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From the President

As we approach the holiday season, it is important to take a moment to reflect on this past year. The library profession saw numerous challenges and changes, some exciting (OCLC's introduction of WorldCat Quick Start and the implementation of ALA Connect – a virtual, collaborative workspace), some sad (the loss of Judith Krug, director of the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom). Throughout the year, however, we have been coping with change brought about by declining funding, which impacts how we serve our patrons and our ability to provide them with the resources they need.

Change is occurring both at the national level with ACRL, as well as at the local chapter levels. New policies implemented by ACRL President Lori Goetsch are allowing for members to participate in committee work virtually, eliminating the need for traveling to conference sites. Locally, AACRL has implemented its new committee structure, and the committees are actively at work. At our April meeting, we will present to the Chapter a revised set of by-laws.

The one constant in this year of change is the importance of advocacy. Jim Rettig, Past-President, and Camila Alire, current President of the American Library Association, both focused upon the need for advocacy. In recent weeks, we have seen calls requesting support for the positions of both ACRL and ALA on the Patriot Act (S. 2088 – advocating the placing of reasonable limitations on the use of National Security Letters) and the SKILLS Act (S. 1699 “Strengthening Kids interest in Learning & Libraries Act” – to ensure that there is at least one highly qualified school library media specialist in each school receiving funds under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1965).

The Government Relations Committee of ACRL is currently working to develop the legislative agenda for the Association. Among the items the Committee is considering are revisions to Section 215 of the Patriot Act (S. 2088); Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act – to specify exemption for libraries and for children's books (H.R. 1692); Public Access to Federally Funded Research (S. 1373); Network Neutrality (H.R. 3458); Strengthening Kids Interest in Learning and Libraries Act (S. 1699); Fair Use and Anti-Circumvention (Copyright); Orphan Works (Copyright); and Access to Government Information.

Each of the above areas has important implications for our institutional abilities to serve our students, our faculties, and our communities. To learn more about these issues, I encourage you to subscribe to the ALA Washington Office's District Dispatch (<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/>). Remember, to advocate for an issue, you do not have to travel to the Washington office of your representative or senator. Phone calls and e-mails, along with a local office visit, can be effective as well. Provide your local district officials with copies of your library newsletter so that they can be informed about what your library is accomplishing – these officials can be a great help in communicating directly to your elected official.

Among the earliest acts of our first congress were the appointment of John James Beckley as Clerk of the first House of Representatives and the election of Samuel A. Otis as the Secretary of the Senate on April 8th, 1789. The concern over ensuring access to information was expressed eloquently by Thomas Jefferson, who declared, “Information is the currency of democracy.” Let us spread our currency broadly and advocate that our elected officials comply with Jefferson's maxim.

As I promised in my first column, I have endeavored to stay focused on few(er) topics. If I can answer any questions regarding the ACRL legislative priorities or be of assistance to any of you in any other way, please contact me at rbest@aum.edu.

Rickey Best
AACRL President

Legislative News: Patriot Act Reauthorization

Change for 2010 Legislative Day

For 2010, and currently planned for only this coming year, National Library Legislative Day is being replaced with National Library Advocacy Day and is being moved on the calendar to coincide with ALA Annual Conference, which will be held in Washington, D.C. this coming summer. National Library Advocacy Day will be June 29, which immediately follows Annual Conference. You can read further details at:

<http://ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/index.cfm>.

As you may recall, the recent AACRL membership dues increase will help support an additional Alabama academic librarian in attending National Legislative Day. If you are interested in representing Alabama at National Advocacy Day, you may contact Eric A. Kidwell (ekidwell@huntingdon.edu).

PATRIOT Act News

As is so often the case with legislation, there is both good news and bad news to report on the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act. Personally, I tend to be of the "give me the bad news first" type, but we'll start with the good news for this report:

The good news is that the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee has passed the USA PATRIOT Amendments Act of 2009. This bill has been praised by both ALA and ARL. ALA President Camila Alire is quoted in Library Journal (www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6706001.html) as complimenting the House Judiciary Committee on its "... thorough, open debate of H.R. 3845 ... (which) includes many provisions that will re-establish the balance between the needs of law enforcement and the rights of the American public." What H.R. 3845 would do is restore reader privacy "by curbing the use of secret court orders and ... NSLs to obtain library and bookstore records about innocent people." Additionally, the bill would allow greater challenge and judicial review of gag orders. You may recall that the gag order provision has been one of the chilliest impacts of the PATRIOT Act. H.R. 3845 would require law enforcement to demonstrate "... concrete facts showing that the information (being requested) is connected to a terrorist or foreign agent before issuing a (NSL) to get it." It would also allow the "lone wolf" provision to sunset (this provision

has never been used), and H.R. 3845 contains "... important new reporting, audit, and oversight provisions that will ensure Congress will continue to get the information needed for real congressional oversight of the executive's surveillance operations."

So, what is the bad news? The bad news is that the U.S. Senate passed much narrower reforms. Library organizations, as well as civil liberties groups, believe that more substantive reform should have been made by the Senate to address unwarranted surveillance and the collection and retention of personal data. Internet usage in libraries is not addressed nor is the issue of the use of NSLs (National Security Letters). ALA President Alire explained ALA's position in a letter to the Washington Post from October 18 (available online, including on the above mentioned web site).

For more information and a detailed timeline of legislative action on the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act, go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/federallegislation/theusapatriotact/index.cfm>

AACRL Government Relations Committee

Part of AACRL's restructuring, led by current president Rickey Best, has been the addition of several committees to AACRL operations. One such committee is the Government Relations Committee. Members for 2009-10 include Barbara Hightower (Auburn University) and Kent Snowden (Troy University Montgomery) and the chair, Eric A. Kidwell (Huntingdon College) as the chapter's legislative liaison. The committee has been slow in getting started with its work due to the chair's overabundance of campus "stuff" (SACS just about sums it up), but the expectation is that we will become more active once we return from the holidays and begin discussing the mission of the Committee and how we see it functioning within the greater AACRL and within the state. The Alabama Library Association has its own legislative committee, and we should explore how and when the two groups can work cooperatively.

*Eric Kidwell
AACRL Legislative
Liaison*

AACRL Significant Contribution Award

In 1955 the Consolers, a husband-and-wife gospel duo, recorded a wonderful version of "Give Me My Flowers." The song begins with the words, "Give me my flowers while I yet live, so that I can see the beauty that they bring." In a similar spirit of recognition, we are seeking nominees who should be honored (while they yet live) by the AACRL Significant Contribution Award.

The purpose of this award is to recognize achievements and significant contributions in the area of college and research libraries on the local, state, regional, national, or international level and 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. The contribution(s) must have been accomplished while the person or group was a resident of Alabama. (Nominees must be residents of Alabama).

The AACRL Significant Contribution Award will be presented at the annual Dinner/Business meeting to be held in Huntsville in April 2010.

Please submit nominations either by postal mail or e-mail by the DEADLINE of January 15, 2010 to:

Tim Dodge, AACRL Past President
Reference Department
Ralph Brown Draughon Library
231 Mell St.
Auburn University, AL 36849-5606
E-mail: dodgeti@auburn.edu

*Tim Dodge
AACRL Past President*

Membership Renewal Rates

When you receive your membership renewal notices this year, please remember that at the annual meeting in April the members voted to approve a dues increase from \$6.00 to \$10.00, with the proviso that the additional revenue raised be dedicated to funding additional stipends for members to attend National Legislative Day in Washington. The Association has traditionally funded one stipend from the operating budget, and our hope this year is to fund at least one additional stipend or more, if possible.

The last membership list indicated that the Association had 135 members. The additional \$4.00 in membership dues will allow us to fund the additional stipend. As you prepare your membership renewal, please remember to let your colleagues know about AACRL, and encourage them to join (or renew). The more who join, the more stipends we can fund.

How do I apply for the stipend, you might ask? In January, following the Mid-Winter ALA meeting, an application form will be posted to the AACRL homepage (<http://www.aacrl.org/>). You can fill the form in and e-mail it to the Legislative Liaison (Eric Kidwell ekidwell@huntingdon.edu). Notifications will be sent by March 15th.

*Rickey Best
AACRL President*

Run For Office!

Have you ever wanted to become more actively involved in AACRL? One excellent way of doing so is to serve as a member of the Executive Board. Aside from an interest in serving, the only requirements include the following: nominees must be current members of both AACRL and ACRL, and they must be professional librarians.

The following positions need nominees: Vice President/President-Elect; Secretary; and Member-at-Large/Chapter Liaison. The Vice President/President-Elect position is a three-year commitment and the two other positions are two-year commitments. Please see the Bylaws link on the AACRL web site (<http://www.aacrl.org/>) for more details or feel free to contact me. Please send nominations to me; self-nominations are also welcome. Send to:

Tim Dodge, AACRL Past President Reference Department
Ralph Brown Draughon Library
231 Mell St.
Auburn University, AL 36849-5606
E-mail: dodgeti@auburn.edu

*Tim Dodge
AACRL Past President*

AACRL Membership: A professional bargain

Alabama ACRL membership is most likely one of the best professional bargains you can find. For \$10.00 a year or \$30.00 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*

Treasurer's Report December 7, 2009

The account balance as of September 30, 2009, was \$5,635.20. Since then a deposit of \$170.00 was made on October 9, 2009, for membership renewals.

A more detailed report should be available by the next newsletter once Muriel Wells is in office and has all of the files.

Dena Luce

News from the Membership

The **NAAL Advisory Council** celebrated twenty-five years of success at its annual meeting, October 29-30, 2009. NAAL was established in 1984 to coordinate academic library resource sharing.

Bill Nelson has been Library Director at Augusta State University Library (Augusta, GA) for nearly 17 years. He will retire from that position at the end of January 2010. He and his wife have already moved to Clanton, AL. Bill was previously Library Director at the University of Mobile (then Mobile College) and at Sanford University. In retirement, he will be available for library consulting in the areas of preparation for SAC-COC accreditation and academic library program review/evaluation.

Angela Rand, University of South Alabama, will present her paper entitled, *Mediating at the Student/Wikipedia Intersection*, at the April 2010 Off-Campus Library Services Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. This paper will be published in the conference proceedings and in *The Journal of Library Administration*.

Annette and Bret Heim, Spring Hill College, have released a new CD entitled *Journeys: Music for Flute, Viola, and Guitar* on the Musicians Showcase Recordings label. The disc is comprised of premier recordings of music by Robert Baksa.

Ellen K. Wilson, University of South Alabama, presented *Integrating Information Literacy into an Upper-Division Writing-Intensive Course* at the Mississippi Library Association annual conference on October 22nd..

A poster by Dennis Fell, **Judy Burnham** (University of South Alabama Biomedical Library), K. Adams, K. Great-house, and B. Shaw, entitled *Comparing and Contrasting Physical Therapy-Related Article Tags from a Social Bookmarking Site to Library Database Terminology* was awarded first place at the the Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association Research Presentation Awards.

AACRL'S New Committee Structure

At the April 8th, 2009, annual meeting, the membership approved a revision of the association's committee structure. Members of the committees are actively at work on their charges. The By-Laws committee, chaired by Tim Dodge, has been particularly active, so we look forward to proposed changes being presented during the annual meeting in Huntsville.

New Committees

- **Membership Committee** – Chaired by the Treasurer. Responsible for working with the AACRL liaisons on the recruitment of new members. Evaluates and recommends to the Board benefits for membership. Composition: In addition to the chair, two to four additional members comprise the committee and serve two-year staggered terms. Members may be reappointed.

- **Committee on Government Relations** – Chaired by the Legislative Liaison. Responsible for monitoring legislation at the state and federal levels that may impact libraries generally, and academic libraries specifically. Recommends to the Board recipients of a stipend to attend National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. In addition to the chair, two to four members comprise the committee and serve two-year staggered terms. Members may be reappointed.

- **By-Laws Committee** - Chaired by the Past-President. Reviews annually the by-laws of the organization and recommends changes. Any proposed changes, following approval by the Board, will be submitted to the membership at the next annual meeting. In addition to the Chair, the sitting President, the Vice President / President-Elect, and two general members comprise the committee. Terms of the membership will be annual.

- **Continuing Education and Training Committee** – Chaired by the Vice-President / President-Elect. Responsible for identifying and sponsoring workshops and other educational opportunities for academic librarians and staff. In addition to the chair, two to four members comprise the committee and serve two-year staggered terms. Members may be reappointed.

Please contact us with any suggestions you have about the association and its programming.

Rickey Best, President
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rbest@aum.edu

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Jason Battles, Web-Master
jjbattles@ua.edu

Kindle Pilot @ The University of Alabama Libraries

When E-book readers surfaced a few years ago, they didn't get much traction, however, this time around with much improved hardware/software and the capability to wirelessly download content, e-books readers are a technological marvel. The readers have received quite a bit of attention in the media and are gaining in popularity as new readers appear on the market. These devices provide a different experience for readers than print monographs do. John Sandy, Head of Rodgers Library for Science & Engineering, has been interested in testing and assessing interest in use of and circulation of e-book readers since he saw the RocketBook reader a few years ago. Sandy states that, "The mobile Web is a key factor driving the viability of e-book readers. The same content that's ready for download on dedicated e-book readers is easily pushed out on broadband to millions of smartphones. This juxtaposition of both kinds of gadgets in the marketplace at the same time actually helps."

Over the summer a group of librarians met and decided that we would begin our e-book reader pilot with Amazon's Kindle. Other e-book readers were considered; however, we felt that the Kindle had already proven to be popular and easy to use. While our pilot will not necessarily provide a large scale impact on collection of materials since there are still limitations for e-book readers in libraries, it provides an additional service for our patrons and will allow us to assess e-book use from a different vantage point.

This fall we embarked on the pilot program to test these readers. For the initial pilot we purchased 18 Kindle 2's and 18 Kindle DX's to circulate from three of our libraries. Funding for the pilot came from gift funds. The readers circulate for 2 weeks and patrons are allowed to request material or to just read the material that librarians pre-selected. The library created a page explaining policies and procedures for the project at <http://www.lib.ua.edu/kindle>.

So far the service has been well received and the Kindles have been very popular with students and faculty. Assistant Dean Gary Wasdin says, "From the first moment we made the 12 Kindles available to borrow, they have been in the hands of our users. As soon as one is returned, it is back out within minutes. By the end of the 3rd day, we had received 20 online requests for purchases when a Kindle became available, and they keep coming in. All of this with only word of mouth advertising." We have been collecting user feedback when the Kindle is returned. One user is quoted as saying, "I thought I was too old for anymore new technology, but I love the Kindle. It is amazing!"

*Millie Jackson, John Sandy and Gary Wasdin
University of Alabama Libraries*

ALLA Awards

Congratulations to the following ALLA Award Winners!

Eminent Librarian Award: Raneé G. Pruitt, Huntsville Public Library

Distinguished Service Award: Ann Marie Pipkin, Alabama School of Fine Arts

Honorary Membership: Edith J. Wilcox, Washington County Public Library

Public Servant Award: Senator Larry Dixon

Library Roll of Honor: Dianne L. Pidgeon, Lee High School

Merit Award: The Huntsville Times

Humanitarian Award: Nicole Fields, Columbia High School

Intellectual Freedom Award: Jeff Graveline, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mervyn H. Sterne Library

*Delores Carlito
University of Alabama, Birmingham*

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

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 2009, now would be a good time to renew! Send your membership form and check to:

Muriel K. Wells, AACRL Treasurer
National Children's Advocacy Center
210 Pratt Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801

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 12/09?
Renew your membership now with the form at:
<http://www.aacrl.org/membership/index.html>

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