December 1, 2021

To: ALA Library History Round Table (LHRT)

Assessment and Advocacy Committee

From: Cindy Mediavilla

Subject: Analysis of Library Culture, History, and Society (LCHS) Authors and Reviewers

Data Collection

As part of the Assessment and Advocacy Committee’s evaluation of the impact of LHRT’s *Library Culture, History, and Society* (LCSH) journal, I was asked to examine who exactly writes for the journal and how many are members of the round table. To accomplish this, I reviewed all ten issues of LCHS while compiling separate alphabetical lists of the author and book reviewer names. I also included the number of articles/reviews each contributor wrote. In all cases, I compared the contributors’ names to the most recent (October 26, 2021) LHRT membership list to see if they currently are members. For non-members, I made note of their affiliations. Spreadsheets capturing these data are attached.

*LCHS Non-Member Authors:* Over the past five years, 52 authors have contributed articles or essays to the journal. Of these, 56% (29) are currently not LHRT members. Non-LHRT members represent several different disciplines: art, history, criminal justice, humanities, social science, and, of course, library and information science (LIS). Eight of them are librarians and eight more are faculty members in either LIS or history. The others are a mix of LIS master’s and doctoral students, an independent scholar, a researcher, an independent journalist, and an artist/art historian. One is Canadian, another is from Wales, and yet another from Spain.

*LCHS Non-Member Reviewers:* Forty-one people have reviewed books in LCHS, 12 of them contributing two or more reviews. Interestingly, a great majority (66%) of the reviewers are non-LHRT members. Twenty-three (85%) of these folks represent academic institutions and five are from countries outside the U.S.: Germany, France, Wales, and Australia. Moreover, five non-members provided more than one review.

Analysis

Although the majority of both authors and reviewers are not LHRT members, this cursory breakdown of the journal’s contributors shows that there is an interest in library history well beyond the round table’s membership. The non-member authors, in particular, bring diverse disciplinary backgrounds to the journal’s articles. They may not be members, but they are aware of LHRT and how library history intersects with their own research interests, even for contributors outside the U.S. This seems to bode well for the relevancy of both LHRT and its journal.

One suggestion: While author and reviewer affiliations are included in the journal, it would be very helpful to know job titles as well. Are these contributors historians, librarians, or something altogether different? Knowing a little more about the authors and reviewers may further help establish LCHS’s broad appeal.