



Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries

Executive Board

President: Deborah Grimes
Shelton State Community College
9500 Old Greensboro Road
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405
205-391-2233
dgrimes@shelton.cc.al.us

**Vice-President/President Elect:
Jennifer Long**
Mervyn H. Sterne Library
University of Alabama at Birmingham
917 South 13th St
Birmingham, AL 35294-0014
205-934-6364
jlong@beowulf.mhsl.uab.edu

Past President: Patty A. Pilkerton
Mervyn H. Sterne Library
University of Alabama at Birmingham
917 South 13th St
Birmingham, AL 35294-0014
205-934-3512
ppilkerton@beowulf.mhsl.uab.edu

Secretary: Carla Waddell
Samford University Library
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
(205) 726-2755
ctwaddell@samford.edu

Treasurer: Kate Ragsdale
University Libraries
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
205-348-1484
kragdsal@bama.ua.edu

**Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter
Liaison: Rosemary Arneson**
Carmichael Library
University of Montevallo
Montevallo, AL 35115
205-665-6110
arneson@montevallo.edu

Legislative Liaison: Eric A. Kidwell
Houghton Memorial Library
Huntingdon College
1500 East Fairview Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36106
(334) 833-4420
ekidwell@huntingdon.edu

Newsletter Editor: Della H. Darby
Samford University Library
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
(205) 726-2078
dhdarby@samford.edu

Web Master: Beth Ashmore
Samford University Library
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
(205) 726-2038
beashmor@samford.edu

From the President ...

Best Practices – that’s the theme of the last few programs we have co-sponsored with CUS at the Alabama Library Association annual conference. We’re doing that again with good reason: we all like to see what’s going on at other institutions and adapt good ideas to our own practices. Della Darby, who chaired this project for AACRL, has made some excellent selections for 2005.

Called “Effective Practices,” we can also find examples on the ACRL website at www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/effectiveprac/effectivepractices.htm. For example, the Information Literacy Team at the University of Maryland libraries has developed a list of what to do before, during, after, and outside of library instruction classes. Another effective practice is a program entitled “Book of the Quarter,” sponsored by the Michel Orradre Library at Santa Clara University (CA). The library invites a segment of the University community to select a book that will be the topic of a conversation that is held in the Library. Selections have included controversial topics, bestsellers, and both academic and non-academic titles (beginning with a selection by their athletic program). These are only two of the twelve “effective practices” included on the ACRL website at present.

ACRL applies several criteria in selecting effective practices for its website. First, the practice must be aligned with the library mission and articulated in its strategic plan. To be considered effective, the practice must have measurable outcomes. It must also be sustainable, cost-effective, and capable of long-term impact on the library and its constituents. The practice must have components that are transferable, that is, potentially useful within other contexts. Finally, the practice must be responsive, or articulated in terms of responding to the needs of academic libraries and their constituencies.

We know that Alabama’s college and university libraries also have effective practices. Share your successes by contributing an effective practice to ACRL. The online submission process makes it easy to share your ideas with others. Please show ACRL what Alabama’s college and university libraries have to offer!

As a final “good” or “effective” practice – please vote on the new slate of officers and the proposed by-laws changes. Jennifer Long, who will assume office as President in April, has prepared an excellent annual meeting program for April 20 in Birmingham. Registration and program information are included in this newsletter. Sign up and participate – we’ve missed you!

Deborah Grimes

Welcome to New Members

Joyce A. Brannan, Technical Services Librarian, University of West Alabama

Amy Fordham, Reference Librarian/Information Consultant, University of Alabama

Jill Grogg, Reference Librarian, University of Alabama

Paul A. Roberts, Library Director, Southeastern Bible College

Annual Dinner Meeting and Program

AACRL will hold its annual dinner meeting and program on April 20, 2005 in conjunction with the Alabama Library Association Convention in Birmingham. The meeting will be held at Mauby's Restaurant, located at 121 Oak Street in Crestline Village in the Mountain Brook area of Birmingham, beginning at 6:00. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$40.00. The dinner will include a tossed garden salad, an entrée with side items and bread, a dessert, and a non-alcoholic beverage. Alcoholic beverages may be purchased at your expense at the bar.

Entrée Choices:

- Grilled New York Strip Steak (served with Dijon au poivre)
- Mauby's Baked Stuffed Chicken (boneless chicken breast stuffed with feta cheese, mushrooms, spinach, scallions, and herbs served with lemon cream sauce)
- Grilled Salmon (served over parmesan polenta in citrus lobster broth)
- Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)

Dessert Choices:

- Tiramisu
- Key Lime Pie



There will be a short business meeting, followed by **Dr. Bill Nelson**, Library Director at Augusta State University, as the keynote speaker. His presentation topic is "How Should Academic Libraries Address the Requirements of the SACS Principles of Accreditation?" He will briefly explain why the new SACS document is a challenge for academic libraries, suggest a strategy for compliance, and address opportunities for library contributions to student learning outcomes.

Dr. Bill Nelson is Professor and Library Director at Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia. He has also served as library director at Mobile College, now the University of Mobile (1974-1982), Carson-Newman College (1982-1985), and Samford University (1985-1993).

Dr. Nelson received a B.A. in English and a B.A. in History from Centenary College of Louisiana. He received a M.A. and a Ph.D. in Latin American Studies and a M.L.S. from Louisiana State University. His research and publication interests include ALA and ACRL standards, SACS accreditation, and the GALILEO Project (Georgia's virtual library).

Those interested in attending should return the enclosed reservation form by Monday, April 11, 2005. (You do not need to be a member of AACRL to attend.) For additional information, directions, and maps, visit <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/annual.htm>

— Jennifer Long
Vice President/President-Elect

Best Practices Programs

2005 is the fourth year for the AACRL Best Practices Programs. We will co-sponsor four programs with CUS.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

1:00 p.m.

Title: Behind the Magic : Library User Surveys
Presenters: Robert Burkhardt, Susan D. Herring

2:00 p.m.

Title: Millennials in the Library : Motivating Today's Student Library Workers
Presenters: Kathleen Barone, Eric Kidwell, Lisa Vardaman

3:30 p.m.

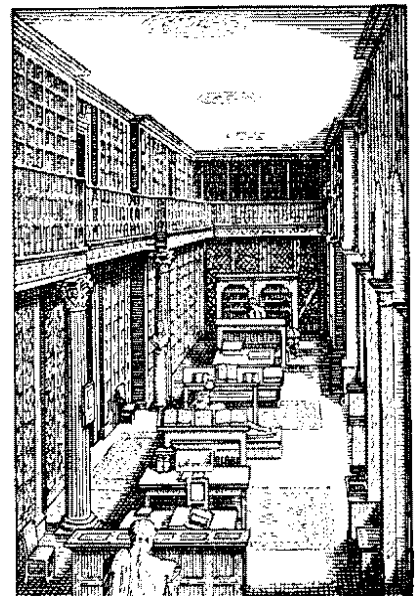
Title: Best Practices for the New Millennium: Mini-sessions!
Presenters: Rosemary Arneson, Beth Ashmore, Lisa Beall, Harold Goss Jr., John-Bauer Graham, Jean Liddell, Lori A. Northrup, Jodi Poe, Audrey Powers, Juliet Rumble, John Upchurch

Topics: 21st Century Billboards: Using Screensavers and Desktops as Ad Space for Library Services; Getting the Biggest Byte from Your Instruction Web Page; Going the Distance... Houston Cole Library's Interactive Tutorial on CD-ROM; Assessing Journal Quality; Customized Database Evaluation Forms; Taking a Snapshot of Services; From Page to Screen: Taking Print Pathfinders Digital; and Improve Liaison Partnerships: Join Professional Associations.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

1:00 p.m.

Title: Time Management for the 21st Century Librarian
Presenter: Vicky L. Baggott



Keeping up with AACRL

The AACRL website and listserv are your links to what's happening in the world of academic librarianship in Alabama. You can browse the calendar for upcoming workshops, conferences and other events as well as see materials from previous AACRL workshops on the Calendar and Events/Workshops pages respectively. Check out the newsletter or minutes from the latest AACRL meeting to keep up to date on the projects and actions taken by the organization. Download a membership form on the Membership page or print out a reservation form for this year's Annual Dinner Meeting on the Annual Meeting page. Be an informed voter by checking out more information about the AACRL board member candidates on the Executive Board page. Finally, join the discussion by subscribing to the AACRL listserv, right off of the AACRL homepage. Have an idea for the AACRL website? Tell us about it! Just send your comments and suggestions to beashmor@samford.edu or head on over to the AACRL homepage at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/> and click on the link at the bottom of the page.

Editorial Change

It is hard for me to believe that I have edited the AACRL newsletter for four and a half years (and through five administrations), beginning with the December 2000 issue. I have witnessed much progress in the organization, from incorporation to the birth of our web site.

Change often breeds progress, so I am relinquishing the position to allow for a fresh voice. **Jill Grogg**, Reference Librarian at the University of Alabama, was appointed by the Board to a two-year renewable term that will commence at the conclusion of the April business meeting.

Your contributions to the newsletter have been invaluable. Please continue to share them with Jill at jgrogg@bama.ua.edu.

— Della Darby

News from the Membership

Judy Burnham, Assistant Director for Administrative and Regional Services at USA Biomedical Library, has been selected for the 2004/2005 National Library of Medicine/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Leadership Fellowship. The Southern Chapter, which began in 1951, is comprised of health sciences librarians and affiliated professionals from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico.

Lori Northrup, Ed Cherry, and Della Darby of Samford University Library co-wrote "Using Server-Side Include Commands for Subject Web-Page Management: An Alternative to Database-Driven Technologies for the Smaller Academic Library," which appears in the December 2004 issue of *Information Technology and Libraries*, vol. 23 no. 4.

Katy Ginanni, Training Specialist at EBSCO Information Services, recently attended the Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute. The Institute is coordinated by Mary Bushing (Montana State University, retired) and led by Maureen Sullivan, organizational development consultant. The Institute, in its third year, is held at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico.

Janice A. Sauer, University of South Alabama, and David K. Sauer wrote a chapter for *The Cambridge Companion to David Mamet* edited by Christopher Bigsby which was published last year. The chapter is entitled: "Misreading Mamet: Scholarship and Reviews." It was an outgrowth of their Greenwood reference book published the year before: *David Mamet: A Research and Production Sourcebook*.

In celebration of Earth Day, on Tuesday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m., **Samford University Library** will present Live @ the Library featuring **Dr. Doug Phillips**, the originator and host of the Alabama Public Television series "Discovering Alabama."

Proposed Changes to By-Laws

The executive board proposes the following changes to the by-laws. The proposed changes, noted in italics, will be voted on at the annual business meeting in April.

ARTICLE VI – Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President/President-Elect, a Past President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Member-at-Large, [and] a Newsletter Editor, a *Legislative Liaison*, and a *Webmaster*. Officers shall be professional librarians, members of the chapter, and members of ACRL.

Section 2. Terms of Office

.... The Newsletter Editor, *Legislative Liaison*, and *Webmaster* will be recommended by the President, appointed by the Board, and will serve a renewable two-year term.

(h) *The Legislative Liaison shall monitor, on behalf of the Association, legislative issues relevant to academic and research libraries. In addition he/she shall respond on behalf of the Association to those issues. The legislative Liaison shall represent the chapter or recommend to the Board another member to represent the Chapter at appropriate meetings, forums, and events.*

(i) *The Webmaster shall design and maintain the Chapter website.*

Treasurer's Report

On November 15, 2004 the balance in the AACRL bank account was \$5,520.38

Since that time one check has been issued for \$72.44 (newsletter and postage). Total expenses were \$72.44.

Deposits of \$570.00 (membership dues) and \$1.43 (interest) were made to the account. Deposits totaled \$571.43.

As of February 15, 2005 the balance in the AACRL bank account is \$6,019.37

— Kate W. Ragsdale
AACRL Treasurer

Legislative Report

In December and upon consulting with the AACRL Board, I sent to state representative Gerald Allen a letter on behalf of AACRL concerning his much-publicized pre-filed bill on the issue of homosexuality and its treatment in textbooks and library resources in the state of Alabama. Rep. Allen's bill, if it were to become law, would ban textbooks and library resources that "recognize or promote homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle."

In the letter I expressed concern and opposition based upon the principles of intellectual and academic freedom. Below is the text of the letter:

Dear Rep. Allen:

I am writing on behalf of the Alabama chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (AACRL) in reference to your pre-filed bill that would ban textbooks and library resources that "recognize or promote homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle." The Association of College and Research Libraries is a division of the American Library Association, founded in Philadelphia in 1876, the year of our country's centennial, and is the largest library association in the world.

While your bill is only in the pre-file stage, there has already been much discussion about it within our profession, certainly on the state level, but also outside Alabama. Your bill is causing great concern among librarians because of the threat it poses to the basic tenets of intellectual freedom. From an educational standpoint, if passed, it would also put at risk academic freedom in the classroom and due to this, quite possibly risk within Alabama accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for our state's colleges and universities.

You have been quoted as stating that your reason for taking this initiative is to protect children. I believe we can all agree that there are some things in our world about which children during their impressionable

years are to be guided with a protective hand; however, we believe that what a child reads or is exposed to through the arts is most appropriately and effectively monitored by the child's parents or guardians. Government in such cases must tread with extreme care or otherwise risk threatening the very freedoms we celebrate in this country. Because we live in a Western democracy, we must all at times contend with speech or visual images with which we disagree, perhaps at times vehemently. To do otherwise, to try and stifle that other individual's freedom may ultimately place our own at risk. It's a careful and at times difficult balancing act, but one that is so very important and one that makes us all proud to be citizens of the United States. Indeed, librarians routinely select for library collections items with which they hold personal disagreement, but we do so because we understand this greater good.

Beyond the philosophical, there are some very pragmatic reasons why this legislation would not be feasible in our state. I've already mentioned the potential risk to school accreditation. There is also the consideration that legitimate research – sociological, psychological, legal, medical and even artistic – does occur in the area of human sexuality. Removing books or other materials that present any viewpoint other than negative on this issue from the libraries of our medical schools or from our law schools, or recognized works of great literature from any of the collections of our colleges and universities,

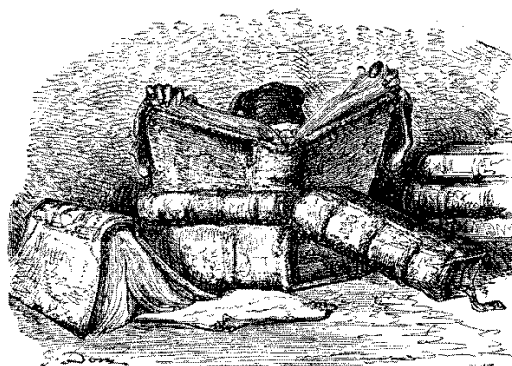
would certainly damage the educational potential of students in Alabama. Academic integrity would be greatly compromised and as our students look to pursue their education in programs outside Alabama, these students would be placed at a disadvantage, due to the perception that they are less well educated than their peers from other states.

Lastly, one must ask the question, "What next?". It's a very slippery slope down which we would begin. There have been many thinkers who during their time presented controversial views, at times at risk to their own lives, but whom today we look upon as giants in their fields; whose thoughts, ideas, creative works we have benefited greatly from and today we celebrate. It is difficult to judge at times what from our own time will constitute those seminal works for future generations, and this is one reason why librarians take the principles of intellectual freedom so much to heart.

Therefore, we find that we must express our opposition to the pre-filed bill you have brought forth. We hope that you will give our concerns careful consideration and in the end come to agree that this would not be legislation conducive to a strong Alabama.

Copies of this letter were also sent to Rep. Seth Hammett, who serves as Speaker of the House, and to Rep. Demetrius C. Newton, who serves as Speaker Pro Tempore. I have not heard back from either of these gentlemen, nor from Rep. Allen. The Alabama Library Association has also sent its formal objection to the bill, and quite undoubtedly individual librarians in the state have expressed their views to their representatives on this issue. While the likelihood is slim that this bill would actually go very far in the legislative process, it is still important for our profession to speak out on issues of intellectual freedom.

— Eric A. Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison



AACRL Candidate Biographical Information

Vice President / President Elect

Treasurer

Audrey Powers

Information Technology Librarian, Assistant Professor, Carmichael Library, University of Montevallo, 2001 –

Education

M.L.S., C. W. Post College, Long Island University; B.S., State University of New York at Oneonta

Professional Memberships/Activities:

American Library Association; Alabama Library Association; Registration Committee, 2005; Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries; Alabama School of Fine Arts: Strategic Planning Committee, 2003; NAAL: Digital Content Committee, 2002 - present, Metadata Standards Working Group, 2002-present; Evaluator, Southern Association for Colleges and Schools, 2003-present

Publications/Presentations:

"Evaluating Databases for Collection Development and Acquisitions" in *Handbook of Electronic and Digital Acquisitions*. Ed. Thomas Leonhardt. New York: Haworth Press, 2005.
ALLA: "Customized Database Evaluation Forms", 2005; "Database Evaluations: A Collaborative Approach," 2001; Charleston Conference: "Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition", 2004

Bob Schrimsher

Pharmacy Librarian, Associate Professor, McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Samford University, 1997 –

Education:

Ed.D. in Educational Administration, The Catholic University of America; M.L.I.S., The University of Alabama; M.Ed. in Guidance/Counseling, Stephen F. Austin State University; B.S. in Sociology, Lamar University

Professional Memberships/Activities:

Phi Delta Kappa; Medical Library Association: past member of Books Panel Committee, past chair of Pharmacy and Drug Information Section; Alabama Health Libraries Association: past chair of Bylaws/Handbook Committee; Southern Chapter/MLA; American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, 2003-2004; Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries: Webmaster ; Council of Science Editors, 2002-2003

Publications/Presentations:

Health Data on the Internet: An Annotated Bibliography and Guide, Medical Library Association, 1999; Editorial Board, *Drug Information Journal*, 2001-2002; Health Advisory Panel for Gale InfoTrac, 1999-2001; Health Information Advisory Board for Medicine on the Net, 2001; Editor, *The International Journal of Pharmacy Education*
ALLA: "Helpful Hints for Every Librarian's Nightmare: Publishing an Article", 2003

Bethany Skaggs

Electronic Resources/Documents Librarian, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University, 2004 –

Education:

M.L.I.S., University of Alabama; B.A. in History, Jacksonville State University

Professional Memberships/Activities:

Alabama Library Association: Government Documents Roundtable; New Members Roundtable: Secretary, 2004- ; Technical Services and Systems Roundtable; Handbook Committee, 2004- ; Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries; NAAL Digital Content Committee, 2004- ; Trainer, NAAL Digital Content, 2004- ; Trainer, Alabama Virtual Library, 2004- ; Editor, Historical Novels Review Online, 2004-

Nordis Smith

Reference, Interlibrary Loan, & Instructional Librarian, Houghton Memorial Library, Huntingdon College, 1989 –

Education:

M.L.S., University of Wisconsin in Madison; B.S. in English, University of Wisconsin in Madison

Professional Memberships/Activities:

Lifetime member of the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association and Beta Phi Mu; past Secretary of the Executive Board of the Alabama Chapter of Beta Phi Mu; Alabama Library Association, Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries; Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs (Montgomery, Alabama, chapter), and the Montgomery Woman's Club.

Read the candidates' complete curriculum vitae on the AACRL website: <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/aacrl.htm>

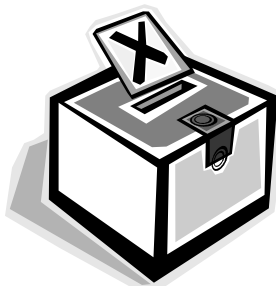
Upcoming Events

ACRL 12th National Conference
April 7-10, 2005 Minneapolis, MN
<http://www.ala.org/acrlconftemplate1.html>

Alabama Library Association
Annual Conference
April 19-22, 2005 Birmingham, AL
<http://allanet.org/www/convention.htm>

SOLINET Annual Membership Meeting
May 5-6, 2005 Atlanta, GA
<http://www.solinet.net/events/>

2005 ALA Annual Conference
June 23-29, 2005 Chicago, IL
<http://www.ala.org/ala/events>



Is the date on your label 12/04? Renew your membership now with the form at <http://www.samford.edu/groups/aacrl/memb.htm>
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AACRL Newsletter
Della Darby, Editor
University Library
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229

AACRL OFFICIAL BALLOT 2005

Vice-President/President-Elect

_____ Audrey Powers
_____ Robert Schrimsher

Treasurer

_____ Bethany Skaggs
_____ Nordis Smith

Return ballot by April 1, 2005 to:
Patty Pilkerton, Mervyn H. Sterne Library
University of Alabama at Birmingham
917 13th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35294-0014

AACRL ANNUAL DINNER MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Wednesday, April 20, 2005
Mauby's Restaurant, Birmingham, Alabama
Meet and mingle at 6:00 p.m. / Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Entrée Choice (please mark selection):

_____ Grilled New York Strip Steak (served with Dijon au poivre)
_____ Mauby's Baked Stuffed Chicken (boneless chicken breast stuffed with feta
cheese, mushrooms, spinach, scallions, and herbs served with lemon cream sauce)
_____ Grilled Salmon (served over parmesan polenta in citrus lobster broth)
_____ Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)

Dessert Choice (please mark selection):

_____ Tiramisu _____ Key Lime Pie

Please return reservation form and check for \$40.00 payable to AACRL by Monday, April 11 to:

Kate Ragsdale
University Libraries
University of Alabama
Box 870266
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0266