

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
ANNUAL PROGRAM/BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

WildFlour Bistro
Huntsville, Alabama
Wednesday, April 10, 2002
6:30 p.m.

The Annual Program/Business Meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by President Jean Thomason. Jean Thomason gave the welcome.

I. PROGRAM

Marcia Boosinger introduced the speaker, Dr. Mary Reichel, ACRL President and University Librarian at Appalachian State University. Dr. Reichel presented “Academic Libraries and the Web” which covered technology and higher education, partnerships in scholarship and teaching, and assessments of the web.

Dr. Reichel discussed her vision of technology and higher education. She believes that we are right at the cusp of technology having a transformational impact on higher education. She also believes that the web makes it easier for students to find information, but it is more difficult for them to analyze this information. She also believes that technology has opened up a whole new arena for faculty and that technology has improved access for all.

Dr. Reichel discussed how research has been transformed by the web. She mentioned an article by Blaise Cronin and Geoffrey McKim in which the authors argue that the web has transformed scholarship. They state that the emergence of the web as a central force in academic and research life is impossible to deny and that in addition to becoming the reference library of first and last resort, the web is reshaping the ways in which scholars communicate with one another. They also state that the web is a global commons that encourages serendipity and fosters scholarly foraging and discovery mode searching (“Science and Scholarship on the World Wide Web”, *Journal of Documentation* 52(2): 163-171). Dr. Reichel believes that research has been transformed by remote access, speciality databases with wide interest (examples: ICPSR at the University of Michigan, Documenting the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of South Alabama Archives, the Historical Map Archive at the University of Alabama, and DSpace at MIT), and informal methods of communication among scholars.

Dr. Reichel discussed partnerships in scholarship. She described several projects which illustrate how librarians have partnered with faculty to make scholarly information available on the web. These projects include the Civility Project and the Medieval Manuscripts Digitization Project at Johns Hopkins University (James G. Neal, "The Entrepreneurial Imperative: Advancing From Incremental to Radical Change in the Academic Library", *Portal: Libraries and the Academy* 1(1): 1-13) and the Scholarly Communication Center at Rutgers University (*Building a Scholarly Communications Center* by Boyd Collins). She also discussed libraries as scholarly publishers using the *Journal of Insect Science* published by the University of Arizona as an example. She also mentioned several scholarly communication initiatives including SPARC, Create Change, and the ACRL Task Force on Scholarly Communication.

Dr. Reichel discussed partnerships in teaching. Some examples of how librarians have partnered with faculty in regards to teaching include instruction and tutorials (University of Cincinnati), personalized portals (MyLibrary), information literacy, and assessment.

Dr. Reichel discussed some of the opportunities and challenges associated with the web. One opportunity is more librarian and faculty collaboration. Some challenges are web course software, campus portals, plagiarism, and preservation of digital information. Issues related to the preservation of digital information include access to rented journal databases, Tasini decision, costs, and evolving standards. Other challenges are students believing that information does not exist if not available on the web, organization of the web, and shortage of digital librarians.

Dr. Reichel quoted two statements from the book entitled *The Social Life of Information* by John Seely Brown and Paul Duguid. The first statement is that the web is a vast, disorderly, and very fast changing information repository with enormous quantities of overlapping and duplicate information. The second statement is that it has become increasingly clear that libraries are less collections than useful selections that gain their usefulness from what they exclude as much as what they hold. In her opinion, these statements illustrate the difference between online resources provided by libraries and information available on the web.

Dr. Reichel quoted a statement from an article by Ross Atkinson at Cornell University ("Library Functions, Scholarly Communication, and the Foundation of the Digital Library", *Library Quarterly* 66(3): 239-265). The statement is that a library, digital or otherwise, is always a highly selective subset of available information objects to which access is enhanced and to which the attention of users is drawn in opposition of objects excluded. In her opinion, this statement illustrates that we draw attention to what is in our collection through bibliographic control and promotion and that our real value is what we exclude as well as what we include.

Dr. Reichel concluded with the following thoughts. She believes that we have seen a transformation in scholarly communication. She also believes that print on paper can not adequately capture the richness of current scholarship which may be enhanced by images and multimedia on the web. She also believes that there has been an increase in original sources on the web such as databases, images, maps, manuscripts, and dissertations.

Dr. Reichel answered questions from the members.

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the 2001 Annual Program/Business Meeting were approved by the AACRL membership.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Alice Fields distributed the treasurer's report. The balance on the last bank statement was \$6,776.68. The current balance is approximately \$7,100 which includes dues and registration fees for the annual meeting. The Active Learning workshop held on January 23 had 41 member registrations and 7 non-member registrations, and the net profit was approximately \$105.

IV. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

New officers for 2002-2003:

President: Marcia Boosinger
Vice-President/President-Elect: Patty Pilkerton
Past President: Jean Thomason
Secretary: Kim Weatherford
Treasurer: Mary Alice Fields
Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison: Kathy Barone
Legislative Liaison: Eric Kidwell
Newsletter Editor: Della Darby
Webmaster: Bob Schrimsher

V. CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Jean Thomason recognized members of the Executive Board for 2001-2002. Certificates were presented to Tim Dodge, Marcia Boosinger, Jennifer Long, Mary Alice Fields, and Della Darby.

Marcia Boosinger thanked Jean Thomason and Della Darby for their work related to the AACRL Best Practices workshops held during the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) Annual Conference.

Adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Long
AACRL Secretary