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From the AACRL President

When I arrived in Denver on January 22 for the Midwinter Conference of the American Library Association it was a beautiful sunny day and a balmy 68 degrees out. The next day it dropped about 35 degrees and when I left on January 26, the temperature was in the single digits and it was snowing fairly heavily. In early February, the weather in Alabama shifted pretty suddenly from nights in the teens to days in the seventies. Similarly, the American economy in 2008 experienced some rapid, dramatic changes (for the worse): it started out in fairly shaky condition and then in September and October most of us were taken by surprise at the sudden collapse of our major financial institutions. As I write these words, President Obama is negotiating with Congress to pass an enormous economic stimulus/recovery package to try to breathe some life into our financially devastated nation.

Not surprisingly, legislative advocacy is becoming ever more clearly a priority for librarians and library supporters. Traditionally, most library advocacy efforts such as the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day have been largely the preserve of public librarians and library supporters. However, it is increasingly obvious that academic librarians and their allies need to get much more heavily involved in advocacy. In today's worrisome economic climate, the financial support that could almost be taken for granted for academic libraries is disappearing.

Cost-cutting administrators actually need to be persuaded that the university or college library really requires full funding and that the library actually is needed by students, faculty members, and other researchers. We know Google is not sufficient, but do our funding bodies know this?

Included in this issue of the newsletter is information on the forthcoming annual dinner/business meeting. AACRL President-Elect Rickey Best is working hard on the arrangements and we can look forward to hearing from Michael McLane, ACRL Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy, who will be our keynote speaker. The event will take place in Auburn. Please be sure to register soon (registration information and form are included in the newsletter).

Also included in this issue is a ballot for AACRL officer elections. Please exercise your right and responsibility as an AACRL member and vote!

To my surprise, I realize that this is the last President's Column I will be writing for the newsletter since the next issue normally comes out in August. While it's a bit premature for me to say farewell just yet, let me note that I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve as President for a second time. So far, it's been a relatively quiet year in terms of AACRL activities but sometimes a Calvin Coolidge is needed instead of a Franklin D. Roosevelt as President. President-Elect Rickey Best will have his own agenda for 2009-2010 but I can predict that legislative advocacy is likely to be featured during his term as AACRL President. Also, AACRL normally hosts a workshop every other year, so we very likely can look forward to a workshop sometime next year as well.

Meanwhile, though, I encourage you all to watch the federal and state legislative scene carefully and to take the time to contact your legislators when urgent issues relating to libraries appear on the horizon. We librarians and library supporters laboring in the academic vineyard are the best people for telling our legislators about the value of academic libraries, especially during this era of economic crisis.

*Tim Dodge
AACRL President*

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Legislative News

Children's Books and Lead: Many of you have heard of the recent – and rather odd – issue coming from the Consumer Product Safety Commission regarding legislation that would include books under a new regulation on lead and lead testing in products meant for children. To summarize, because of recent incidences of lead being found in children's toys and other products (mostly, if not exclusively, in products manufactured outside the United States), the CPSC initiated an effort to require new testing for lead, and the way the new legislation was written, books would be included under the umbrella of products for children. The publishing industry, assisted by the library profession, has argued against including books in the list citing the fact that research (300 test results) conducted by the publishing industry proved that books did not contain lead in anywhere near sufficient quantities to be a concern. The main issue for libraries was the possibility that if the legislation as originally considered was executed, libraries could well find themselves in the position of having to empty shelves in children's departments or banning children from access to the very books written and published for them.

On behalf of AACRL, a letter of concern was sent to the CPSC, addressing many of the issues as identified by ALA. The letter additionally pointed out the potential impact on academic libraries, as many also have children's collections, and while these collections are primarily maintained to support education programs, many of us offer access to the children of our institution's employees.

The latest word is that the CPSC has reconsidered the issue of children's books in the new legislation and given a one year reprieve or stay of enforcement; however, monitoring of the situation will still be necessary.

H.R. 801: Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) of the House Judiciary Committee has re-introduced legislation that would reverse the National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy AND prohibit any other federal agency from instituting a similar policy. H.R. 108 is called the "Fair Copyright in Research Works Act." As a reminder, the

NIH's current policy requires researchers to deposit final peer-reviewed articles in PubMed Central and this must be done within twelve months of journal publication. Previously, this was a voluntary process.

ALA has asked that people contact their U.S. House representative, particularly if their representative serves on the Judiciary Committee, and urge them to oppose this bill. By the time this issue of the AACRL newsletter is published, the deadline for contacting will have passed. However, should this bill live after February 28, the library community will still have work to do, so keep up-to-date by connecting to ALA's web site (<http://capwiz.com/ala/home/>).

It is important to note that this issue is not simply a "library issue" but should be of concern to all who support public access, which should include college and university faculty, students and administrators. So stay aware of this issue and if need be, contact others on your campus and emphasize the importance of their involvement in opposing this legislation. ALA's web site is not only an excellent way of staying informed on legislative matters but it also has very useful resources and tools that can help you help others to communicate their concerns effectively to their representatives in the House and Senate.

Eric A. Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison

Treasurer's Report February 19, 2009

The account balance, as of November 10, 2008, stood at \$5,604.12. Since that time, deposits of \$156.00 (for dues) have been made, and \$2.12 in interest has accrued. No disbursements have been made.

The account balance, as of February 19, 2009, is \$5,762.24.

Susan D. Herring
Treasurer

News from the Membership

Congratulations to **Jerry W. Stephens**, the 2008 Distinguished Alumni by the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies. This recognition is well-deserved for his contributions to libraries.

Janice Franklin, Director of the Levi Watkins Library and Learning Resources Center, Alabama State University, has been appointed to represent the Alabama Commission on Higher Education on the AVL Council.

Sheri Downer, College of Education, Auburn University, has been elected the FY2009 chairman of the AVL Council.

The **Alabama Historical Commission**, in partnership with the **Alabama Department of Archives and History**, the **Alabama Museums Association**, the **Network of Alabama Academic Libraries**, and the **Society of Alabama Archivists**, received a *Connecting to Collections* *Statewide Planning* grant of \$39,611 to preserve, conserve and make available information on organizations collecting both two-dimensional and three-dimensional artifacts.

Welcome New Members!

Jackie Brodsky, MLIS student, University of Alabama

Imelda L. Vetter, Reference Librarian, UAB Sterne Library

Debra J. West, Collection Development Librarian, Troy University – Montgomery

Suzy Westenkirchner, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Auburn University

J. Scott Whiting, Library Director, Concordia College – Selma

Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries

Annual Business Meeting & Dinner Registration

April 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Zazu's Eclectic Eatery
149 East Magnolia Avenue
Auburn, AL 36830

Registration Form

Name

Address

City

Zip Code

Cost for the Dinner is \$35. To register for the Dinner Meeting, please complete the form and return with a check made out to AACRL to:

Susan Herring, AACRL Treasurer,
Athens State University
300 North Beaty Street
Athens, AL 35611

Checks need to be received no later than April 1st, 2009.

Menu Selection (Please chose one)

Entrée

_____ Angus beef tenderloin, organic white truffle butter with haricot vert & roaster fingerling potatoes (add a 5 oz. Maine lobster tail \$9)

_____ Cedar Planked Salmon (salmon fillet cooked on a cedar plank, rosemary beurre blanc, with haricot vert & roasted fingerling potatoes.)

_____ Chicken Diane (pan roasted bone in breast of chicken, fresh mushrooms & onions in a cognac sauce, served with lyonnaise potatoes & haricot vert.)

_____ Vegetarian (usually consisting of fried artichoke hearts, sauteed asparagus, haricot vert, summer vegetables and roasted fingerling potatoes.)

Dessert: Will be bread pudding with sauce.

Drinks:

_____ Coffee _____ Tea (Sweet) _____ Tea (Unsweet) _____ Soda (Regular

_____ Soda (Diet) _____ Glass of Wine (Note: 1 glass of wine is included in the price).

AACRL Official Ballot

Vice-President/President-Elect

_____ Jacqueline Cooper

_____ Charlcie Pettway Vann

Treasurer

_____ Dena Luce

_____ Muriel K. Wells

Return ballot by April 1 to Rosemary Arneson, Carmichael Library, Station 6100, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL 35115

AACRL Candidate Biographical Information

Vice-President/President-Elect

Jacqueline Cooper, Librarian, Lawson State Community College, Birmingham

- Education: MLS, Indiana University, Bloomington; BA, Speech Communication, Indiana University.
- Professional Memberships/Activities: American Library Association, 2002-current, Alabama Library Association, 2002-2007; Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries, current.

Jacqueline is a Librarian at Lawson State Community College; Birmingham, Alabama. She began at LSCC in 2007 after working at Albert L. Scott Public Library as a Librarian since September 2002. Before receiving her degree she worked at a Reference Assistant at Indiana University. She is interested in collection development, website design and Instruction. She is currently seeking a Master in English at the University of Montevallo; Montevallo, Alabama.

Charlcie Pettway Vann, Assistant Professor/Reference Instructional Librarian, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville

- Education: M.L.S., North Carolina Central University; B.S. Urban Studies, Saint Peter's College; A.A. Public Policy, Saint Peter's College.
- Professional Membership/Activities: Alabama Library Association 2007-present; CUS Research Committee Member 2008; Diversity & Employment Equity Committee of Jacksonville State University 2009; Black Caucus of American Library Association 1998, 2007-2008; Volunteers in Service to Americans (VISTA) Reading Assistant 2000-2002; Duke University's Sister-to-Sister Volunteer Mentoring Program 1998; Special Library Association 1997-1999; North Carolina Central Student Chapter Special Librarians' Association 1996; Recipient of the American Association of Law Librarians Minority Scholarship 1993.
- Publications/Presentations: Vann "Think About It." *The Alabama Librarian* Volume 58 Issue 1. Winter 2008; "Library Resource Preferences for Undergraduate Research: Journal articles, books, web site. Does

type of resource format really matter?" , with Laurie Charnigo and Elizabeth (Carley) Suther. SOLINET Conference presentation- Jacksonville State University, March 14, 2008; "Teaching Journal and Serials Information to Undergraduates: Challenges, Problems and Recommended Instructional Approaches" with Julie Chapman and Steve Scheuler. *The Reference Librarian*. Numbers 79/80 2002/2003; "Using Information Literacy Skills to Help African-American Students Succeed", with Tamiko Lawrence at the Georgia Library Association Conference at University of Georgia in Athens, October 2002.

Treasurer

Dena Lahue Luce, Extended Services Librarian, Faulkner University, Montgomery

- **Education:** M.L.S., University of Southern Mississippi; B.A. in International Studies, Auburn University Montgomery
- **Professional Memberships/Activities:** Alabama Library Association, Association Administrator, Alabama Library Association, 2008-present, Convention Treasurer, Alabama Library Association, 2007-08, Technical Systems and Services Roundtable Past Moderator (TSSRT), 2008-09, Technical Systems and Services Roundtable Moderator (TSSRT), 2007-08, Technical Systems and Services Roundtable Moderator-Elect (TSSRT), 2006-07, Technical Systems and Services Roundtable Member-at-Large (TSSRT), 2003-04, Technical Systems and Services Roundtable Member-at-Large (TSSRT), 2002-03, Technical Systems and Services Roundtable Secretary (TSSRT), 2005-06, Technical Systems and Services Roundtable Secretary (TSSRT), 2001-02, TSSRT Workshop Presenter: Electronic Resources (Oct. 2001), College and Universities Section (CUS)—member; Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries (AACRL)—member, AACRL Planning Committee, 2000-01; Faulkner University Faculty Development Committee, 2000-2001, Faulkner University Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2003-04, Lifetime member of Friends for Faulkner (fundraising organization); Vice-President 2006-present
- **Publications/Presentations:** Poster Session Presenter, ALLA Convention, 2005-present; Participated as an AVL trainer: Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC) (June 2001); Presented at NAAL workshop: Electronic Resources (May 2004); *Choice reviewer (1998-present)

Muriel K. Wells, Coordinator, Robert E. "Bud" Cramer Congressional Collection

M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and Librarian, National Children's Advocacy Center, Huntsville

- **Education:** MLIS, University of Alabama, 2008; BA, Elementary Education, University of Alabama in Huntsville, 1987; BA, Criminal Justice, University of Alabama in Huntsville, 1984
- **Professional Memberships/Activities:** Alabama Library Association 2007-present; American Library Association 2006-present; Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Associations Division, Special Libraries Association 2007-present; Association of College and Research Libraries 2007-present, Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries 2007-present; Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, 2008-present; Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce, 1997-2001
- **Selected Publications/Presentations:** "Librarians' Metacognitive Miscalibration and its Effect on user Services." Poster session, presented at the 11th Annual Graduate Research Conference, University of Alabama, March 2008; *Assisting Librarians with Assistive Technology for Equal Access*. Poster Session, presented at the Annual Conference of the Alabama Library Association, April, 2008; "Read any good blogs lately?" *Student Voice* [Newsletter] Student American Library Association: University of Alabama Chapter, December 2006, 4(2), 1,6; "Are you wearing the suit; or is it wearing you?" *Student Voice*, [Newsletter] Student American Library Association: University of Alabama Chapter, February 2007, 1(2), 1,8; The internship voyage: shipwreck or smooth sailing? [Electronic version]. *LIScareer.com*, October 2007, 1. http://www.liscareer.com/wells_internship.htm ; Do we all look alike? The patrons' view. *Library Student Journal*. May, 2008. <http://www.librarystudentjournal.org/index.php/ljsj/article/view/96/174>;

Annual Business Meeting Information

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board, we discussed a number of items designed to a) increase membership participation; and b) whether or not a dues increase is necessary and advisable at this time. Following approval by the Board at its meeting on February 19th, I would like to submit the following for consideration by the membership, to be voted on at the April 8th meeting.

1. Current Organizational Structure: Committees: AACRL presently has only two standing committees – Nominating and Program.

Proposed Changes – Creation of the following committees as standing committees of the organization:

Membership Committee: Chaired by the Treasurer, to be responsible for working with the AACRL liaisons to aid in the recruitment of new members; to evaluate and recommend to the Board benefits for membership. Composition: In addition to the chair, two to four additional members will comprise the committee and will serve two-year staggered terms. Members may be reappointed.

Committee on Government Relations: Chaired by the Legislative Liaison, this committee will be responsible for monitoring legislation at both the state and federal level that may impact libraries generally, and academic libraries specifically. The Committee will also recommend to the Board recipients of a stipend to attend National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.. In addition to the chair, two to four additional members will comprise the committee and will serve two-year staggered terms. Members may be reappointed.

By-Laws Committee: Chaired by the Past-President, to review annually the by-laws of the organization and to recommend to the Board changes in the By-laws. 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 will comprise the committee. Terms of the membership will be annual.

Continuing Education and Training Committee: Chaired by the Vice-President / President-Elect, the committee will be

responsible for working to identify and sponsor workshops that provide training and other educational opportunities for academic librarians and library staff. In addition to the chair, two to four additional members will comprise the committee and will serve two-year staggered terms. Members may be reappointed.

Justification: As currently organized, AACRL does not appear to provide adequately for membership participation in the organization. By establishing the above committees, the organization will establish opportunities for involvement of the membership, which will result in a more active organization and provide training for future officers. Such committees as are being proposed are consistent with those offered at other Chapters of ACRL throughout the country.

2. Membership Dues increase.

Current status: membership dues are currently \$6.00 per year.

Proposal: That membership dues be increased to \$10 per year, with the following proviso:

Additional funds raised by this increase will be used to establish additional stipend(s) for AACRL members to attend National Legislative Day in Washington.

Justification: Academic libraries are badly under-represented in Washington during National Legislative Day. With the current economic environment, the academic library community needs to become more involved in meeting with the state legislative delegation. While AACRL provides a \$500 stipend from its operating budget for an individual to attend Legislative Day, the need for additional membership participation is critical.

Requirement: to receive the stipend, AACRL members must also be members of ACRL and a member of the legislative advocacy program.

Since AACRL membership dues have not increased since approximately 2000 / 2001, the Board feels that an increase at this time is justifiable. However, the Board also feels that we should ensure that membership will receive some tangible benefit from this increase.

*Rickey Best
Vice-President/President-Elect*

AACRL Programs at ALLA

AACRL has two programs, both in conjunction with CUS, the College, University and Special Librarians Division, at the April 2009 Alabama Library Association Conference in Auburn.

You can register for the conference at <http://allanet.org>. The AACRL/CUS programs are both on:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

3:00-4:00p.m.

Giving Voice to the Past: Digitizing Oral History at JSU

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Best Practices Mini-Session

For more information about AACRL events at the ALLA 2009 Convention visit the AACRL Annual Meeting web site at http://allanet.org/convention_general.cfm.

*Kathy Wheeler
AACRL Newsletter Editor*

Keeping Up With AACRL

Keep current with all AACRL activities and news! Visit the AACRL web site at:
<http://www.aacrl.org/>

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

Advocacy Main Theme at AACRL Chapters Council Meeting in Denver

On Sunday morning, January 25, ACRL Chapters Council President Kevin Merriman convened the Midwinter Chapters Council meeting. President Tim Dodge and President-Elect Rickey Best represented Alabama.

Michael McLane, ACRL Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy, spoke about the need to recruit people who could serve as legislative advocates on behalf of libraries, especially academic libraries. As of January, there were 45 legislative advocates in place but it is highly desirable to have several hundred more since the goal is to have a nationwide network in place that can quickly mobilize the voice of the academic library community so they can be heard by members of Congress when the need arises. The only absolute criterion for serving as an ACRL Legislative Advocate is that one must be a current member of ACRL. Mr. McLane will be the keynote speaker at the annual AACRL dinner/business meeting to be held in Auburn on April 8, so all interested members are encouraged to attend!

See <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/washingtonwatch/acrlad->

[vocates.cfm](#) for more information about the ACRL Legislative Advocate initiative and to apply.

Mr. McLane briefly mentioned some of the legislative issues of concern such as access to government information and the future of the Federal Depository Library Program, copyright and “orphan” works, network neutrality, and the perennial, LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act).

ACRL President Erika Linke announced that legislative advocacy will be the main theme of her President’s Program at the American Library Association annual conference in Chicago in July. The featured speaker will be Stephanie Vance of the ALA Washington Office. Linke mentioned that Change Magazine (a magazine covering topics in higher education) has requested three articles per year from ACRL about libraries.

ACRL Vice-President Lori Goetsch reported that at a Budget Committee meeting the topic of discussion was on coming up with ways ACRL can communicate the value of libraries to cost-cutting university administrators. Plans are in the works for a

Library Administration and Management Association) in 2010 on how to address the shortage of new library administrators.

The three candidates for ACRL Director-at-Large briefly addressed the Chapters Council: Lisabeth Chabot (Ithaca College), Bill Nelson (Augusta State University), and Ann Riley (University of Missouri). Chapters Council Past-President Kathy Parsons noted that nominees are already being sought for the 2010 elections. This is a four-year commitment. See <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/board/index.cfm> for more information.

The two candidates for ACRL President-Elect briefly addressed the Chapters Council: Kelly S. Janousek (California State University, Long Beach) and Lisa Janicke Hinchcliffe (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

Tim Dodge
AACRL President

AACRL Newsletter

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