

Biblio-Notes

ACRL Literatures in English Newsletter

Notes from the Chair

Brian Flota

Dear LES Members,



Spring is here and it is finally warming up after a long and tumultuous winter. The previous iteration of “Notes from the Chair” was a necessarily dour one. I would like to strike a different chord in this one. There are reasons to be optimistic. Cases of COVID-19 have dropped precipitously since mid-January as many people have received at least

one “jab” of the vaccine. Two COVID-19 relief bills have injected money into our nation’s higher education system, which has struggled mightily during the pandemic, to help alleviate some of the financial strain of the past year. The possibility of not having to sit through five Zoom meetings a day is one we are all excited for! That being said, we must still be vigilant and realistic. With the appearance of more contagious and deadly variants of COVID-19, cases have begun to rise again in the US and abroad. The murder of a young Black man, Daunte Wright, at the hands of the police in Minnesota on April 11th, happened while the state was making its case against the officer who murdered George Floyd last year, reminding us that police brutality is continuing unabated. Let this be a reminder that there is much work still to be done and that we cannot ease (*cont. on page 3*)

Inside

MLA 2021 Convention
Report
PAGE 4

Anti-Racist Action
Plan
PAGE 6

A Look at LES
Committees
PAGE 8

In This Issue

Notes from the Chair - 1*Brian Flota***Modern Language Association
2021 Convention Report - 4***Arianne Hartsell-Gundy***Update: Anti-Racism Action
Plan - 6***Anti-Racism Action Plan Ad-Hoc
Committee***Pulling Back the Curtain: A Look at
LES Committees - 8***Glenda Insua***LES Listserv Migration - 9***Jen Fehsenfeld***Upcoming Conferences and
Publications - 10**

Dear LES Members,

The end of the 2020-2021 academic year is upon us. It has been a difficult journey with its own hardships as the pandemic and sociopolitical strife have affected our lives in different ways. Through it all, LES members have worked hard to make a difference in our roles as librarians as well as to improve the LES organization.

In this issue, you'll hear from the Anti-Racism Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee about their progress in drafting a plan, with hopes of it being formally adopted at our June ALA meeting. For MLA 2021, Arianne Hartsell-Gundy reports on discussions around public humanities, anti-racism efforts in academia, and preservation. We'll also learn more about LES as an organization and how our committees are formed from incoming chair Glenda Insua.

We'd love to hear from you! Any LES member can submit an article for the newsletter. Look out for our next call for submission in the Fall. We provide some topic ideas, but we're open to hearing yours, too.

All the best,
Stacy Reardon
Matt Roberts



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ACRL
225 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60601
(800) 545-2433, ext. 2523
www.acrl.org

(*cont. from page 1*) up even if there are some encouraging signs up ahead.

It is with this fracturous yet hopeful backdrop in mind that LES has been continuing its work on our Anti-Racist Action Plan. The ad hoc committee has been quite active since the fall, the first phase of its activities culminating in a widely attended and successful virtual town hall held in early December of last year. Later in this issue, a status update on the progress of the committee's work will appear. This work has initiated the process of making changes to LES's governance documents to incorporate anti-racist language and approaches into them. The Planning Committee will begin work on this in the weeks to come.

In February, LES's Collections and Reference Discussion Groups held two very engaging discussions covering an array of topics relevant to literature librarians. Open Education Resources (OER) and Open Access (OA) continue to be hot topics in large part due to the budget crunches felt by many libraries in the wake of the pandemic. Continued discussions about diversifying collections and making them more accessible dovetail with the section's work on incorporating anti-racism into our library practice. Many thanks to co-chairs of the Reference (Paizha Stoothoff and Jeanne Ewert) and Collections (Leslie Madden and Carla Brooks) Discussion Groups for facilitating rich and nuanced discussions.

Looking ahead, our new slate of elected officers for 2021-2022 has been announced. Kristina De Voe, English and Communication Librarian at Temple University, will serve as Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect. Hillary A.H. Richardson, Undergraduate Research Coordinator and Information Literacy Librarian at Mississippi University for Women, will serve as Secretary. Last but not least, Paizha Stoothoff, Humanities Librarian at California State University, Los Angeles, will serve as Member-at-Large. Congratulations to all three!

This is a reminder to me that I will be rolling off as Chair of LES at the end of June and will hand over the reins to current Vice-Chair Glenda Insua. It has been great working with her over the past year and I know she will be a great section chair! I would also like to thank Secretary Zara Wilkinson and Member-at-Large Natalie Ornat for assisting us during what has been a very memorable year indeed! I would also like to thank the members of the Anti-Racist Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee--Nancy Foasberg, Ginny Moran, Kristin Nielsen, Natalie Ornat, Amanda Rybin Koob, and Cathy Troupos--who I've had the pleasure to meet with nearly every two weeks since August 2020 as we have worked on making LES a more equitable and inclusive environment for its members. Have a great spring and summer and I look forward to seeing many of you (virtually) at ALA Annual in late June!

Member News

New position? Retiring? Did you receive a grant or publish something? We want to know!

Send your updates to bibliionotes@gmail.com for the next newsletter.



Some of the major themes this year included public humanities, supporting undergrads in and out of the classroom, anti-racism efforts, and responding to Covid-19.

Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

Modern Language Association 2021 Convention Report

Arianne Hartsell-Gundy

In my role as the ACRL LES/ESS liaison to MLA, I attended the 2021 MLA Convention in January (<https://www.mla.org/Convention>). This year's theme was "Persistence." Attending a virtual conference was a bit of a tradeoff. I found it hard sometimes to follow the chat and the talk all at the same time. On the other hand I liked that I had access to the recordings of every presentation afterwards. I could confirm something I heard later, and catch presentations where I had conflicts. Also, while I really missed the hallway chatter between sessions, I liked that I could actually spend those thirty minutes processing, rather than rushing to find the next room on the other side of the building.

This year's major themes included public humanities, supporting undergraduates in and out of the classroom, anti-racism efforts in the classroom, in research, and in departments, and responses to Covid-19. I attended a variety of sessions, including a couple of fun ones, such as (309) Dungeons and Dragons, which featured panels about D&D and identity, and a conversation with Maria Dahvana Headley, author of a new feminist translation of *Beowulf*.

(21) Antiracist Practices for Working with Students was a roundtable discussion featuring faculty, staff, and graduate students.

It emphasized the need to be student centered and to acknowledge and value the lived experiences of students. There was discussion about no longer forcing standardized English as the norm. As part of that discussion, I learned about a recent resolution related to Black Linguistic Justice at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (<https://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/demand-for-black-linguistic-justice>). There was also discussion about transforming grading rubrics to being more idea oriented rather than product oriented and being reward based instead of punitive. Someone suggested collaborating with students to define social justice definitions that they would be encountering and to consider harm reduction in terms of the discussions taking place in the classroom. Probably the thing that has really stuck with me most is when one of the speakers noted that anti-racism should be an active verb rather than just a noun. I think it's an excellent way to think about how to approach this work.

One of the most interesting (and somewhat controversial) sessions I attended was **(582) “A Lost Cause? The Importance and Challenge of Preserving Research Materials in Their Original Forms.”** (<http://tiny.cc/36pxtz>) This session illustrates the value of having librarians attend MLA because even though no librarians were invited to speak at this panel, many of our colleagues in attendance were able to bring up valuable questions, clarifications, and food for thought both in the chat and during the Q&A. Particularly some faculty seemed not to distinguish between things like general and special collections or 19th century monographs versus modern print journal runs. Mike Furlough of HathiTrust Digital had a very pointed and valid response that is worth reading, if you have not had the chance (<http://tiny.cc/c6pxtz>). There has also been a recent *Scholarly Kitchen* blog post worth reading

called “Revisiting Nicholson Baker and Retention of Print” (<http://tiny.cc/g6pxtz>). This will be one of the few times where I would say make sure to read the comments! I hope conversation around this topic will continue, and I really hope that more librarians will be invited to the table when these kinds of conversations are happening.

This year was my second year on the Advisory Committee on the MLA International Bibliography. I had the pleasure of presenting at our program **(575) Impact Metrics in the Humanities** (<https://tinyurl.com/y3av7ol4>). I provided examples of alternative ways for humanities scholars to demonstrate their research impact and explained how I support faculty and departments at my institution. This year I was nominated and won a five-year term on the executive committee of the TM Libraries and Research forum. I attended the executive committee meeting, where we discussed future candidates and generated discussion topics for this year's annual forum, which focused on how libraries are coping during Covid-19. The forum (673) led to an excellent conversation among faculty and librarians about what kinds of services libraries have been able to offer, the pain points for both faculty and librarians, and how this situation is impacting the morale and mental health of library staff.

I would recommend getting involved with an MLA committee or forum. As always, I would love to hear from you if you have suggestions on topics related to MLA that you would like me to address in the future!

Arianne Hartsell-Gundy
Librarian for Literature and Theater Studies
Duke University
arianne.hartsell.gundy@duke.edu

Update: Anti-Racism Action Plan

Anti-Racism Action Plan Ad-Hoc Committee

As we write this update, we have just heard the guilty verdicts being passed down in the trial of Derek Chauvin, one of the four police officers charged in George Floyd's murder, and we are grateful for accountability. At the same time, we have watched more killings by police. We say just a few of the names killed in just the past few days: Daunte Wright (20 years old, the same age as many of our students), Ma'Khia Bryant (16), and Adam Toledo (13). Our students, our communities are hurting. We are hurting.

This work is more important than ever. What happens next is up to us.

The Anti-Racism Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee was formed in July, and began meeting in August 2020 as a result of this section's support of the ALA Black Caucus's Statement on Racial Violence condemning the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. Last October, the committee shared an update with you all on the progress of our work. At that point, we had been clarifying the scope of our work and working on an environmental scan.

On December 11, 2020, we held a town hall meeting to get feedback on an early draft of the report. We were intentional about reaching out to groups outside of the Literatures in English Section in order to get as wide of an audience as possible. We asked breakout groups to respond to questions about the plan in general, strengths, gaps, implementation strategies, measuring success, and perhaps most critically, how

We asked breakout groups to respond to questions about the plan in general, strengths, gaps, implementation strategies, measuring success, and perhaps most critically, how to ensure active adoption and engagement with the work of not just being non-racist, but being anti-racist.

to ensure active adoption and engagement with the work of not just being non-racist, but being anti-racist (<https://youtu.be/jm5DWa2bpbs>). We were delighted to have forty-five people attend this event, providing us with valuable suggestions. We reviewed those suggestions in January and February, integrating many of them into revisions of the report, or passing on recommendations to other committees.

As we neared a point of report finalization in February and March, we invited LES committee members to provide additional feedback through an online survey. Our request for feedback was focused more on implementation strategies and draft recommendations. We also hosted an in-person Q&A for committee members to join our group to talk about the plan draft, and we offered to meet with all committees.

In addition, members of our committee met with the LES Executive Committee at their Midwinter

meeting to share our progress. We have a meeting coming up with the LES Planning Committee and are working on a Twitter chat with LES's Virtual Participation Committee. We are also talking to other ACRL sections about this work including the ACRL Section Membership Committee and the Digital Scholarship Section, and have an upcoming meeting with the European Studies Section. We plan to share our final report with the LES Executive Committee in the next few weeks. Following that, we anticipate formal acceptance at LES's meeting at ALA.

As the work of this ad-hoc committee nears its close, we are grateful for the contributions of so many LES members and other library workers. Thank you all. We continue to seek your input and recommendations for the report (<http://tiny.cc/nipxtz>), as well as any tools that can help LES toward our goals as we look inward for ways to improve our own practices. Please contact co-chairs Nancy Foasberg (nfoasberg@qc.cuny.edu) and Ginny Moran (vmoran@macalester.edu) with suggestions or questions.

Your committee members,

Nancy Foasberg, CUNY Queens College
 Brian Flota, James Madison University
 Cathy Troupes, Wheaton College (IL)
 Amanda Rybin Koob, University of Colorado Boulder
 Ginny Moran, Macalester College
 Natalie Ornat, University of North Carolina - Charlotte
 Kristin Nielsen, University of Georgia

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 Glenda M. Insua, Vice-Chair
 Nancy Marie Foasberg, Past-Chair
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 Natalie M. Ornat, Member-at-Large
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 Megan R. Griffin, Staff Liaison

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 Mark Dahlquist
 Kristina M. De Voe
 Colette Marie Hayes
 Glenda M. Insua
 Melissa Johnson

Miriam Leslie Madden
 Kristin A. Nielsen
 Stacy Reardon
 Brittany Richardson
 Matthew Roberts
 Margie Ruppel
 Jen Stevens
 Laura Lynne Taddeo
 Sarah G. Wenzel

Pulling Back the Curtain: A Look at LES Committees

Glenda Insua

Ever wonder how LES committees are formed? I had no idea until I became Vice Chair this past year and learned that it's the task of the Vice Chair to assign volunteers to the section's committees. The first time I volunteered for a committee several years ago, I have to admit I was intimidated. I didn't know anyone in the section, and I was a new English liaison, still trying to figure out my job. Why would anyone want me on their committee? Now, however, I see that I needn't have been intimidated at all. In an effort to alleviate any potential anxiety, or just to satisfy your curiosity, I thought I'd explain just how LES committees are formed.

The process itself is pretty straight-forward. The Vice Chair puts out a call for volunteers and volunteers apply through the ACRL website. The Vice Chair has access to completed volunteer applications and can see who volunteered for which committees through the ACRL appointment website. The LES Executive Committee has made it a priority to make LES more welcoming and inclusive, and the Anti-Racism Taskforce created a valuable report outlining potential solutions. Having all of this in mind, I wanted to make sure that the committee process was inclusive and equitable.

Once I started viewing volunteer applications, I realized, however, that I didn't really have to "decide" amongst applicants. To put it bluntly, there weren't too many volunteers. In a way this was a positive problem, as it allowed me to offer an appointment to all the members who volunteered. On the other hand,

I was worried that newer librarians and librarians of color might not have felt welcomed to volunteer. If I were to do it again, I would put out the call on various listservs and social media outside of LES, in an effort to reach more people.

The only difficult part of assigning committees was the tetris-like challenge of making sure that each committee had the requisite number of members, the requisite make-up based on our by-laws, and that volunteers were assigned to a committee in which they were interested. I still had to make sure that people weren't on the same committee too many times or that they weren't on too many committees at once, but otherwise, anyone who wanted an appointment was offered one.

I was pleased that I didn't need to make any "cuts" and that everyone who wanted to participate could, but I hope that next year more members will feel welcomed to volunteer. Volunteering on a committee is an excellent way of getting more involved, especially for newer librarians. You can learn a lot from others who share similar positions and interests. It's a great way of meeting people, of getting service experience, and most importantly, of shaping the section to be what you want it to be.

Glenda Insua
Reference and Liaison Librarian
University of Illinois at Chicago
ginsual@uic.edu

LES Listserv Migration

Jen Fehsenfeld

As you may have already heard, ALA has been transitioning email lists away from the Sympa software to the ALA Connect system. As of May 1, the LES Sympa based email list went away. That means that the old LES address is no longer valid.

Going forward, email ALA-ACRL-LES@ConnectedCommunity.org from the email account associated with your ALA Connect profile. For more information, see ALA Connect's help pages: <https://connect.ala.org/faq/home#listserv>

We also have listservs for each LES subcommittee and group. The following lists all ALA Connect listservs for LES:

The main Literatures in English Section page's discussion board is the equivalent of the former LES

email list. Nonmembers can stay connected with us by making a free ALA Connect account (<https://connect.ala.org/faq/home#genquestions>).

I recognize that this is a big change for all of us, and would be glad to help you with using ALA Connect however I can. ALA also has an ALA Connect FAQ (<https://connect.ala.org/faq/home#listserv>) that includes lots of helpful information and instructions.

Jen (Stevens) Fehsenfeld
LES List Administrator
Lead, Arts & Humanities Team
George Mason University
jsteven7@gmu.edu

LES Listserv
ALA-ACRL-LES@ConnectedCommunity.org

LES Executive Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-Exec@ConnectedCommunity.org

Anti-Racist Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-EDI@ConnectedCommunity.org

Collections Discussion Group
ALA-ACRL-LES-CollectionsDG@ConnectedCommunity.org

Conference Program Planning--Chicago, 2021 Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-CPP2021@ConnectedCommunity.org

Conference Program Planning--Washington DC, 2022 Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-CPP2022@ConnectedCommunity.org

Membership Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-Membership@ConnectedCommunity.org

Nominating 2021 Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-Nominating2021@ConnectedCommunity.org

Nominating 2022 Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-Nominating2022@ConnectedCommunity.org

Planning Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-Planning@ConnectedCommunity.org

Publications Committee
ALA-ACRL-LES-Publications@ConnectedCommunity.org

Reference Discussion Group
ALA-ACRL-LES-ReferenceDG@ConnectedCommunity.org

Virtual Participation
ALA-ACRL-LES-VP@ConnectedCommunity.org

Working Group to Update the LES Research Competencies
ALA-ACRL-LES-RC@ConnectedCommunity.org

Upcoming Conferences & Publications

RBMS 2021 Virtual Conference

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Thanks to the over 350 of you that have already registered for the RBMS 2021 Virtual Conference. There's still time to get the best rates! Early bird registration ends May 28, 2021! Join us to critically examine the existing power structures that have shaped and continue to impact special collections and archives. This conference will explore the power dynamics within our profession and the ways in which we experience, exert, and/or defy power. Come hear stories of resistance, large and small, successful or not. Learn practical tools and strategies, and explore thought-provoking ideas. We will hope you will be inspired to help make transformative change in our field! <https://rbms2021.us2.pathable.com/>

ALA Annual Virtual Conference



Join your colleagues for the 2021 ALA Virtual Annual Conference, June 24-29, 2021! This event is packed with educational programming, Featured Speakers, 250+ exhibitors, and so much more. Be sure to check out the listing of high-quality programs and discussion forums from ACRL member units! Register at <https://2021.alaannual.org/>

ACRL Books



ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

Leading Together: Academic Library Consortia and Advocacy

Creativity: A Toolkit for Academic Libraries

Academic Library Job Descriptions: CLIPP #46

Training Research Consultants: A Guide for Academic Libraries

Open Educational Resources: CLIPP #45

Approaches to Liaison Librarianship: Innovations in Organization and Engagement

Faculty-Librarian Collaborations: Integrating the Information Literacy Framework into Disciplinary Courses

Student Wellness and Academic Libraries: Case Studies and Activities for Promoting Health and Success

The Library Outreach Cookbook

Reflections on Practitioner Research: A Practical Guide for Information Professionals

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL's Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org for more information, or visit www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing to learn more about our book publishing program and submit a proposal.

Off-RoadShow Virtual Workshops

ACRL's traveling RoadShow workshops are on hold until it's safe to resume large in-person gatherings, but we're working to bring you the same great content through virtual experiences. These "Off-RoadShows" will continue to help academic library professionals tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. Host a multi-day virtual workshop for your library or organization! Learn more at ala.org/acrl/offroad.

ACRL eLearning

ACRL's e-Learning program provides a unique opportunity to participate in professional development events that are focused on practical, tangible topics to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. Visit the ACRL e-Learning website to stay up-to-date on current e-Learning offerings from ACRL! <http://www.ala.org/acrl/onlinelearning>