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## From the President . . . .



Thank you all for participating in the Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries meetings at the Alabama Library Annual Conference. We had strong attendance, both at the sessions and at our annual meeting dinner, featuring ACRL President-elect Irene M. H. Herold. I would particularly like to take a moment to express my appreciation for Past-President Jessica Hayes's work in acquiring the resources to promote AACRL membership. Thank you, Jessica.

Promoting membership in AACRL is important. Without additional members, we face challenges as to the types of events and activities we can sponsor – our annual scholarship for a member of AACRL to attend National Legislative Day to represent academic libraries is a valuable promotion and effort to reach out to our legislators and remind them of the value that academic research contributes to our state and local economies.

The sad fact of the matter is that our membership in AACRL has declined from almost 200 to less than 90 today. Much of this has occurred due to our members retiring or taking other jobs out of state. The value of membership in AACRL is still strong, particularly in an environment of declining travel budgets and professional participation. Those of you reading this are already aware of these elements, but I would like to issue a challenge to our members: If you have new colleagues, encourage them to join as members. We have a number of committees for members (new or continuing) to participate in: Awards, By-Laws, Continuing Education and Training, Government Relations, Membership, Nominating and Program Committee. [A list of committee chairs can be found on page 7.] This year, we have also implemented an Ad-Hoc Committee on Assessment with a goal of sharing information on assessment activities amongst the academic libraries in the state and perhaps coming up with base-line scores which we can use to demonstrate the value of our libraries to our campus administrators. All of these committees are on-going, so when the next call for membership occurs, consider participating.

Finally, on behalf of Dusty Folds, our newsletter editor, I encourage our membership to submit articles on activities going on in their libraries or their professional lives. We would like our newsletter to be more informative, and we need your help to accomplish that. [More information can be found on page 7.]

If you have any thoughts or ideas you would like to share with the board, my contact information is listed to the left. Please feel free to contact me.

On behalf of the AACRL Board, thank you all for your support and your efforts to keep AACRL a vibrant organization, both now and for the future.

*Rickey Best*  
*AACRL President*

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## Treasurer's Report

For the last Treasurer's Report the checking account balance was \$3,008.85 and the Pay Pal account was \$81.92.

Since then, we have received and deposited one membership renewal for \$15.00 and one Annual Meeting reservation for \$25.00. Through Pay Pal, five membership renewals have been received for a total of \$63.54.

For expenses, five checks were written for a total of \$943.45. One check for the amount of \$25.00 was for the refund of an Annual Meeting Reservation. Three checks for a total of \$550.45 were for AACRL promotional materials for the 2016 ALLA convention. One check for the amount of \$368.00 was for the 2016 AACRL Annual Meeting Dinner.

The checking account balance as of July 21, 2016, is \$2,105.40 and the Pay Pal account is \$145.46. As of July 21, 2016, we have 84 members in good standing.

*Debbie Cobb  
AACRL Treasurer*

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## Continuing Education and Training Survey

Attention AACRL members! As the AACRL Continuing Education and Training Committee plans our mid-year training and continuing education virtual session(s), we would like your input. Please keep an eye out for a **very** short survey. Help us identify those topics that are important to you. Thank you!

*Peggy Kain  
AACRL Vice-President / President-Elect  
AACRL Continuing Education and Training Committee Chair*

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## ALLA 2017: Call for AACRL Proposals

Yes, believe it or not it is once again that time of the year to start thinking about professional presentations for the Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries sessions at the Alabama Library Association Convention. The theme of the convention is "Alabama Libraries: A CAPITAL Idea!" Please put on your thinking cap and consider submitting a presentation proposal for the 2017 conference on those big, innovative, out-of-the-box, zany, outrageous, successful ideas that have been implemented in your library. Some of the topics identified as of possible interest have been listed below (these are only examples and are not meant to be an exhaustive list):

- Assessment (yes, I know -- not more numbers)
- Big Data - possible examples include the storage of big data, serving it up to users, and how to maintain it for years to come
- Research Information - possible examples include how to maintain faculty articles, research, etc.
- Promotion and Tenure - possible examples include preparing your portfolio for a successful promotion and tenure outcome

More information about how to submit your presentation proposal will be forthcoming

*Peggy Kain  
AACRL Vice-President / President-Elect  
AACRL Continuing Education and Training Committee Chair*

## Legislative Issues

National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) took place in early May in Washington, D.C. As many of you know, this is an annual event where librarians, library workers, and library supporters come together as state delegations to visit their congressional representatives. The Alabama delegation this year included Tim Dodge (Auburn University), Chris Warren (Auburn Public Library), Nancy Pack (APLS), and me. We met with staff from all but two of Alabama's congressional offices (but dropped by those two offices to introduce ourselves and leave an information packet). We were well received (Rep. Sewell's office was particularly welcoming) and had productive meeting, fielding a number of questions. Beyond legislative issues, we talked about how Alabama libraries can be valuable resources to our congressional representatives.

While there were many legislative issues on the table this year, with limited time, we focused our attention on the following six:

1) Support for the Senate to approve the confirmation of Dr. Carla Hayden as Librarian of Congress. (See more information below.)

2) Public Access to Taxpayer-Funded Research (FASTR – S. 779 and H.R. 1477) plus Access to CRS Reports: support for this legislation would significantly improve access to scientific, technical, and other research for academic researchers and for researchers connected to industry, agriculture, and other fields and would significantly help in the economic development of Alabama and the nation in general. The National Institutes of Health has been doing this for a number of years successfully, and it only makes sense for other federal agencies to do so, too. Since the American taxpayer has already paid for this research, making it freely available online after an appropriate embargo period (perhaps six or twelve months) makes the most sense.

3) Support for the Annual Reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA): this is the ONLY federal

funding for public libraries and, thanks to matching state contributions, is a truly cost-effective and crucial method of funding provided to public libraries. Many small and rural public libraries in Alabama find such support critical for operations and for providing basic essential services for our citizens. Alabama does an excellent job administering these federal dollars (as the APLS Annual Report illustrates).

4) Senate Approval of the Marrakesh Treaty (Access to Digital Resources for the Blind and Visually Disabled): access to such resources within the United States is already provided but approval of the Treaty will ensure that access to digital resources produced by other countries will similarly be available to our blind and visually disabled citizens.

5) Affordable Broadband Internet Access and Net Neutrality: in an era when Internet access has become crucial for everything from academic research to access to essential government services to being able to complete homework for today's school children, there still are public and school libraries lacking high-speed Internet access. Considering that perhaps one-third of Alabama's households lack Internet access, providing such access to public and school libraries is absolutely essential.

6) Library of Congress Autonomy in Subject Heading Determinations: Library of Congress subject headings are an indispensable form of access to research on any given subject and these headings are determined and changed as necessary to reflect changing research terminology. The Library of Congress's efforts to change the subject heading "illegal aliens" to "Noncitizens" and/or "Unauthorized Immigration" received opposition from some members of Congress on purely political grounds and was unprecedented interference in the work of the Library of Congress.

*Eric A. Kidwell*  
*AACRL Legislative Liaison*

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## Appointment of New Librarian of Congress



On July 13, the U.S. Senate approved Dr. Carla Hayden as the new Librarian of Congress. Dr. Hayden will be the first female, as well as the first African-American, Librarian of Congress, so this appointment has historical significance.

A big word of appreciation to all those who answered the eleventh-hour call in early July to contact Alabama's senators and request their support for Dr. Hayden's appointment. ALA was very aggressive in its efforts to target those senators who were either on-the-fence or had expressed opposition to the appointment (this list included Senator Sessions of Alabama). In addition to individual calls, e-mails, and tweets, letters from the Dean of Libraries at The University of Alabama, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, the Alabama Library Association, and the HBCU National Alliance were issued. On July 13 when the Senate vote was taken, neither of Alabama's senators was present.

*Eric A. Kidwell*  
*AACRL Legislative Liaison*

## SLIS Spotlight

*Editor's Note: Beginning with this issue, we plan to bring you a regular column highlighting events and happenings at the state's only ALA-accredited master's program in library studies--the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at The University of Alabama.*



New for fall 2016, SLIS offers MLIS applicants the opportunity to pursue a specialty area in Archival Studies. Students who select this specialization of their MLIS studies will complete the MLIS core as well as 6 electives in Archival Studies. The specialization is a formal designation that will be noted on their diploma.

In addition, the school also now offers a 15-credit-hour graduate certificate in Archival Studies for individuals already possessing the MLIS or a Masters Degree in an allied discipline. Interested candidates for this certificate will apply through the Graduate School ([graduate.ua.edu](http://graduate.ua.edu)), select the "certificates: graduate non-degree" category and then "Certificate in Archival Studies."

Dr. Riter offers an Archival Studies Reading Group with participation open to any interested individual. The theme for the Fall will be "the archival divide (Blouin & Rosenberg, Processing the Past, 7)." The group will examine the relationships that exist between archival studies and contemporary historical disciplines, between archivists and historians, and the particular character of archival thinking and seeing. Beginning August 23rd, this reading group will meet weekly (Tuesday's) 12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. on the fifth floor of the Gorgas Library. Please contact Dr. Riter ([rbriter@ua.edu](mailto:rbriter@ua.edu)) if you are interested in participating or in receiving the readings.

*Beth Riggs  
SLIS Assistant Director*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION AT SLIS

Looking for a way to continue your education, increase your knowledge base, and/or stay up to date with changes in the field of library studies?

Enroll in elective courses at SLIS (face-to-face or online) as a non-degree-seeking student.

Explore elective courses you may have missed while completing your MLIS degree, courses that are new to the curriculum, or courses that apply to current professional requirements.

For more information, visit [slis.ua.edu](http://slis.ua.edu).



## Membership News

### Professional Activities at Marx Library (University of South Alabama)

- Kathy Wheeler, Amy Prendergast, and Angela Rand presented “Academic Library Services for the Digital Age: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats” at the Conference on Teaching and Learning at the University of South Alabama on May 9.
- Kathy Wheeler is the new chair of the Publications Committee for the College, University, and Special Libraries (CUS) division of ALLA. She continues as chair of the CUS Research Award Committee.
- Ellen Wilson took the Electronic Resources & Libraries’ EZProxy Administration and Assessment pre-conference workshop on April 3 and attended the conference in Austin, Texas, April 4 - 6.
- Ellen Wilson is a member of the CUS Projects Committee, which is conducting a survey of Alabama libraries’ collection development policies.
- Amy Prendergast attended the ALA Summer Conference in Orlando, Florida in June 2016 as the co-chair of the ACRL Science & Technology Section Publications Committee.

### Samford University

- Lauren M. Young, Instruction Coordinator and Reference/Research Services Librarian, co-authored the following book chapter: Young, L. M., Clark, S. B., Machado, C. K., Hinton, E. G., & Norris, M. R. (2016) Medical libraries supporting interprofessional education. In M. Edwards (Ed.), *Interprofessional education and medical libraries: Partnering for success*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

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## Membership News: SLIS Student Spotlight



Matt Hayward, a second year MLIS student at The University of Alabama, won two awards this Spring for work completed during a project management course taken in the Fall.

He placed third in the College, University, and Special Libraries Division’s (CUS) Research Forum Awards after presenting the class’s research and findings during the 2016 ALLA Convention. The project was a collaborative effort by the entire class, including distance education students, to look at the benefits of internships for students, for MLIS programs, and for host institutions. Additionally, the project sought to review the standards of other ALA-accredited MLIS programs, compare those with UA’s, and aid in preparing for UA’s upcoming ALA reaccreditation. The group also produced marketing materials for the UA SLIS internship program.

After reviewing literature and readily-available information from 58 ALA accredited MLIS programs, the students created short surveys for ALA-accredited program coordinators and previous UA MLIS interns. Data from the surveys, and data collected during previous internships, was analyzed to determine areas where improvement may be needed and highlight areas where UA standards exceed those of other accredited programs and to summarize how host institutions have rated UA interns. The findings revealed that UA’s program requirements meet or exceed those of other programs and that interns were consistently rated highly by previous hosts. Further the findings showed that internships are beneficial not only to students but also to MLIS programs in areas like networking and improved curriculum, as well as to host institutions for novel thinking and low-cost supplemental assistance.

Matt also received an award for Online Innovation from UA’s College of Communication and Information Sciences. As part of the project’s marketing materials, he created a Google Map using the aforementioned data previously collected by UA’s MLIS internship coordinator. The map was created to embed on the SLIS internship website to show the worldwide placements of UA SLIS students. The map includes useful information about the placements, is searchable, is sortable by library type, and is easily updated to reflect current data each semester. The Online Innovation Award included a \$500 scholarship. The map can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/UA-SLIS-Map>.

# EBSCO Award for Research Excellence

## Call for Papers

The College, University, and Special Libraries 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 2017 Alabama Library Association Convention in Montgomery. A research paper will be chosen for the award, and the top three authors will have the opportunity to present at the 2017 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! I have included the criteria and deadlines for submitting abstracts and papers 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 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 EBSCO 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 the College, University and Special Libraries Division (CUS) of the Alabama Library Association and EBSCO, Inc.

### Important Dates:

**November 18, 2016**

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.

**January 20, 2017**

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

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  
Mobile, AL 36688  
Phone: (251) 460-7938  
Email: kwheeler@southalabama.edu

## AACRL Newsletter Changes and Call for Submissions



AACRL is excited to announce a big change for our newsletter. The AACRL newsletter will now be published quarterly instead of only three times a year. To make this possible, we need your help!

We want your contributions to the newsletter. Continue to send membership news, including promotions, publications, and presentations, but if you would like to contribute a column, please feel free to do that, too. Do you want to talk about technology in the library? Do you want to highlight something your library is doing? Let us know. Write a column (no more than 550-600 words) and submit it to Dusty Folds at [dfolds@lawsonstate.edu](mailto:dfolds@lawsonstate.edu).

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### AACRL 2016-2017 Committees

If you are interested in learning more about AACRL's committees, please feel free to contact the chairs listed below. A full list of the rosters can be found on the AACRL website at [www.aacrl.org/committees.html](http://www.aacrl.org/committees.html).

**Awards Committee**

Chair: Tyrone Webb ([twebb@bscc.edu](mailto:twebb@bscc.edu))

**By-Laws Committee**

Chair: Tyrone Webb ([twebb@bscc.edu](mailto:twebb@bscc.edu))

**Continuing Education & Training Committee**

Chair: Peggy Kain ([pkain@uab.edu](mailto:pkain@uab.edu))

**Government Relations Committee**

Chair: Eric Kidwell ([ekidwell@huntingdon.edu](mailto:ekidwell@huntingdon.edu))

**Membership Committee**

Chair: Tim Bailey ([tbailey@aum.edu](mailto:tbailey@aum.edu))

**Nominating Committee**

Chair: Tyrone Webb ([twebb@bscc.edu](mailto:twebb@bscc.edu))

**Program Committee**

Chair: Peggy Kain ([pkain@uab.edu](mailto:pkain@uab.edu))