Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing

Annual General Meeting, June 16th, 2005

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, Held at Victoria, Canada, 16th June 2005

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5. Treasurer's Report
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7. ADHO
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    5. Activities and Initiatives
8. Conferences
    1. 2005
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9. Zampolli memorials
10. Association Initiatives
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    2. Busa Award
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    4. Workshops
    5. Student Prize
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1. Attendance

The Chair, Harold Short, opened the meeting at 12.50pm. An attendance book was passed around for members to sign.

Apologies: Jean Anderson (Treasurer), Laszlo Hunyadi, Elisabeth Burr, Marilyn Deegan, Michael Sperberg-McQueen, Laszlo Hunyadi, Thomas Rommel, John Nerbonne, Simon Horobin.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Paul Fortier proposed that these be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Edward Vanhoutte and voted in unanimously.

There were no matters arising.

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3. Chair's Report

Harold Short highlighted that the preoccupation of the committee's activities had regarded the development of the umbrella organisation. The name had been decided: the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, and Governance and Conference Protocols had been ratified by both the committee of the ALLC and the ACH. These were now seen as acceptable working documents, although future modifications would be required. The ALLC committee had produced a set of modifications, as had the ACH, and the formal adoption of these changes had still to be done. The important thing to note was that no constituent organization surrenders sovereignty under this organization, and that the individual identities of the organizations could be fostered and developed.

The practical consequences of ADHO meant changes to the publications and conferences of the ALLC. The chair encouraged everyone to join both ACH and ALLC. Thought is going into the development of an ADHO e-journal, and John Unsworth has just announced a new monograph series for Digital Humanities at the University of Illinois Press, which gives opportunities for new publications.

The next conference (2006) in Paris will be the first to be organised under the ADHO organisation, and the Conference Committee will be chaired by Lisa Lena Opas-Hänninen. Four representatives of the ALLC committee would be on the Conference Committee in total: Elisabeth Burr, Paul Fortier, Alejandro Bia and Edward Vanhoutte.

There was clarification that ADHO is an umbrella organisation not only for ALLC/ACH but other Digital Humanities Organisations worldwide.

At this point there was a discussion about the Zampolli memorial – see section 9.

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4. Secretaries Report

The Secretary reported that multilingualism was a major focus of recent activities of the committee, and that the website had been translated into German. Following thorough proofreading, this will be launched sometime in the summer. The website will be translated into French next, with other languages to follow.

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5. Treasurer's Report

Draft accounts were presented (by Harold Short on behalf of Jean Anderson). These were close to final accounts, but needed to be ratified by the auditor. Many items were the same as previous years. The expenditure had some unusual items, such as the costs accrued related to the renewal of the publishing contract. The committee had decided to stay with OUP, and although contract details had to be finalised, they were almost complete. The new contract would take affect from January 2005. Financial arrangements will change: under the old regime the ALLC gained 15% of subscriptions and 50% of profits, whilst under the new contract the ALLC will obtain 70% of profits, which should result in a modest increase in income. A relatively modest increase in subscriptions were needed and members urged to try and increase membership of the association.

One other exceptional financial cost remained, the BUSA award (to Susan Hockey, 2004). This consisted of £1000 prize and travel costs for the conference.

Espen Ore proposed to ratify the treasurer's report, and this was seconded by Paul Fortier, and unanimously accepted.

A vote to retain the Bank of Scotland as the bankers of ALLC was unanimous.

6. Communications of Association

6.1 Journal

Edward Vanhoutte presented the Journal report. It had been an exciting year for the Journal. A redesigned cover meant that the two Associations were represented on the cover, and that it looked more modern. The interior was also to be redesigned. The editorial team had also expanded to include Stéfan Sinclair (a member of the ACH executive council, meaning that the two associations were now joined and the journal reflected them both), and the reviews editors (Edward Vanhoutte and Simon Horobin) had been appointed as associate editors.

When agreed and signed, the new contract will be effective retrospectively to 1 Jan 2005. The benefits would be the publish ahead of print service, with production time cut to 12 weeks. An online tracking system would mean authors could track the progress of their paper, and more issues would be issued this year. The redesign of the interior of the journal meant more papers per journal could also be printed at little extra cost.

The Chair thanked Edward Vanhoutte and the editorial board for their hard work.

6.2 Humanist

Harold Short presented this on behalf of Willard McCarty. Humanist is open to suggestions for new uses of the archive, as well as increasing the value of the continuing dialogue it provides.

6.3 Computing in the Humanities Working Papers (CHWP)

Harold Short said that not a lot had happened with this initiative for some time. There were some suggestions that this could be used as a pre-print service, but it would be left as it is just now.

6.4 Website

As well as the other language versions detailed above, the main change to the website will be that it will be available in XML. Harold Short and Lisa Lena Opas-Hänninen were working on this version.

6.5 ALLC Archive

Harold Short reported that an archivist at King's College London is cataloguing the archive there, and more material had been donated by Espen Ore. John Dawson had donated some material from his years as secretary, and Susan Hockey may also have some archive material. Anyone else who has archive material is asked to donate it to the organisation. The first priority would be to catalogue what is there.

Susan Hockey gives her greetings to the meeting and has said that she will keep links with the community in her retirement.

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7. ADHO

Harold short said that most of the ADHO business was covered in the Chair's report. John Unsworth reminded members of the ADHO website address: www.digitalhumanities.org. Space had been rented on textdrive.com, giving an institutional neutral site, and a flexible environment for an umbrella organisation. This site collects in one place evidence of activity for both communities. It would foreground the activities of the associations, and make them available both to us, and to the wider academic audience.

John Unsworth noted that draft content on website was thanks to Stéfan Sinclair and the Chair thanked him for his work.

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8. Conferences

8.1 2005

The Chair recorded the appreciation to the Local organisers, Peter Lidell and his team, and to the program committee: Alejandro Bia, Lisa Lena Opas-Hänninen, Simon Horobin, and Concha Sanz Miguel.

Alejandro Bia reported that the organisation of the conference had been hard work. There had been tensions at time but these had been solved. There were the highest ever submission rates for ACH/ALLC, a lot of newcomers (especially from the library sector) and languages (such as papers in Spanish), and magnificent work had been done on the website, and conference pack. The XML book of abstracts was beautiful. He thanked Martin Holmes and the local team.

The Chair gave his congratulations to Alejandro Bia for a good conference.

8.2 2006

Lisa Lena Opas-Hänninen is the chair of the Conference Programme Committee for 2006. This will be hosted by Liliane Gallet-Blanchard and Marie-Madeleine

Martinet at the Sorbonne in Paris from July 5 th-8th. Liliane passed around bookmarks for the conference, and demonstrated the website. The costs covered by the Sorbonne meant that registration can be kept to the costs for ACH/ALLC 2000.

Harold Short assured the membership that a French/English split will not happen in this conference.

8.3 2007

No formal decision had been made regarding the location of this conference, but one offer had been received, from John Unsworth, to host the conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. John Unsworth introduced the proposal, and mentioned the possibilities of extra-curricular activites in Chicago before the conference starts.

9. Zampolli Memorial

The Chair discussed appropriate memorials for Antonio Zampolli, including a website of memories, recollections, photographs, and anecdotes of Antonio. A more formal memorial would be the naming of a prize after him, a collection of papers in his honour, and closer work with Pisa and European Language Resources Associates.

11. Any Other Business

The remaining items on the agenda were covered in the Chair's report. No other business was brought forward by members.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.45pm.