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From the President



It is hard to believe that we will be in the middle of our fall semesters in just a few short weeks! The AACRL Continuing Education & Training Committee is already looking forward to our annual meeting and all of the best practices presentations we co-host with the College, University, and Special Libraries (CUS) division of ALLA. Our Vice-President/President-Elect Jessica Hayes, Auburn University at Montgomery, is hard at work looking for “a few good librarians” who would be willing to share with us the wonderful work they are doing at institutions around the state. Whether you or a colleague is working on a new project, brainstorming

changes, or creating fun ways of working with users, we would like to hear more. Please consider submitting a presentation proposal for the best practices series. [More information about submitting proposals for the ALLA 2018 Convention and the submission forms can be found at the end of this newsletter.]

Library assessment and budgets continue to remain in the spotlight, and ACRL is keeping an eye on current trends and statistics. In July, ACRL released the latest in their publication series that provides data on library collections, budgets, and service activities. For more information, see the ACRL publication [2016 Academic Library Trends and Statistics](#). In Alabama, we are also working on ways to evaluate and disseminate assessment information for our various institutions both individually and through AACRL. As our work in Alabama continues, the AACRL Assessment Taskforce has changed leadership; it will now be co-chaired by Lauren Young of Samford University and Jessica Hayes. Jessica is also serving as the CUS representative on the taskforce. We want to thank Sara Whitver, The University of Alabama, for her work in getting the assessment taskforce up and going. Lauren and Jessica are continuing to gather information and will be looking into possible state assessment projects. To that end, if assessment is your cup of tea and you are interested in working with Lauren and Jessica on this project, please let us know.

Remember to look for the upcoming announcement about the release of the new AACRL website this Fall. Our wonderful webmaster Ellen Wilson has been working tirelessly to prepare for the rollout.

The executive board and committee chairs have already been hard at work this summer. We will be meeting over the next few weeks to continue the discussion of how best to meet the needs of academic librarians across the state. If you are interested in volunteering or have an idea for a workshop or project you would like AACRL to consider, let us know. We want to hear from you!

Happy Fall!

Peggy Kain
AACRL President

Treasurer's Report

For the last Treasurer's Report, the checking account balance was \$3,385.00 and the PayPal balance was \$278.65.

Since then, we have received one Annual Meeting reservation through PayPal for \$23.97 and \$250.00 was transferred from the PayPal account to the checking account.

For expenses, two checks have been written for a total of \$410.49: one for the amount of \$296.00 for the 2017 AACRL Annual Meeting Dinner and one for the amount of \$114.49 to Dr. Lauren S. Cardon for mileage as speaker at the 2017 AACRL Annual Meeting Dinner.

The checking account balance as of July 28, 2017 is \$3,224.51 and the PayPal account is \$52.62. We currently have 100 members in good standing.

Debbie Cobb
AACRL Treasurer

Legislative Issues

As we all should know by now, our biggest legislative issue for this year has been saving federal funding for libraries. ALA has led a nation-wide effort to persuade Congress not to grant the new Administration's proposal to eliminate federal funding for libraries and museums (as well as funding for the NEH, NEA, and Public Broadcasting). Of course, these are not the only federal legislative issues of concern to us, but they have been the most pressing. There has been some good news, though. ALA President Jim Neal sent an e-mail on July 28 (the text of which follows). He cautions that we still need to be vigilant, so please continue to request your representatives in Congress to support our nation's libraries and the work we do.

Eric Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison

ALA President Jim Neal: Continue the Fight to Save Libraries

As Congress heads into its August recess, I want to update you on the progress we've made in the fight to save federal library funding.

I am pleased to share that the Appropriations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a FY 2018 spending bill without making any cuts in federal funding for libraries and, in fact, provides a \$20 million dollar increase for the National Library of Medicine. The bill includes:

- \$231 million to fund the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including LSTA
- \$27 million to fund the Department of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy program
- \$413.9 million to fund the National Library of Medicine

The next step in this process is for the full House to consider the bill when members of Congress return to Washington after Labor Day. The Senate has not yet acted, but its committees will begin consideration of federal library funding then as well.

Advocates must continue to engage with their elected officials and remind them why federal funding is important to libraries and the patrons they serve. Here's what you can do in the next few weeks of the summer:

- [Invite your members of Congress](#) (or their staff) to your library and show them how you are serving your community.
- [Write a letter to the editor](#) for your local newspaper urging your members of Congress to support library funding.
- Ask to meet with your representative and senators (or their staff) over the summer when they are home.
- [Invite friends to sign up for alerts](#) and join the fight.

The last four months have proven our elected leaders are listening. Your commitment to staying involved at the local level is key to furthering our success. Your energy and outreach have been amazing.

Jim Neal
ALA President

Membership News

Samford University Library is approximately two-thirds of the way into a major deselection project begun in 2014. The project was undertaken in order to better utilize library space, especially in light of a new campus master plan that projects the placement of allied centers in the library. To date, 10,029 volumes have been removed and almost 1,595 linear feet cleared. During the project, the library has maintained conversations with faculty via email and the "University Library Deselection Project" LibGuide, most of which you can see at <http://samford.libguides.com/deselection>. The guide details the rationale behind the project, outlines the criteria used for deselection, provides secure access to lists, and explains what happens to books that are removed. Faculty have been responsive to lists we have asked them to review, selecting close to 3,600 titles for retention and purchasing many titles for their personal collections. Library book sales have increased each year. Also increasing were the number of titles unwanted by Better World Books, by book buyers, or by departments. In the last year, we have made good use of a free books cart placed on the library porch or in the lobby. This has greatly reduced the number of titles we needed to recycle. Heavily involved in the project are staff from the Circulation, Acquisitions, and Cataloging departments. We are fortunate to have attic storage space for the titles as they are pulled and before they are shipped, sold, or given away. We do take into account your holdings as we decide to deselect or retain titles; it's important for our collective users that the state has a good collection that we can all share. We welcome your thoughts or questions on this project.

Call for Proposals: CUS EBSCO Award for Research Excellence

The College, University, and Special Libraries (CUS) Division of the Alabama Library Association is interested in your research, and we want to reward you! As we do annually, the Research Committee of CUS will be awarding the EBSCO Award for Research Excellence at the 2018 Alabama Library Association Convention in Florence. A research paper will be chosen for the award and the top three authors will have the opportunity to present at the 2018 CUS Research Forum. All presenters are awarded a certificate from the CUS Research Committee for presenting at the CUS Research Forum. The Forum provides opportunities to present, as well as to receive feedback about your research.

Please do not pass up this chance to share your research with librarians across the state! The criteria and deadlines for submitting abstracts and papers are below. Please let your coworkers or other individuals who might be interested know about this opportunity!

Students in the SLIS program are especially encouraged to submit their research. Presenting at the CUS Research Forum is an honor to put on your résumé, it will give you presentation experience, and it will provide you with ideas on how to fine tune your research for scholarly publication.

Benefits of Submission: As well as receiving a monetary award from EBSCO, the winner of the EBSCO Award for Research Excellence will have the opportunity to work with the editorial committee of the *Southeastern Librarian* to have his/her paper published in the peer-reviewed journal of the Southeastern Library Association.

Criteria for Submission: Papers submitted for consideration for the CUS Award for Research Excellence must not have been previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere. They should also not be in the pre-publication process nor should they be in consideration for publication elsewhere.

Eligibility: Any member of the Alabama Library Association (including student members).

Sponsored By: Research Committee of CUS and EBSCO, Inc.

Important Dates:

January 10, 2018

Abstracts of the papers are due (about 500 words). The author's name should not appear on the abstract. Send with a one-page vita of the researcher as a separate document.

February 28, 2018

Complete papers are due from researchers who are selected to submit papers following the review of abstracts. Format instructions will be sent with notification of acceptance

Selection criteria used by CUS Research Committee:

- potential significance of the research to college, university, or special libraries
- validity of the methodology and analysis
- originality and innovation
- clarity and completeness of the abstract

The Award for Research Excellence is generously sponsored by EBSCO, Inc.

For information or to submit abstracts and brief vita, feel free to contact:

Kathy Wheeler, Chair of the CUS Research Committee

Marx Library, University of South Alabama

5901 USA Drive North

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Alabama Library Association Convention 2018

Play by Ear

April 10 - 13, 2018

Convention Committee 2018 PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Deadline: Friday, October 27, 2017

Please consider participating with the Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries and the College, University, and Special Libraries Division of the Alabama Library Association in our annual Best Practice Sessions held at the annual ALLA Convention. Every year these Convention sessions highlight services that inspires similar ideas at other academic libraries, demonstrate new tools/resources to enhance academic library functions, and engage academic librarians in professional discussion.

AACRL President-Elect Jessica Hayes and CUS Chair-Elect Kim Westbrooks, this year's ACRL/CUS Best Practice Sessions organizers, invite you to submit your Best Practice Session proposals for consideration.

We are looking for a wide variety of presentations and programs. Types of programs may include:

- Preconferences (sessions that occur on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 18th)
- Hands-on Workshops (please provide detailed description of the type of technology/resources you will need)
- Classroom Presentation (indicate if you will need a laptop/screen & projector/podium, etc.)

If you would like to present or have a program at ALLA Convention 2017, please fill out the form below.

NOTE: Please provide **all program details as you want them to appear in the Convention Program Booklet**. Include presenter[s] name[s], professional titles, institutions, and program title and booklet description.

The 2018 AACRL/CUS Best Practice Sessions organizers will contact you in early 2018 to confirm program session details for the Convention Program Booklet and to finalize equipment requests.

If you are planning more than one program or meeting, please submit separate forms for each planned program.

Return this form by email to Jessica Hayes (jhayes11@aum.edu)

Organizer/Presenter Information

Organizer/Presenter Name:

Organizer/Presenter Phone:

Organizer/Presenter Email:

Organizer/Presenter Professional Title and/or Institution:

Other Speakers/Presenters/Participants (If Applicable):

ALLA Roundtable/Division/Committee (If Applicable):

Are You A Vendor or Exhibitor (Circle One):

Yes

No

If yes, what is the name of your company or organization:

Program Information

Tentative Title:

Tentative Program Description (max. 150 words):

Meeting Type (Circle one): Preconference (appx. 2-4 hours)
Conference Session (appx. 55 minutes)
Awards (appx. 2-3 hours)
Business (appx. 1-3 hours)
Other:

Select Preferred Day and Time (Circle Your Top Three):

Tuesday – Afternoon (Preconference ONLY)

Wednesday – Morning

Wednesday – Afternoon

Thursday – Morning

Thursday - Afternoon

Required Technology/Equipment: