

## Executive Board

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## From the President . . . .

As this is my first column as AACRL President, I hope you will indulge me as I take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to our past members of the Executive Board for their wisdom, wit, advice, and incomparable good humor. As a wise man once said, if you're not laughing, you really don't understand the situation. I think our meetings last year proved that we did (unfortunately perhaps) understand the situations our libraries and our members would be facing this year. To our now past-President Tim Dodge, Treasurer Susan Herring, Secretary Ellen Wilson, Member-at-Large Mildred Jackson, Legislative Liaison Eric Kidwell, Newsletter Editor Kathy Wheeler, and Webmaster Jason Battles, thank you all for your patience and your support. This year, we have two new members to the Executive Board, President-elect Charlie Pettway Vann and Treasurer Dena Luce. I look forward to working with you both.

## *New Committees*

One of my concerns on joining the Executive Board was to try to devise some manner to provide the membership with greater opportunities for participating in the Association. After discussing the possibilities with the Board, we proposed, and the membership approved at the spring meeting, the addition of three new committees to join with the Nominating and Program Committees as Standing Committees of the Association. These new committees are Membership, Legislative Advocacy / Government Relations, and By-Laws. After being victimized by letters and e-mails from me, twenty-one members of the association volunteered to serve on one of the committees. To those of you who expressed a willingness to serve on these committees, thank you. Your support for the Association is greatly appreciated. Appointment letters will be going out by the end of August.

## *Chapters Council*

At the annual meeting of the ACRL Chapters Council in Chicago, the importance and influence of legislative advocacy for libraries continued to remain a firm goal within ACRL's strategic plan. ACRL has identified six main goals for the plan. These are 1. Strengthen ACRL's relationships with Higher Education organizations; 2. Enhance ACRL members understanding of how scholars work and the tools and technology systems they use for scholarly productivity; 3. Increase ACRL's influence in public policy discussions; 4. Increase the recognition of the value of libraries and librarianship by leaders in Higher Education; 5. Support members in the exploration, research, and implementation of new technologies with implications for library service; and 6. Increase membership in ACRL from professionally under-represented groups. As a further element of the Strategic Plan, ACRL is requiring the development of SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely) which local chapters (meaning us) will have to report on.

## *ACRL Financial Support for Chapters*

A major concern expressed during the Chapter's meeting was the financial condition of the Association. Because of declining advertising revenue, including

## From the President . . . cont.

job ad placements, ACRL is facing a budget shortfall that will require using the Association's reserves. ACRL is concerned with the shortfall and is investigating ways to cut costs. As a side bar to this, the Chapters Council had presented to the ACRL Board a proposal to increase reimbursement to the local Chapters from \$1.00 to \$3.00 for each chapter member who is also a member of the national ACRL. This reimbursement rate has been consistent for a decade now, but the proposal was rejected on the grounds that local chapters are not spending their entire allocations. ACRL Chapters may spend budgeted resources on any items or activities that support the charitable and educational purposes of ACRL's strategic goals as identified in the strategic plan with two exceptions: 1) The allotted funds may not be used for payment of honoraria or travel to support librarians' presentations at ALA, ACRL, or ACRL chapter conferences, and 2) The allotted funds may not be used to purchase goods or services prohibited by ALA and ACRL policy.

Chapters Council Chair Judith Pinnolis has asked me to serve on an ad-hoc committee to revise a proposal to get increased funding from ACRL. I would appreciate any suggestions you might have to offer. ACRL does have a clause that if a chapter conducts a membership campaign, they will receive \$10 for each new member who joins the ACRL. I would strongly recommend that we approach our colleagues and ask them to consider joining ACRL. Perhaps we can even set up a table at the Alabama Library Association meeting in April to recruit new members (both for AACRL and ACRL).

### *Legislative Advocacy*

Both Tim Dodge as President and Eric Kidwell as Legislative Advocate kept us well informed on legislative issues affecting libraries nationally as well as locally. The sad truth, however, is that we need to continue to be more active in the area of advocacy. Keep in mind that advocacy is not lobbying

for or against a particular issue but rather a chance to educate our legislators on issues. Particularly with libraries, it is an opportunity to explain how a particular bill will impact their constituents.

Mike McLane, the Visiting Program Officer at ACRL for the Legislative Advocates Program, spoke at our April meeting this year, explaining the opportunities for involvement. Mike prepared a report for the ACRL Government Relations Committee on the Advocacy program. With 435 legislative districts to cover, the Advocates program only has 20 of the 50 states covered, and only 58 advocates total. Alabama just recently got its first advocate, Tim Dodge. Congratulations, Tim!

The requirements to serve as a legislative advocate are simple – you must be a member of ACRL at the national level and you must file an annual activities report on your advocacy activities. These activities do not mean you have to visit your legislators in Washington (or in Montgomery). You can visit their staff in district offices; you can e-mail, call, or write. While I would encourage you to join ACRL and to volunteer as a legislative advocate, I recognize that this may not be possible for many of you. However, with AACRL's Legislative Advocacy / Government Relations Committee, you can still be involved. I hope that many of you will consider this.

In the future, I promise to be a bit more focused in my column. And for those of you who were wondering, no, my family crest is not an open mouth of a field of wild verbiage...but it's close. And remember, you can't have everything. Where would you put it?

*Rickey Best*  
AACRL President

## Significant Contribution Award

In 1955 the Consolers, a husband-and-wife gospel duo, recorded a wonderful version of "Give Me My Flowers." The song begins with the words, "Give me my flowers while I yet live, so that I can see the beauty that they bring." In a similar spirit of recognition, we are seeking nominees who should be honored (while they yet live) by the AACRL Significant Contribution Award.

The purpose of this award is to recognize achievements in the area of college and research libraries on the local, state, regional, national, or international level. The award is open to all librarians, library faculty, paraprofessionals, other information professionals, or students enrolled in graduate library programs who work or reside in Alabama and who are associated with college, university, or research libraries.

Additionally, this award may be presented to organizations, groups, vendors, or other individuals who have contributed something of significance within the state of Alabama in the area of college and research libraries. The contribution(s) must have been accomplished while the person or group was a resident of Alabama. (Nominees must be residents of Alabama). The AACRL Significant Contribution Award will be presented at the annual Dinner/Business meeting to be held in Huntsville in April 2010.

Please submit nominations either by postal mail or e-mail by the DEADLINE of January 15, 2010 to:

Tim Dodge, AACRL Past President  
Reference Department  
Ralph Brown Draughon Library  
231 Mell St.  
Auburn University, AL 36849-5606  
E-mail: [dodgeti@auburn.edu](mailto:dodgeti@auburn.edu)

*Tim Dodge*  
AACRL Past President

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## A Dinner for Advocacy

The Association's Annual Dinner and Business meeting took place on April 8th, 2009, at Zazu's Eclectic Eatery in Auburn, Alabama. President Tim Dodge introduced the officers present and provided certificates recognizing their participation in AACRL. He expressed his appreciation of outgoing officers Susan Herring, Treasurer, and Rosemary Arneson, Past-President.

Among the business activities, Dodge presented the Treasurer's report, prepared by Herring. AACRL has a balance of \$6,280.90 as of the end of the business meeting. Eric Kidwell, the chapter's Legislative Liaison, announced that Lori Northrup would receive a \$500 stipend from the chapter to attend National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., in May.

Arneson announced the election results. Rickey Best will be the new President; Charcie Pettway Vann was elected as the incoming Vice-President/President-elect; Ellen Wilson will continue as Secretary; Dena Luce will be the incoming Treasurer; Millie Jackson will continue to serve as Member-at-Large, Kathy Wheeler will continue as Newsletter editor, Eric Kidwell will continue as Legislative Liaison, and Jason Battles will continue to serve as webmaster for the Association.

Dodge asked Rickey Best to give a brief business report. Best presented a proposal to the membership for the establishment of the following committees to join with the Nominating and Program Committees as standing committees: Membership Committee; Committee on Government Relations; By-Laws Committee; and a Continuing Education and Training Committee. Best stated that with the establishment of these committees, the organization will be able to provide opportunities for involvement of the membership, resulting in a more active organization, and provide training for future officers. Such committees are consistent with those offered at other chapters of ACRL around the country. Following a

brief discussion, the proposed changes were approved by the membership in a vote of (15 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention).

Best next presented a proposal that membership dues be increased from \$6.00 annually to \$10 per year, with the following proviso: additional funds raised by this increase will be used to establish additional stipend(s) for AACRL members to attend National Library Legislative Day in Washington. Best noted that academic libraries are badly under-represented in Washington during National Legislative Day. With the current economic environment, the academic library community needs to become more involved in meeting with the state legislative delegation. While AACRL provides a \$500 stipend from its operating budget for an individual to attend Legislative Day, the need for additional membership participation is critical. Following a discussion, the proposed increase was approved by the membership (14 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention). Best thanked the membership and expressed deep appreciation for President Dodge's willingness to postpone discussion of the increase until he was leaving office.

Dodge introduced Past President Rosemary Arneson who announced the Winner of the 2008 Significant Contribution Award, Sonja McAbee. McAbee retired from her position as Full Professor and Head of Technical Services at the Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University at the end of 2008. Ms. McAbee began her career as the cataloging assistant at JSU in 1977 and rose through the ranks, taking on increasing levels of responsibility and leadership until her retirement in 2008.

Ms. McAbee was a member of AACRL and served as the AACRL liaison for JSU from 1992 to 2008. She had numerous offices in the Alabama Library Association and served as chair of the Handbook Committee (2004-2006) and the Awards Committee (2003-2004). She was the Secretary of the Association in 2002-2003. Ms. McAbee was a

member of the NAAL Resource Sharing Committee from 2005-2008, and she served on the Advisory Board for the Alabama Libraries Exchange Service (ALLIES). In these roles, Ms. McAbee was a tireless advocate for universal borrowing for the state's students. Even as she dealt with serious illness during this time, Ms. McAbee worked with the state's librarians, with the NAAL leadership, and with system vendors to make universal borrowing possible. The only obstacle in this process that Ms. McAbee was not able to overcome was changes in product focus by SirsiDynix. Ms. McAbee was a passionate advocate for libraries, librarianship, and for the populations we serve. She was tireless in her efforts to promote improved services for students throughout the state and to enhance the role of the library at her institution. Ms. McAbee expressed her deep appreciation to the Association for the Award.

Rickey Best introduced Michael McLane, ACRL's Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy as the guest speaker. McLane spoke about ACRL's efforts in legislative advocacy and the Legislative Advocate program. He urged all librarians to think of themselves as advocates and to reach out to legislators on the local, state, and federal levels. He discussed requirements for members to join the ACRL Legislative Advocate program. McLane provided suggestions and recommendations to members on how they could serve as advocates, even if they do not join the national Legislative Advocate program. Following his talk, Best presented him with a gift on behalf of the Association.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Rickey Best*  
*AACRL President*

## Update on ACRL Chapters Council Activities

Tim Dodge and I represented AACRL at the annual Chapters Council meeting in Chicago. Kevin Merriman, University of Memphis, chaired the meeting, and introduced Judith Pinnolis, Brandeis University, as the incoming Chair. Kevin reviewed the Chapters Council Mission and Goals and reported on the decision by the ACRL Board to stress the development of SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely). Local Chapters will need to present their annual reports using the SMART framework.

Next, Judy Pinnolis reported that chapter reports must be filed in May. There is an online form focusing on ACRL's strategic goals. The New England Chapter has created a guide for linking chapter activities to the strategic goals. They would like to expand that idea to create a national form / worksheet to help SIGS fill out the reports. Joyce Neujahr, Gloria Creed-Kigeogu, and Laurie Swortwout will work with Judy to create this form.

Judy stressed that chapters are eligible to receive funding from ACRL National. At Midwinter, an ad hoc committee, with Rickey Best, Laurie Swortwout, Katherine O'Clair and Judy Pinnolis, was created to develop a request to increase funding for operational expenses per national member from \$1 to \$3. The proposal was turned down because less than half of the money available for funding is requested and used. Judy would like to re-work and re-submit the proposal. Rickey Best, Les Kong, Laurie Swortwout, and Barbara Kenney volunteered to work with Judy on a plan targeted for 2011/2012. A suggestion was made that after a certain date, the unused funds be made available to those who had requested 'extra' funding.

Merriman next introduced Lori Goetsch, ACRL President. Lori reinforced the idea that professional development on the local level is extremely important – it keeps members engaged. Lori also discussed the upcoming president's joint program with LLAMA (Library Leadership and Management Association) and ASCLA (Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies). Among the issues being considered are "Mentoring and Leadership in the Intergenerational Library" and initiatives for helping libraries dem-

onstrate their value on campus. They are looking for speakers and ideas.

Erica Linke, ACRL Past President was introduced. Erica has been working closely with Lori to move the presidential leadership forward. The Board would like to have more impact as an association and have a closer relationship with ALA. They have appointed board liaisons to committees which will also appoint vice-chairs so there will be more continuity in planning and operations. The Board identified six priorities for the next five years. See ACRL's web site for specifics: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/whatisacrl/strategicplan/index.cfm>.

Erica also promoted the use of ALA Connect and the value of virtual participation with ACRL and ALA. Changes are occurring within the leadership highlighting the effectiveness and challenges of virtual participation. This holds significant new opportunities for AACRL members who wish to be involved nationally, but who have been unable to commit to attending the national meetings. The Membership Committee gave Erica a report regarding student participation within ACRL. She encouraged Chapters to help recruit members from the I-Schools and include them in their activities.

Erica reported that the Board's big issue this year is the budget with a projected deficit of \$400,000. While the Association has reserves to handle this, it cannot continue to operate with deficits and is continuing to look at ways to steward and transform itself.

Mary Ellen Davis, ACRL Executive Director was introduced. She represents ACRL to higher education through the American Education Research Association. This organization helps raise awareness with academic administrators and highlights library contributions to the academy. Mary Ellen stressed the need for sustainable actions and activities. Mary Ellen also discussed the economic situation and noted that ACRL revenues are down for advertising and specifically for the job placements ads. The JobList is ALA's online job tool; encourage libraries to use advertising money for it. Last year, revenue from the JobList was equal to membership dues; this year it is down \$150,000.

ACRL is continuing to expand e-learning opportunities by providing access to the Cyber Zed Sheds. Mary Ellen also discussed the development of the Instant Messaging chat series via On Point Chat, which had 61 participants in ACRL 101. A suggestion was made that local chapter

newsletters be moved to e-versions only, saving reimbursement costs from national. She also noted an E-Task force is examining ways to meet virtually, so that committee members will not have to attend both Midwinter and Annual to be active participants.

Mike McLane, Visiting Program Officer for the Legislative Advocacy Program reported on the program. Advocates do not have to participate in National Legislative Day nor attend Annual/Midwinter. Advocates can find out about the issues by contacting the Legislative Advocacy Program office. Mike talked about the legislative agenda which includes: 1. public access to federally funded research; and 2. network neutrality. Kathy Parsons reported on a 'make a difference' story – because of 120 people who advocated, Iowa legislators left the funding alone for the Enrich Iowa Funds and the Library Service Areas.

Aline Soules, Chapters Council Representative to ACRL Legislative Network, spoke next. Aline, the liaison for the entire country, was appointed by the Government Relations Committee of ACRL for a two year term. Her duties include facilitating communications among Chapters and various offices of ACRL and ALA as well as preparing reports.

Megan Griffin, ACRL Staff Liaison was introduced. Part of Megan's job is to manage the online chapter pages. The next fiscal year starts Sept 1st and there are still two or three slots open for chapters to request Lori to come speak at chapter meetings and conferences. There must be four years since the last presidential visit.

Laurie Swortwout, Listserv Administrator for Chapters Council asked Chapters to let her know when chapter officers change. Please note - it's illegal to use listservs to contact individuals.

Election of Officers (Judy Pinnolis) – The following officers for Chapters Council were elected: Mark Lenker, Longwood University, Vice Chair/Chair Elect and Rickey Best, Auburn University at Montgomery, Secretary.

Best gave the AACRL Chapters Report – discussing the changes to the by-laws and the creation of new committees. Best also thanked ACRL for providing Michael McLane as the Speaker at last April's AACRL Annual Meeting. The Council adjourned and will meet again during ALA Midwinter in Boston, January 2010.

*Rickey Best  
AACRL President*

## News from the Membership . . .

**Deidre Herring Cole**, Faulkner University, Nichols Library, former Bibliographic Technician, has moved into the Technical Services Librarian position in an intern status. She will be pursuing her master's degree in library science and, upon completion, will be a full librarian and faculty member. Her contact information is dherring@faulkner.edu, 334-386-7282 (phone), 334-386-7481 (fax).

**Clista Clanton**, Education Coordinator at the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, has received tenure and has been promoted to Associate Librarian.

**Andrea Wright, Beverly Rossini, and Judy Burnham**, USA Biomedical Librarians, provided library instruction this summer to high school students enrolled in the 2009 STARS (Student Training for Academic Reinforcement in the Sciences) and STRIPES (Special Training to Raise Interest and Prepare for Entry into the Sciences) programs.

**Angela Rand, Paula Webb, Kathy Wheeler, Ellen Wilson, and Andrea Wright**, all of the University of South Alabama Libraries, presented at the two sessions of the University of South Alabama Baldwin County's *Joint Social Networking Conference*, held August 11. Angela Rand discussed Flickr and YouTube; Paula Webb talked about Google Docs; Kathy Wheeler presented on Facebook, LinkedIn and Ning; Ellen Wilson showed the uses of Twitter for marketing; and Andrea Wright wrapped up the conference with her presentation on Google Analytics.

**Judy Burnham**, Director of the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, spoke about Web 2.0 tools at the Alabama Chapter American Physical Therapy Association meeting in Birmingham August 21 to 22, 2009. This presentation was also given by Ms. Burnham at the national American Physical Therapy Association meeting in Baltimore in June, 2009. Dr. Dennis Fell was her co-presenter in Baltimore

while **Lee Vucovich** of the Lister Hill Library at the University of Alabama at Birmingham worked with her at the meeting in Birmingham.

**Gary Wasdin** joined The University of Alabama Libraries as the Assistant Dean for Library Access and Information Services in February 2009. Prior to coming to UA, he served as Director, Office of Staff Development at New York Public Library and as the Library Director at The New School in New York City. He has also served as an adjunct professor of libraries at the Pratt Institute, St. John's University and Southern Connecticut State University.

**Shawn Avercamp** joined The University of Alabama Libraries as Metadata Cataloger in July 2009. She previously held the position of Digital Projects Librarian at The University of Iowa. Shawn earned her MLIS at The University of Iowa where she had an IMLS Fellowship in Digital Librarianship.

**Cynthia Miller** moved into a tenure track position as Music, Performing and Fine Arts Collection Coordinator at the University of Alabama Libraries in June 2009. Dr. Miller was an IMLS Fellow at The University of Alabama and has served in a number of positions since finishing her MLS degree at UA. Dr. Miller received her Ph.D. in Music from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She has extensive teaching experience in addition to her experience in the libraries. She is also a composer and an organist.

**Lisa Campbell** has been appointed as a Reference Librarian at the University of Alabama Libraries. Lisa earned her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008 and has been working there since then as a Public Services Librarian. She joined UA Libraries in late September.

## Beta Phi Mu Award Nominations Sought

The Beta Kappa Chapter of Beta Phi Mu invites nominees for the 2010 Librarian of the Year. This award recognizes and honors librarians who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of professionalism among Alabama librarians. The qualifications for the award include:

- \* A professional degree in one of the fields of library science.
- \* Lived in Alabama for a minimum of five years and during that time must have held a professional library position.

The 2010 award will be presented at The University of Alabama, School of Library & Information Studies (SLIS), in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, April 9, 2010. Members who wish to make nominations based on the criteria listed above should send letters with sufficient supportive information by November 30, 2009 to:

Jeff Simpson  
Troy University, Montgomery  
Rosa Parks Library  
252 Montgomery Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
E-mail: simpsonj@troy.edu

*Jeff Simpson*  
*Troy University, Montgomery*

## NAAL Director Position-Opened

Dr. Sue Medina will be retiring as the Director of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (and she will be sorely missed) by, at the latest, May 31, 2010. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is searching for a new director for NAAL.

For more on NAAL and a complete position description, see the ACHE website at <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/NAAL/Index.htm>

## National Library Legislative Day

Thank you to the AACRL Board for allowing me a second opportunity to attend ALA's Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.! Leg Day 2009 provided me an opportunity to improve on my performance from a few years ago; I hope that the legislative liaisons I met will remember me this time as a little less shy and tongue-tied! It can be an intimidating experience, but ALA provides excellent briefings and training as a part of the package. Monday, May 11, was spent in a day-long round of sessions reviewing issues and legislation; Tuesday was spent in the delightful company of Rebecca Mitchell, APLS Director, and her husband, as we trekked all over the Hill, visiting all the legislators from Alabama. A few of the issues and legislation of importance to academic libraries at the time were:

### ***H.R. 801 The Fair Copyright in Research Works Act***

Introduced by Rep. Conyers (D-MI), Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, bill seeks to reverse the National Institutes of Health public access policy already in place. The policy as it stands requires that taxpayer-funded research be made available, after an embargo period, on the free Internet. In addition to reversing this policy, H.R. 801 would also make it harder for other federal agencies to institute similar policies. Of course, ALA, together with other open-access proponents, like the SPARC Initiative, opposes this resolution vigorously. A similar measure was introduced by Rep. Conyers in the 110th Congress; it died in the Judiciary Committee of the House. At this time, no major action has been taken on this bill. H.R. 801 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy of the House Judiciary Committee. Perhaps it will suffer a similar fate as its predecessor.

### ***H.R. 1800 The National Security Letters Reform Act of 2009***

With the Patriot Act sunseting at the end of this year, Rep. Jerrold Nadler

(D-N.Y.) and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) introduced this act to try to put some limits on the issuing of National Security Letters and resulting gag orders. This act would keep the FBI from issuing NSL's "unless the issuing official certifies specific facts providing reason to believe that the information or records sought pertain to a foreign power or agent thereof." It also "Prohibits a letter from being issued in connection with an investigation of a U.S. person solely upon the basis of activities protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution." Both quotes are from the bill summary on THOMAS. This bill is now in the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

### ***H.R. 35 The Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2009***

Introduced by Rep. Towns (NY), H. R. 35 "revokes President Bush's executive order (E.O. 13233). This ruling invalidates part of E.O. 13233 that allows former Presidents and Vice Presidents to review executive records before they are released under the Freedom of Information Act." – District Dispatch <http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1301>. This bill has been sent to the Senate; we asked our senators to move forward with this legislation as it has a huge impact on future historians and on the public in general.

### ***H.R. 2256 Preserving the American Historical Record Act***

This bipartisan bill, introduced by Rep. Hinchey (NY) and Rep. McHugh (NY) would provide funding from the Archivist of the United States in the form of grants to states for the preservation and dissemination of historical records. Grants would be used to "(1) protect historical records; (2) use such records in new and creative ways; (3) provide education and training to those who care for historical records; and (4) create a wide variety of access tools, including finding aids, documentary editions, indexes, and images of key records maintained on state and local organization

websites." – from THOMAS. This bill has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives.

### ***S. Res. 118***

Introduced by Sen. Joseph Lieberman (CT), this bill would make publicly available via the Internet, the following publications by the Congressional Research Service: (1) Issue Briefs; (2) CRS Reports that are available to Members of Congress through the CRS website; and (3) Authorization of Appropriations and Appropriations Products. These publications would not include any documents deemed confidential by the CRS director or department or agency heads. This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

### ***Federal Depository Library Program***

We also asked Senators and Representatives to fund the FDLP at the requested amount for the FY2010 budget year.

These are a few of the issues about which I spoke with your Alabama senators and representatives (actually, their liaisons). Rebecca Mitchell did an excellent job of representing public and school library issues. We discussed, among others:

### ***The Library Services and Technology Act***

H.R. 3293 – Passed  
 Votes from AL: Yeas=Bright, Davis, Griffith, Rogers; Nays=Aderholt, Bonner, Bachus  
 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 149. When the House passed the 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill on July 24, it included an increase in funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to State Library Agencies

## National Library Legislative Day *(continued from p. 6)*

program. The program was allocated \$172,561,000, approximately \$1 million over the FY 2009 level. We urged state legislators to support this increase, and expressed the importance of this funding to Alabama libraries. The appropriations bill is now on the Senate calendar. You can see how Alabama funds have been used by visiting: <http://www.statelibrary.alabama.gov/Content/LSTAinfo.aspx>. You can view a fact sheet useful in talking to your senators at [http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/alabama\\_lsta1.pdf](http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/alabama_lsta1.pdf).

### ***H.R. 2135 and S. 348***

Introduced in the House by Rep. Denny Rehberg (MT) and in the Senate by Senators John D. Rockefeller (WV) and Olympia Snowe (ME), these bills seek to provide a permanent exemption

from Antideficiency Act accounting requirements for libraries and schools seeking e-rate funding. In the past, this exemption has been granted on a yearly basis, sometimes resulting in a delay which made it difficult for schools and libraries to budget for the coming year. A permanent exemption would provide stability to the E-rate program. (The E-rate program provides telecommunications discounts, often to schools and libraries in the poorest communities.) In the House, this bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; in the Senate, referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

I would like to thank Eric Kidwell and Tim Dodge for their untiring efforts on behalf of Alabama libraries and librarians as they work to keep us informed about legislative issues through

AACRL and ALLA. I felt so much better informed this year as I went to D.C. While I still had some cramming to do on Monday night, I did feel that I had a good foundation on some of these issues. I hope you will consider representing Alabama academic libraries at this function in the future; it's a wonderful experience.

*Lori Northrup  
Samford University*

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