



Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

www.aacrl.org

Executive Board

President: Dusty Folds

Jefferson State Community College Libraries
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2601 Carson Road
Birmingham, AL 35215
(205) 856-7786, dfolds@jeffersonstate.edu

Vice-President/President-Elect:
Kim Westbrook

Houston Cole Library
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(256)782-5244, kwestbrooks1@jsu.edu

Past President: Kathy Wheeler

Marx Library
University of South Alabama
5901 USA Drive North
Mobile, AL 36688
(251) 460-7938, kwheeler@southalabama.edu

Secretary: Delores Carlito

Mervyn H. Sterne Library
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
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Treasurer: Megan Bell

Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences
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Member-at-Large/ACRL Chapter Liaison:
Kara Van Abel

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Legislative Liaison: Eric A. Kidwell

Houghton Memorial Library
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Webmaster: Ellen Wilson

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From the President . . .

There is hope on the horizon. With the approval of three vaccines and more people having access to those vaccines, we can hope that control of Covid-19 is at hand. It has been said by countless people that this has been an unprecedented time, but as we move forward, the question that we have to ask is what have we learned from this experience. I had a conversation with my college president in the midst of the pandemic. I asked him if he thought this would be a watershed moment or simply a temporary disruption that would lead to no real change. He said it had to be a watershed moment, and while I wanted to believe that, I have heard from

administrators at other institutions that they are eager to get back to "normal," by that they mean that they want things to return to what they were prior to March 2020. I think to do so is to ignore all that we have learned over the past year. Libraries have always been on the cutting edge of change, contrary to what those outside of libraries might think of us. I have seen libraries act quickly to adjust to a socially distant environment and invest heavily in making library services available to everyone, but this is what we've always done. I recently heard someone at my institution say that even though the libraries might not have been opened physically, the libraries never stopped offering assistance to students and faculty. That's what we as librarians do.

In terms of the association, we, too, have been making necessary changes to respond to this new environment. You will see in this newsletter information about the upcoming annual meeting. In the past, we have always had the meeting during the ALLA Convention, but that was not possible this year or last year, so we are making necessary changes that will hopefully help us moving forward. Additionally, we now have a subscription to a virtual meeting platform. In the past, we have relied on our officers to secure a platform from their home institutions, but this proved to be unreliable and not a sustainable method. With this acquisition, we can now move forward with offering more online and virtual meetings for our membership. We are hopeful this could also improve collaboration between AACRL and other groups as well as improve meetings among committees. These are just a couple of the things that we have been able to do over the past year, and we hope these actions will lay the foundation for others to build upon.

Personally speaking, I want to take just a moment to thank everyone who has been willing to serve the association over the past year. As my tenure as president comes to a close, I must admit that this was not the presidency that I had anticipated when I ran for the office in 2019. I could never have made it through all this without the support from our wonderful Executive Board. I thank them all for their hard work and dedication. I also thank all the members who have done so much not only at their local institutions but also with the association. Many of you volunteered to help in a variety of capacities, and I hope to see even more people stepping up to be officers and to be active members. If you know anyone who is not a member, please encourage them to consider joining. I truly believe that the best is yet to come, and we can only get there with the support of all of our AACRL members! Thank you for letting me serve you over the past year.

*Dusty Folds
AACRL President*

Treasurer's Report

March 2021

For the last Treasurer's Report, the checking account balance was \$4,102.48 and the PayPal account was \$625.53.

The checking account balance as of March 30, 2021 is \$4,102.48 and the PayPal account is \$869.04. We currently have 55 members in good standing.

Megan Bell
AACRL Treasurer

AACRL Executive Board Elections

AACRL will soon be holding elections for the 2021-2022 year. The positions up for election are Vice President/President Elect and Treasurer. Below are the biographies for the candidates currently running for these offices. Information about the elections will be forthcoming. Please contact Past President and Nominating Committee Chair Kathy Wheeler (kwheeler@southalabama.edu) if you have any questions.

Vice President/President Elect

Marliese Thomas



Marliese Thomas is currently the Fine Arts Librarian and reference liaison for Art & Art History, Foreign Languages & Literature, Music, Philosophy, and Theatre for UAB Libraries in Birmingham, Alabama, following two years as the liaison to the School of Optometry and assessment coordinator. A librarian with nearly 14 years' experience focused on academic libraries, she has a Bachelor's degree in Communications from Loyola University New Orleans and a Masters of Library and Information Studies from

the University of Alabama. Her previous work includes positions at Auburn University, Samford University, and Ex Libris Group, and her research background includes crowd-generated folksonomies, FMLA issues in faculty, and an evaluation of material culture studies methodology for public archives. She is particularly interested in non-traditional methods of academic inquiry and ways to prevent gatekeeping among the scholarly community. Marliese loves watching superhero movies with her cats and is very active in the Birmingham Area animal rescue community. She also spends time sewing, singing, and is a certified yoga instructor. You can find her on Twitter at [@mstthomas](https://twitter.com/mstthomas) and cat pictures on Instagram at [@marliesethomas](https://www.instagram.com/marliesethomas).

Treasurer

Megan Bell



Megan Bell serves as Reference Librarian and School of Health Professions Liaison at University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has served as AACRL Treasurer for the past 2 years; therefore, she is knowledgeable about AACRL's policies and procedures. She assisted the current Member-at-Large in redesigning the membership application process and provided thoughtful feedback during Executive Board meetings. Megan would like the opportunity to serve another term as Treasurer for this organization.

Legislative Update

AACRL Spring 2021 Newsletter

Legislative Column

COVID has felt like a creature with infinite tentacles that reach into every facet of life. Most of Alabama's colleges and universities have continued a focus on in-person instruction, and we in libraries have had to figure out how to minimize reductions in access and services as much as possible while also doing our utmost to keep our users safe, not to mention those of us working in our buildings. At the federal level, there's some good news in that libraries haven't been left out of recent legislation, such as:

You may have heard the news that libraries have been included in the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act. ALA states, "Libraries are eligible for billions of dollars in recovery funding as part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 passed by Congress on Wednesday, March 10th, 2021. The package includes \$200 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the largest single increase in the agency's 25-year history. The package includes billions of dollars in academic, public and school library-eligible programs, including the Emergency Education Connectivity Fund through the federal E-rate program. ALA has worked hard to ensure our nation's libraries and library workers are included in pandemic relief and recovery efforts, and we are extremely grateful to our advocates for standing up to keep #LibrariesStrong" In its summary of the legislation, ALA shares that "Colleges and institutions of higher education will receive \$40 billion to defray pandemic-related

costs and provide emergency aid to students to cover expenses such as food, housing, and computer equipment." (ALA's Advocacy Office shared with me that over \$3 million will be sent to the Alabama Public Library Service.)

More information can be found at <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/american-rescue-plan-library-relief>

ALA is urging people to contact their federal elected officials to support the Build America's Libraries Act. "Introduced on January 28, 2021 in the Senate by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), along with Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Ron Wyden (D-OR), as well as on March 3, 2021 in the House by Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI-9) and Rep. Don Young (R-AK), the Build America's Libraries Act would fund upgrades to the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers. This groundbreaking legislation would pave the way for new and improved library facilities in underserved communities across the country." <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/buildlibraries>

Due to COVID this will be the second year without the traditional National Library Legislative Day. Instead, ALA is encouraging people to engage in year-round advocacy. ALA will soon kick off its yearly Dear Appropriator campaign to secure funding for IMLS and the IAL program. Updates will be posted to this web page: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/fund-libraries>

Eric A. Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison



2021 Annual Convention
Libraries for All: Working and Rebuilding Through Change
The 2021 Annual Convention will be held April 28-29, 2021.

Additionally, the Convention will be virtual this year!

Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries By-Laws Change

In the aftermath of COVID-19 closures and the move to online conferences which sometimes do not have room for events not directly tied to the association putting on the conference, the executive committee of the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries discovered the need for it to have more flexibility in determining the date for the Association's annual business meeting. The following change to the by-laws has been proposed and will be voted on at the annual meeting at the end of April.

Current wording:

ARTICLE X – MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries shall be held in conjunction with the annual conference of the Alabama Library Association.

Suggested change:

The business meeting of the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries shall be held annually with the date and time set by the Executive Board of the Association and generally in conjunction with the annual conference of the Alabama Library Association.

The complete AACRL by-laws can be found on the Association's web site at <http://aacrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/bylaws-2017.pdf>



**Alabama Association of
College & Research Libraries**

Save the Date: Speaker and AACRL Annual Meeting

The 2021 Virtual AACRL Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, April 26th via Go-To-Meeting. Details will be forthcoming and emailed directly to members.

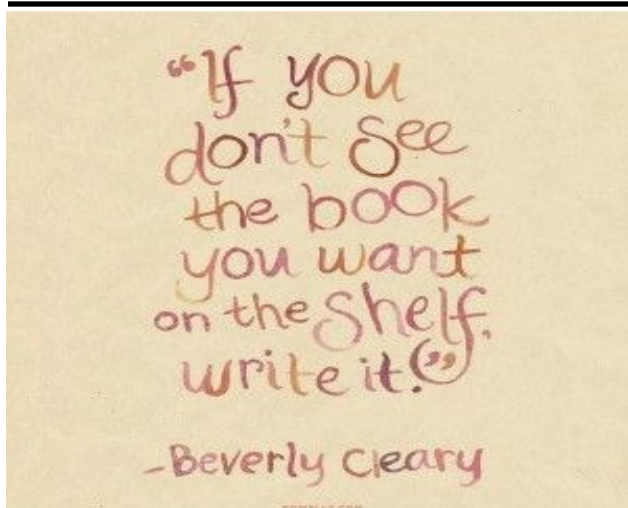
Become a Member

Want to become a member of AACRL?

AACRL serves the needs of a variety of academic institutions including four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, technical colleges, and other research institutions.

Students, paraprofessionals, and librarians are all welcome to join.

To join, click the following link: <http://aacrl.org/membership/>

**Beverly Cleary****Born:** April 12, 1916**Died:** March 25, 2021**Occupation:** Librarian and Writer**Notable Works:**

- Henry Huggins series
- Ramona series
- The Mouse and the Motorcycle
- Dear Mr. Henshaw

Website: <https://www.beverlycleary.com/>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The next issue of the AACRL Newsletter will appear in July. With the spring term coming to an end, this will be a great place to advertise the wonderful accomplishments from your library and your staff (or you). So, please email news about happenings around your library for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter. Examples of membership news include:

- Retirements, promotions, hirings
- Publications and presentations
- Library events and special programs
- Awards and recognitions

Please email the information (and any corresponding pictures) to elizabeth.bradsher@cv.edu (Please note that the email address is different from previous submissions.) The deadline for submissions will be **July 10, 2021**.