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**From the AACRL President . . . .**  
*Robert Schrimsher*

As the year slowly winds down, a small reflection on the past year's activities brings me to some conclusions. I would like to highly encourage AACRL members (and even if you are not a member) to become involved in the AACRL's activities.

The annual meetings, workshops, etc., are planned basically for the membership. Obviously, we all cannot attend each and every available library function for numerous reasons: travel allowances and mere available time and energy.

However, I would like to emphasize the importance and virtually the necessity of being involved in state library associations/organizations.

Clearly, we (AACRL) would desire you to become involved in our organization since the design and purpose is for academic librarians; however, from a larger perspective, be involved in some type of library association. The advantages of this should be apparent.

As I have traveled around the state, attending several state library association meetings of various types, workshops, annual meetings, etc., I am

constantly learning new endeavors via interaction with other librarians. It is analogous to the "been there -- done that" saying.

You might be surprised by talking to others that most librarians face similar problems and issues. This "networking" effect can be very advantageous in other ways, especially if you are a relatively new librarian or seeking to advance in librarianship.

Point-in-case, I came to be the pharmacy librarian because a fellow medical librarian knew of the vacancy and emailed me the announcement.

The last viable reason to become involved is that, normally for academic librarians, your promotion portfolio mandates or highly suggests that you seek responsible positions in library associations. This is both your professionalism and service aspect of your portfolio and trust me, it is very important.

So, become involved. If not AACRL, some type of library association. If you have not discovered it by now, academic librarians have different problems/issues than other librarian types.

It will be surprising to you that by simply becoming involved, some problems may be solved by an effortless conversation with your peers.

**Welcome New Members!**

**Maryellen Allen**, Distance Education/  
Reference Librarian,  
Gorgas Library, University of  
Alabama

**Dusty Folds**, Student,  
School of Libraries and  
Information Studies,  
The University of Alabama

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## Legislative Update: EPA Libraries

The big legislative news of late has been the controversy over closure of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) libraries. At the end of October 2006, ALA was asking librarians and those who care about libraries to contact their U.S. senators and ask that they sign the "Dear Colleague" letter that Senators Boxer of California and Lautenberg of New Jersey have written.

The letter asks "... the Appropriators to direct EPA to maintain access and research expertise at all of EPA's regional and headquarter libraries until the Agency solicits adequate public and Congressional input." On behalf of AACRL, I contacted Alabama's U.S. senators requesting that they support the Boxer-Lautenberg letter.

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*"The big legislative news of late has been the controversy over closure of EPA libraries."*

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The letter goes on to state that "... Government representatives, businesses and citizens use information in these libraries to protect public health, enforce environmental laws, and promote sound decision-making. We are concerned that EPA is already dismantling its unique library system without including the public or Members of Congress in the decision-making. Congress should not allow EPA to gut its library system, which plays a critical role in supporting the Agency's mission to protect the environment and public health. ... EPA has already eliminated or reduced library service to the public in seven EPA regions covering 31 states and is planning to close its Headquarters' library and maintain it only as a repository ..."

It's pointed out that its own report in 2004 demonstrated the cost-effectiveness of the EPA library system and that "... libraries saved EPA professional staff \$7.5 million and non-EPA person-

nel \$2.8 million, in 2003; and that one-third of the libraries' work gave EPA \$22 million in benefits."

Various library organizations have opposed the closures stating that the EPA libraries have "... unique collections, including an estimated 50,000 one-of-a-kind primary source documents that are available nowhere else." There is also concern about the EPA's ability to respond to emergencies if the library closures continue and become permanent. The closures that have already occurred include:

- Region 5, which served Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- Regions 6, which serves Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Iowa.
- Region 7, which serves Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.
- Additional libraries have been closed to the public (Region 2 Library, which served New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) and reductions of access to both EPA staff and the public have occurred for EPA Region 1, which serves Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. EPA Region 9, which serves Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and Tribal Nations. EPA Region 10, which serves Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Native Tribes. And the EPA Headquarters.

For more information, or to keep abreast of developments on this issue, visit the ALA Washington Office's ALAWON site at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washnews/news.htm>

*Eric A. Kidwell  
AACRL Legislative Liaison*

## News from the Membership

**Charlcie Pettway Vann** was hired in August 2006 as General Reference/Instruction Librarian at Jacksonville State University.

**Beth Ashmore and Jill Grogg**, Cataloging Librarian at Samford University and Electronic Resources Librarian at The University of Alabama respectively, published the cover story, "Google and OCLC Open Libraries on the Open Web," for the November/December 2006 issue of *Searcher: The Magazine for Database Professionals*.

**Maryellen Allen**, Distance Learning/Reference Librarian at The University of Alabama co-authored a book with Louise E. Alcorn: *Wireless Networking, A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians* (Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., 2006). Allen also co-authored an article with Cheryl Dee: "A Survey of Usability of Digital Reference Services on Academic Health Science Library Web Sites," *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 32, no. 1 (2006): 69-78.

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UAB.EDU

# Updated AACRL Liaison List Available by Institution

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## Annual Meeting Update, Survey

AACRL has traditionally held its annual membership meeting during the Alabama Library Association's Annual Convention, and our format has been to have a dinner meeting followed by a speaker or other program. We're starting to think about our annual meeting for this spring, which will be held on Wednesday April 18, 2007, and we need your input! Please take a few minutes to complete the survey on the AACRL web site (<http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/annual/dinnersurvey.htm>) to let us know what your preferences for this year's annual meeting are. Also, if you live in the Gulf Shores/Mobile area and are willing to work with me to find a suitable location for this meeting, please include your name and email address on the survey.

*Rosemary Arneson  
AACRL Vice-President/  
President-Elect*

### Treasurer's Report

On July 7, 2006, the AACRL bank account balance was \$5,346.05. Since that time, no deposits or disbursements have been made. \$4.77 in interest has accrued. As of September 22, 2006, the balance in the AACRL bank account was \$5,350.82. The annual reimbursement request for newsletter related expenses was submitted to ACRL but was denied on the grounds that the expenses were not "for a charitable or educational purpose." ACRL has since modified its policy, and AACRL sent in the updated reimbursement request form in October.

*Bethany Skaggs,  
AACRL Treasurer*

## Nominate Colleagues for 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 at <http://www.aacrl.org/awards/>.

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

Jennifer Long  
AACRL Past President  
Mervyn H. Sterne Library  
University of Alabama at  
Birmingham  
917 13th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0014  
[email] [jmlong@uab.edu](mailto:jmlong@uab.edu)

The **deadline** for submitting nominations is **Monday, January 15, 2007**.

## ACRL Chapters Council Report

Alyssa Martin and Rosemary Arneson attended the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Chapters Council meeting during the 2006 American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans.

The meeting included an orientation for Chapters Council representatives, including the relationship between state chapters and national ACRL.

Highlights of the meeting included reports from ACRL President Camila Alire and President-Elect Pam Snelson. Mary Ellen Davis, Executive Director of ACRL, and Megan Bielefeld, ACRL Program Coordinator, discussed the support that the national office provides for state chapters, including a speaker's bureau that allows chapters to bring national officers to the state for meetings and conferences.

All members of ACRL should have received a copy of *The Power of Personal Persuasion: Advancing the Academic Library Agenda* from the

Front Lines.

This toolkit was developed during Camila Alire's presidency to help librarians at all levels become better advocates for their organizations. ACRL has developed a program that incorporates the ideas presented in the toolkit.

The preliminary version of this program will be presented during the ACRL National Conference in Baltimore in 2007, and chapters will be able to arrange to have a state program on the topic in the following year.

AACRL members interested in the activities of the Chapters Council and of other state and regional organizations are encouraged to check out ACRL Chapter Topics at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlchapters/chaptertopics/chaptertopics.htm>.

*Rosemary Arneson  
AACRL Vice-President/  
President-Elect*



## AACRL Seeks New Officers

Please consider becoming more active in AACRL by running for one of two officer positions, Vice-President/President-Elect and Treasurer.

The elections will be held in early spring 2007, and the new officers will be installed at the annual meeting in April.

The position of Vice-President/President-Elect is a three-year commitment with the second year served as President and the third as Past President.

The position of Treasurer is a two-year commitment. More information about the positions is available at <http://www.aacrl.org/bylaws/bylaw2005.pdf>.

[www.aacrl.org/bylaws/bylaw2005.pdf](http://www.aacrl.org/bylaws/bylaw2005.pdf).

Nominees must be current members of (or be willing to join) both AACRL and the ACRL division of the American Library Association. Self-nominations are welcome.

Please send nominations and/or inquiries to:

Jennifer Long,  
AACRL Past President  
[email] [jmlong@uab.edu](mailto:jmlong@uab.edu)

The **deadline** for submitting nominations is **Monday, January 15, 2007**.

## AACRL Now Has a New Web Site

The AACRL has a new web site address and a new look. The new web site address is: <http://www.aacrl.org/>.

With approval from the AACRL Executive Board, the AACRL Webmaster, Beth Ashmore, moved the site's contents to a new third-party hosting service that is independent of any particular Alabama institution.

The site was previously hosted at Samford University, but by moving the site to a third-party service, the Executive Board anticipates a smoother transition from one AACRL Webmaster to the next.

The third-party service is Aplus.net (<http://www.aplus.net/>), and Beth is familiar with this service as she uses it to host her popular site, The Researching

Librarian (<http://www.researchinglibrarian.com>).

Along with a new address, the AACRL web site has also undergone an interface redesign.

Beth has redesigned the site using the new ACRL-provided logo for ACRL chapters. Beth also improved the site's navigation and added a number of other features.

Please take some time to browse the new web site. Remember: It is now located at <http://www.aacrl.org>. However, should someone visit the old URL, Beth has redirected all web site visitors to the new address.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Beth at: [beashmor@samford.edu](mailto:beashmor@samford.edu).

## AACRL Member to Host Dinner

Lisa Yuro, Reference Librarian, Gorgas Information Services, The University of Alabama Libraries, will be the host for one of the Dinners with Colleagues at the Association of College and Research Libraries 13th National Conference in Baltimore.

Lisa will be the host for the Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS) dinner, and she indicates that these dinners are an opportunity for those interested in a particular section to learn more about the section's activities and purpose.

Membership in a section is not necessary to attend a dinner, although attendance at a dinner is a great way to meet others who are interested in a specific field.

Other ACRL sections will have similar dinners, and the dinners will be posted on the ACRL 13th National Conference web site (<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlevents/baltimore/baltimore.htm>) after the first of the year in 2007.

## AACRL Calendar

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

### December

#### December 19, 2006

SOLINET Workshop:  
Xtreme Web Searching  
Birmingham Public Library  
<http://www.solinet.net/workshops/>

### January

#### January 19-22, 2007

2007 American Library Association  
Midwinter Meeting  
Seattle, Washington  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2007/home.htm>

### March/April

#### March 29-April 1, 2007

ACRL 13th National Conference  
Baltimore, Maryland  
<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlevents/baltimore/baltimore.htm>

### Have you seen the new AACRL Web Site?

The new AACRL web site is located at <http://www.aacrl.org>. In addition to a new look, 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 new AACRL web site one of your favorites today!

Visit the new AACRL Web Site!  
Now available at:  
<http://www.aacrl.org>

Check the date on your label!  
Renew your membership  
at:  
<http://www.aacrl.org/membership/>

**AACRL Newsletter**

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