Dear LES Members,

As the former Editor of *Biblio-Notes*, I admit that it is a daunting task to be on the other side of the newsletter business. Instead of gathering articles from members, I am charged with writing the greeting to all of LES. Well, I can definitely say that I am so proud to be a member of such an impressive group of information professionals and am excited about leading LES through a year of promising programs.

Having our Annual conference in Las Vegas was certainly a fun way to jumpstart my role as Chair. Along with SEES and WESS, our section sponsored the special program entitled: “Embedded” *Cultural Communities in Europe and the Americas: Challenges for Librarians*. The speakers addressed the challenges that libraries and librarians face seeking to collect and preserve the language, literature, and cultural heritage of different cultures. Focusing on Basque, Romani, and Native American cultures, the panel examined embedded communities and discussed how librarians can successfully build collections around their needs. A bibliography that includes resources on librarians and embedded communities is available from the LES Wiki at [http://literaturesinenglish.pbworks.com/w/file/81984239/EmbeddedCulturalCommunitiesinEuropebibliography.pdf](http://literaturesinenglish.pbworks.com/w/file/81984239/EmbeddedCulturalCommunitiesinEuropebibliography.pdf)

At the annual General Membership program, members of LES spoke about the different career paths they followed and told some enlightening stories about how to make the most out of your career in literature librarianship. The General Membership gathering is a good venue to meet new librarians and learn about ways to become more involved in professional service. Also, if you are a student or are new to the humanities profession, you should consider joining the mentorship program. A mentor can guide you through challenges at work, point you to networking opportunities, and help you navigate the often-overwhelming conference experience. The nature of the mentor-mentee relationship varies with the participants, and communication might take place over e-mail, social media, telephone, or in person. To request a mentor or to volunteer as a mentee, fill out the online form at [http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/lesmentors](http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/lesmentors).
Conference planning never stops! Midwinter preparation is in full swing and will be held mostly virtually for our section. Stay tuned for more information on collections and reference discussion group meetings. Holding Midwinter virtually allows more members to participate, since it eliminates the burden of travel costs and time commitments away from the office. For those able to travel to Chicago, I will try to arrange an in-person social hour for LES members. Meeting with colleagues face-to-face over deep-dish pizza is something to look forward to! Announcements of Midwinter meetings will be made via LES-L, ALA Connect and our social media platforms.

Speaking of social media, don’t forget to join the LES Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/202772333122825](https://www.facebook.com/groups/202772333122825) where we post LES news, photos and interesting updates on Literature related topics. It is a good networking tool. You can even follow news through a Twitter account [https://twitter.com/LES_ACRL](https://twitter.com/LES_ACRL).

Along with the ARTS section, LES will be co-sponsoring an Emerging Leader. The American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders (EL) program “is a leadership development program which enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. It puts participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations.” Selections will be announced in late fall. LES will also be continuing the sponsorship of a Modern Language Association (MLA) representative. I am happy to announce that Sarah Wenzel will serve an additional three year term (until 2018). As the MLA liaison, Sarah received funding to attend the Annual MLA convention and help plan the MLA discussion group Libraries and Research in Languages and Literatures. Having the MLA liaison encourages the collaboration between literature faculty and librarians. In the future, LES hopes to sponsor liaisons from additional higher education societies and organizations.

The 2015 Nominating committee, chaired by Christine Ruotolo, has gathered another excellent slate of candidates for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Be sure to cast your vote during the spring elections. If you want to become more involved in the section, please consider volunteering for one of the LES committees: conference planning, membership, nominating, planning, publications, and virtual participation. Discussion groups are another way to stay involved. The discussion forums held during Midwinter and Annual tackle issues such as management, preservation, or use of materials in English-language literatures. My service on the publications and membership committees certainly helped me grow professionally. Amanda Rust, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, will be placing a call out to all of LES members at the beginning of next year for volunteers. To read more details about specific committee functions, visit the service page at [http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/les/committees/lescommittees](http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/les/committees/lescommittees).

Some current projects committee members are working on include providing practical collection development tools, such as weeding guidelines for literature librarians and an updated statement on the preservation of primary materials. Both finished products will help librarians deal with the challenges posed by today’s digital learning environment.

I am so grateful to all of LES’s committee members for their hard work. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to outgoing Chair, Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, for her wonderful leadership and enthusiasm. I look forward to having another productive and fun year collaborating with our dedicated LES members!
Kickstart the Future of ACRL

You definitely know that we are celebrating ACRL's 75th Anniversary. You probably know that ACRL was ALA's first official division. You might know that Phineas L. Windsor was first president of ACRL as a self-governing division. I hope you know that to celebrate and honor this Anniversary ACRL is conduct a major fundraising campaign to raise money for scholarships to ACRL 2015. ACRL seeks to raise $50,000 by December 31, 2014, to provide 75 additional scholarships for these members to attend the conference to be held March 25-28, 2015, in Portland, Oregon.

We’ve already raised more than $33,000 during the advance phase of the campaign. Now we invite you to pay it forward and invest in the profession’s future leaders (and their libraries) as they seek to advance learning and transform scholarship in the 21st century. With your contribution (of any amount), we can ensure the future vitality of the profession, the association, and the diversity of our conference.

This is also a great opportunity for ACRL committees, sections and groups to show their support by establishing group scholarship goals. Some of those that have already established group goals include: the College & Research Libraries Editorial Board, Distance Learning Section (DLS), Education and Social Sciences Section (EBSS), Literatures in English (LES), Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, Science and Technology Section (STS), University Libraries Section (ULS), and the Value of Academic Libraries Committee. A page on the 75th Anniversary website acknowledges all group contributions. We have made great progress towards our goal but we are not there yet. Please consider making an individual donation or encourage your group to get together to fund a scholarship or commit to achieving 100% Board participation. For more information on how to get involved visit the Scholarship Campaign FAQ page at http://acrl.ala.org/acrl75/?page_id=278. Help ACRL kickstart the future with your contribution.

Steven Bell, ACRL 75th Anniversary Campaign Chair
A First-Timer at ALA

After landing a tenure-track position as James Madison University's English Liaison Librarian in August, 2013, I was given the opportunity to attend my first American Library Association Convention. The 2014 ALA Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, which ran from June 26th to July 1st, was jam-packed with thrills. I saw Mr. Excelsior himself, Stan Lee, give a talk in front of a packed house. I got to meet two-time Academy Award-winning actress Jane Fonda (who signed for me a copy of her latest book). I ran into many old friends and colleagues. I also ate at a few of the city's famous buffets and walked the hot streets of Sin City until the soles of my shoes melted, passing an army of Elvis impersonators along the way.

As a first-timer just entering the field of academic librarianship, I found ALA 2014 to be an invigorating experience. Aside from the usual perks of conferences—the exhibition spaces, the informative panel discussions, the keynote events, and the after-hours meet-ups at local watering holes—ALA 2014 gave me the opportunity to meet with my counterparts at colleges and universities all across the United States.

The first session I attended was the LES New Members Discussion Group on Saturday, June 28th. Here I got to meet, for the first time, librarians like myself, both new to the profession and with a background in literature. Prior to entering the profession of librarianship, I received a Ph.D. in English (specializing in post-World War II multi-ethnic American literature) and had taught for four years as a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Oklahoma State University (home institution to David Oberhelman, who currently serves on the Planning, Virtual Participation, and Conference Program Planning Committees). At the New Members Discussion Group, I heard from several librarians who shared a similar academic past as well as an ongoing commitment to literature. Hearing their stories and concerns was professionally reassuring. Following the session, a cadre of LES members met up at the Peppermill Lounge, a Las Vegas diner and bar decked out in glorious, leisure suit-ready 70s kitsch. Here I met more LES-ers, the discussions ranging from collection development to pop hits of the 1980s.

Sunday was loaded with events. At the Reference and Collection Discussion Groups, issues pertaining to information literacy sessions, promoting one's services, database subscriptions, and funding (or the lack thereof) were broadly discussed. I was able to chime in, feeling at ease with my new colleagues, as they elaborated on what I had shared with them. There was also an LES Career Paths panel, featuring long-time LES members who ascended the ranks in their libraries and universities to become deans and heads of academic units. The panel illustrated that LES librarians are well prepared and can be many different things professionally if they seize the opportunity. On Monday, I attended the All Committees meeting, where I learned what my role would be in the Publications Committee (which I was nominated to serve on in the spring). We talked for a good forty-five minutes about our web resources, Biblio-Notes, and an aging LES pamphlet, which I was tasked with updating.

Aside from LES-related activities, I also attended sessions pertaining to Shared Print platforms, Digital Humanities, and an RBML Discussion Group on Collection Development, which were all extremely informative. All told, my 2014 ALA experience was an overwhelmingly positive one. I was able to bring back to my university plenty of new knowledge to share, as well as sense of being part of a welcoming new community of colleagues.
even got to meet many of my LES colleagues from Virginia! I encourage all new librarians, whether involved in LES or not, to experience everything that the annual ALA Conference has to offer.

Brian Flota  
Assistant Professor  
English Liaison Librarian  
James Madison University  
flotabc@jmu.edu

Biblio-Throwback!

[The more things change, apparently, the more they stay the same. Here’s an excerpt from the meeting minutes at ALA Annual in Dallas, back in 1984.]

“As boundary-spanners, subject specialists have to establish a rapport with the teaching faculty and be willing to represent the needs of the faculty as well as the values and policies of the library. Communication across organizational boundaries is essential. In a serials deselection project, both librarians and teaching faculty bring together the facts and judgments necessary to determine which titles should be cancelled and both groups are forced to question entrenched assumptions about the responsibilities of academic librarians. It is more difficult for both librarians and teaching faculty to know a library's journal collection than its monographic counterpart. Subject specialists can evaluate older, established journals through use studies, citation analysis, circulation figures, etc., while they must rely on teaching faculty for judgments about periodicals not yet in the mainstream. While the boundary-spanning experience gives librarians and faculty new perspectives, cancellations can alienate faculty and undermine their trust in the library's ability to serve their needs.”

Member News


Colleen S. Harris-Keith joined CSU Channel Islands as Assistant Librarian and Information Literacy Coordinator. In addition, her latest poetry chapbooks, Madwoman City and Some Assembly Required are currently in-press with Porkbelly Press.
Modifying Public Domain Posters

Introduction

Libraries tend to have plenty of printers but not much in the way of a graphic design budget, meaning that library posters and fliers often have a dull or amateur quality about them. This makes sense, since few if any of us are trained graphic designers.

There is a way, though, to take advantage of wonderful graphic designs from the past by repurposing them for library use. Scrubbing the existing text off of an old public domain print or poster and adding your own can provide an eye-catching effect and help bring vanishing arts like lithography into the digital age.

Many sites host public domain artworks, and many graphics editors can be used to manipulate them, but this demonstration uses the Library of Congress and GIMP 2.8 because the LoC is much more diligent about copyrights and scanning techniques than many other places and GIMP 2.8 is free and open-source.

Obtaining the Image

- Go to the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs online collection at loc.gov/pictures. [Fig. 1]
- Limit your search to "Larger image available anywhere"
- Find a print or poster that looks good and click on its title.
- Check the publication date and rights advisory to make sure the item is in the public domain. Virtually all items returned from a "Larger image available anywhere" search are either pre-1923 works digitized by the Library of Congress or later works published by the government (and therefore "born public domain"). For this example, we'll use an old American Library Association poster intended for World War I doughboys. [Fig. 2]
- Download the highest-resolution version of the print or poster available. This is typically a TIFF file, and they range from being large (5 megabytes) to very large (50 megabytes). Remember to left-click to download, as most web browsers will not open TIFF files.

Cleaning the Image

- Open the TIFF in a graphics editing program like Photoshop or GIMP. GIMP, which is open-source and free to use, is pictured. [Fig. 3]
- Choose the Color Picker tool or equivalent (it has an icon like an eye dropper) and click on an area you would like to clean. This will select a color from that area to work with. Don't click on the words you want to delete, but on the color surrounding them.
• Choose the Fuzzy Select tool or equivalent (it has an icon like a magic wand) and click on the same area. It will select all similar colors in that area. Again, don't click on the words you want to delete, but on the color surrounding them. [Fig. 4]

• Create a new layer using the "New Layer" menu option from the "Layers" menu. This will create a transparent layer on top of the image, keeping it intact in case you make a mistake.

• With the similar colors selected and a new layer created, fill the selection with color using the "Fill" command. In GIMP, the "Fill With FG [foreground] Color" command from the "Edit" menu is your best choice.

• Still working on your new layer, select all the letters using the "Rectangle Select" tool (it has an icon like a rectangle with a dotted border). Then, use the "Fill" command again (be careful to stay away from the edge of the area, as you want to preserve the original fading of one color into another). [Fig. 5]

• You should have a fully clean area at this point.

• Repeat the process with other areas you wish to modify. It's best to start with posters that have discrete text boxes, as more complex modifications take more practice. [Fig. 6]

Cropping and Resizing

• To prepare the image for printing, there are a few additional steps. First, select the area you want to be printed with the Rectangle Select tool. Then choose "Crop to selection" from the "Image" menu. This will get rid of the Library of Congress scanning table and color guide. [Fig. 7]

• Once the image is cropped, choose "Scale Image" from the "Image" menu.

• In the resulting dialog box, change the "Image Size" display from pixels to inches.

• In the same box, change the resolution to 300 pixels per inch, which is a print-quality resolution most color printers are capable of matching. Notice that changing the resolution also alters the "Image Size" in inches – this is important, as you will need to make sure that the image will fit on the piece of paper you want to print it on.

• Since this image is just a little above 8.5 inches wide—wide enough to fit on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper—it can be modified just a little further by changing the width to exactly 8.5. A good rule of thumb is to make either the length or the width of your poster equal to 8.5 or 11 inches to aid in printing.

• You're now ready to add whatever text you like to the poster. You can use the Text Tool (which looks like an uppercase "A") to draw text on the image. Remember to select a color different than the background. GIMP defaults to pixel widths instead of font points for typing, so change it to display points (pt) if you want to draw on your old-school knowledge of 12-point and 72-point fonts. [Fig. 8]
Optional: Noise and Blurring

- If you want to take an extra step to blend the old and new parts of your print or poster together better, you can do that. Choose the layer or layers you created to cover the original poster text, and hit control-A or choose "Select All" from the "Select" menu. [Fig. 9]

- Then open the "Filters" menu and choose "Noise."

- You will have the option of several noise types, but "RGB Noise" is the best option. You can adjust the balance of colors, but I like using a mix of 20 percent red, green, and blue. [Fig. 10]

- If you look at your image, this appears to add ugly static to it. But there's a point to this.

- Go back to the "Filters" menu and this time choose "Blur." The "Blur" command added to the "RGB Noise" makes the new area look just like old paper that's been scanned, and it fits in with the 1918 original document almost perfectly. This trick can be used to recreate the look of old paper almost anywhere!

Saving

- The last thing to do is to export your file as a compact JPG or PNG file. Many printers cannot handle TIFF files, so this is essential. Go to the "File" menu and select "Export As." [Fig. 11]

- Choose "JPEG" as the file type. Don't forget to add the .jpg to the end of the file name, as GIMP makes you do this manually.

And you're done! This poster will print out 8.5 inches wide and a little shorter than 11 inches, so you'll have some empty space on the paper for a letterhead or to cut off. The same process can be used for virtually any high quality image you can find!

Alex Watson
Reference Librarian and Associate Professor
University of Mississippi
apwatson@olemiss.edu
Today’s academic and research librarians increasingly act as change agents in the higher education community. Nowhere is this more true than in the realm of open access and scholarly communication. To help empower our community in accelerating the transformation of the scholarly communication system, ACRL is once again taking its popular scholarly “Scholarly Communications: From Understanding to Engagement” workshop on the road to five locations in 2015. The day-long workshop is led by two expert presenters at locations across the country, and the content is updated annually to meet the evolving needs of the community.

The program continues its cost-sharing model as ACRL is committed to underwriting the bulk of the expense for delivering the road show, and the cost for successful host institutions is $2,000. The application to host is now available. Apply by Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at 5pm Central. Find out more on the program website at http://www.ala.org/acrl/issues/scholcomm/roadshow.

In addition to the competitive subsidized version, you may bring this one-day workshop, at full cost, to your campus, chapter, or consortia year round.
Did You Know?

ACRL members can view full contact information for all ACRL section committee rosters (http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections) by logging into the ACRL Web site.

The End of the Ink: Those Awkward Books

There was a time, not too many decades ago, when our libraries were quieter. Library technologies were more stable. The research processes of our patrons looked much like they had for centuries. Whatever the efficiencies of microforms or changes wrought in U.S. universities by the G.I. Bill, the library was recognizable as such.

To say that libraries have changed in recent years would be boring and obvious, so I will not say it. What I will say is that these changes have hit us, as literature librarians, and our patrons working in the humanities, harder than some of our librarians in other areas. However accustomed social sciences librarians might have been to providing service using print journals, they put them aside when the time came and did not look back. Nobody in or serving computer science programs is regularly forced to justify holding on to a city block’s worth of IBM Punched Cards in order to pass the minimum test to support the discipline. The same is not true for us.

By our nature, most of us have some lingering affection for physical media (print, vinyl, whatever), so we have personal reasons to love our collections. By our profession, however, by service to the community of patrons devoted to literature, we find ourselves defending slow, careful, ruminative styles of research that require resources that are awkward and bulky, only periodically used, and not well-suited to libraries that rotate around coffee shops, flash mobs, glass and brushed aluminum, and "student space" (as if students had not always come to libraries, as if they had not always found some essential solace there).

For many of us, journal prices are passing out of the exorbitant and into the absurd, physical collections are going off-site, and "good enough" search is displacing the precision that once was our stock in trade. These and related things are here, or coming, and we all know how congenial these developments are to the humanities. Every year at Annual, we talk about how to meet our patrons’ needs in an environment where sophistry is regularly used to demonstrate that browsing is bad, subject headings are impossible to use, black is white, or whatever the current fashion is in bibliographic self-deprecation.

Against these tides, however, remember Ranganthan: every reader her book. The other laws are fine, and justifiably held up to defend sea changes in how we serve patrons, but: the book. Ask your patrons what they
need from their library, and take notes. When there are surveys and focus groups, make sure our people get the word. Humanities research rarely gets the kind of headlines that come to STEM-H, and our people's needs sometimes look, at this particular moment in libraries' evolution, a little bit strange, and unlike that of everyone else. And that is all right—as long as we remind everyone who must hear it that saying this work—this human work—is at the heart of the academy rings hollow if we cannot provide an environment that supports the work.

John Glover
Humanities Research Librarian
Virginia Commonwealth University
jglover2@vcu.edu

Editorial information

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ACRL
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
(800) 545-2433, ext. 2523
www.acrl.org