

Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries

August 2008
AACRL Newsletter

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From the President

In this age of limited resources, recycling is a good idea, and those of you who have been AACRL members for a while know that I am being recycled as AACRL President. I had the honor of serving in this office in 2000-2001 and I thank you all for electing me again. Susan Herring, AACRL Treasurer, is also a recycled officer; Eric Kidwell (who served as AACRL President in 1992-1993) has been serving as AACRL Legislative Liaison for a number of years. Having experienced, willing-to-serve officers in place is a good thing, but it may be symptomatic of something not so good: a lack of members and a lack of interest.

Many members of AACRL are also members of the Alabama Library Association. That very worthy association has a division for academic librarians – CUS (College, University, and Special Libraries) which represents the concerns of the academic library community well. However, the focus of the Alabama Library Association is often on the worlds of public libraries and school and children's libraries which means that the interests and aspirations of the academic library world can be under represented. That's where AACRL steps in.

Although a relatively small association, the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries is truly dedicated to serving the needs of a variety of academic institutions including four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, technical colleges, and other research institutions (see the AACRL web site at <http://www.aacrl.org/> for more information). In order for us to be effective, we need your support and participation! Please be sure to renew your membership (the expiration date is listed on the newsletter mailing label) and encourage your colleagues to join. Even better, when the call for nominations comes out, volunteer to run for office! New people bring in new ideas.

Recycling is good and I might consider running yet again eight years or so down the line, but, surely there are other academic librarians among the membership who can help lead AACRL into the future.

Tim Dodge, AACRL President

Nominations Sought for AACRL Positions

Answer Tim's call. Consider becoming more active in AACRL by running for an officer position. 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.

ACRL Chapters Council Focuses on Advocacy and Member Benefits

The annual meeting of the ACRL Chapters Council was held Sunday, June 29, 2008 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. Millie Jackson and Tim Dodge represented the Alabama Chapter of ACRL. The council heard reports from Kathy Parson, Chair of the ACRL Chapters Council, Julie Todaro, ACRL President, Erika Linke, ACRL President-Elect, Mary Ellen Davis, Executive Director, and Michael McLane, Volunteer for Legislative Activities.

Julie Todaro and Mary Ellen Davis both addressed resources valuable to chapters and to libraries. Dr. Todaro spoke about innovations planned for the President's Program held Monday, June 30. Dr. Dan Ariely from MIT spoke on the topic "Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions." Dr. Ariely's research focuses on why humans react the way they do to advertisements and product placement. Twitter was used to send questions during the presentation. Dr. Todaro also highlighted ACRL wikis. See http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main_Page for a list.

Interest Groups Debut

Mary Ellen Davis highlighted information from the Leadership Council meeting held on Friday, June 27. More than 97% of ACRL's membership voted to include Interest Groups as an option for members. These groups will help the organization remain nimble since they can be formed around interests, such as emerging trends, of members currently not reflected in sections. Interest groups will be able to conduct activities like other ACRL groups. These groups reach sunset every three years.

Shorter Conferences

Other news included the discussions to shorten the ALA conferences by one day. ALA is considering the cost of travel and attendance, as well as the high costs associated with putting on a conference the size of ALA. Through more effective

utilization of space, the conference can be shortened. Divisions will be required to hold at least 50% of their meetings in non-prime time hours. Meetings will begin at 8 am and will run until 6 pm. ACRL is also looking at a new, refereed process, overseen by the Professional Development Committee, for reviewing programs held at conferences. ACRL is currently seeking input from sections on this new process.

Virtual Programming

A number of ACRL professional development virtual programs are available to chapters. *The ACRL Insider* is a blog highlighting governance and other business. *Springboard* is a new, free professional development program that is a member benefit. The first event, hosted by Henry Jenkins, had 250 in attendance, representing 50% of the registrants. The usual expected turnout for free online events is 10%. There have been four OnPoint sessions held. ACRL is seeking ideas for topics. Another member benefit highlighted was the Tip Sheets for meeting effectiveness and podcasts. This was an initiative from the EBSS section.

Pushing the Edge: Explore, Engage, Extend: ACRL March 2009

ACRL will hold its biennial conference in Seattle in March 12-15, 2009. Details are posted on the conference website at www.acrl.org/seattle. Registration opens in September and there is time to submit roundtables and poster sessions. Keynote speakers include Naomi Klein, a syndicated journalist, author and activist; Sherman Alexie, author of *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, *Smoke Signals* and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*; and Ira Glass, radio producer and host of *This American Life* from Chicago Public Radio.

The Women's Leadership Institute for women interested in administrative positions is also coming up. The Institute will be held in December 2008 on

Amelia Island, Florida.

Advocacy Opportunities

Erika Linke and Michael McLane both discussed advocacy. One point that was stressed is that **as a 501c3 organization, ACRL can not endorse or mention specific political candidates in any written communications**, including listservs. This is a violation of tax codes and could jeopardize the nonprofit status of ALA and all of its sections. We can, however, be advocates in many other ways. Both Linke and McLane noted that few academic librarians participate in legislative advocacy. This is an opportunity to speak to congressmen or their staffs about issues that are important to libraries and to higher education.

Linke reminded us that advocacy is a single message repeated over and over again – the important thing is to remain focused and work to move issues forward. Examples of issues that can be discussed by academic librarians include the importance of the Depository Program for Government Documents and the Orphan Works legislation. There are currently sixty librarians who are designated as legislative advocates. The important points stressed about advocacy were to educate yourself prior to speaking to elected officials, that going to Washington, D.C. is not required to be an effective advocate and that it does not require attendance at ALA conferences. Advocacy may be most effective at the grassroots level, at the home offices in the official's districts. If you are interested in applying to be a legislative advocate, see <http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/washingtonwatch/acrladvocates.cfm>.

Election of Officers

The meeting concluded with election of officers. Judith Pinnolis, Brandeis University, was elected as chair-elect and Anna Salyer, University of Washington, Tacoma, was elected as secretary. The chapter's council will meet again during the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver.

Millie Jackson
ACRL Chapter Liaison

Julie Todaro Speaks at Annual Meeting

Jerry Stephens Honored

The annual AACRL dinner and business meeting, held at Lovoy's Italian Restaurant in Birmingham on April 23, featured ACRL President Julie Todaro as keynote speaker and the presentation of the AACRL Significant Contribution Award to Dr. Jerry Stephens.

Thanks to funding from the ACRL Chapter Speakers Bureau, AACRL was able to host Dr. Julie Todaro, ACRL President, and Dean for Library Services at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas. Dr. Todaro spoke on "Staffing Issues for 21st. Century Academic Libraries" Using humor, current research, and statistics, Dr. Todaro spoke about the massive changes affecting academic libraries and how these developments are affecting how we need to staff our libraries now and in the near future. Dr. Todaro also provided a handout that included two tables featuring the changing "environments" of higher education and libraries in higher education. To indicate just how dynamic things are, she said that she finds it necessary to make weekly changes to these tables.

Outgoing AACRL President Rosemary Arneson presented a plaque to Dr. Jerry Stephens, Director of the Mervyn H. Sterne Library at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, in honor of his being the recipient of the AACRL Significant Contribution Award. The award recognizes the achievements and significant contributions of organizations, groups, vendors and individuals in the area of college and research libraries in Alabama, on the local, state, regional, national and international level. Dr. Stephens helped establish the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) in 1984; he also

helped lead the effort to implement the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) in 1998. Additionally, Dr. Stephens has served on several boards, councils, and committees including the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Board of Trustees, the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) Board, various Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation teams, and the Library Service Construction Act (LSCA) Advisory Council for the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS).

Tim Dodge
AACRL President

Treasurer's Report

August 13, 2008

At the time of the 2008 Annual Meeting, on April 23, 2008, the account balance stood at \$7,027.60. Since that time, deposits of \$68.00 (for dues, workshop registration, and reimbursement of a bank fee) have been made, and \$2.68 in interest has accrued. Disbursements of \$1548.90 (for the annual dinner costs and legislative day) have been made. One \$26.00 check has been returned for non-sufficient funds, incurring a fee of \$6.00. The account balance, as of August 13, 2008, stands at \$5,515.82. One dues check for \$6.99 and a \$106.19 check from ACRL for reimbursement of newsletter and web hosting have been received but not deposited. These bring the total balance to \$5,628.01.

Susan D. Herring,
AACRL Treasurer

Nominations Sought for AACRL 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 that year's award.

Submit nominations to:

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News from the Membership

Congratulations to **Jill Grogg**, E-Resources Librarian at The University of Alabama Libraries, and **Jeff Weddle**, Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at The University of Alabama, who welcomed a new baby girl, Harper Ann Weddle, on February 16, 2008.

Kim Herndon was recently named the new director of the University Library at Samford University. She comes from Shorter College, Rome, Georgia, where she served as dean of libraries since 2001. Ms. Herndon has a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics from the University of Georgia and a MLS from the University of Alabama.

Jeff Luzius was selected to serve as Director of the Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center (formerly Air University Library) at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery. Dr. Luzius is currently Director of Libraries at Gadsden State Community College. He is scheduled to assume his new duties on August 18th.

Susan Holt, Head of Technical Services at Mervyn H. Sterne Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham, retired in December 2007. Ms. Holt was a cataloging librarian at Sterne Library for 30 years.

Carolyn Walden has been promoted to Head of Cataloging at the Mervyn H. Sterne Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has been a cataloging librarian at Sterne since 1978.

Piper Cumbo was hired as General Reference Librarian at Mervyn H. Sterne Library, University of

Alabama at Birmingham. Prior to coming to Sterne Library, she was Law Librarian for the Birmingham law firm of Cabaniss, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas, & O'Neal.

Dana Hettich was hired as General Reference Librarian at Mervyn H. Sterne Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham. Previously, she was Collection Development/Reference Librarian and Instructor of Library Science at Gainesville College, John Harrison Hosch Library.

Irina Stanishevskaya was promoted to Cataloging Librarian at Mervyn H. Sterne Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham. She previously held positions as Librarian; Bibliographer; and Head of the Department of Scientific, Fiction, and Foreign Literature at Belarusian State University.

Laura Simpson was hired as Cataloging Librarian at Mervyn H. Sterne Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham. She was most recently Catalog Librarian/Systems Administrator at Lambuth University.

Imelda Vetter was hired as Reference Librarian for Education at Mervyn H. Sterne Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham. She previously held positions as a Cataloger and an Information Consultant at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Andrea Wright was hired as the Technology and Information Resources Librarian at the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library in March after completing her MLIS at the University of Alabama School of Library and

Information Studies in December 2007.

Beverly Rossini was hired as Outreach/Information Resources Librarian at the Baugh Biomedical Library, University of South Alabama. Prior to obtaining her M.L.I.S. Mrs. Rossini taught high school with the Mobile County Public School System.

Robert M. Britton was hired as Electronic Resources/Collection Development Librarian at the Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library, University of South Alabama. He is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies department.

Robbin Glaser, Technical Services Librarian, Troy University at Dothan, presented a poster session, "Summers Are Spectacular: How One Academic Library Supports a Summer Children's Education Program," at the American Library Association Annual Meeting in Anaheim on July 1.

Welcome New Members!

- **Jennifer L. Wolfe**, Reference Librarian, Athens State University Library
- **Valerie D. Glenn**, Government Documents Librarian, University of Alabama Libraries
- **Susanna R. Smith**, Library Specialist, Gadsden Community College; effective August 1, will be Branch Supervisor at Gadsden State – Cherokee
- **Piper Cumbo**, General Reference Librarian, Mervyn Sterne Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Creative Ideas Abound at Best Practices 2008

The AACRL and CUS sponsored Best Practices programs at the Alabama Library Association Conference in April did not disappoint. With packed audiences from all over the Alabama library community, this year's speakers shared new approaches to both old and new dilemmas.

The programs kicked off with Rachel Fleming-May and Lisa Yuro from the University of Alabama who shared with us the results of their research on the library needs of doctoral students. Borrowing research methods more commonly seen in business and marketing, the presenters were able to shed some light not only on how doctoral students perceive and use the library, but also how we as academic librarians can adapt to serve them better and foster a whole new generation of library-friendly faculty.

The next two presentations provided insight and guidance on using some of the wonderful new technology that seems to be the plague of many librarians and libraries. Steven L. MacCall, PhD, also from the University of Alabama, gave us similes to help us grasp the sometimes ephemeral and confusing nature of Library 2.0 technologies. These similes not only provide a basis for understanding these new tools and services, but they also shed some light on how one might integrate them into one's daily life for maximum benefit as well as explain them to our users.

Adrienne R. McPhaul from the University of Southern Mississippi went one step further and shared with us her diary from the trenches of a podcasting pilot project. Both the challenges and the successes that Adrienne experienced as well as her frank advice to the many audience members with questions

helped to demystify this new popular avenue for library outreach and education.

Speaking of outreach and education, Nancy Noe finished out the programs with some of the innovative programming that the Auburn University Libraries are using to revitalize their instruction and outreach efforts. Focusing on viewing the library as a "student comfort zone," Nancy and her fellow librarians were able to make changes, some which might sound pretty scary to your average librarian, that helped to create a more inviting and student-centric environment, without leading to utter chaos and the building being taken over by vermin.

The quality of work that is going on in Alabama's libraries never ceases to amaze and the AACRL/CUS Best Practices sessions are merely a taste of it. If you missed the presentations or you did not get a handout, visit the AACRL webpage at <http://www.aacrl.org/annual/> for more information about these and other Best Practices presentations. The next ALLA conference is never far away and a call for new presentation proposals will be out before you know it, so ask yourself, how have you improved your library today?

Beth Ashmore
2008 AACRL/CUS
Best Practices Program
Coordinator

"National Library Legislative Day,"

continued from back cover

It was quite an experience walking through the Capitol area. In addition to several hundred librarians, we saw hundreds, perhaps thousands of people including a large group of people wearing purple ribbons representing the Alzheimer's Association (probably lobbying for research funds is my guess). I saw a group of well-dressed older gentlemen wearing badges indicating they were part of the National Brewers Association. There were school buses everywhere disgorging large groups of junior high and high school students going on tours of the Capitol.

Democracy in action! What a privilege it was to have been a part of it! Depending on my funding and scheduling situation next year, I hope to participate again in National Library Legislative Day and I encourage all readers to do the same, if possible. We all, to varying degrees, get concerned about federal (as well as state and local) legislation affecting libraries. Grumbling about it is futile. Contacting your Senator or Representative by letter, phone, e-mail, or fax is definitely helpful. Being able to speak directly to your Senator or Representative in person or at least his/her office staff really helps bring across the importance of your concerns and is more likely to make a genuine impression than not. I'm grateful to have had the chance to do so during National Library Legislative Day 2008!

Tim Dodge
AACRL President

National Library Legislative Day

Thanks, in part to \$500 in funding from AACRL, I was able to attend and participate in the American Library Association Washington Office's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. on May 13-14.

Tuesday, May 13, was devoted to an all-day briefing session by various ALA staff members plus guest speakers on important current federal legislation of interest to the library world such as Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Improving Literacy through School Libraries Program (itself a part of the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act), plus telecommunications and broadband issues, funding for the National Ag-

riculture Library, and more. There were around 400 librarians and library supporters from all over the U.S.A. in attendance.

The actual National Library Legislative Day itself took place all day on Wednesday, May 14. Representing Alabama were yours truly plus Alabama Public Library Service Director Rebecca Mitchell (Alabama Library Association President in 2000-2001) plus her husband, Derick Mitchell. Let me express my appreciation to Rebecca and Derick who are old hands at NLLD since they provided many useful suggestions and knew their way around the confusing maze of Congressional office buildings and underground tunnels.

Since we had only about 20

minutes per Congressional office we kept things brief and focused only on two major issues apiece. Rebecca covered funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the rural telecommunications component of the Farm Bill, while I covered the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program component of the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, and funding for the National Agriculture Library.

We visited all nine Alabama Congressional offices that day. Each of us spoke to the Congresspeople or their office staff and, I believe, we were able to make a strong case for supporting these items of legislation.

“National Library Legislative Day,”

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