

KCAA Spring Business Meeting (Zoom)

May 24, 2023

Megan Burton, Senior Co-Chair, began the meeting at 10:03 AM. After reviewing the agenda, she introduced the meeting's speaker, Sara Brumfield. Sara is a software engineer, library and digital humanities consultant, and co-creator of the crowdsourcing platform FromThePage.

Understanding ChatGPT for Libraries and Archives

Sara began her presentation by acknowledging the rapid changes occurring in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). She stated her belief that AI will become a fundamental technology and lead to drastic changes in many career fields. Sara described ChatGPT as a derivative artificial intelligence that generates a response when asked a question, like autocomplete but on a much more powerful scale. The technology has been trained on 300 billion words and can be used on anything that depends heavily on text or can be described by text, such as voice-to-text transcription, image-to-text transcription, image description, and music generation. In the archives field, these abilities could help provide access to old sound recordings and help in reading and transcribing images or hand-written documents.

There are three basic ways to interact with the technology: in a question-and-answer format, as an augmentation tool to help write emails or code, and in a chatbot format, where users feed information into the technology and then ask questions based on the submitted information. She said it is important to use precise language when interacting with ChatGPT as the quality of answers users receive are often dependent on the quality of information ingested. Sara also discussed the technology's limitations. ChatGPT tends to bloat, will give plausible answers but not necessarily correct answers, and tends to create fictitious bibliographic entries. Furthermore, as ChatGPT creates answers based on thousands of documents, attribution is quite difficult. Lastly, Sara discussed the implications of the technology on the archives field and encouraged archivists to consider the implications of sharing primary sources with ChatGPT. Teachers may also need to adjust their teaching methods to limit the possible use of ChatGPT by their students. Rather than ask students for regurgitated facts, they could ask for students' reflections on certain experiences or tasks.

Spring Business Meeting

At the conclusion of Sara's presentation, Senior Co-Chair Megan Burton began the spring business meeting at 11:13 AM. Members of the steering committee introduced themselves and proceeded with their reports.

Liz Lumpkin, Membership Chair, gave the Membership Committee Update. The organization currently has 30 active members. Issues have been reported when trying to renew memberships through the website, so Liz will send out an email to inform members of the status of their annual dues.

Megan gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Lindsey Warner, Treasurer. The organization has \$11,537.41 in total assets. Portions of the 2022 annual dues earmarked for the scholarship fund have not yet been allocated. Lindsey will send out a report once this is completed. Lindsey also proposed changing banks. The organization currently banks with Community America Credit Union, which offers a low rate of return on the KCAA scholarship fund and does not have branches in either Lawrence or Topeka. Ethan Anderson, Secretary, made a motion to investigate changing the organization's bank. Liz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alex Welborn, Scholarship Chair, gave the Scholarship Committee Update. Scholarships were awarded in 2022 to Dr. Anthony LaBat to attend the Georgia Archives Institute in June and to Danielle Hall to attend the Missouri Association for Archives and Museums (MAMA) Annual Conference in October. Funds are available for two more scholarships, which are awarded on a rolling basis. Alex reminded attendees that the awards, up to \$250, may be used to cover lodging, food, travel, or registration expenses. Applications should be submitted 30 days prior to the event and members cannot receive more than \$250 in a three-year period. Award recipients are required to write a summary of the conference for the newsletter or give a presentation at the next KCAA business meeting.

There was no update from the Awards and Nominations Committee.

There was no Minority Internship Report.

Danielle Hall, Education Chair, gave the Education Committee Report. The KCAA Fall Symposium at the Truman Presidential Library on November 16, 2022, had 22 attendees and received lots of positive feedback. Danielle and Megan have been in discussions with Tara Laver regarding the Annual Conference of the Missouri Association for Museums and Archives scheduled for October 26-28 at the Truman Presidential Library. There are numerous sponsorship options available, including a vendor table for \$100, a session for \$200, food and drinks for \$300, or a lunch or dinner for \$500. KCAA could also partner with MAMA to jointly host the conference and in exchange, KCAA members would receive discounted registration fees. At least one representative would need to attend meetings and help plan the conference. The MAMA conference would take the place of the KCAA fall symposium. Danielle, Megan, Ethan, Marcella Huggard, and Martha Imparato all voted in favor of cohosting the MAMA Annual Conference. Anyone interested in helping to plan the conference were encouraged to contact Danielle.

Megan next gave the Newsletter Update. Laurie Austin is stepping down as Newsletter Editor. The newsletter was taking a lot of effort and was not receiving much feedback. Now that social media can be used to distribute information related to the organization, it may be time to reevaluate whether a newsletter is still needed.

Christain Hartman, Social Media Chair, gave the Social Media Committee Update. KCAA has gained 14 followers on Facebook for a total of 629 followers. Posts typically reach 310 followers, with an equal split between Kansas and Missouri. Anyone interested in submitting posts for upcoming exhibits or programs should contact Christain.

Megan gave the Website Update on behalf of Lindy Smith, Website Administrator. The migration to the new website is complete and things are going well. Lindy is planning on updating the Directory of Kansas City Area Repositories as it has not been updated since 2005. She created a spreadsheet and asked attendees to review and update the document so it can be made publicly available.

Megan next addressed open steering committee positions. There are currently openings for Junior Co-Chair, Newsletter Editor, and Minority Internship Chair. In addition, Lindsey Warner is interested in stepping down from her long tenure as Treasurer. The Awards and Nominations Chair may likewise have an opening soon. If anyone knows of someone interested in any of these positions, please contact Megan. Danielle stated she may have someone interested in serving as the Newsletter Editor.

Megan reviewed the results of the February SurveyMonkey survey. Respondents were interested in attending more in-person events, such as socials and mixers. Aside from having these events at different archives and institutions, Boulevard Brewing Company and J. Rieger & Co. Distillery were suggested as possible meet-up locations. The Kansas City Gangster Tour was also recommended. The next social is tentatively scheduled for August. Survey responses also favored holding quarterly meetings via Zoom.

With no further business, the meeting was ended at 12:00 PM.