



# Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

[www.aacrl.org](http://www.aacrl.org)

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## From the President . . .



What a wonderful year for our Association! I want to thank all of our members for their active participation, and a special thanks to our Executive Board as they continued their dedicated service to the organization. Because of this work, we were able to hold several training sessions throughout the year: net neutrality, professional growth, predatory journals & open access scholarship, and much more. As we embark on this new year, it is important that we continue offering these types of opportunities for the Alabama academic library community; if you are interested in presenting a professional development session or leading a training workshop, please let the Executive Board know.

In October, AACRL webmaster Ellen Wilson gave us a new web presence with a sleek and modern look. This new site allows users to quickly sign up for AACRL membership, renew their membership, register for training sessions, and much more. Additionally, we have started hosting our virtual presentations and training sessions on the website to allow for easy access to past learning opportunities. Over the next year, we will add more tools and resources to the site, so make sure you have bookmarked the page and visit it frequently! If you haven't checked out the site, do so today at <http://aacrl.org/>. Thank you, Ellen, for your dedication on developing and maintaining the new site.

A fantastic result of our increased training opportunities and new website is an uptick in our membership. In 2016, Rickey Best reported that our membership had dipped below 90 and urged us all to become active in the organization and recruitment activities; that work has been successful. I'm pleased to report that as of our April meeting, we had 100 members in good standing. This is a wonderful accomplishment, and as your President, I want to thank everyone for your help in making this happen!

While having a high number of members is important, especially for practical reasons, it is equally important that we offer members tangible benefits and, going even further, provide benefits to non-members as well. As we say in the About section of our homepage, we exist to "serve the needs" of the entire Alabama academic library community. I desire that during my time as President, AACRL will continue serving our members while also evaluating our contributions to the entire academic library community in Alabama.

Over this year, I humbly ask all AACRL members to consider how they can personally assist the Association in accomplishing these goals. While not an exhaustive list, here are some immediate areas in which members can contribute:

- Serving on a committee (full list found at <http://aacrl.org/about/committees/>)
- Volunteering to lead training sessions, present professional development workshops, etc.
- Working on a taskforce or ad-hoc group
- Providing newsletters articles, research tools, etc.

In addition to these areas, all members can actively contribute by insuring they are subscribed to the AACRL Listserv (send the message SUBSCRIBE AACRL to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UAB.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UAB.EDU)) and/or liking the [AACRL Facebook page](#).

I look forward to working with you all this upcoming year! Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions, or concerns.

*Jessica Hayes*  
AACRL President

## Treasurer's Report

For the last Treasurer's Report, the checking balance was \$3,505.77 and the PayPal account was \$479.31.

Since then, I have received from PayPal, two payments for AACRL membership renewals and one new membership payment for a total of \$71.91. For expenses, one check for \$307.81 was written to Ricatoni's Italian Grill & Dining for the Annual AACRL Meeting. On April 23, 2018, \$450.00 was transferred from the PayPal account to the AACRL checking account.

The checking account balance as of May 21, 2018, is \$3,647.96 and the PayPal account is \$101.22. We currently have 100 members in good standing.

*Debbie Cobb*  
AACRL Treasurer

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## From the Past President . . .

This past year has been an exciting one for me serving as the AACRL President.



Through the efforts of the President-Elect/Vice President Jessica Hayes and the members of the Continuing Education and Training Committee, AACRL successfully hosted more professional development opportunities for members. We started in the fall with a timely webinar on *Net Neutrality* presented by Tim Dodge, our colleague from Auburn University. During the first quarter of 2018, AACRL was able to host a one-day conference on *Professional Growth in Academic Librarianship*. The conference keynote speakers Mary Duffy and Paula Webb, from the University of South Alabama, did a great job of providing the audience with tips and tools that help when planning what professional development steps to take. If you were unable to attend either event, Tim's presentation and Mary and Paula's keynote presentation may be found on the AACRL website under *News & Events* in the *Workshops* section (<http://aacrl.org/news-events/workshops/>). As Jessica Hayes and Kathy Wheeler take the helm as President and Preside-Elect/Vice President respectively, I am

excited to see what other professional opportunities are in store this year.

This spring, in conjunction with the Alabama Library Association Annual Meeting, the AACRL annual business meeting and dinner took place in Florence, Alabama. Those in attendance enjoyed an evening of good food and good conversation at Ricatoni's Italian Grill. Per members' requests, we varied from our previous meeting format by opening the floor to discussion and providing a networking opportunity for our members.

Before heading out the door, I want to say **thank you** to all of my wonderful colleagues—members of the AACRL Board and all association members. Your hard work makes the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries a great organization.

*Peggy Kain*  
AACRL Past President

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## AACRL 2018-2019 Executive Board Elections

The results of the 2018 AACRL Executive Board elections were announced at the Annual Meeting in Florence.

Vice-President/President-Elect (2018-2019): Kathy Wheeler, University of South Alabama

Secretary (2018-2020): Tim Dodge, Auburn University

Member-at-Large / ACRL Chapter Liaison (2018-2020): Anna Mary Williford, University of Montevallo

\*The Executive Board appointed Eric Kidwell as Legislative Liaison for a two-year term ending in 2020.

## Legislative Update: National Library Legislative Day 2018



Thanks to funding supplied by the Alabama Library Association, I was able to participate in my fifth National Library Legislative Day, an annual library advocacy event organized by the American Library Association, in Washington, D.C. The ALA Washington Office staff provides a very helpful Briefing Day, where major library-related federal legislative issues are analyzed and explained and where advocacy techniques are discussed for the benefit of the hundreds of librarians gathered together. The next day is the actual Legislative

Day where librarians and library supporters meet, by appointment, with the legislative staff of their own state's representatives and senators. Occasionally, an actual representative or senator is available to meet with librarians in person too.

For 2018, the Alabama delegation to Washington consisted of yours truly plus Nancy Pack, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service. Jamie Campbell Naidoo and Steven Yates of the School of Library and Information Studies at The University of Alabama also participated but as part of the American Association of School Librarians, a delegation organized separately from the rest of the state delegations but participating otherwise in the same advocacy role.

Briefing Day was held Monday, May 7. The nearly 500 assembled librarians were treated to knowledgeable analysis and commentary by various staff members of the ALA Washington Office plus additional expert speakers. Adopting a more unified approach, this year we were asked to focus primarily on three main "asks" for support when visiting the congressional offices: 1) support for keeping the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) from being eliminated as was being proposed by President Donald Trump's federal budget for Fiscal Year 2019; 2) support for reauthorizing funding for the annually appropriated Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the ONLY form of federal funding for libraries and which is administered by the IMLS; and 3) support for increasing broadband Internet access, something vital for ensuring that all public libraries and all citizens have access to library services, etc. While not emphasized as heavily as the big three "asks," support for Net Neutrality was also to be encouraged when visiting congressional offices, time permitting.

This year we had an appointment secured with eight of the nine Alabama congressional offices. As it turned out, we also managed to land an appointment with the remaining office for a total of nine scheduled visits on May 8, the actual National Library Legislative Day itself. Typically, one meets for about 10-15 minutes with a member of the Congressperson's office staff. A typical visit consists of brief introductions followed by a reasonably succinct discussion where we bring up the library issues for which we are seeking support and finally, sometimes, a few moments for questions and answers. Part of library advocacy involves telling (true) stories about how well libraries are serving the community and the state with the resources they already have and (without actually asking for money) indicating how much more we could do if more resources were available. Ideally, one tries to personalize this to fit the congressional district or hometown area of the congressperson. Some congressional offices are more engaged than others, but all, generally, express at least some level of support for library-related issues. We also provide handouts that present library advocacy issues in concrete, easy-to-understand terms, often with statistical and financial analysis, and we bring along business cards to give to the office staff for follow-up communication. While one does have to be reasonably well-informed about the issues, library advocacy in a congressional office is not really all that difficult and, when things go well, can actually be enjoyable – especially if the staff member is receptive.

Space is limited, so let me just note a few of the highlights of this year's National Library Legislative Day. Some of the most fulfilling and encouraging visits included meeting with Will Turner, Legislative Aide for Rep. Robert Aderholt (4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District); meeting directly with Rep. Mike Rogers (3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District) in person; meeting with T. Scott Harris, Staff Assistant/Legislative Correspondent for Rep. Terri Sewell (7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District); Hamilton Bloom, Legislative Assistant for Sen. Richard Shelby; and Rebecca Howard, Legislative Assistant for Sen. Doug Jones.

Meeting with an actual politician in person is pretty rare, so it was especially encouraging to have been able to meet Rep. Mike Rogers in person and after meeting with Legislative Assistant Rebecca Howard, to have had a photo opportunity with Sen. Doug Jones. By virtue of my residency in Camp Hill, I am a direct constituent of Rep. Rogers and, perhaps, that encouraged him to have a photo taken with me and Nancy Pack. (See picture to the right.)

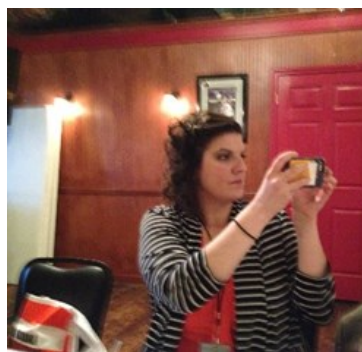
Of course, one does not have to participate in National Library Legislative Day in person to engage in library advocacy. In recent years the ALA Washington Office has provided people with the means to participate virtually, and all year round, one does have the opportunity to contact one's U.S. representative and senators to advocate on library issues (or anything else). To easily identify your congresspeople and get contact information, see the "Issues and Advocacy" section of the ALA web site (<http://cqcengage.com/ala/?0>) or the "Members of the U.S. Congress" link available through Congress's official Congress.gov web site (<https://www.congress.gov/members?q=%7B%22congress%22%3A%22115%22%7D>).



*Tim Dodge*  
AACRL Secretary



## AACRL Annual Meeting



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The next issue of the AACRL Newsletter will appear in August. With the new academic year upon us, we know that your library has some great information to report on. 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 Dusty Folds at [dfolds@lawsonstate.edu](mailto:dfolds@lawsonstate.edu). The deadline for submissions will be **August 17, 2018**.