

Arts Newsletter

© 2005 American Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries

Fall 2005
Volume 20, No. 2
ISSN 0666-2427

Arts Newsletter is a semiannual publication of the Arts Section of the Association of Research and College Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL, 60611, 800-545-2433, ext. 2517. This publication is sent free of charge to members of the ALA/ACRL Arts Section.

Highlights:

Chicago Blues Program	6
Committee Reports	2
DLDG Tour	4
From the Arts Chair	1
In appreciation Member	7
Presentations	8
Preview of ALA San Antonio	7

From the Arts Chair

Jane Sloan

jsloan@rci.rutgers.edu

Greetings -- I sit here writing one month after Katrina, and just as the latest hurricane (Rita) is headed for Texas. Despite all the sadness and devastation, I am hopeful that we will be able to group together eight months from now in New Orleans.

On a happier note, hats off to Sandy Mooney, who was Chair of the Arts Section last year, and also performed yeowoman's service by co-chairing, at the same time, the 2005 Program Planning Committee.

The Arts/AFAS Chicago program involved an amazing group of artists and librarians, including the poet and Professor Emeritus Sterling Plump; the blues musician and teacher, Fruteland Jackson; and two special librarians from the Center for Black Music Research. The interdisciplinary talents of this group were evident, as they all participated in the singing, playing guitars, reading poetry, and song quotations that accompanied talks on the history and resources of the blues. Professor Plump movingly related his youth in Mississippi to the influence of music, and Mr. Jackson was a model of instructional style in illustrating history to the specifics of guitar playing. By the end of the session, the standing room only crowd was swaying to the music. [see Shannon Van Kirk's full report on p. 6]

Other section events of last year include the redesign and neatly improved functionality of the Arts website to the ACRL server (thanks to Tom Caswell), the streamlining of our Orientation Manual (thanks to Ed Teague), another jump in our membership rolls to 833 (we have added 100 new members in the last two years), and funding and approval for our 2006 program, the Web as an Art Form (thanks to Mary Edsall). Also in the last year, we added two new all member events, a social hour on Friday night -- in Chicago, it was at Millennium Park (thanks to Roland Hansen) -- and an "Arts Issues Discussion Forum," which takes place at the end of the All Committees Meeting on Saturday morning.

Continued on p. 7

Updated Orientation Manual

Ed Teague

ehteague@darkwing@uoregon.edu



One of the past chair's responsibilities is updating the Orientation Manual of the Arts Section. The latest edition is a thorough revision that takes into account that much information that is useful for managing the Section and recording its history is now online. In addition to the official ACRL documentation, a substantial amount of our legacy has been captured electronically thanks to the efforts of Tom Caswell and others to make available past newsletters.

The revised manual is accessible through the Section website, at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/arts/orientationmanual/orientationmanual.htm>

2005 Annual Committee Reports

Publications and Research Committee, chair Shannon Van Kirk:

Laurel Bliss successfully transitioned into the Newsletter Editor's position and prepared the Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 newsletters. All issues continue to be available on the Arts Section's website. As always, she is looking for news from our members, particularly publications, presentations, and introductions from new members. Laurel reports that it is sometimes difficult to attract enough contributions to fill the newsletter. Our goal is to see the newsletter become a rich source of information for Arts members, with a variety of contributors.

There was consensus during an online discussion of P & R Committee members to discontinue printing meeting minutes in the newsletter if they can be published separately on the web, available to all members. The suggestion was made to continue to publish report highlights as a way to showcase the activities of our committees, while leaving plenty of space for articles on other topics.

Ed Teague has volunteered to create an index to the complete set of *ACRL Arts Newsletters*, online since 2004.

Tom Caswell finished migrating all of the pages and files from the UF server onto the ALA content management system. See <<http://www.acrl.org/arts>>. It was a long and arduous process but it is completed and we can start streamlining and adding to the content.

Continued on p. 3

Committee Reports, cont. from p. 2

He created a page of some past programs with what information he had available about speakers and such. If anyone wants to help fill in the blanks or has other support documentation, please let him know. Tom requested feedback re needed changes or additions.

Ed Teague created a 're-imagining' of the Arts Section Orientation Manual. It attempts to avoid redundancy (by not repeating the bylaws or ACRL) and it integrates with the ACRL site. The DRAFT is up:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/arts/orientationmanual/orientationmanual.htm>

The ACRL publication, *A Core Collection in Dance*, is in the process of revision. The volume is being prepared for republication next Spring, as a packaged print and online set. This award-winning publication was positively reviewed in both the fields of library science and dance, and is considered the ALA-sanctioned tool for library collection development in dance. It is considered an essential source as well for use by individual scholars and researchers. Mary Edsall is soliciting constructive feedback on the content of the volume, to be considered in the revision process. She would like to hear especially from people who have actually used the volume to develop library collections or who have used it for in-depth scholarly research.

Membership and Outreach Committee, chair Roland Hansen:

Hansen reported as out-going chair of the Membership and Outreach Committee. He distributed the latest membership status report. The Section as of May 2005 had 765 personal members, 67 organizational members and 1 contributor member, for a total of 833 members. With regard to outreach, Hansen reported that with ARLIS we can affiliate freely on projects. Alex Krauss will investigate affiliate status with MLA (Music Library Association), specifically what such standing would be. Kidwell reported on an e-mail from Arts past-chair Ed Teague who had done some initial investigation on this topic. Teague wrote that the MLA doesn't appear to at present have an interest in establishing an affiliate status with Arts because that organization sees no benefit to it, since for example, ALA does not provide member conference rates for any affiliated group. ARLIS had established affiliate status with ALA prior to this policy and still provides members of ALA the ARLIS member conference rate; however, ALA does not reciprocate. Krauss mentioned that many MLA members, particularly those in the area of technical services, are also ALA members, so the lack of reciprocal conference rates may not be a significant issue. Likewise, most ARLIS members are also ALA members. The Membership and Outreach Committee will continue to investigate this issue.

Program Planning Committee (2005), chair Sandy Mooney:

Mooney as committee chair thanked Hansen, Claudia Covert and Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos who had worked with her with the African-American Studies Section on developing the 2005 Chicago program.

Continued on p. 5

Dance and Theatre Librarians: Visit to Harold Washington Library Center

Liza Vick

lvick@uci.edu

During the recent ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago the Dance Librarians Discussion Group and Theatre Library Association members (along with other Arts Section attendees) were treated to a tour and performance at the Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago Public Library). Bob Sloane (Dance, Graphic Arts, and Photography Librarian for the Art Information Center and Visual and Performing Arts Division) gave us an outstanding tour and arranged for a video and performance. I will attempt to describe just a few of the highlights, but highly encourage Arts Section members to visit these rich collections in Chicago.

Mr. Sloane gave us a general tour of the collections and reference areas in Visual and Performing Arts, showcasing rare and unique materials such as vertical files on Chicago dance and theater, NYPL Artists File, advertising, graphic arts materials, and more. He also led us through the impressive music suite, which houses practice rooms, one large enough for chamber ensembles. The HWLC collection includes 900 dance videos, several thousand music and other performing arts videos, and thousands of music compact discs. His staff described some of the archival collections including Chicago Blues Archive, Stanley Paul, University of Chicago Folk Festival Recordings and several collections of theater and jazz music (Balaban and Katz Theater Orchestra, various local stage shows and arrangements used in silent film restorations).

Gems of the dance collection include the Ann Barzel Dance Film Archive, Folk Dance Index, Dance Video Collection, Elisa Stigler Dance Book Collection, and the Ruth Page Dance Collection. Other collections of interest to arts librarians include the Chicago Artists' Archives, Van Damm Collection of New York Theater Photographs, Chicago Stagebills, gospel music, costume, architecture, broadcast media, and much more.

Mr. Sloane compiled an impressive video presentation highlighting clips of dance performances presented over the years at HWLC (he is also responsible for dance programming and has developed a rich showcase for local talent). These 322+ dance performances are also broadcast on City of Chicago's Arts Cable Channel. The video included clips of Ann Barzel, Ruth Page (founder of Civic Ballet of Chicago), Katherine Dunham, Maria Tallchief, Federal Theatre Project in Chicago, New York City Ballet, Chicago Civic Opera Ballet, Hubbard Street 2 and many more. Also included were clips from local Chicago dance festivals and recitals. Following the tour we were treated to a wonderful performance of Art Union Humanscape, a duo consisting of dancer/choreographer Ayako Kato and bassist/composer Jason Roebke. They performed an improvisational piece and took questions from the audience afterwards regarding their collaborative style of independent improvisation.

Bob Sloane is very active in the Chicago dance community, serving on the Ruth Page Awards Committee, and many other panels and projects. Currently a special effort is a joint project between CPL and the Newberry Library to preserve and reformat the films of dance critic Ann Barzel. They are working to preserve and reformat the video documentation of the Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble.

For more information about this event, please contact Liza Vick (lvick@uci.edu).

Committee Reports, cont. from p. 2

Nominating Committee (2005), chair Ann Lindell:

Ann Lindell could not be present in Chicago. Results of the Committee's work are known, however, as the election of new Arts officers has taken place. Shannon Van Kirk has been elected vice-chair/chair-elect. Liza Vick has been elected secretary. Jane Sloan will move from vice-chair/chair-elect to chair at the conclusion of Annual 2005.

Nominating Committee (2006):

Ed Teague, past-chair, was unable to attend the Chicago conference. In his place William Hemmig reported on that committee's work. The Committee is currently seeking candidates for the office of vice-chair/chair elect. Teague expects to have a slate of candidates by the first of August. Sloan asked if the Committee was striving to secure one or two candidates for the election, and if it had discussed the pros and cons of each approach. Hemmig reported that he believed Teague was pursuing two candidates at this time but does not know if the Committee will end the nominating process with one name for the ballot or two.

Technology in the Arts Committee:

As reported in the minutes from Midwinter Boston, this committee lost its chair last fall. Since no committee members were present, no report was presented.

--Thanks go to Eric Kidwell for kindly providing these committee reports!

Update your membership info!

Have you moved? Changed your email address? Now it's easy to update that information online.

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Login> is the login page for ALA's dynamic roster. It allows members to change their personal information, set ballot preferences, and access content reserved for ALA members, such as committee rosters.

Join our listserv

Want to stay informed about Arts Section activities? Simply send an email message to LISTSERV@lists.uakron.edu. Leave the subject line blank. On the text line, type SUBSCRIBE ARTS-LIB FIRSTNAME LASTNAME.

Problems/questions? Contact the Listowner: Nancy Stokes, nstokes@uakron.edu

Chicago Blues Program at ALA

One hundred seventy-five enthusiastic ALA attendees were treated to an extraordinary experience organized by ACRL/Arts and AFAS. As Chair of the Arts Section Program Committee, Sandy Mooney served as the co-coordinator, and deserves our recognition and thanks for doing a fine job of helping to orchestrate this major undertaking.

The pre-program blues music clips from the Smithsonian folkways/global sound collection were provided by Alexander Street Press, a program supporter along with BCALA.

Chicago Blues: from the Delta to the World

The program presented three distinct but closely related components. First we heard from two dedicated blues scholars from the Center for Black Music Research (CBMR), a research unit of Columbia College Chicago < <http://www.cbmr.org/>>. Librarian and Archivist Suzanne Flandreau presented an historical overview of the evolution

of the blues from the rural Delta to urban Chicago. The historic photographs and audio clips (again from the Smithsonian Global sound Collection, courtesy of Alexander Street Press) made the journey come alive. Blues enthusiasts in the audience sang along with some of the classics!

Andrew Leach, Assistant Librarian and Assistant Archivist at CBMR, provided enormously valuable guidelines and tips for conducting research about blues music. The sources can be elusive and impossible to find without the help of experts like Andrew and Suzanne. The bibliography they prepared for us will be a good start.

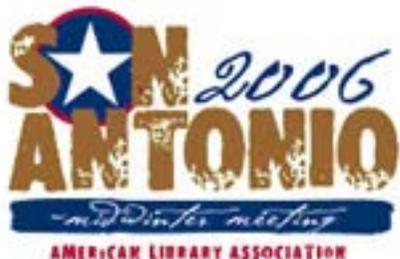
The third presenter was blues poet Sterling Plumpp, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois, Chicago. His riveting narrative of his youth and evolution into scholar-poet, was moving and most compelling. It would have been impossible at the time to believe that the best of Professor Plumpp was yet to come!

Mr. Fruteland Jackson, blues musician and educator, was next to focus our attention with his personal journey which has culminated in his powerful *Blues in the Schools* program. Appropriate for all grades, middle school and high school students are target groups for this program. Also, gifted, special education, alternative, high risk, and emotionally challenged students can benefit. His devotion to the education of students was obvious, and the description of his methods made it clear why his program is in great demand. Libraries and schools interested in presenting this extraordinary educational opportunity can contact Mr. Jackson via his website < <http://www.fruteland.com/>>.

The best was saved for last to end the program on an upbeat note. Professor Plumpp read selections of his jazz/blues-based poetry accompanied by Fruteland Jackson and Andrew Leach. The audience was enchanted and thrilled. No one left early. As a couple of people commented on the evaluations, "Music, poetry, personal accounts --great program!" and "Wow! Wow! It was all great! Best ALA program I ever attended."

--Thanks go to Shannon Van Kirk for reporting on this program!

Join us in San Antonio!



The 2006 Midwinter Meeting will be held in San Antonio, TX from January 20-25, 2006. The exhibits will be held January 20-23, 2006 in the Gonzalez Convention Center.

Check <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferences/midwinter/2006/home.htm> often for meeting updates, travel and accommodation information, the Event Planner, FAQ, *CogNotes*, and more.

In Appreciation

As the current past chair of the Arts Section, I would like to direct my attention from the recent hurricane activity along the Gulf Coast, and extend my gratitude for the many accomplishments of the Arts Section as the restructured format was put into operation this past year. Serving as chair has been a very rewarding experience for me. A tremendous amount of work was done by numerous energetic and dedicated persons to produce new committee charges, a new identity package, and a new web presence. The Arts Section is small, but being comprised of diverse specialists, it has much potential for a large presence within ACRL. As the Section moves forward on its revised foundation to produce a webcast and a planning document, the synergy of its diverse membership will spawn many creative interdisciplinary ventures. I thank each officer and committee member for your efforts in making this year so productive, each new member for joining, and each continuing member for your enduring support of the Arts Section.

-- Sandy Mooney (Chair, 2004/2005)

From the Chair, continued from p. 1

Coming up is planning, within the ACRL Strategic Planning process, to determine how the Arts Section can put forward the arts as a priority in academic libraries. After polling last year's Arts meeting attendees, I submitted an "ACRL Environmental Scan," which described the following Arts Section "assumptions" about the future: increasingly diverse users and needs, including multi-lingual librarians; libraries becoming more and more an active teaching environment where management and collaborative skills are in demand; and a tension among "more and faster," relevant and complete, and "haves and have nots." Issues of diversity, economic equity, and community dominated the poll. The Planning Committee, under the leadership of Roland Hansen, will be looking at how we address these and other future concerns.

Please remember that everyone is welcome at our general and executive committee meetings. Committee assignments will be coming up in the Spring. And I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio in January 2006.

**2005 American
Library
Association/Assoc-
iation of College
and Research
Libraries/
Arts Section**

**Phone:
800-545-
2433
TDD: 888
814-7692**

**E-Mail:
library@ala.org**

*We're on the Web!
<http://www.acrl.org/arts/>*

Member Presentations

ACRL/Arts member Shannon Van Kirk, Architecture and Environmental Design Librarian at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, CA and her teaching partner, Professor Ben Jacks, Department of Architecture and Interior Design, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, have written a paper describing and discussing their work at Miami University over the past four years. This past summer, the paper was accepted for presentation and publication at a Humanities Conference at Cambridge University in the UK. Shannon travelled to England in August 2005 to make the presentation.

The paper describes the dynamic partnership required to balance the practical and the creative without sacrificing course content when preparing undergraduates for lifelong learning. In their paper, they describe how a reading- and writing-intensive course in "Design and Human Behavior" evolved to include a range of activities designed to support students in the development of transferable knowledge and core secondary research competencies. Progressive acquisition of skills, use of the library as a principle learning site, and the librarian-scholar partnership all contributed to their students' confidence and success.

**American Library
Association/Association of
College and Research
Libraries/Arts Section
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
AmericanLibrary
Association

