View From the Chair

BROAD-BASED INVOLVEMENT

It’s late September, but the temperatures feel like early August. In any case, a new academic year has begun for most of us, and I hope that the year is off to a good start for you.

The section’s mission is “...to advance college librarianship and encourage the development of library services...” There is no way for the section to represent all of its constituents, satisfactorily meet their professional needs, and remain a thriving, dynamic organization if a significant number of members are not involved in the section’s work. The section serves as a vehicle for members in two significant ways: 1. it provides a mechanism for making professional contributions; and 2. it stimulates professional development whether through participation in the section’s programs or services or by interacting with and learning from colleagues and their accomplishments.

Each year, the section needs a new cohort of volunteers, representing all of the section constituencies, to serve on one of the section’s committees. The section homepage links to the roster of committees and their purposes as well as the CLS volunteer form. Interested members should select the committees of interest to them and complete the form before February 2011 in order to be considered for an appointment that will take effect in July of next year. Realizing that travel funds may be limited and perhaps even scarce, a number of years ago, the section wisely decided to cancel a face-to-face midwinter meeting for most committees. Most committees also offer the option of virtual membership for those who know that they will be unable to attend the annual conference.

At the same time, I would encourage library directors and deans to provide an appropriate level of support for their colleagues who desire to get involved in and benefit from the section. With increasing pressures on funds available for professional development and travel, it is incumbent to insure that all interested staff be eligible for the available funds. How can staff provide the highest level of services possible without regular opportunities for professional development?

Lastly, to insure that the section remains thriving, dynamic, and attuned to your needs, I urge you to contact me at millsonmartula@lynchburg.edu to share with me your perspectives on the section. With such broad-based and active involvement, the section will continue to experience considerable success.

For those of you who plan to attend Midwinter in San Diego, I will look forward to seeing you. Events of particular note include discussion groups for college library directors and medium-sized libraries directors. —Christopher Millson-Martula, CLS Chairperson
The Executive Committee took action on several proposals at the ALA annual meeting. They included: supporting a CLS candidate for the Emerging Leaders 2011 Program and nominating Irene Herold for an appointment to the IFLA Academic and Research Libraries Section. Incoming chair Chris Milson-Martula has appointed two new committees including the Conference Program Planning 2011 Committee chaired by Cathy Doyle who is planning a joint program with ULS.

In other business, members indicated that the CLS Friday Night Feast, sponsored by Serials Solutions, was sold out again and the CLS Program, “Librarians Just Need to Have Fun” was well attended. Barbara Burd, Leadership Committee Chair, noted that the 2010 ACRL CLS ProQuest Innovation in College Librarianship Award was given to Sigrid Kelsey and Angela K. VandenBroek of Louisiana State University.

Jenny Turner, chair of the committee, provided updates on various projects that have been in progress since midwinter: a review of the CLS website has been done with recommendations for future enhancement; the CLS wiki has been laid to rest due to inactivity; new virtual members have been added to the committee; move the CLS Facebook page to a Fan page; develop a CLS hashtag for Twitter. Committee members discussed the problem of finding quality websites from libraries in all 50 states for the Website of the Month feature and requested members to find back issues of the CLS Newsletter to scan and include on the website.

The Membership Committee reported that as of April 2010, 2752 individuals were members of CLS. This is a decrease of 2.89% from 2009. Results of a survey sent to the members who did not renew indicated that 33% cited financial reasons while 16% felt another section was a better fit. The group felt it would be possible to do a better job of recruiting new members; specifically they thought that in addition to the welcome letters they could send out information about the annual program, My Research Coach, discussion topics and the Friday Night Feast. The committee is also working with Mary Heinzman to plan a Friday night dinner for ACRL 2011 in Philadelphia.

This committee reviewed the professional development survey that was created by Beth Avery. This survey indicated that while there was not an overall lack of professional development opportunities for librarians, there is a lack of support by many institutions. Accordingly, the committee recommended that we encourage members to develop low-cost local professional opportunities and communicate to ACRL that the e-learning sessions they have developed aren’t reasonably priced for smaller libraries. During the coming year the committee hopes to look at current job advertisements in pertinent publications to determine what skills and knowledge are most desirable by employers, and then analyze those ads to find relevant themes and compare with the training opportunities that are currently available through ACRL/ALA.

On June 25, 2010 prior to the Friday Night Feast, fifteen new officers, committee chairs and current position holders met at McCormick and Schmick’s for an hour of orientation. Topics covered included the history of CLS, past practices, current trends, reporting expectations, and resources. A post conference survey revealed that the session had value for the attendees. Universally appreciated was the opportunity to hear from others who have had their position in the past. There will be a new officer and committee chair orientation prior to ALA Annual 2011. The orientation is the responsibility of the immediate past CLS chair. Check the spring CLS Newsletter for more information.
WyLaina Hildreth, Alicia Holston and Tuan Nguyen of the Texas Library Association presented a session at the Graphic Novel pavilion on Saturday.

Frances Yates (left) and Matt Dilworth (right) presented a poster session on Sunday:

“Zap! Zlonk! Zowie! Welcome to the Library Action Figures Virtual Tour.”

Pat Duck, Library Director, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg (PA), presented “Faculty Toolbox for Information Literacy,” at Saint Vincent College, August 27, 2010.


Lisabeth Chabot, College Librarian, at Ithaca College (NY), accepted invitations to present at two Chinese universities. She traveled to Beijing Sport University and Chengdu Sport University in July 2010. Her presentations focused on “Developing a User-Centered Academic Library”. Librarians at the Chinese universities were interested in web-based information services and resources, usability testing, and library consortia. Differences in organizational approaches were also noted - in China, most public services are fee-based and students are not employed in the libraries – they work on a voluntary basis.

Lauren Jensen, Public Services Librarian, Monmouth College (IL), is the winner of the 2010 Illinois Library Association’s Crosman Memorial Award and author of “Extend Instruction Outside the Classroom: Take Advantage of Your Learning Management System” in *Computers in Libraries*, July/Aug. 2010: 76-78.

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Support Your CLS Candidates!

The following CLS members will be running for 2011 offices:

**Vice-Chair/Chair Elect:**
- Jill Gremmels, The Leland M. Park Director of the Davidson College Library, Davidson, NC
- Douglas K. Lehman, Director of Thomas Library, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH

**Secretary:**
- David P. Bunnell, Dean of Library Services, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS
- Amy Badertscher, Director of Library Services, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH

**Member-at-Large:**
- Ann Watson, Library Director, Hannah V. McCauley Library, Ohio University-Lancaster, Lancaster, OH
- Ken Fujiuchi, Emerging Technology Librarian, E.H. Butler Library, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY

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**CLS Friday Night Feast**

This year’s Friday Night Feast was infused with camaraderie, joviality...and chocolate! Close to 50 CLS members and guests enjoyed a cocoa-inspired meal at Co Co. Sala Chocolate Lounge & Boutique in Washington, D.C. Serials Solutions was the sole-sponsor of the feast, and we are deeply grateful for their continuing generosity! At the feast, we enjoyed the company of Serials Solutions’ Vice President Jane Burke, Account Executive/West Kerri Baker, and Account Executive/Northeast Jeff Riedel. The “New Member Friday Night Feast Lottery” allowed for two winners to attend the feast as guests of the section. Looking forward to dining with you next year! - Lisa Stillwell, Franklin & Marshall College (left, Lisa greets guests at the CLS Friday Night Feast)

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**ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries—Nominations Due Friday, December 3rd**

Will your library be the next winner of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award? If you think the answer could be "Yes," please read on!

The ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, sponsored by YBP Library Services, recognizes one outstanding community college, college, and university library each year for the accomplishments of librarians and other library staff as they come together as members of a team to support the mission of their institution.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, and are due on December 3, 2010. If you think you work in an outstanding library that deserves recognition, please review the guidelines for preparing a nomination at the ACRL site: [Excellence in Academic Libraries Award](#).
The ACRL 2011 conference theme, “A Declaration of Interdependence,” reflects the knowledge that “academic and research libraries share a common set of principles. To be successful, libraries must cooperate with each other and interconnect with their campus communities.”

Philadelphia, PA
March 30-April 2

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Upcoming Events

Midwinter Meetings

CLIP Notes—Sunday, 9-11 (part of ACRL PCC)
Executive Committee—Saturday, 8-10
College Library Directors Disc. Group—Sunday, 1:30-3:30
Leadership Committee—Saturday, 1:30-3:30
Medium Sized Academic Libraries Disc. Group—Saturday, 1:30-3:30

ACRL Member of the Week

Since 2008, the ACRL Insider Weblog has featured almost a hundred members in Member of the Week profiles, showcasing their “innovation, talent, creativity, energy, and dedication.” A slideshow of past profiles at http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/membership/members.cfm reflects the diversity and dedication of ACRL members.

Let’s share the good work of academic librarianship and CLS members. If you would like to be featured or nominate a colleague as ACRL Member of the Week, contact Mary Jane Petrowski at mpetrowski@ala.org for more information.

Subscribe to the ACRL e-Learning RSS feed and stay up-to-date on current e-Learning offerings from ACRL!