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From the President

Quite a lot has happened on the national scene since my last President's Column in the August issue. Wall Street has collapsed and the federal government has come to the rescue with a \$700 billion bailout plan funded by you and me, the taxpayers. As of this writing, it is by no means clear if and how the American economy will recover. In this globalized economy we live in, the financial difficulties of Europe and Asia are also a factor. For now, energy prices are falling and this is very welcome news but all indications are that the days of \$4.00 per gallon gas (or worse) will return once the world economic picture starts to improve or if there is another Middle East crisis, etc. We now have a new President, Barack Obama. I don't envy him since he will face an absolute morass of complex and expensive problems when he takes office in January 2009.

I mention the above developments because they have or soon will have an impact on library funding. As we know, Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama Legislature earlier this year agreed to a proration formula that makes the cuts to the state education trust fund more severe for higher education than for K-12 institutions. Library funding, especially in the academic world, does not look too healthy for the foreseeable future. One of the few things we can do about it, though, is to make our voices heard by our elected officials through legislative advocacy.

There are several online resources available to provide you with information about federal and state legislation and with information on how to contact your legislators. See the American Library Association's Legislative Action Center web site at <http://capwiz.com/ala/home/>; the Alabama Library Association's "Capwiz" web site at <http://capwiz.com/ala/al/home/>; THOMAS at <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and the Alabama Legislative Information System Online (ALISON) at <http://www.alabama.gov/portal/index.jsp> (click on "Government" and then the "Alabama Legislature" link).

AACRL President-Elect Rickey Best is working on a program for the annual dinner/business meeting to be held April 8, 2009 in Auburn featuring Michael McLane, the ACRL Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy. This will be a good way to find out about national level advocacy efforts being made by academic librarians.

When I set out to be a librarian in 1979, I had no idea that there was a political dimension to my chosen profession. Whether we like it or not, political involvement via legislative advocacy appears to be one of the few courses of action we can take to make sure libraries are not casualties of the dismal economic times we are currently encountering.

Tim Dodge, AACRL President

Treasurer's Report -- November 10, 2008

The account balance, as of July 15, 2008, stood at \$5,547.56. Since that time, deposits of \$166.19 (for dues and reimbursement of costs from ACRL) have been made, and \$3.77 in interest has accrued. Disbursements of \$81.39 (for the AACRL website) have been made, and a charge of \$32.00 was made against the account for a check received and deposited which was returned for insufficient funds. The account balance, as of November 10, 2008, is \$5,604.13.

Susan Herring, AACRL Treasurer

Legislative News: EPA Libraries, Google and Fair Use

EPA Libraries Saved – For Now

In late September, the library world received the very good news that five EPA libraries were being reopened. You may recall that this has been an issue of concern since fall of 2006, when it was announced that the EPA libraries had shut the doors of three regional libraries with several others slated for closure or significant cutbacks. ALA asked librarians to contact their representatives in the U.S. Senate to ask that they sign the “Dear Colleague” letter that Senators Boxer of California and Lautenberg of New Jersey have written, which would require the EPA to maintain access and services at ALL its regional and headquarter libraries until sufficient investigation could be conducted on the closure issue.

On September 30, five regional libraries were reopened: Region 5 (located in Chicago and serving Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin), Region 6 (located in Dallas and serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Iowa), Region 7 (located in Kansas City and serving Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska), the EPA Headquarters Repository, and the Chemical Library, both located in D.C.

ALA President Jim Rettig, in response to the news, said, “We are glad to see that the EPA has reopened these five libraries. We hope that the federal government has obtained a better understanding of the importance of federal libraries through this difficult battle. ... We want to express our thanks to Congress for conducting the needed oversight and demanding that these EPA libraries not be closed. The American public will benefit by having important environmental information and library services made available to them again. ... We will continue to work with Congress and the EPA to assure that these libraries remain open and that full library services have been restored.”

Google Digitization Project Agreement Reached

Just a few weeks ago, news broke that Google, the Authors Guild, and the

Association of American Publishers (AAP), announced an important settlement in the much challenged Google Book Search digitization project. Authors and publishers had brought a class-action lawsuit to halt the project, asserting copyright infringement. ALA is reviewing the agreement (categorized as “extensive”) to establish its impact on libraries.

Harry Potter and Fair Use – Lexicon Loses But Attorney Sees Fair Use “Alive and Well”

Lastly, those of you who either are avid Harry Potter fans or like to keep up on fair use challenges (or both) probably have heard of the recent court case involving a certain librarian’s almost-published lexicon of Harry Potter that was challenged by J. K. Rowling, who asserted that it infringed upon her copyright. The lexicon was an outgrowth of Librarian Steven Vander Ark’s highly popular, well-researched, and Rowling-endorsed Harry Potter web site. However, his lexicon, to Rowling, overstepped the bounds of fair use. Vander Ark and his publisher ended on the losing side of the court case, though the judge in the matter, US District Court Judge Robert Patterson, stated that “reference guides to works of literature should generally be encouraged by copyright law as they provide a benefit [to] readers and students.” Applying the tests of what constitutes fair use, Judge Patterson did find that the lexicon’s “... purpose as a reference guide to the world of Harry Potter was transformative under the first fair-use factor—the purpose and character of the use—even though it did not contain significant commentary or analysis.” He also rejected Rowling’s assertion that the lexicon’s publication would have a negative market effect on her own planned encyclopedia, stating in his ruling that, “the market for reference guides to the Harry Potter works is not exclusively (Rowling’s) to exploit or license.” However, despite these findings, Vander Ark and his publisher did lose the case due to Judge Patterson’s determination that too many of the lexicon’s entries “... contained lengthy verbatim copies or

close paraphrases of descriptions in the Harry Potter novels and presented much of the information from two companion books written by Rowling.” Judge Patterson also found that, “... the Lexicon reproduced more of the original works than ‘reasonably necessary for the purpose of creating a useful and complete reference guide.’”

Jonathan Band, an attorney who represents library associations with regard to intellectual property issues, has written “How Fair Use Prevailed in the Harry Potter Case,” which is published by ARL and ALA and is available for download from ARL’s web site at <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/harrypotterrev2.pdf>.

Band thinks it noteworthy that the judgement against the defendant was the minimum allowed (\$750 per work infringed, which totaled \$6,750), since the judgement could have been as much as \$1.35 million. His assessment is that the judgement reflected the belief by the court that Vander Ark had acted with “... the reasonable belief that [the Lexicon’s] use of the Harry Potter works constituted fair use.” Band sees the outcome of this case as a strong example of the health of fair use, and emphasizes the important role the Fair Use Project of Stanford Law School’s Center for Internet and Society played in assisting the defendant. “(F)air use is best defended when those being sued have the resources to take on plaintiffs with deep pockets backed by big industry ... such public interest ‘law firms’ play a critical role in leveling the copyright-litigation playing field.”

For further information on legislative issues related to the library world, check the ALA Washington Office’s website at <http://www.wo.ala.org>. You can directly access the “District Dispatch” site at <http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch>.

*Eric Kidwell
AACRL Legislative
Liaison*

Mark Your Calendars! Annual Dinner Meeting

Mark your calendars for this year's annual meeting of the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries, which will take place during the annual meeting of the Alabama Library Association, April 7th – 10th, 2009. AACRL's annual dinner meeting and program will begin at 6:30 p.m., April 8th, 2009, at the Zazu Eclectic Eatery, 119 East Magnolia Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.

Our program will feature Michael McLane, ACRL Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy. Mike has served as director of libraries at the Catholic University of America; the Blackwell Library at Salisbury University, and as the director of libraries at SUNY Oswego. McLane holds Masters Degrees in Library Science and Higher Education Administration from Syracuse University. McLane also served as the executive director of the Central New York Library Resources Council in Syracuse, New York. McLane was appointed as ACRL Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy in 2007.

McLane will discuss the legislative advocacy program and how it integrates with ACRL's Strategic Plan's Goal Area: Advocacy. The target of this goal area is for ACRL to have greater influence on the higher education and research environment.

Strategic Objectives:

Increase ACRL's influence on campus information, academic, and communication technology priorities through meeting the following objectives:

1. Increase ACRL's communication on major trends and issues in libraries.
2. Strengthen partnerships with other organizations.
3. Increase ACRL's influence in public policy affecting higher education.
4. Increase ACRL's influence on accrediting entities.

As legislative advocacy is the theme of President Dodge's term of office, come join us to learn how to improve our abilities to effectively advocate for library issues on the state, national, and even local levels. For additional information on the Legislative Advocacy program, and on how to apply, visit the ACRL website:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/washingtonwatch/acrladvocates.cfm>

Information on registration and meals for the AACRL dinner meeting will be forthcoming.

*Rickey Best,
AACRL President Elect*

AACRL Membership: A professional bargain

Alabama ACRL membership is most likely one of the best professional bargains you can find. For \$6.00 a year or \$18.00 for three years, you can be a member of a professional organization. AACRL offers workshops around the state as well as sessions at the annual Alabama Library Association Conference. Each year AACRL sponsors a dinner meeting with a speaker during ALLA. In addition, you receive a newsletter and can subscribe to a list to keep you up to date about what is happening in the state and beyond.

AACRL also provides opportunities for professional engagement through involvement on the board and participation in workshops.

Renew your membership or join AACRL today. Membership forms and brochures can be found on the AACRL web site at <http://www.aacrl.org/membership/index.html>

*Millie Jackson
Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison*

“Pushing the Edge: Explore, Engage, Extend” : ACRL National Conference to be in the Emerald City

Explore ways to tackle the issues that face academic libraries in the 21st century. Engage in conversations with other professionals about instruction, assessment, authors and much more. Extend your knowledge of current issues and trends in librarianship. Where? In Seattle, the setting for the 14th ACRL National Conference, March 12-15, 2009. The biennial conference features speakers such as journalist Naomi Klein, author Sherman Alexie and *This American Life* host Ira Glass as well as sessions by librarians from throughout the U.S.

Six pre-conferences will take place on Thursday, March 12, dealing with issues like copyright, assessment and outreach. The main conference includes over 100 conference sessions. While in Seattle, you can also explore the city. A number of tours will be offered on Thursday, March 12. An all conference reception will be held at the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum.

Early bird registration ends on January 16, 2009 and advanced registration extends through February 6, 2009.

For more information about the conference, see www.aacrl.org

*Millie Jackson
Member-at-Large
ACRL Chapter Liaison*



News from the Membership . . .

Call for Nominations

We are looking for candidates to run for the offices of Vice-President/President-Elect and Treasurer of AACRL. Please submit nominations (including yourself, if you are interested!) to Rosemary Arneson at arnesonr@montevallo.edu.

Significant Contribution Award

Do you know of someone in the Alabama academic library community who deserves recognition for the work he or she has done? AACRL awards its Significant Contribution Award to recognize a librarian who has made a difference in our profession at any level, from local to international. The recipient of the award is recognized at the AACRL annual meeting and dinner in April.

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. Individuals receiving the award must be residents of Alabama, and his or her contributions must have been made while living in the state.

Nominations must be submitted by January 15th to be considered for this year's award.

Submit nominations to:

Rosemary Arneson
arnesonr@montevallo.edu
 University of Montevallo
 Carmichael Library
 Station 6100
 Montevallo, AL 35115

The **Network of Alabama Academic Libraries** has successfully concluded its two-year National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to create the Alabama Digital Preservation Network (<http://www.adpn.org>). Current AD-PNET members are Alabama Department of Archives and History, Auburn University, Spring Hill College, Troy University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and University of North Alabama. AD-PNet is a statewide, low-cost, distributed archive for locally-created digital files. Any Alabama repository may apply to join and store its archival files in AD-PNet. Files stored in AD-PNet are not accessible except to restore content lost by a member. For more information or to apply for membership, go to: <http://www.adpn.org>

Jody L. DeRidder has been appointed Head, Digital Services at the University of Alabama Libraries.

Lindley C. Shedd has been appointed Media Services Coordinator at the University of Alabama Libraries.

Mark J. Siciliano has been appointed as a Business Reference Librarian at the University of Alabama Libraries.

Clark Center has been appointed head of the Department of Archives and Southern History and Life at The University of Alabama Libraries. Mr. Center is University Archivist and Curator of Southern History and Life Collections and has been with the University Libraries since September 1991.

Jessica Lacher-Feldman has been appointed head of W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library's newly created department of Rare Books and Special Collections at The University of Alabama Libraries. Her title is Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections. Ms. Lacher-Feldman was formerly Public and Outreach Services Coordinator and has been with the University

Libraries since June 2000.

J. Scott Whiting was appointed library director for the Ellwanger - Hunt Learning Resource Center for Concordia College in Selma. Mr. Whiting earned his M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama.

Muriel K. Wells, Community Based Partnership School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, has been hired by retiring Congressman Bud Cramer of Alabama's 5th District to archive the collection of his papers, memorabilia, books, photos and other materials covering his terms as Madison County District Attorney and through his terms in the US Congress. The collection will be archived at the M. Louis Salmon Library at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Angela Rand has been hired as the Librarian and Head of Information Services for the University of South Alabama, Baldwin County Campus. Ms. Rand retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1996 as an aircraft electrician, where for six years she worked on Air Force One. She was the Information Technology/Systems Librarian at the Orange Beach Public Library where she worked for nine years, with previous positions at the Fairhope Library and Athens State University Library.

Tuskegee University students participated in the AVL Back to School Quiz 2008. An entry from one of the students was drawn at random, and the University Library received an Amazon gift certificate donated by ProQuest. Over 7,000 AVL users submitted entries. Prizes were donated by the AVL database vendors, and awarded in six categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, two-year college, four-year college/university, and public library.

News from the Membership (cont) . . .

Ellen Wilson, University of South Alabama, was selected to attend the ACRL National Immersion Program 2008 this summer in San Diego. Not only was she chosen to attend the highly selective program, but she received a scholarship from the ACRL to cover some of her expenses and was granted USA faculty development money for the rest. For a week at the end of July, Ellen immersed herself, with 60 other attendees and five master instruction librarians, in learning styles and theories, creative teaching ideas, presentation technologies, learning outcomes, assessment as learning discussion and student-centered teaching techniques.

The **Carmichael Library of the University of Montevallo** hosted a "Spooks in the Stacks" event on October 30. Ghost stories from UM were retold; members of Birmingham Paranormal were on hand to play sound clips of the spooky activity recorded in UM's King House; ten ceremonial altars were on display as part of the library's annual Day of the Dead celebration; and original documents from the University Archives were available to look at, including some of the papers that concern Montevallo's legendary ghost stories.

On October 14th, Faulkner University's English department featured a writing workshop conducted by local author Sara Dubose. A reception and book signing, hosted by **Gus Nichols Library**, followed. Students were able to meet the author and ask questions in an informal setting. Ms. Dubose's works include: *Where Hearts Live* and *Where Love Grows*. Her latest work is *A Promise of Tomorrow*.



Amy Prendergast, Science and Technology Librarian, University Library, University of South Alabama had a bibliographic essay entitled "Scientific Biography in the United States" published in the October 2008 issue of *Choice*.

On October 24, 2008, **Gus Nichols Library** hosted its annual Coffee Colloquium. The guest speaker was Associate Professor and Chair of Faulkner University's Education Department, Dr. Claudia Nisbett. In 1993, Dr. Nisbett was chosen to participate in a NASA Educational Workshop for Elementary School Teachers (NEWEST). Teachers chosen for NEWEST are selected by a committee made up from members of NASA, the National Science Teachers Association, the National School Teachers Association, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the International Technology Educators Association. During the two week program, teachers stay at Kennedy Space Center and are able to work directly with agency engineers and scientists. This program allows detailed learning of space, science, and technology for Math, Science and Technology instructors of Kindergarten through 6th grade. Dr. Nisbett shared her experiences with the audience through slides, pictures and various other memorabilia collected during her stay at NASA and discussed how significant the experience was to her in her classroom.

Welcome New Members!

Harold Goss, Jr., Reference & Instruction Librarian, Davis Library, Samford University

Dana Hettich, Reference Librarian, UAB-Sterne Library

Tyrone T. Webb, Director of Library Services, Bevill State Community College

A few reminders ...

If you haven't already done so, **subscribe to the AACRL listserv**. It's easy and simple to do. Just send the following message:

SUBSCRIBE AACRL

to

LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UAB.EDU

This listserv address was listed incorrectly in the August 2008 issue of the AACRL Newsletter -- the address above is correct.

The listserv is a great way to keep abreast of current happenings with AACRL. It is also a useful current awareness tool as subscribers post items of interest to librarians.

Renewals

Is It Time to Renew Your Membership?

Please look at the mailing label on your newsletter and check the date next to or under your name. This is the expiration date for your AACRL membership. If your membership expires in 2008, now would be a good time to renew! Send your membership form and check to:

Susan Herring, AACRL Treasurer
Athens State University Library
300 N. Beaty St.
Athens, AL 35611

The **AACRL Web** site is chock full of information, including links to relevant forms, awards, history, calendars, newsletters, minutes, bylaws and more. Go to:

<http://www.aacrl.org/index.html>

Is the date on your label 12/08?
Renew your membership now with the form at:
<http://www.aacrl.org/membership/index.html>

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