

Friends of ACRL Annual Report, 2003-2004

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) established the Friends of ACRL in 1997-98 “to provide a means for ACRL to take bold steps above and beyond its traditional member programs and services.” To date, 106 individuals have contributed to the Friends of ACRL Fund, demonstrating their commitment to, and interest in, our organization.

Funds were created to encourage and facilitate personal support for ACRL initiatives selected to strengthen our profession. ACRL members are solicited for donations through various ACRL print and electronic publications. Individual donors are recognized in a variety of ways, including the Friends of ACRL web site and in the ACRL Annual Report published in *C&RL News*.

The Friends of ACRL program offers a variety of giving and support opportunities, including:

- **Professional Development Scholarship Fund (PDSF)**
As society ages and the student population becomes increasingly more diverse, we must encourage more minorities and younger members to join our ranks. This can be accomplished by offering more scholarships to MLS students, and to entry level and minority librarians to attend ACRL and ALA programs.
- **Innovative New Programs Fund (INPF)**
This fund will expand academic librarians' knowledge and abilities to deliver excellent services by expanding relevant and cutting edge programming.
- **The Best Practices in Academic Librarianship Fund (BPALF)**
Today's students see themselves as customers and demand value. In many cases they are turning to for-profit providers for various educational services. ACRL will help academic librarians to better define and promote the services they provide by recognizing excellence in our libraries and the professionals that work in them. Exemplary programs and best practices in a variety of areas of academic librarianship will be identified.
- **ACRL Global Connections Fund (GCF)**
This fund will support scholarships for participation of foreign academic librarians in ACRL National and ALA Conferences, provide fellowships for study grants abroad as well as grant funds for the dissemination of U.S. publications to third world countries.
- **General Fund (GF)**
This fund houses donations not designated for a particular ACRL Friends fund, and are available to support any of the initiatives outlined above.
- **William A. Moffett Special Fund (WMSF)**
Funds donated in memory of the late William A. Moffett, a past president and beloved member of ACRL, will accumulate toward the goal of a full endowment. This fund may support any of the above programs, and may be used to meet future association needs not yet articulated.

Donations Received through FY 2004

Professional Development Scholarship Fund	\$ 8,846
Innovative New Programs Fund	8,172
The Best Practices in Academic Librarianship Fund	3,901
ACRL Global Connections Fund	4,046
General Fund	9,425
<u>William A. Moffett Special Fund</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Total	\$39,390

Distribution of Friends Funds

The ACRL Friends Fund Committee supports the Friends of ACRL program by recommending to the Board the expenditure of funds consistent with the intent of the donors and the components of the Friends program; reviewing the original purposes of the Friends program and matching them with current and emerging ACRL initiatives; monitoring developments within ACRL that could prompt revisions to the Friends program; and, recommending to the Board changes in the Friends program.

As of September 1, 2004, ACRL has expended \$7,140 of Friends Fund for two projects: scholarships for the 2003 ACRL National Conference (\$6,285) and publicity for the one-time Best Practices Marketing Award (\$315).

In FY 2003-04 the Committee obtained Board approval for Friends Fund expenditures of \$11,000 including:

- **\$3,000** for the activation of the CONPAB and CACUL cross-border agreements by supporting the participation of one librarian each from Canada and Mexico in the ACRL 12th National Conference in Minneapolis, 2005
- **\$3,000** for special presidential awards to recognize two academic or research libraries that have conducted an effective marketing program using the @ Your Library materials, to be awarded at the ACRL 12th National Conference in Minneapolis, 2005
- **\$5,000** for scholarships for pre-conferences at the ACRL 12th National Conference in Minneapolis, 2005

The Committee continues to investigate subsidies for member participation in online programs offered at the ACRL 12th National Conference in Minneapolis, 2005.

The ACRL Friends Fund, although in place only a short time, is an established and valued resource for ACRL members, due in part to the simplicity of requesting and obtaining funds from the Friends Fund Committee. With prudent oversight by the ACRL Board, the ACRL Friends Fund can continue to grow and provide significant resources to supplement and support ACRL initiatives. As success builds upon success, ACRL can expect increased interest and solicitation for available funds. The ACRL Board and staff will continue to pursue all opportunities to promote the ACRL Friends Fund with the ACRL membership.

On behalf of ACRL, I am gratified to recognize the many individuals who have contributed to this fund. Support for these important activities is only possible with the generosity and vision of ACRL members and friends. The ability to cultivate and encourage new members, to improve and enhance our national conferences, and to support our innovative and creative members is crucial to the ongoing development of ACRL.

I hope you will consider a donation to the ACRL Friends Fund. It is money wisely invested and well spent!

Sincerely yours,

John Popko
Chair,
ACRL Friends Fund Committee