



President's Report to ALA Council

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My presidential year marked a period of change and looking to the future for ACRL. In April 2011, during my term as vice-president, the ACRL Board of Directors approved a new Plan for Excellence for the association. Developed by the Board, with continuous input from the ACRL membership, the Plan for Excellence replaced our previous strategic plan, *Charting Our Future: ACRL Strategic Plan 2020*. The Plan for Excellence is a plan that truly reflects our collective vision of the future of academic and research librarianship and the role of ACRL and our members in creating that future. The plan highlights three strategic areas, and notes that “academic and research librarians and libraries are indispensable to a thriving community of scholarly and learners.” The new Plan for Excellence went into effect at the beginning of my presidency on July 1, 2011, and is available on the ACRL website at <http://bit.ly/acrlplan>.

In an essay in the October 2011 issue of *C&RL News*, I reflected on the new Plan for Excellence and noted that the way to achieve our envisioned future is to promote a continuous cycle of learning, creativity, and discovery. Through our wide variety of activities, ACRL works to highlight and increase the value and stature of academic libraries and librarians by uniting lifelong learning with lifelong access to information for learners and scholarly around the world.

The following report highlights ACRL's many accomplishments during my presidential year across the three strategic goal areas highlighted in the Plan for Excellence – the value of academic libraries, student learning, and the research and scholarly environment – along with the association's enabling programs and services.

The Value of Academic Libraries

ACRL made significant progress on the association's goal of assisting academic libraries in demonstrating alignment with, and impact on, institutional outcomes this year.

Value of Academic Libraries Summits

ACRL was awarded a National Leadership Collaborative Planning Grant Level II by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the project “Building Capacity for Demonstrating the Value of Academic Libraries” in fall 2011. The grant funding supported ACRL, in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Council of Independent Colleges, in convening two national summits to address the library profession's need to develop skills to document and communicate library value in alignment with the missions and goals of their colleges and universities.

The two summits were held in December 2011 in suburban Chicago. Teams from a broad spectrum of institutions gathered with representatives from accreditation commissions and higher education organizations for dialogue around the assessment of student learning and faculty research productivity. In the first summit, a wide range of participants from the higher education sector discussed the data campus administrators would like libraries to provide and what collaborative assistance is available through institutional research offices. In the second, librarian participants addressed strategies to prepare the library community to document and communicate the library's value in advancing the missions and goals of their colleges and universities.

An update on the summits was presented at the 2012 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. In addition, a white paper of summit findings and recommendations authored by Karen Brown of Dominican University and ACRL Senior Strategist for Special Initiatives Kara Malenfant was published in June 2012. A series of podcast interviews with summit participants is also available on the Value of Academic Libraries website.

Following the success of the 2011 summits, ACRL has already taken steps to continue this crucial work by submitting a second IMLS grant proposal to design, implement, and evaluate a team-based professional development program to strengthen the competencies of librarians in campus leadership and data-informed advocacy. Additionally, our Value of Academic Libraries committee began planning a half-day invitational working session, scheduled for June 2012, to help scope and develop a specific, multi-year research agenda to serve as the basis for pursuing grant funding for value research. Participants in the invitational working session will include leading researchers in the area of library value, particularly academic library value, as well as individuals who have pursued conversations with ACRL about the research agenda component of the report. Through a series of structured discussions and prioritization activities, participants will contribute to a focused research agenda, which will be then vetted with the academic library community in fall 2012.

Standards for Libraries in Higher Education

The ACRL Board of Directors approved a comprehensive revision of the association's seminal *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (SLHE)* in October 2011. Grounded in nine principles reflecting the core roles and contributions of academic libraries, the newly revised version of *SLHE* provides a guide to libraries in advancing and sustaining their role as partners in educating students, achieving their institutions' missions and positioning libraries as leaders in assessment and continuous improvement on their campuses. The full text of the revised *SLHE*, along with a recording of an introductory webcast on the new standards, is available on the ACRL Standards and Guidelines website at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/standardslibraries.cfm>. More than 1,600 copies have been distributed since October 2011.

To provide additional information on the new version of *SLHE*, and the role of the new standards in demonstrating library value, ACRL offered a free introductory webcast on the standards in November 2011. Presented by Patricia Iannuzzi, chair of the ACRL *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* Task Force, the webcast provided an overview of the revision, highlighting ways the standards can benefit libraries in the strategic planning, program review, and self-study processes. Additional information on *SLHE* was provided in a forum at the ALA Midwinter

Meeting.

ACRLMetrics

To assist with evaluating library performance, ACRLMetrics added the 2010 ACRL survey data as well as the 2010 NCES Academic Library Survey results. Developed by Counting Opinions, this online product provides unprecedented access to the annual ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey data as well as the biennial National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Academic Library Survey data from 2000 to 2010. ACRLMetrics facilitates performance analysis and decision-making with peer benchmarking and customized reports for use in presentations, grant applications, self-studies, and strategic planning.

Student Learning

The following activities are examples of ways ACRL moved towards meeting the association's goal of assisting librarians in transforming student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creative and innovative collaborations during my term.

The ACRL *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* continue to be widely cited as a benchmark in information literacy instruction. This year the standards were cited in numerous books, journal articles, and blogs along with ACRL's own publications.

Information Literacy Immersion Program

ACRL endeavors to improve members' ability to teach and assess lifelong learning skills. To help librarians and institutions develop and implement information literacy programs on their campuses, the ACRL Institute for Information Literacy's Immersion Program was offered from July 24 to 29, 2011, at Seattle University. The program provided two tracks of intensive training and education for 89 attendees. The Teacher Track focused on individual development for librarians interested in enhancing or extending their individual instruction skills, while the Program Track focused on developing, integrating or managing campus-wide and programmatic information literacy programs.

Sixty-four attendees participated in the Immersion Program Assessment and Intentional Teacher Tracks held November 16-20, 2011, in Nashville. The Assessment Track provided attendees with an understanding of assessment and information on how to use assessment as a tool to guide evidence-based classroom, curriculum, and program development. The Intentional Teacher Track offered a mixture of structured and co-constructed learning segments, such as peer discussions, individual reading and reflection times, and participant-led communities of practice to help attendees become more self-aware and self-directed as teachers.

Research and Scholarly Environment

ACRL's scholarly communication program actively promotes the transition to a more open system of scholarship. To this end, ACRL proudly joined the growing ranks of signatories to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and the Humanities in October 2011. The declaration builds on the significant progress of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, calling for Open Access to knowledge in the humanities as well as in the sciences. The move

followed the association's removal of price barriers to the scholarly research journal *College & Research Libraries* in April 2011.

In January 2012, ACRL additionally endorsed *Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries*, issued by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Together with the Center for Social Media at American University and the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property in American University's Washington College of Law, ARL has been working since April 2010 to develop the code. The project is funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and now entering its third phase: extensive outreach to promote broad adoption of the code by research and academic librarians throughout the United States.

The ACRL Scholarly Communications Committee selected five sites from 12 applications to host the "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement" workshop this spring and summer, including the first host site outside the U.S. ACRL is underwriting the bulk of the costs of delivering this proven content by sending expert presenters on the road. The institutions selected to host the 2012 road shows are Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library (Atlanta, Ga.), Colorado State University (Pueblo, Colo.), James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.), University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, N.M.), and University of Toronto (Toronto, Ont.). The workshop focuses on new methods of scholarly publishing and communication, open access and openness as a principle, copyright, and intellectual property and economics.

ACRL offered Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement, a full-day institute on scholarly communication in conjunction with the 2012 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. The institute empowered attendees to help accelerate the transformation of the scholarly communication system and engage in a structured interactive program that explores scholarly publishing, author rights and open access in practice. Four modules focused on new methods of scholarly publishing and communication, copyright and author rights, economics, and open access and openness in practice.

The ACRL Scholarly Communication Discussion Group, Scholcomm discussion list and the ACRL/ SPARC Forum on Emerging Issues in Scholarly Communication continue to be important venues for strengthening the association's role in supporting new models of scholarly communication. Regular articles on scholarly communication issues and trends in *C&RL News* play an important role in disseminating a body of knowledge for the field.

Enabling Programs and Services

In addition to the three Plan for Excellence goal areas, ACRL serves our members, along with the academic and research library community, through a variety of programs and services. Highlights of the regularly recurring operations relevant to the ability of ACRL to lead academic and research librarians and libraries in advancing learning and scholarship are reported below.

Member Engagement

ACRL's membership activities build on retaining core membership while recruiting from new and diverse communities. As of April 30, 2012, ACRL had 12,202 members, a decrease of

0.065% (8 fewer members) from FY10 (12,210). There are currently 11,383 personal members, 752 organizational members, and 26 corporate members. For FY12 to date, ACRL had 5.3% fewer member renewals (398) than during the same period during the last non-conference year (2010). However, 13.5% (78) more members have reinstated their membership compared to the same period during the previous non-conference year (2010). The 2012 ACRL membership survey (with a 28.9% response rate) provided important findings with respect to ACRL professional development programs, top issues for the profession, and perceptions of ACRL's role as an association.

The ACRL Board of Directors passed a new division level committee structure effective July 2012. The committee structure will advance ACRL's strategic goals and support operations. The committee structure, complete with committee charges and transition plans, is available on the ACRL website. When implemented in July 2012, the new structure will align ACRL's resources with the new Plan for Excellence. The Board acknowledges that it is always difficult to eliminate long-standing committees and wishes to thank all of its members who volunteered their time and energy to serve on ACRL committees.

The ACRL 101 program at the ALA Annual Conference continues to educate members and potential members on the wide range of ACRL activities and opportunities for participation. ACRL's presences on Facebook, LinkedIn, Second Life, and Twitter continue to grow and provide our membership with new avenues to connect with colleagues and the association. ACRL continues to explore new models for member connections. For the third year, we held a virtual orientation session for new leaders. A number of ACRL committees, interest groups, sections, and the Board of Directors are working virtually and taking advantage of ALA Connect and other virtual meeting systems to keep the work of the association moving forward year round.

The ACRL Board of Directors approved six new discussion groups this year. The new discussion groups are Assessment Discussion Group, Digital Humanities Discussion Group, International Perspectives on Academic and Research Libraries Discussion Group, Leadership Discussion Group, Marketing Discussion Group, and Student Retention Discussion Group.

ACRL provides special connections for members, both virtual and personal. ACRL sections offer 17 vibrant and dynamic communities that nurture individual development and foster a deeper connection to the profession. Sections continue to offer successful mentoring opportunities along with programming and special social events at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference to create community among new and continuing members. In addition, ACRL's eight Interest Groups address emerging areas of interest in academic librarianship.

Awards

Since 1923, the ACRL Awards Program has recognized and honored the professional contributions and achievements of academic libraries and librarians. This special recognition by ACRL enhances the sense of personal growth and accomplishment of our members, provides our membership with role models, and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of employers, leadership and the academic community as a whole.

In 2012, 32 outstanding individuals and institutions received ACRL awards recognizing their accomplishments. ACRL's top honor, the Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award was presented to Paula T. Kaufman, Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson dean of libraries and university librarian and professor of library administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Kaufmann was cited for her significant impact on the profession through her extraordinary leadership abilities, vision, and strategic thinking for the future of libraries, along with the generosity with which she shares her inspirations and insights.

ACRL continues to present the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award to recognize the staff of a community college, a college, and a university library for exemplary programs that deliver outstanding services and resources to further the educational mission of their institution. This year's recipients were Seattle Central Community College in the community college category, Champlain College in the college category, and Grand Valley State University in the university category. The award, sponsored by ACRL and YBP Library Services, includes a presentation ceremony on the campus of each award-winning library.

Publications

Monographs

ACRL released a wide variety of monograph publications in the past year. *Guide to Security Considerations and Practices for Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Libraries and International Students and Academic Libraries* were issued in the second half of 2011. 2012 saw the release of *The Changing Academic Library* (Second Edition), *Curriculum Materials Collections and Centers: Legacies of the Past, Visions of the Future, Environments for Student Growth and Development: Libraries and Student Affairs in Collaboration, Past or Portal? Enhancing Undergraduate Learning through Special Collections and Archives*, and *Transforming Information Literacy Programs: Intersecting Frontiers of Self, Library Culture, and Campus Community*. The 2010 edition of *Academic Library Trends and Statistics* was issued in December 2011.

The Atlas of New Librarianship by R. David Lankes, co-published by ACRL and MIT Press, was named the winner of the 2012 ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Award for the Best Book in Library Literature.

Serials

In fall 2011, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library launched a project to digitize the complete back contents of ACRL's official scholarly research journal *College & Research Libraries* (C&RL). The volunteer initiative will scan the full contents of C&RL from 1939 through 1996 and make them freely available to the public in the University of Illinois's IDEALS institutional repository. The University of Illinois Library's Digital Content Creation department will perform the digitization of the approximately 340 issues of C&RL, resulting in fully searchable PDF files at the issue and article level. C&RL contents from 1997 to the present will remain freely available through the publication's online presence at HighWire Press. The Illinois archive will be available in summer 2012.

The ACRL Board of Directors appointed Scott Walter, university librarian at DePaul University in Chicago, as the next editor of *C&RL*. Walter will serve as editor designate from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, when he will assume full editorial responsibility. In the position of editor, Walter will also serve as chair of the *C&RL* Editorial Board. He succeeds Joseph J. Branin, director of libraries at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, as *C&RL* editor.

Choice is on track to publish more than 7,200 new reviews for the third consecutive year in FY12. If so, this will be the sixth consecutive year in which it has published more than 7,000 new reviews. The January 2012 issue featured the “Outstanding Academic Titles, 2011” list, which highlighted 629 exceptional print and online publications in 54 subject areas. Choice continues to share information and reviews with readers through six free e-Newsletters along with the Choice Facebook page and review of the day iPhone app. In September 2011, Choice added a Twitter presence to compliment its social media offerings.

In October 2011, Choice entered into a 12-month pilot project with the American Historical Association to provide AHA members with complimentary access to Choice reviews. During the pilot project, AHA members receive complimentary access to Choice Reviews Online as a free member benefit. In March 2012, Choice launched a similar pilot project with the Modern Language Association.

Choice’s Outstanding Academic Titles 2007-2011: Reviews of Titles Every Library Should Own, edited by Rebecca Ann Bartlett, was released in June 2012. The third volume in an ongoing series, the book is a compendium of Choice reviews from 2007-11.

Blogs/ Podcasts/ Social Media

ACRL continued to leverage social media and other new technologies to deliver content over the past year. The ACRL Insider blog provides daily updates of association activities. ACRLog provides ideas, commentary, and reflection on the professional issues of the day. The Value of Academic Libraries blog features news on the association’s value of academic libraries initiative along with essays from members of the Value of Academic Libraries Committee. Several ACRL groups also manage content blogs focused on their specialties. As noted in the member engagement section, ACRL social media presences on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn provide news and avenues for engagement with the association.

ACRL Podcasts produced this year include “2012 ACRL Vice-Presidential Candidates,” “Environments for Student Growth and Development,” “Meet the Staff: Kara Malenfant,” “Value of Academic Libraries – Richard Ray,” “Value of Academic Libraries – Andrew Lootens-White,” “Value of Academic Libraries – Troy Swanson,” “Value of Academic Libraries – Nancy Marlin,” “Value of Academic Libraries – David James and Patricia Iannuzzi,” “Value of Academic Libraries White Paper and Update,” and “Scenarios for Future of the Book (w/ David J. Staley and Joyce Ogburn.”

Standards and Guidelines

The development of standards and guidelines for all areas of academic and research librarianship is a core service of ACRL. These standards and guidelines are a key ACRL contribution to the

profession. New standards and guidelines published this year include *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Journalism Students and Professionals* and *Visual Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*. *Characteristics of Programs of Information Literacy that Illustrate Best Practices: A Guideline*, *Guidelines for Academic Librarians without Faculty Status*, *Guidelines for Instruction Programs in Academic Libraries*, *Standards for Faculty Status for Academic Librarians*, and *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* were revised this year.

Education

ACRL continues to offer a wide range of professional development programs and events to meet the needs of today's academic and research librarians.

ACRL Conference

ACRL 2013: Imagine, Innovate, Inspire will be held April 10-12, 2013, in Indianapolis. Three keynote speakers were confirmed for the conference in spring 2012 including education reform crusader Geoffrey Canada; singer, actor, writer, poet, and activist Henry Rollins; and journalist Maria Hinojosa, host of NPR's *Latino USA* and *Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One*. Proposals for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences are currently under review. Proposals due for Cyber Zed Shed presentations, poster sessions, roundtable discussions, and virtual conference Webcasts are due in November 2012. Conference registration opened in May 2012.

ACRL @ ALA Conferences

ACRL preconference sessions at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim provided information on digital humanities and ACRL's *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education*. The ACRL/ ALCTS Joint President's Program featured Duane Bray of IDEO, a global innovation and design consulting firm, discussing the challenges traditional industries often face when experiencing disruptive change. Bray shared concrete techniques for recognizing and harnessing opportunities for innovation. ACRL sponsored an additional 22 section, committee, and individual programs in Anaheim on topics such as diversity, copyright, emerging technologies, scholarly communication, publishing, information literacy, and succession planning.

RBMS Preconference

The 53rd Annual RBMS Preconference, "FUTURES!" was held June 19-22, 2012, in San Diego. The Preconference explored a multiplicity of futures for the rare book, manuscript and special collections community. Preconference plenary sessions focused on three components of special collections and archives work – use, object and discovery. Sessions explored the ways in which special collections materials are used in the digital humanities, the future of discovery and access to collections made possible with linked open data and the potential future forms the book as object might take.

Women's Leadership Institute

ACRL offered the 2011 Women's Leadership Institute November 29 – December 2, 2011, in Dana Point, California, and December 4-7, 2011, in Amelia Island, Florida. Through presentations, small-group exercises, and discussion, attendees gained a practical understanding of what it takes to be a leader on a college or university campus—both the challenges and the

rewards. The program has the added benefit of bringing together women from administrative and student affairs functions across institutions of higher education.

Online Learning

The ACRL e-Learning program offered 32 e-Learning events consisting of 18 Webcasts and 14 multi-week courses this year on a variety of topics such as statistics, budgeting, embedded librarianship, digital humanities, management, accreditation, and new technologies. More than 500 individuals and 90 groups participated in this year's e-Learning offerings to date.

Spring Virtual Institute

The 2012 ACRL Spring Virtual Institute, Extending Reach, Proving Value: Collaborations Strengthen Communities, was held April 18-19, 2012. The ACRL Spring Virtual Institute united all types of librarians around the mutual cause of reaching out to our constituencies. The institute examined how libraries are capitalizing on community collaborations and featured a keynote presentation from John Palfrey. Concurrent live webcasts and asynchronous lightning talks, allowing for convenient scheduling and flexibility.

Scholarships

Knowing that professional development is essential to the success of academic and research librarians, especially during an economic downturn, we awarded more than \$27,000 in scholarships this year. Fifty scholarships were awarded the ACRL e-Learning program, the Immersion Program, and 53rd RBMS Preconference.

Advocacy

Legislative Advocacy

Public policy issues effecting higher education remain an essential focus of the strategic plan. Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committees, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries. The 2012 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on seven priorities, including public access to federally funded research, "safe harbor" provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, government information, freedom of information act, and section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act.

ACRL joined eight other national and regional library, publishing, research and advocacy organizations in a letter to thank members of Congress who introduced "The Federal Research Public Access Act" as H.R. 4004 in the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 2096 in the U.S. Senate. The letter states, "This bill will provide an important mechanism to ensure that manuscripts of peer-reviewed scientific articles reporting on research funded by the U.S. Government can be freely accessed and used by all American taxpayers – including researchers, teachers, students and businesses. Timely, barrier-free access to the results of federally funded research is an essential component of our collective investment in science."

As ACRL president, I sent a letter on behalf of the association to William Boarman, Public Printer of the United States, and Mary Alice Baish, Superintendent of Documents in regard to US Government Printing Office rulings on multi-state depository libraries. Through the letter, ACRL lent its voice to the conversation on the state of depository libraries.

On January 24, 2012, ACRL joined ALA and eight other library, publishing, and advocacy organizations in sending a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to express our strong opposition to H.R. 3699, “The Research Works Act.” The letter states, “This proposed legislation would unfairly and unnecessarily prohibit federal agencies from conditioning research grants to ensure that all members of the public receive timely, equitable, online access to articles that report the results of federally funded research that their tax dollars directly support.”

In January 2012, ACRL additionally submitted comments in response to the request for information (RFI) issued November 3, 2011, by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). ACRL recommended approaches for ensuring long-term stewardship and encouraging broad public access to unclassified digital data that result from federally funded scientific research. ACRL’s comments address the first nine questions posed in the RFI about policy for preservation, discoverability and access. This second set of comments followed our comments to OSTP in December 2011 about public access to the peer-reviewed scholarly publications that result from federally funded scientific research.

ACRL continues to be an active partner with ALA and ARL in the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA). Over the course of the past year, LCA has taken action on a number of important issues by issuing comments on pending legislation and court cases, joining briefs, and releasing papers and guides on a wide range of copyright and fair use issues including SOPA, the OPEN Act, anti-circumvention, Authors Guild vs. HathiTrust, and orphan works.

Strengthening Partnerships with Higher Education

ACRL continues to work with higher education associations to strengthen both partnerships and the profession. We collaborated with seven higher education associations (ACPA, ACHUO-I, ACUI, APPA, NACUBO, NAEP, and NASPA) to offer the 2011 Women’s Leadership Institute. This program brought together mid-level administrators from across campus functions to share experiences, develop a better understanding of the campus as a workplace and culture, and create new networks and networking skills.

As mentioned in the Value of Academic Libraries section of this report, the Association for Institutional Research, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Council of Independent Colleges partnered with ACRL to present two IMLS grant supported summits on in December 2011.

ACRL endorsed *Committing to Quality: Guidelines for Assessment and Accountability*, released by the New Leadership Alliance during the Council for Higher Education Accreditation’s Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The report has been endorsed by 27 national higher education organizations.

The ACRL maintains liaison relationships with a number of higher education associations through the Liaisons Assembly. ACRL currently has formal liaison relationships with the American Anthropological Association (AAA), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), American Educational Research Association (AERA), American Political Science Association (APSA), American Sociological Association (ASA), Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), Modern Language Association (MLA), National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition (NRC-FYEST), National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), and Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE).

On the Road and in the News

In October 2011 I visited the Mississippi and Missouri ACRL chapter meetings and engaged members in discussing the future of academic libraries and how ACRL is creating the future through its strategic plan. I was also asked to address the future academic library at the University of Nevada at Reno in May 2012. In December 2011, Mary Ellen Davis, Kara Malenfant, and I gave a project briefing on the ACRL value of academic libraries initiative at the meeting of the Coalition for Networked Information. As ACRL President, I gave interviews to the media about issues that affect academic libraries. Interviews included *Harvard Crimson*, *LJ Newswire*, KCBS Radio, *The Bay Citizen*, and *Inside Higher Ed*.

Final Thoughts/An Appreciation

If you are lucky, once in your career you will have a miraculous year. This was my year. As president of ACRL I participated in initiatives that are fundamentally altering the profession and our scholarly environment. ACRL began implementation of a strategic plan that focuses on the possibilities and affirms a strong future for academic libraries and librarians. And without a doubt ACRL is a significant leader in imagining and realizing change and in advancing the most salient principles of our profession.

Looking back on this year I note the passion and commitment of our members to their work. ACRL gives three awards for excellence to libraries each year, and I have witnessed many more examples of dedication to making academic libraries the best they can be and in the process transforming the parent institution. How many academic units can claim that level of impact? The ACRL Board energized around the Plan for Excellence and pushed forward with changes to the association's structure while being very attentive to the concerns of members. We are all moving forward in exciting new directions.

My personal thanks goes to all members of the Board who have been such a joy to work with: Vice-President/President-Elect Steven J. Bell; Past-President Lisa Hinchliffe; Budget and Finance Committee Chair Cynthia Steinhoff; ACRL Division Councilor Maggie Farrell; and Directors-at-Large Lisabeth A. Chabot, Mark Emmons, Irene M.H. Herold, Linda A. Kopecky, John A. Lehner, Loretta R. Parham, Ann Champion Riley, and Mary Ann Sheble. I also want to acknowledge the extraordinary ACRL staff that makes the association hum and keep it on track year after year: Margot Conahan, David Connolly, Katie Coombes, Kathryn Deiss, David Free,

Ann-Christe Galloway, Francine Graf, Megan Griffin, Kara Malenfant, Dawn Mueller, Tory Ondrla, Mary Jane Petrowski, and Irving Rockwood. As for Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis, let me just say she has been an extraordinary partner.

I owe great gratitude to the leadership of the University of Utah, who granted me the space to serve librarianship as ACRL president, and I thank the staff and leadership of the Marriott Library who tolerated my many absences and managed the library so superbly. My husband Steven Eichner was the proverbial rock in my life as I pursued this journey. He is simply the best partner one could have and beyond a thank you I owe him a really great vacation. To the ACRL membership, I owe appreciation for the opportunity given me to be a voice and an advocate for our issues; I hope I have served well.