

**Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries**

Annual Meeting

April 14, 2010

**Date, time, and place of meeting:** April 14, 2010, 6:00pm, at Terranova's Restaurant, Huntsville, AL

**Call to order:** Rickey Best called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

**Presentation of awards:**

Tim Dodge presented two awards. The AACRL Career Significant Contributions Award was presented (in absentia) to Sue Medina. The newly renamed Sue O. Medina Award for Significant Contribution was presented to Aaron Trehub.

Sue Medina's nomination letter for Aaron reads:

"I am writing to nominate Aaron Trehub, Assistant Dean for Technology and Technical Services, Auburn University Libraries, for recognition by AACRL. I urge AACRL to consider Aaron to receive its Significant Contribution Award.

"In 2001, NAAL received an IMLS award to develop a shared digital collection, now known as AlabamaMosaic. The software NAAL initially selected was an expensive disaster. Because Auburn University Libraries (AUL) hosted AlabamaMosaic on behalf of NAAL, AUL staff spent far too much time trying to make it work. It was difficult to use, and this prevented new sites from agreeing to contribute content. Shortly after the federal project funding ended, Aaron was appointed head of the AUL systems department. He analyzed the problems with AlabamaMosaic and recommended changing software. Although this migration would be very labor-intensive for the library systems staff, he felt the solution would be in the best interest of NAAL and AlabamaMosaic contributors. NAAL had the funds to pay for the new software, but not the new server. Aaron found the funds for AUL to pay for the server -- and without his support, I don't believe we would have AlabamaMosaic today.

"As the IMLS project for AlabamaMosaic neared its end, NAAL submitted a second IMLS proposal to add significant content to AlabamaMosaic. IMLS did not fund this grant, primarily because it lacked "innovation" and just continued the same kinds of activities from the first grant.

"At about the same time Aaron arrived in Alabama, NAAL's Digital Content Committee began meeting to consider reworking the failed proposal and make it more competitive. It was soon apparent that this was not possible - we had no way to make this project "innovative."

"Aaron raised the issue of digital preservation. He noted that AlabamaMosaic advised contributors that preservation of digital files would be their responsibility. However, there was no easily available, truly affordable digital archive solution available to most Alabama repositories. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

had demonstrated how devastatingly quick a disaster could wipe out whole collections, buildings, and communities. Writing digital files to a CD and tossing it on a shelf was not going to restore content in such situations.

“Aaron suggested that NAAL submit a proposal to adapt LOCKSS to archive locally created content. Aaron worked with the Committee to draft the proposal and agreed to serve as the project director if funded.

“(Note: LOCKSS was created to archive journal articles - each a small file and all written in reasonably consistent file formats. Aaron proposed adapting LOCKSS for files of different sizes (many very large) and in a variety of formats. If successful, Alabama would be on forefront of providing a solution that could be easily used by any group of cultural heritage repositories.)

“In 2006, NAAL received funding for the Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet), an INNOVATIVE model for a statewide, distributed, low cost preservation solution to archive locally created digital content. As project director (Oct 2006 - Sept 2008, Aaron worked tirelessly to make this project a resounding success. AND IT IS!!!

“During the project, Aaron was asked to meet with groups interested in the concept. He has continued to give numerous days to travel and meetings with other groups around the country. One such project is based in Canada - expanding his influence to the international arena. He continues to respond to requests for information and his willing to share his knowledge to the benefit of any group needed a preservation solution. All the while, Aaron makes sure that ADPNET lives up to the ideals stated for its creation. ADPNet truly is a MODEL for any group seeking a low cost preservation archive solution. In Alabama, any repository, not just NAAL or academic libraries, can apply to join ADPNet and preserve its digital files. Aaron's vision has placed Alabama academic libraries at the head of a very small, select group of cultural heritage repositories that changed from staling about the need to "do something" to preserve digital materials to truly DOING IT.

“While this nomination is primarily for Aaron's work to advance two NAAL projects, AlabamaMosaic and ADPNet, he deserves recognition for his work on behalf of research libraries everywhere. He is active in several ground-breaking initiatives fostered by the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of Southern Research Libraries. He supports these efforts with his keen understanding of the challenges facing libraries, his extensive knowledge of existing technology (its limitation or possibilities), and a current awareness of trends and new developments. He couples this with an amazing ability to work with groups - providing leadership in many ways. I respect Aaron because he does not need to be at the head of the parade - he works diligently to support efforts regardless of the appointed leader. Because of that, he is a natural leader to whom everyone looks for guidance and advice.

“Alabama as a state is so much richer for having attracted Aaron to his position at Auburn University Libraries. It is not just the academic libraries that benefit from his presence here. His efforts and

leadership insure that AlabamaMosaic and ADPNet will remain affordable and available for use by any Alabama repository.”

**Speaker:**

Charlcie Vann introduced the evening’s speaker, Dr. Jerry W. Stephens, director of the Mervyn H. Sterne Library at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Stephens spoke about the financial challenges to libraries presented by the current economy and urged librarians to seek creative and innovative solutions while remaining true to the core values and mission of their institutions.

**Business meeting:**

*President’s remarks:* Rickey Best reported that the new committees approved by the membership at last year’s meeting are up and running. He also presented certificates of service to the 2009-2010 AACRL executive board, and recognized outgoing member, Tim Dodge.

*ACRL activities:* Rickey Best reported that ACRL denied a request from the Chapters Council to rollover unused ACRL allocation funds from less active chapters to more active chapters.

*Treasurer’s report:* Muriel Wells reported that the account balance as of February 28<sup>th</sup> was \$5633.04. Since then, \$430 in dues and dinner registrations have been deposited. Interest in the amount of \$2.39 has been credited to the account, for an account balance of \$6065.43 as of April 14<sup>th</sup> (prior to the dinner bill.)

*By-laws committee report and vote:* Tim Dodge reported on the activities of the by-laws committee and presented for voting the recommendations of the committee, which had previously been approved by the Executive Board and presented to the membership in the March 2010 newsletter. The changes were approved by the membership. The changes are:

**AACRL By-Laws: Suggested Revisions  
December 2009**

**Additions:**

**Article VI – Officers**

**Section 3. Duties**

**b) The Vice President/President-Elect...**shall serve as Chair of the Continuing Education and Training Committee.

**e) The Past President...**shall serve as Chair of the By-Laws Committee.

**h) The Legislative Liaison..**shall also serve as Chair of the Committee on Government Relations.

#### **Article VII – Executive Board**

**The voting members of the Executive Board shall consist of...**Legislative Liaison, and the Web Manager.

#### **Article VIII – Committees**

**Section 1. Committees.** Add the Awards Committee. [See also **Section 2. Appointments** below for composition of this committee].

**Section 2. Appointments.** Members and chairs of all committees shall be ~~made~~appointed...

Terms of appointment for committee members who are not officers serving on the AACRL Executive Board shall be for staggered two-year terms with reappointment being possible.

**The ~~Treasurer~~ Member-at-Large/Chapter Liaison shall chair the Membership Committee...**

The Past-President shall chair the Awards Committee and membership will be comprised of the Member-at-Large/Chapter Liaison and Secretary.

**The Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee** which shall have at least two other members one of whom shall be the Member-at-Large/Chapter Liaison.

*Election of officers:* Tim Dodge reported the results of the election. Lori Northrup of Samford University will serve as vice-president/president-elect. Ellen Wilson of the University of South Alabama will serve a second term as secretary. Yingqi Tang of Jacksonville State University will serve as member-at-large/chapter liaison.

*Incoming president remarks:* Charlcie Vann thanked the executive board and the membership for their support. She presented Rickey Best with a plaque in appreciation.

*Musical interlude:* Tim “Dr. Hepcat” Dodge played a spirited rendition of “Where Shall I Be When the Great Trumpet Sounds” on the restaurant piano.

**Adjournment:** Charlcie Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen K. Wilson  
AACRL Secretary