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From the President

I would certainly like to thank our outgoing officers for a superb job in performing their offices: Jennifer Long (Past President), Carla Waddell (Secretary), and Rosemary Arneson (Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison).

To the new and incoming officers, welcome: Rosemary Arneson (Vice-President/President Elect), Lori Northrup (Secretary), and Alyssa Martin (Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison). The complete Executive Board is listed on the AACRL web site at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/exectbd.htm>.

AACRL Annual Meetings

April 2006 – For those members who could not attend the AACRL annual business meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Alabama Library Association's meeting in April, Frances Maloy, of Emory University and past ACRL President (2004-2005), gave an excellent overview of current issues regarding ACRL initiatives and concerns. The business meeting was well-attended with approximately 40 attendees, and the food provided by the catering service of the Shoals Hotel, Conference Center and Spa at Florence was excellent.

April 2007 – The available information for the 2007 Alabama Library Association meeting is that it will be held at Mobile, April 17-20. The detailed planning is currently underway.

AACRL Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board met in July 2006 and several issues were discussed. One of the topics was the AACRL's web site, which is hosted by Samford University. The board is contemplating moving our web site from Samford University's server to a commercial site. There are several viable reasons for this move, but more details to come later. Also, the board is resolving the permanent address/location of the organization for federal/state tax purposes as a nonprofit organization. This is simply a matter of submitting a change of address to government officials for the organization's permanent home of record to be at Auburn University library, which houses AACRL's archives.

Robert Schrimsher, AACRL President

Nominations Sought for AACRL Positions

Consider becoming more active in AACRL by running for an officer position.

In Spring 2007, AACRL will elect a Vice-President/President-Elect and a Treasurer.

According to the AACRL bylaws, available on the AACRL web site at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/bylaw2005.pdf>, "The Vice President/President Elect shall serve a one-year term as Vice President/President Elect, a second one-year term as President, and a third one-year term as Past

President. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large shall each serve one two-year term, the terms of the Secretary and Member-at-Large shall be staggered with that of the Treasurer."

Additional information is available in the bylaws on the AACRL web site. Nominees must be current members of (or be willing to join) both AACRL and ACRL.

Send nominations and/or inquiries to Jennifer Long, AACRL Past President, at jmlong@uab.edu. Self-nominations are welcome.

Alabama Attends National Library Legislative Day

I had the privilege of attending the 32nd Annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) in Washington, D.C. as part of the Alabama delegation of librarians and library advocates. Our group included Juanita Owes, Director of the Montgomery City-County Public Library system and NLLD State Coordinator, and Rebecca Mitchell, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service.

We were fortunate to be joined by two of Rebecca's Board members, Bobbie Lou Leigh and Mack Butler. Rebecca's husband, Derick, and Mack's daughter, Morgan, were also on hand for our meetings on Capitol Hill. The Alabama delegation was among over 525 participants from 47 states representing the library community.

Legislative Day was preceded by one and a half days of information for the gathered participants. The ALA Washington Office hosted a Sunday afternoon pre-conference session featuring Stephanie Vance, a former Capitol Hill staffer who heads up AdVance Consulting. Vance gave an often-humorous presentation about how to talk with legislative staffers and about how to make the most of our short sessions in legislators' offices. The group of about 60 also heard from Lynne Bradley and Melanie Anderson, Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of the ALA Washington Office. The session was co-sponsored by several library groups including the Association of Library Trustees and Advocates.

I had the good fortune of getting to meet some of the assembled trustees and to thank them for their work on behalf of libraries. I would highly recommend this session to librarians who are attending NLLD for the first time as it gives the participant an idea of what to expect as they enter the office buildings and conduct their meetings with legislators and staffers.

Monday's session was a briefing on matters of importance to the library community, including the re-appropriation of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the President's request of \$220.8 million and the restoration of

funding for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Libraries.

Other items on the agenda included amending the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and the hotly contested issue of network neutrality. ALA President Michael Gorman addressed the large crowd after which they got a sneak peak at ALA's newly-designed Legislative Action Center at <http://www.onlineadvocacy.net>. The afternoon brought breakout sessions on some of the specific issues. Vance was again on hand to advise participants on how to sell their libraries in their meetings on the Hill.

“Legislative Day is a very worthwhile experience, and it is heartening to work alongside so many others with a passion for advocacy on behalf of libraries.”

Since she emphasized the importance of keeping one's comments brief, I chose to speak to our legislators about the issue of network neutrality.

Network neutrality has been referred to as the First Amendment of the Internet by the broad-based coalition Save the Internet. The coalition boasts over 750 consumer groups and small businesses dedicated to ensuring that the public can view the smallest blog just as easily as the largest corporate web site.

In speaking with the staffer of my congressman, Rep. Spencer Bachus, I noted the presence of a small online bidding business in the district. The business uses the Internet to bid on sites like eBay on behalf of its clients. I communicated my belief that network neutrality benefits small operators such as these as much as it does Alabama's libraries. Since NLLD, efforts to address this issue have been blocked in the

House, although several in the Senate have taken the lead, most notably Ron Wyden (D-OR). Between returning from their home states and keeping busy with activity in House and Senate chambers, it is often the case that visitors to Washington will be unable to meet with their legislators. However, our group did get a meeting in every office, and we were fortunate to be able to visit with Rep. Robert Aderholt.

In addition to my comments on network neutrality, Juanita and Rebecca addressed E-rate and LSTA funding levels. Rebecca presented detailed reports for each representative on the projects completed in their district using LSTA funding. These reports gave the group an opportunity to talk about the many services libraries are able to provide their constituents thanks to federal dollars.

All of those with whom we spoke were responsive and generous with their time. I received a couple of letters from our representatives in the weeks following NLLD, and I look forward to continuing my correspondence with them over the coming year.

I would be remiss not to mention the good stuff: the many dining options, to say nothing of the sight-seeing, available in the nation's capital. I found ample time to take in the National Mall and walk the cosmopolitan Chinatown district during my evening forays for food. Washington is a very walker-friendly city and the many cabs, buses, and rail lines make it easy to get around.

Legislative Day is a very worthwhile experience, and it is heartening to work alongside so many others with a passion for advocacy on behalf of libraries. I wish to thank AACRL for the opportunity to attend, as well as my director Rosemary Arneson, who allowed me to take time off to go to Washington. Finally, I appreciate the advice of Eric Kidwell, who answered my many questions about Legislative Day in the weeks before the trip.

Jason Cooper, Assistant Professor & Technical Services Librarian, University of Montevallo

DOPA, CALEA, and More Highlight Legislative Report

This issue's legislative report will be brief to give room to Jason Cooper's report on this year's American Library Association (ALA) Legislative Day held in May 2006.

Jason received the AACRL stipend to attend as a representative of Alabama's academic and research libraries. Below are a few of the most recent federal legislative issues to come across ALAWON, the ALA Washington Office network.

Deleting Online Predators Act (DOPA)

On July 26, by a vote of 410-15, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the amended H.R. 5319, the Deleting Online Predators Act (DOPA). ALA has opposed this bill and YALSA executive director Beth Yoke testified before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet presenting arguments against it.

Passage of DOPA would require all schools and libraries that receive E-rate funding to block access to social networking and chat room web sites. ALA has stated its position that a federal mandate over content control is very problematic and the issue best rests with local school districts and libraries who already possess the power to block such sites should they so choose.

DOPA is seen as presenting an undue burden on local schools and libraries as yet another condition of E-rate funding that could dissuade some communities from participating and benefiting from this funding. ALA takes the position that DOPA "... paints an unflattering and distorted view of the

Internet as a whole, serving to scare away parents, students, teachers and librarians from making use of all its resources."

Two other issues ALA has been watching are Network Neutrality and CALEA (Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act).

Network Neutrality

As ALA explains, "Network Neutrality (or 'net neutrality') is the concept of online non-discrimination. It is the principle that consumers/citizens should be free to get access to – or to provide – the Internet content and services they wish, and that consumer access should not be regulated based on

Visit
<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washnews/news.htm>
for current news

the nature or source of that content or service. Information providers – which may be web sites, online services, etc., and who may be affiliated with traditional commercial enterprises but who also may be individual citizens, libraries, schools, or nonprofit entities – should have essentially the same quality of access to distribute their offerings.

'Pipe' owners (carriers) should not be allowed to charge some information providers more money for the same

pipes, or establish exclusive deals that relegate everyone else (including small noncommercial or startup entities) to an Internet 'slow lane.' This principle should hold true even when a broadband provider is providing Internet carriage to a competitor."

ALA sees this as an Intellectual Freedom issue and an attempt to create classes of Internet users, regulating the less powerful and influential in the marketplace to second-class status by placing non-commercial in the "slow lanes" of the Internet.

Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA)

CALEA "... forces telecommunications carriers to comply with law enforcements' wiretapping requests. When the Act was passed, Congress drew a distinction between telecommunications services (telephony, fax, and the like) and 'information services' in order to balance privacy and regulatory interests. Consequently, CALEA applies only to telecommunication services; it explicitly exempts information services such as Internet services."

There are some questions about exactly how this legislation could affect colleges and universities and libraries. ALA, ACRL, and ARL have been working to gain an exemption for libraries.

For these and other legislative issues, consult the ALA Washington Office web site at <http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=washoff>.

Eric A. Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison

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LISTSERV@UAPDPO.DPO.UAB.EDU

News from the Membership

Nordis J. Smith, of Huntingdon College (reference, ILL, instruction librarian), has been promoted to the faculty rank of Librarian IV/Professor. She is also the incoming president of the Beta Kappa Chapter of Beta Phi Mu (taking over for Pat Henderson, whom we sadly lost), and has been elected as secretary of the Reference and Adult Services Round Table of the Alabama Library Association.

Eric A. Kidwell, Director, Houghton Memorial Library, Huntingdon College, was recently elected vice-chair/chair-elect of the Arts Section of the Association for College & Research Libraries.

Paula Barnett-Ellis, Health/Sciences Librarian/Assistant Professor, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University, presented a poster session, "Facebook-worms: The Impact of an Online Social Networking Trend on Academic Libraries," on June 26, 2006, at the 2006 American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans. The research for the project was conducted with Laurie Charnigo, Education Librarian at Jacksonville State University.

Robin Glaser, Technical Services Librarian, Troy University, Dothan, published an article in the July 2006 issue of the *Alabama Librarian*, "Internet

Sites in the Library Catalog: Where are We Now?"

Pam Morgan joined the faculty of The University of Alabama Libraries on August 1, 2006. She had previously been Director of Reference at the Chicago Public Library.

Maryellen Allen joined the faculty of The University of Alabama Libraries on April 3, 2006. She came from the University of South Florida Tampa Library where she was first a Reference and Government Documents Librarian for two years and then a Reference and Instruction Librarian for four years. During her last year at the University of South Florida Tampa Library, she was the coordinator of the Tampa Library's instruction program. She is currently working on a second master's degree in Instructional Systems Design and will graduate in December from FSU.

Beth Ashmore and Jill Grogg, Cataloging Librarian at Samford University and Electronic Resources Librarian at The University of Alabama respectively, have two articles forthcoming in *Searcher: The Magazine for Database Professionals*. The first article, "CrossRef at a Crossroads," is slated to appear in the September 2006 issue and the second article, "Has Google Gone Library?" is slated to appear later in late fall or early winter.

Treasurer's Report

On April 1, 2006, the balance in the AACRL bank account was \$5,116.50. Since that time, deposits of \$720.00, \$680.00, and \$600.00 (AACRL dinner receipts) have been made, for a total of \$2,000.00. Checks in the amount of \$1,262.76 (annual dinner catering), \$10.99 (reimbursement to Debbie Grimes for award frame), and \$500.00 (reimbursement to Jason Cooper for annual legislative day expenses) were issued.

Disbursements total \$1,773.75. \$3.30 in interest was accrued. As of July 7, 2006, the balance in the AACRL bank account was \$5,346.05. The annual reimbursement request for approved chapter expenses (totaling \$100.00) has been submitted to AACRL for its approval.

Bethany Skaggs, AACRL Treasurer

Nominations Sought for AACRL Award

Do you know an outstanding colleague or group who has made exceptional contributions to college and research libraries within the state of Alabama? If so, please consider nominating him or her or them for the AACRL Significant Contribution Award.

The purpose of the significant contribution award is to recognize achievements and contributions 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, and students enrolled in graduate library programs who work or reside in Alabama and who are associated with college, university, or research libraries.

The award is also open to organizations, groups, vendors, and other individuals who have contributed something of significance within the state of Alabama in the area of college and research libraries.

The winner(s) will be announced at the annual meeting in April and will be presented with a framed certificate. More information about the award is available on the AACRL web site, at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/>.

Email or mail a one page nomination letter with the name and contact information of the nominee and a description of his or her achievements and contributions to:

Jennifer Long
AACRL Past President
jmlong@uab.edu
Mervyn H. Sterne Library
University of Alabama at
Birmingham
917 13th Street South
Birmingham AL 35294-0014.

The deadline for submitting nominations is January 15, 2007.

Librarians Share Best Practices

Each year at the annual meeting of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA), AACRL joins forces with the College, University and Special Libraries Division (CUS) of ALLA to provide special programming for academic librarians.

These best practice sessions are an opportunity for Alabama librarians to learn from other Alabama librarians on topics that affect our daily lives in the library trenches.

These programs represent just one part of the vital communication between colleagues that makes the academic library community in Alabama so supportive and progressive.

Not only are these programs a place to acquire new skills and ideas but they are also a key opportunity for librarians to hone their presentation skills and receive feedback on their programming, which may lead to further developments and presentations on a regional or national level.

In the past, presentations have run the gamut from dealing with students workers to publishing in scholarly journals. High tech topics like working with portals and metadata have attracted audiences as well as people-oriented presentations on active learning and student engagement.

Just as the problems academic librarians face every day can seem endless, so are the possibilities that we can discover from addressing these challenges.

The wide variety of best practices

programs that have been presented since 2002 represent the undeniable creativity that librarians bring to the table every day. With the introduction of the mini-sessions in 2005, the programs have increased the number of topics and speakers presenting at each conference, giving our colleagues even more options for professional development.

So, what do you have to offer librarians across the state? What stories of challenges faced and surmounted can give others guidance? What new and innovative workflows or procedures have revolutionized your way of doing business?

What common sense solutions have you implemented that you think others might benefit from? April is closer than you think and before you know it, the request for proposals will be sent out so have your ideas ready.

Still not sure you have anything to offer? Check out programs from previous years for inspiration at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/annual/>.

The 2006 AACRL/CUS Best Practices Programs web page provides links to presentation handouts and slide shows to give you an even better idea of the kinds of programs that have been accepted in the past.

Watch the AACRL and CUS listservs for the call for program proposals. We look forward to learning from you in 2007!

Beth Ashmore, AACRL Webmaster

AACRL Calendar

August

August 29, 2006

SOLINET Workshop:
Customer Service and Communication
Birmingham Public Library
http://www.solinet.net/workshops/workshops_home.cfm

September

September 14, 2006

SOLINET Workshop:
Promoting Library Services Using
Blogs and RSS
Huntsville/Madison County Public
Library
http://www.solinet.net/workshops/workshops_home.cfm

September 23-30, 2006

Banned Books Week
<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>

October

October 6-7, 2006

Georgia Conference on Information
Literacy
Coastal Georgia Center - Savannah,
Georgia
<http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/infolit.html>

October 26-29, 2006

LITA National Forum
Nashville, Tennessee
<http://www.ala.org/ala/lita/litaevents/litanationalforum2006nashvillemn/2006forum.htm>

Have you seen the AACRL Web Site Lately?

The AACRL web site is chock full of information about our organization, including links to:

- ☞ relevant forms (such as membership forms);
- ☞ awards information (such as previous winners and current nomination instructions);
- ☞ current and consistently updated calendars;
- ☞ current and past newsletters;
- ☞ minutes, bylaws and much more.

Make the AACRL web site one of your favorites today! Go to:
<http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/>.



Sad news from University of Alabama, Auburn University

Libraries in Alabama recently lost two long-time members of the library community: Patricia Henderson of The University of Alabama Libraries and Barbara K. Nelson of the Auburn University Libraries.

Pat Henderson

The administration and staff of the University of Alabama Libraries were very saddened by the loss of Associate Dean Pat Henderson on May 6, 2006. Pat joined the UA Libraries in 1980 and spent most of her career developing its collections. In that capacity, she worked closely with faculty across campus and with librarians across the state as well as within ASERL and ALA.

Pat was also a past president of AACRL and was very active in our organization. Her passing is a great loss for the UA Libraries and for the various collaborative library efforts which she so greatly enjoyed advancing.

To honor Pat's memory, her col-

leagues have established an endowment bearing her name, which will support a clerical staff person in the UA Libraries who is working to earn a master's degree in library science. If you have questions or would like to support this effort by making a donation or pledging a gift over time, please contact Cheryl Altemara at caltemar@ua.edu, or mail your gift to University Libraries, Box 870266, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0266.

Barbara Nelson

The Auburn University Libraries were very saddened by the loss of Barbara K. Nelson, long-time Chair of the Acquisitions Department at Auburn, on August 3, 2006.

Barbara came to Auburn as Gifts and Exchange Librarian in 1978. She was named Order Librarian in 1979 and was appointed as Chair of the Acquisitions Department in 1998. Her many friends and associates include

colleagues at Auburn University and throughout Alabama and the Southeast; friends and associates with the Association of Christian Librarians, where she served as editor of the *Christian Periodical Index* for over a decade and from whom she received the Emily Russell Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Area of Christian Librarianship in 2000.

Barbara's contributions to Auburn University were numerous and wide-ranging. Barbara served on more than a dozen university committees and served on and chaired a host of library committees. Barbara also contributed more than twenty articles and papers to the literature of academic librarianship.

The grace, resiliency, and courage with which Barbara faced recurring cycles of sickness and treatment during the last years of her life will serve as a model and ideal to many who knew her.

AACRL Newsletter

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