



Digital Scriptorium Annual Meeting

Remote via Zoom
24 September 2021
2:00-4:00 pm EDT

Director's Report

This represents my final annual report as President and Executive Director of DS. The world has changed a lot since I accepted the position in 2015, but COVID-19 and meetings by Zoom have not stopped the steady progress of Digital Scriptorium, managed by a Board of Directors with whom I am proud to have served.

The focus of my tenure as President was on sustainable governance and financial stability in order to prepare for technical redevelopment. That work has included the following accomplishments:

- 1) Tax-exempt, non-profit 501c3 status
- 2) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for our institutional participants
- 3) New consortium Bylaws written with advice of legal counsel
- 4) Banking and investment accounts, including and investment plan
- 5) Appointment of an Advisory Council chair with ex officio seat on the Board
- 6) Application of a weighted fee schedule for consortium membership
- 7) Re-design and launch of a new website including faceted search filters
- 8) Re-imaging DS through a series of in-person and online meetings
- 9) Award of a \$100,000 planning grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services
- 10) Fund-raising another \$100,000 to support the continued development of DS 2.0 while pursuing another grant
- 11) Five new voting members and one new associate institution
- 12) Transition of the DS technical host from UC Berkeley to U Penn (in progress)

I cannot take credit for any of this without acknowledging the expertise and dedication of the rest of the DS Board. I'm also grateful for the contributions from many of you attending this meeting and previous meetings where we began to plan DS 2.0. Following these meetings, the DS Board built a strategy to redevelop the DS digital resource as a national union catalog with distributed ownership and data management. Now we are working on a new implementation grant application to IMLS, and the pre-proposal to apply has just recently been submitted. DS Secretary

(and soon to be President) Lynn Ransom, who serves as the grant Project Investigator, and Emma Thomson, DS 2.0 Project Manager, will talk more about the IMLS grant and DS 2.0 at the meeting today.

The 2021 Annual Meeting represents a transition for DS at several levels. We will soon have a new Board of Directors, with three of us stepping down: Cherry Williams, E.C. Schroeder, and myself. Board members continuing to serve include Janine Pollock (Vice President), David Faulds (Secretary), and Lynn Ransom (President and Executive Director), Lynne Grigsby (ex officio, Technical Host) and Lisa Fagin Davis (ex officio, Advisory Council Chair), joined by new At-Large members Ray Clemens, Tamar Evangelista-Dougherty, and Sue Steuer. The DS Advisory Council will also make some changes, with Consuelo Dutschke, Barbara Shailor, and Bill Stoneman continuing to serve while adding Eric Johnson and Elizabeth Hebbard as new members of the AC. I am delighted to welcome all the new people who have agreed to serve on the Board and AC, and have unconditional confidence in the talent, expertise, and commitment that they will bring to the management of DS for the future.

Many thanks to all of you for your interest and support of DS. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with all of you during this exciting time in the history of Digital Scriptorium and wish you all the best.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Cashion,
President and Executive Director, 2015-2021