BHL sub-collection is from them and that their digitization work is not funded by IMLS or NEH, but rather from their own allocated funds.  Marty will draft an update to share and we can also consider a separate splash page like some of the BHL collections have.

NAL would like to continue meeting with us and explore additional ways to collaborate and will join us again in our next monthly meeting.

*NYBG (John)*

Last BHL call for John ☹ Paul Silverman, dig image tech, scanning nursery seed catalogs for project and will continue and be the NYBG representative. With John gone the NYBG scope/role will revert back to primarily scanning. He and Andrew Schinkel, other dig image tech, have joined on calls with Marty and NAL. Monthly calls – probably Paul to sit in on those. His email [psilverman@nybg.org](mailto:psilverman@nybg.org). Only there 3 days a week. Wed,Thurs, Fri. Trish add him to listserv.

IA has finished scanning 30 bound volumes NYBG sent them - in IA and moving to BHL. Focusign on catalogs from Hicks company. Trying to get Don using Macaw also. NYBG will replace John but probably not til fall. Hiring another Systems librarian – mostly likely will join the TAG eventually.

Harvard (Joe)

Doing mostly transcription followup with volunteers – mostly ALA site. Lots of transcribers and challenging to keep up with them. Correcting just glaring errors. Dedicating several hrs a week to this. Trying to address some Inconsistencies in transcription – e.g. how to handle symbols? Will interpret as text in brackets. Updated tutorials. Added Link to a page by Cornell on birds of N America that gives scientific and common names. No count yet on # of pages but 1 diary is done. 3 people at Harvard working on transcription. Pretty steady increase of volunteers every week.

FromThePage site – volunteers having problems saving, timing out. Once resolved can do more promoting of this site.

MOBOT

Scanning (Doug and Mike B.) Nothing major to report– approaching halfway mark of scanning seed lists. Doug said 1 obstacle was copyright but Jason figured out a solution. Most of what they have is 20th century, European published. Since Works are anonymous – no single author. They Fall under anonymous works – 70 yrs from date of publication and 50 yrs for Eastern European.

Copyright discussion with Cornell, NAL, NYBG – looking at approach to permissions in BHL. NYBG doing mostly pre 1923 material and same with Cornell. Mostly US materials

Gaming Bids (Trish)

Chose Tiltfactor as the company to design the game. Made public announcement on BHL blog, Twitter, Facebook. Workign on a MOBOT press release.

Have to get contract ironed out before game design can begin. No idea how long but hoping only a few weeks