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From the President



As we move toward spring, it is my pleasure to announce the date and time of our annual meeting. The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m., April 19th at the Irish Bred Pub, 78 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting will take place in conjunction with the Alabama Library Association meeting. The 7:30 p.m. start time is designed to allow AACRL members the opportunity to participate in the ALLA Public Officials Reception which will take place from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. that evening. [The registration form for the AACRL meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. The deadline for registering is April 8.]

Our speaker for the AACRL meeting will be Dr. Lauren Cardon, Assistant Professor of English and participant in the Digital Humanities Center projects at the University of Alabama. Dr. Cardon will discuss the activities of the Center and provide information as we investigate engaging in digital activities in our institutions.

One of the big discussions at the ALA midwinter meeting was the possibility of eliminating midwinter meetings entirely. Because of contractual obligations, this is something that won't happen soon, but keep an eye out for discussions on the topic and let Jeff Simpson (jsimpson25000@outlook.com), the Alabama Chapter Councilor for Alabama, know your feelings.

One of the great successes for the association over this past year has been the full implementation of the online membership renewal and registration process, brought about through the efforts of our webmaster Steven Turner and our treasurer Debbie Cobb. Unfortunately for us, Steven's job duties have required him to step down as webmaster for AACRL. On behalf of the executive board, I want to thank Steven for his excellent work and all of the assistance he has provided the board over his years of service. Thank you, Steven. [More information about this transition can be found on page 3.]

Our joint committee on assessment with the College, University and Special Libraries section (CUS) of the Alabama Library Association has been busy in preparing a survey on assessment practices within the state. The committee's goal is to identify assessment practices across the academic libraries in the state that focus upon student learning outcomes and to discuss possible benchmarks for the assessment practices. Sara Whitver of the University of Alabama has led the committee but has recently had to relinquish her position within the committee. I send my appreciation to Lauren Young at Samford University for being willing to take on the role of co-chair with Jessica Hayes (the CUS representative from AUM). Thank you, Lauren.

As a final thought, if you have a colleague who you feel has made an outstanding contribution to academic libraries in the state, I encourage you to send a letter of nomination for the Dr. Sue O. Medina/AACRL Significant Contribution Award. The nomination letter should discuss the candidate's contributions to academic library service within the state. Please send your letters of nomination to Tyrone Webb, Chair of the Awards Committee, at twebb@bscc.edu or Tyrone Webb, Bevill State Community College, Sumiton Campus, P.O. Box 800, Sumiton, AL 35148.

I look forward to seeing you in Montgomery, and have a great Spring!

*Rickey Best
AACRL President*

Treasurer's Report

For the last treasurer's report, the checking account balance was \$2,158.40 and the PayPal account was \$231.63.

Since then we have received and deposited 6 membership renewals for \$357.00. Through PayPal, 19 membership renewals have been received for a total of \$411.74. One check for \$95.40 was written for the AACRL domain.

The account balance as of February 22, 2017, is \$2,420.00 and the PayPal account is \$643.37.

*Debbie Cobb
AACRL Treasurer*



AACRL currently has 100 members in good standing. Now is the time to join or renew your membership.

There are now two ways to sign up for or renew your AACRL membership:

- Sign up online via PayPal at <http://www.aacrl.org/membership/index.html>
- Print out a form and mail your payment. The renewal form is available online at <http://www.aacrl.org/membership/memb.pdf>

Please note: AACRL is NOT affiliated with the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) or with the College, University and Special Libraries Division of ALLA (CUS).

ALLA 2017: AACRL/CUS Joint Sessions



AACRL and CUS will again be hosting joint sessions on library best practices at the ALLA convention. Presenters from institutions throughout the state will share ideas from their libraries and their research. There are four sessions scheduled for Thursday, April 20. More information and a preliminary program can be found at www.allanet.org/?page=7. The deadline for early bird registration is March 24, so register today. [Registration for the AACRL annual meeting, which is separate from the ALLA Convention, can be found at the end of this newsletter.]

Legislative Issues

As a reminder, May 1 and 2 is National Legislative Day in Washington, D. C. If you would like to be a member of the Alabama delegation (which currently numbers two), please contact me. There will also be the opportunity to participate in Virtual NLLD. More information will be forthcoming through the various state library lists. This year may prove particularly important for library advocacy as early indications are that federal funding for libraries (along with such entities as the NEA and NEH) is a target of the new administration. We all need to be especially vigilant in communicating with our Alabama legislators that libraries are not a luxury and funding cannot be placed solely on the shoulders of the states.

*Eric A. Kidwell
AACRL Legislative Liaison
NLLD State Coordinator for Alabama*

AACRL Webmaster Change



Steven Turner from the University of Alabama, who has ably served the association as webmaster for the past few years, has recently stepped down. On behalf of the association I would like to express my appreciation to Steven for his dedicated work in maintaining the association website. More importantly, however, it was through the efforts of Steven, Sara Whitver, and Jessica Hayes that the association has implemented PayPal as a means of paying for membership renewals and the annual meeting.

Steven has been working with Ellen Wilson from the University of South Alabama. Ellen has volunteered to serve as webmaster for the association and is now hard at work on updating the AACRL website. Thank you, Ellen, for volunteering.

*Rickey Best
AACRL President*

AACRL Webinar on Assessment and More

On February 22, AACRL was pleased to host the second in a series of webinars on library assessment. Two of our colleagues from The University of Alabama (UA) led the discussion: Kevin Walker, Head of Assessment and Government Information, and Sara Maurice Whitver, Coordinator for Library Instruction and area librarian for the English Department and the Writing Center. Kevin and Sara shared information about the on-going assessment projects they are working on and how UA Libraries plan to expand their assessment review in the future. They explored assessment in general and provided the audience with insight as to how and why they started working to answer their institution's assessment questions. Kevin and Sara shared practical strategies librarians could use to develop and conduct assessment projects at their home institutions and reassured the audience that by starting with one small step, all libraries (and librarians) can make great assessment strides.

If you were not able to join us in February, the recording for this and other great AACRL webinars may be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_RAVDSD68p9R9mESd2MJZw. Let us know if there are any areas of interest you would like explored in the future.

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

SLIS Spotlight



With the spring semester came three new hires at SLIS. Faculty and staff are excited to welcome Dr. James K. Elmborg to be the next director for SLIS beginning in August 2017. Dr. Elmborg is Professor and former director of the School of Library and Information Science at Iowa where his areas of expertise included digital humanities and critical information literacy. SLIS celebrates the contributions that Interim Director Dr. Ann Prentice has made to the vitality of the program and looks forward to a seamless transition moving forward. With the second hire, SLIS faculty has expanded to include Assistant Professor Steven D. Yates who will coordinate the School Library Media Program. Prof. Yates is currently serving as president-elect of the American Association of School Librarians. SLIS also welcomes Dr. Ann Bourne who succeeds Ms. Beth Riggs as Assistant Director of the program. An additional faculty position will be filled by fall of 2017, leaving only the EBSCO Endowed Chair vacant.

The site visit for ALA continuing accreditation of the MLIS program will occur March 5 - 7. Coinciding with the ongoing continuing accreditation process, SLIS is putting the finishing touches on a major refurbishment of the fifth floor of Gorgas library. Faculty offices are complete, as are most classroom spaces and student study areas. We feel that it is a major improvement and will be announcing an open house soon to invite alumni and friends of the school to see our progress so that we can share our new look with you.

SLIS will be welcoming two highly anticipated guest speakers in the month of March. Ms. Makiba Foster of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library will be giving a presentation March 22 at 1:00 p.m. in Gorgas Library room 205. Ms. Foster's presentation will

be on community digital archives and the new civil rights movement. The following week, Dr. Clara Chu, Director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs and past ALISE president, will give the keynote speech at the Discerning Diverse Voices Colloquium. Dr. Chu will speak Monday, March 27 at 4:00 p.m. also in Gorgas Library room 205. Admission to each is free and open to the public. These will be great opportunities to spend time with two significant contributors to library and archival studies practices.

March 23 - 25 Dr. Jamie Naidoo will be coordinating the 2017 National Latino Children's Literature Conference in San Antonio, TX, with the theme "Connecting Cultures & Celebrating Cuentos." Dr. Naidoo was selected to serve as ALA representative to the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) Board of Directors through 2018.

SLIS Honor's Day will be held April 6, and the College of Communication and Information Sciences Honor's Day is scheduled for the following day. All are welcomed to join us in honoring student and faculty achievements from the 2016-2017 academic year.

*John T. F. Burgess, PhD
Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Distance Education
UA School of Library and Information Studies*

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.



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.

Call for AACRL Officer Nominations

AACRL is looking for people to run for the office of President-Elect of AACRL. If you are interested, please contact Tyrone Webb, Past President and chair of the Nominating Committee, at twebb@bscc.edu by Wednesday, March 22.

Information regarding elections will be sent out via the AACRL electronic list.

AACRL Call for Committee Participation

Get involved! Get connected! Serving on AACRL committees is a great way to expand your professional network and contribute to the organization. Committee members do vital work to help our organization be effective.

To volunteer to serve on an AACRL committee, please complete this form: <https://goo.gl/forms/6VyWoS2TNBMOCvyt2>

The Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries is one of 42 state and regional chapters of the Association of College and Research Libraries, itself a division of the American Library Association. AACRL is a professional association of academic librarians and others interested in improving the ability of academic librarians and information professionals to serve the information needs of the higher education community and to improve learning, teaching and research.

Benefits of volunteering:

1. Build relationships with academic librarians from across the state
2. Enhance your leadership skills through project management
3. Advance the work of our organization and our profession

Requirements for serving:

1. Be a member of AACRL at the time of appointment
2. Be willing to contribute to the work of our committees by carrying out assignments in a timely manner

AACRL 2017 ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION

The AACRL 2017 annual meeting will take place Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at the Irish Bred Pub, 78 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Lauren Cardon from the University of Alabama will be presenting about the Alabama Digital Humanities Center at the University of Alabama.

The cost for the meal will be \$25.00. Please indicate below your menu option choice for the event as well as your drink choice:

_____ Knockdown Meal Shepherd's Pie

_____ Downtown Cobia Fillet (Grilled Cobia with a Teriyaki pineapple glaze, served with grilled pineapple, roasted potatoes, and vegetables)

_____ Irish Bred Pub House Salad _____ add Chicken _____ add Shrimp

_____ Tea _____ Water _____ Coke _____ Diet Coke

Name

e-Mail Address

Phone Number

Please mail this form with your payment to

Debbie Cobb, AACRL Treasurer
Marx Library
5901 USA Drive North
Mobile, AL 36688

You may also pay online using your credit card, debit card, or PayPal account on the AACRL website at <http://aacrl.org/>.

Please RSVP before April 8, 2017