



Federal and
Armed Forces
Libraries Roundtable

FEDERAL

LIBRARIAN

Vol. 24, No. 1, Fall 2006

Greetings From the President:

I have been a librarian for over 30 years. Most of my experience has been in administration and in technical services in federal libraries, nineteen years with military libraries in Guam, Okinawa, and Monterey, California and two years with the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. I have worked in public libraries in Pacific Grove and Sacramento, California. My experience in academic libraries includes the Mc George School of Law in Sacramento, California, the American University in Cairo, Egypt, and the International University, Bremen, in Germany.

The profession interested me initially for two reasons: a selfish reason—I would be surrounded by a vast number of books on a vast number of subjects and a more altruistic reason—I would be performing a needed public service.

I have seen many changes in the way we do our jobs throughout the years, but fundamental things about being a librarian have remained the same. The American Library Association's mission statement says it best: "to promote the highest quality library and information services

and public access to information...."

Fulfilling this mission is becoming more and more important and more and more difficult. Concerns have multiplied in recent years: the possibility of information loss as information is transferred from paper to electronic formats, challenges to open access, the closure of some federal libraries and major personnel reductions and policy changes in others, and attrition of the federal workforce to name but a few. In the face of these concerns it is highly important to maintain impartiality and integrity.

Professional programs will be addressing some, if not all, of these issues in the future. It is most important that we take advantage of these programs to help us keep up with current technology and practice. This is also becoming more and more difficult. The Dept. of Defense has been forced to cut spending on travel because of other priorities. For example, my own travel to the 2006 ALA Annual meeting was cancelled at the last minute. I am now planning on funding my own travel to future midwinter and

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FAFLRT Board Members at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans

Greetings From the President

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annual conferences. Other Dept. of Defense librarians have told me that their supervisors are increasingly reluctant to approve travel to conferences. And on August 3, 2006, the Senate approved an amendment that would cap spending on conferences by the Dept. of Defense at \$70 million in FY 2007.

We must work together to try to address our concerns and meet challenges. If you have ideas to share, please forward them to a Board member or to me. Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Bobbie Carr

Judy Russell to Retire

Judy Russell, Superintendent of Documents, announced on September 13 that she plans to retire in 2007. Ms. Russell has been with the GPO for nearly a decade. Prior to her appointment by Public Printer Bruce James in 2003, Russell spent five years at GPO in the 1990s when she was instrumental in creating GPO Access.

Russell has more than 20 years of experience in the private sector and in public service. Her career highlights include key positions in libraries and information centers, as well as the publishing and information industries. Russell is a graduate of Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross in Washington, D.C. She received an M.S. in Library Science from Catholic University.

ALA Moves to Support Federal Libraries

At the Annual Conference in New Orleans in June, ALA passed two resolutions in support of federal libraries. These resolutions are printed in this newsletter. In addition to passing these two resolutions, Council established an ad hoc subcommittee of the Committee on Legislation to recommend further actions. The subcommittee will be reporting at ALA midwinter in Seattle. Subcommittee members include active and retired federal librarians and librarians from other ALA units and library associations interested in federal library issues.

Rates for Advertising in the



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GENERAL INFORMATION

The **Federal Librarian** newsletter, is the quarterly journal of the American Library Association's Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT). It presents recent developments and events of interest to the Federal and Armed Forces library community, including news and reports on international, federal, state, and local government issues. The **Federal Librarian** subscription base is approximately 600.

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—ROBERT J. SAMUELSON, *NEWSWEEK*, JANUARY 23, 2006

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Fabulous Feds

The Wiesbaden, Germany Community Library welcomes Mary Ernst as a new Army Librarian for Youth and Reference Services. Ms. Ernst has previously worked in school libraries at Ft. Bragg, NC, Schofield Barracks, HI and Ft. Carson, CO.

Dr. Arlene Luster has come out of federal retirement after working six months at the Hawaii Tokai International College Library in Honolulu and returned as the Library Director of the Hanau Army Library System, Hanau, Germany.

Donna Sviantek previously Librarian at Army Library Mannheim, Germany is now the Librarian at Aliamanu Military Reservation Library in Hawaii.

Jim Shepherd retired in May 2006 from the Ft. Shafter Army Library, Hawaii.

Gloria Miller, Librarian at HQ Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, VA has been appointed Treasurer for Military Librarians Division, of Special Libraries Association.

Debi Reece, was appointed Library Director, Navy Support Activity, Souda Bay, Greece in June 2006.

Ian Smith, Director of the Marine Corps Air Station New River Library will retire in August, 2006. Trent Reynolds, currently Reference Librarian at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point Library has been appointed as the new Director of MCAS New River Library.

Faith Kanno, Librarian of the Quantico Family Library is now Head of the Breckinridge Library at the Library of the Marine Corps,

Quantico, VA. Phyllis Cassler has been appointed Librarian of the Quantico Family Library.

Four US Marine Corps Librarians will receive a Special Citation Award from the Armed Forces Recreation Society for their contributions to the recreational programs at their installations. Receiving awards for 2006 are Janice Woodward, Camp Lejeune, NC; Suzanne Shell, MC Air Station Cherry Point, NC; Belinda Pugh, MC Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan and Cynthia Shipley, MC Bases, Okinawa, Japan. The awards will be presented in October at the National Recreation and Parks Association Annual Congress in Seattle, WA.

Bertina 'Tina' Byers passed away on 3 July, 2006 in Lansing, KS. Tina devoted 57 years to Army libraries retiring from the Command and General Staff College Library at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Barbara M. Ivey passed away 29 June, 2006 in Kansas City, MO. Barbara was Chief Librarian, Acquisitions Division, USAF Academy Library in Colorado Springs, Co for many years. Her previous positions with the Army and Air Force took her to Tokyo Army Hospital during the Korean War; Verona, Italy; Metz, Orleans and Paris, France; Omaha, NE; Bremerhaven and Heidelberg, Germany and NATO Base, Brunssum, The Netherlands.

Jenny Peterson, the 2001 Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award recipient, graduated from San Jose State University in December 2004 with a Master's in Library and Information Science. She has man-

aged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service library in Sacramento since November 2001. Jenny was promoted from Library Technician to Technical Information Specialist in recognition of improvements she made in library services. Her husband, a Petty Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, received transfer orders for Arlington, VA next year and Jenny "couldn't be more pleased". She is excited about the possibilities of working in a federal library in the DC metropolitan area.

Mari-Jana "M-J" Oboroceanu, the 2002 Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award recipient, graduated from Catholic University of America in 2003. She successfully completed as a Presidential Management Fellow in February 2006. "M-J" is currently an Information Research Specialist in the Congressional Research Service Knowledge Services Group at the Library of Congress.

Robert R. Newlen, Head, Legislative Relations Office, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress recently published "Resume Writing and Interviewing Techniques that Work: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians, 3rd ed." published by Neal-Schuman Publishers. The book includes dozens of real-life resumes of librarians in all types of positions and all types of libraries.

Robert was also recently named Senior Trustee of ALA's \$26 million endowment.

Submitted by Cynthia Shipley



Kermit Lowery, assistant general counsel, LexisNexis

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James King and Joan Schwarz Recipients of 2006 FAFLRT Awards

We suspect that many a long time FAFLRTer has been asked at one time or another, “why should I join FAFLRT”? We hope you identified the opportunity for special recognition as one of the many benefits of membership. As you know our Round Table annually recognizes professional excellence and also supports and encourages the next generation of librarians through several special awards: there is a FAFLRT Achievement Award; Distinguished Service Award and the Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award.

This year FAFLRT is pleased to be able to recognize two individuals who, while at very different phases in their careers, both share a deep commitment to the advancement of the library profession as well as to their own professional growth and development.

Joan Schwarz

Joan Schwarz, a student at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Library School, is the 2006 recipient of the Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award which supports the attendance at an ALA annual meeting of a library school student with demonstrated interest in Federal librarianship. Joanie accepted the \$1,000 check presented by ProQuest at a reception honoring awardees. Joanie has been a volunteer archivist at the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum in Miramar, California since January where her duties included: accessioning museum artifacts and archival documentation; inventorying archival holdings,

performing basic conservation techniques, and re-housing documentation in preparation for arrangement and description. She worked with the Assistant Curator in maintaining and preserving museum artifacts and in developing a framework for strategic planning for the archives. From 1997 – 1999 she served in the United States Marine Corps where she was the Publications NCO at Camp Pendleton. In that capacity she organized and maintained records, and updated, organized and managed a technical library of over two hundred fifty publications. From 1994 – 1995 she was a Library Page at the Renton Public Library in Renton, Washington.

In applying for the Conference sponsorship Joanie wrote “I am a former Marine. I joined the Marine Corps because I wanted to serve my country; I believe that by being a federal librarian I will be able to continue to serve my country as a civilian.” She has a keen interest in military history; as such, expects to enroll in a Master’s program in Military History after she completes her Master’s degree in Library and Information Science. She hopes to work in an archive or library involving military history, with the goal of educating others and promoting information and historical literacy to diverse groups of patrons.”

Joanie’s application was supported by a colleague who wrote that Joanie “has demonstrated her interest, ability and desire to make a contribution to Federal libraries. I have worked with her on several class projects and I have seen her demonstrate intellec-

tual curiosity, creativity, well-organized writing, technical expertise, and group collaboration skills. She has the background, education, and skill that we need to attract to federal libraries. With her military experience, she has expressed a strong interest in working in armed forces libraries. I have explained some of the job opportunities, along with my own 20 year work experience in Federal libraries and the benefits and satisfaction of a career in public service. This Award would encourage and support her desire for a career working in federal libraries.”

James King

The FAFLRT Achievement award recognizes achievement in the promotion of library and information service and the information profession in the Federal and Armed Forces communities. The recipient of this year’s achievement award is well known to FAFLRT and the larger library community. He is rising star James King, Chief Librarian at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. In this position since 2002, he has directed all aspects of the NRL Research Library, proactively improving and advancing library services through a strategic approach that has been incorporated into all levels of the organization and validated against NRL and Navy objectives. As a ‘partner in research’, the NRL Research Library continues to be the most advanced research library in the Department of Defense, serving as a ‘productivity multiplier’ and a transformational force that has changed the way science is done at NRL.

The NRL Research Library exists to enhance & support scientists in accomplishing their research objectives across a range of ongoing Navy and DoD programs through the comprehensive availability of all relevant scholarly information sources; a strategic effort to capture the NRL research portfolio; and the deployment, customization, and creation of cutting edge information resources and services as part of the NRL Digital Library. To obtain the best possible value for NRL scientists, James is leading library staff efforts at the Federal, DoD, Navy, and NRL Library levels with high-level SciTech information provider management to strategically refine the collection mix based upon staff research/analysis, usage statistics, and pricing policies. The resultant deals with major information providers are often innovative, affect hundreds of agencies and millions of users within the Federal Government, dramatically expand access, and result in costs avoidance and savings in the millions of dollars.

This digital strategy has resulted in nearly all relevant journals now being accessible at researcher's desktops (over 3,000 titles) and over 60% of the entire 60,000 bound historical print journal volumes also digitally accessible. All of the Library's web services are being shifted to a more user-centered philosophy, while also improving the scope and quality of custom research products and self-service research tools. Usage has supported these efforts with an overall doubling of digital library usage just at NRL since 2002 – both through journal article downloads (100k to 200k) and through self-service online searches (200k to 400k).

He has deployed a 'NRL Online Bibliography' to ensure that the entire research portfolio of written knowledge from all NRL scientists and engineers since the 1920's will be captured, retained, measured, and shared with current and future generations. To date, nearly 40,000 publications written since 1970 have been captured providing researchers and administrators with a single view of all NRL research including: current citation counts; quantified output/productivity per researcher; a network of experts in Naval research with links to all relevant publications, and reports showing the impact of NRL research on the U.S. and world patent awards.

To effectively market the suite of resources and services available to the geographically dispersed research community, he has led the multifaceted '@ Your Desktop' marketing campaign which includes the consistent use of branding across all physical and digital materials, use of e-mail and physical communications, and a regular section in NRL's newspaper.

All combined, these advances have resulted in increased researcher productivity and have transformed the research process at NRL, making the NRL Digital Library a sought-after resource around the world.

James is a recognized leader in digital library innovation and digitization. As such he has been invited to speak at various events including: the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives 2004 annual meeting; ARL 2004 Institutional Repositories and Open Access forum; Internet Librarian 2005 conference; KM.Gov 2005 conference on Knowledge Management; and has

been a guest lecturer at the Catholic University School of Library and Information Science.

He has published in numerous journals including: the Spring 2005 issue of *Libraries & Culture*; the cover article in the September 2004 issue of *Information Outlook*; and was cited in the 2005 scholarly book *Information Retrieval and Data Mining*. He has also been consulted as an expert by the University of Arizona, Harvard University, and the Government Printing Office; and has been invited to join the Thomson Scientific 'Thought Leaders' strategic planning group, the Swets Library Advisory Group, Morgan & Claypool's eBook Developmental Partner Program, and Springer's eBook Developmental Partner Program.

Earlier this month James was awarded the LEXIS/NEXIS Innovations in Technology Award by the Special Libraries Association. You will also recall that James has been FALFLRT's loyal webmaster for all many years and we were pleased to recognize him with the FALFLRT Distinguished Service Award in 2002. It's hard to imagine anyone more worthy of this year's Achievement Award. Unfortunately, James was not able to be in New Orleans to accept his award but his good friend Stephanie Bianchi of the National Science Foundation was there to accept the award on his behalf.

Congratulations to the award winners and to our fellow FALFLRTers — remember, it's not too early to start thinking about next year! There are many worthy and untold stories out there. We will look forward to hearing from you.

**Maria Pisa and Shirley Loo,
Awards Committee Co-chairs**

Minutes

Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT)

Board Meeting

ALA Annual Conference, 2006

Hilton New Orleans Riverside

New Orleans, LA

Monday, June 26, 2006

Attendees: Georgette Harris, Marie L. Nelson, Donna Ramsey, Linda Resler, Jane Sessa, Helen Sherman, Cynthia Shipley, Eileen Welch

Welcome and Call to Order.

Georgette Harris, FAFLRT President, called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. (This meeting continues the business of the June 24, 2006 meeting.)

Liaison Reports (continued from 6-24-06):

FLICC Liaison. Georgette, reporting for Carol Bursik, stated that the FEDLINK online amendment capability became functional in mid-June. She also thanked those who completed the survey. Finally, FEDLINK fees will not be changing in FY07.

IFLA Liaison. A replacement for Andrea Gruhl is being sought by 1 July.

Public Employees Round Table (PERT). No report.

Old Business

Membership Recruitment and Retention.

It was suggested that we distribute FAFLRT brochures at the other specialized library conferences. Eileen Welch will "house" the supply of brochures, and distribute them as requested.

FAFLRT would like to send an email to all ALA members who have

.mil or .gov addresses, but ALA could neither supply this, nor a listing by type of library.

FAFLRT 2007 Program (June 22-25, 2007, Washington, D.C.)

Reception. To be held Friday evening, June 22, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Army-Navy Club Ballroom. Proquest and Lexis-Nexis have agreed to sponsor it.

Special Tour. It was proposed that on Friday, before the Reception, we offer a special tour of the Census Bureau, which is close to a Metro stop.

Membership Meeting. It was suggested that we not combine next year's Annual Membership Meeting with a Board Meeting, and that FLICC report at the meeting, as well as having several speakers briefly representing other federal agencies. A suggested time was Sunday, June 24, 9:30 a.m., following the OCLC Breakfast (would be helpful to be in the same hotel). (In lieu of that, returning to the traditional time on a Saturday morning, with a sponsored breakfast, could be reconsidered for the future.)

The first Board Meeting could follow the Membership Meeting, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to noon, in the same location.

Annual Program. Proposed to be held on Monday, June 25, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. to capture some of Washington, D.C.'s potential librarian audience. A program topic suggestion was "Open Source," to be placed in the "Issues and Updates" Track.

Monday Board Meeting is tentatively planned for 10:30 a.m. to noon on 25 June '07.

FAFLRT's ALA events should be advertised on the FAFLRT and FLICC listserves, among others. Another suggestion was a separate postcard mailing to potential new members and library school students, particularly in the Washington, D.C. area

It was also proposed that FAFLRT co-sponsor a program on the EPA Libraries with the Social Responsibilities Round Table at some time.

New Business

EPA Library Closings and ALA Council Resolution. Some of our group felt that the \$43K to \$53K annual salary which ALA is proposing to pay a Washington lobbyist is too low for the market.

ALA Campaign for America's Libraries. The Board felt that ALA should pay more attention to federal libraries, suggesting that it would be beneficial for the Directors of federal libraries to hold a meeting with ALA regarding their concerns, to increase federal library visibility to ALA. It was suggested that the FLICC listserv seek a volunteer who might spearhead a committee that would plan such a meeting. Send any suggestions to Georgette.

ALA FAFLRT Intern. It will be determined at the Midwinter Board Meeting whether or not we will request an intern to assist us at the 2007 Annual Conference. An intern could also help us man our booth.

Georgette reported that the ALA New Orleans Conference has 16,309 attendees. ALA is also reporting an increase in membership.

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Minutes

Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) Annual General Membership/Board Combined Meeting ALA Annual Conference, 2006 Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, LA Saturday, June 24, 2006

Attendees: Carol Bursik, Patricia Goldman, Georgette Harris, Pat May, Marie L. Nelson, Maria Pisa, Jewel Player, Donna Ramsey, Linda Resler, Joanie Schwarz, Jane Sessa, Helen Sherman, Cynthia Shipley, Eileen Welch

Welcome and Call to Order. Georgette Harris, FAFLRT President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. The Agenda was accepted.

The minutes of the Annual General Membership Meeting of June 25, 2005, the Midwinter Board Meeting of January 21, 2006, and the Special Off-cycle Board Meeting and Teleconference of April 13, 2006 were distributed. All of the minutes were accepted as written.

Membership Report. Joan Taylor (not present) had provided the written Membership Report, dated June 18, 2006. It reported that as of April 2006, FAFLRT had 317 personal members and 49 Organizational/Corporate members, for a total of 366 members. This compares to 359 members the previous year. (Hope Beyer is the future Membership Chairman.)

Treasurer's Report. Carol Bursik distributed FAFLRT's June 13, 2006 "Financial Statement for FY 2006, Based on the Performance Report of April 30, 2006," which shows:

\$1,707.93
Revenues for the Year of \$6,854.97
Expenses for the Year of \$5,244.86
ALA Overhead of \$323
Net Revenue (Expense) figure of \$1,287.11
Ending Net Asset Balance of \$2,995.04

However, as of April 30, 2006, there was billed, but un-posted, revenue of \$765 from Lexis/Nexis. There was also a possible billing error of \$434.95 for meals in FY2006 and \$62.22 for bank service charges. Pat May commented that there are credit card per-use charges in effect. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Newsletter (*Federal Librarian*) Report. Jane Sessa reported that the advertising situation is good right now, and the ads also appear on the newsletter's web version. Jane requested that someone assist her with the vendor ads. She recommended that we also continue to distribute the print newsletter by mail. The next newsletter deadline is August 15, 2006.

Committee Reports

ALA Round Table Coordinating Committee. Georgette Harris attended this meeting and reported that they discussed perceptions that the Round Tables' concerns are not being heard. Also, the ALA Past President attended, and reported that ALA's major focus is on advocacy, library funding, school libraries, and ALA's role in traditional libraries.

Annual Program. Jewel Player reported that there was a minor change to the title of the annual program, to "Copyright Laws –

Addressing Library Issues," but the primary speaker and program content remain the same. There was also concern that our program was omitted from the published ALA Tracks, and wasn't placed in the "Issues" category. It was suggested that we maintain continuous contact with our Round Table's representative (presently Jeanette Pierce) on the ALA Conference Planning Committee, so that he/she might help champion our program's location, time slot, and placement in the Tracks.

Archives. Continue to send archival material to Lucille Rosa.

Awards Committee. Maria Pisa reported that the Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award was awarded to Joanie Schwarz, a student from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Library School and the FAFLRT Achievement Award was presented to James King, Chief Librarian at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. There were no applicants for the FAFLRT Distinguished Service Award, which is limited to FAFLRT membership.

Bylaws and Constitution. Fran Perros will be taking over this committee from Andrea Gruhl, who has retired.

FAFLRT Web Site. James King, who continues to be our webmaster, was thanked for his fine work maintaining the FAFLRT ALA web page. Any suggestions should be sent to him.

Booth Coordinator. Eileen Welch solicited our comments regarding whether or not our corporate members should display their materials at our Annual Conference booth. We

Minutes

decided that their materials may be displayed, but placed with a sign stating "From our corporate members." It was also suggested that we provide a sign naming our event sponsors.

Federal Personnel. Donna Ramsey reported that the Labor portion of the new NSPS personnel system is in the courts, and the proposed Homeland Security system didn't get funding. Also, Ft. Belvoir is studying the possibility of consolidating four to six of their libraries. Georgette Harris reported that the FLICC Human Resources Working Group would like to see the GS-09 as the minimum librarian grade, but that initiative has stalled, so now their focus has turned to librarian Core Competencies.

Nominating Committee. Linda Resler reported on the Spring 2006 election results:

- V.P./President Elect:* **Janet Scheitle**
- Secretary:* **Belinda Pugh**
- Armed Forces Director:* **Lucille Rosa**

Federal Director: **Nancy Faget**

The change to the Bylaws wording was approved. Ninety members voted in this election, which was an improvement over last year.

Liaison Reports

ALA Councilor. Mary McInroy is the representative for the Round Tables that include FAFLRT.

ALA Education Assembly. Helen Sherman reported that she will be attending their meeting today. Also, as a member of the FLICC Education Committee, she feels we should consider partnerships to provide online

courses, as not everyone can attend FLICC on-site classes. In addition, Helen has recently solicited input about our educational needs through a listserv email.

ALA Liaison. Pat May, from the ALA Washington, D.C. office, suggested that we send our 2007 Conference Program information to both Reggie Scott and her, to allow them to verify its proper Track placement. Additionally, the online entries for the 2007 meetings have to be approved by the assigned Staff Liaisons before forwarding to Conference Services. Pat stated that she and Reggie are available to help with anything we need.

ALA Legislative Assembly. Jane Sessa reported that they are working on a resolution regarding the status of the EPA libraries. She also distributed a "Resolution Concerning Lobbying for Federal Libraries and Information Programs." The Board approved this resolution go forward to ALA, with the word "lobbying" changed to "advocating." There is the perception among federal libraries that they are underrepresented by ALA. Jane also stated that she would eventually like someone to replace her as the liaison to the ALA Legislative Assembly.

ALA Planning and Budget Assembly. Carol Bursik reported that this group will meet on Sunday.

Coalition for Effective Change. Jane Sessa reported that she hasn't recently attended their meetings, but that their concerns have been paybanding and personnel issues.

The reports will continue at the June 26, 2006 Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie L. Nelson
FAFLRT Secretary

Minutes

Board Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, 2006
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, LA
Monday, June 26, 2006

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A volunteer is needed to work on completing the FAFLRT manual, so it will be available as guidance for future board members.

Georgette Harris was thanked for her capable leadership as FAFLRT President. The other outgoing officers, committee chairs, and liaisons, as well as returning officers and members were also thanked for their hard work and diligence on behalf of FAFLRT. (This also concludes my two terms, four years, as FAFLRT Secretary.)

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m., with the symbolic (virtual) passing of the gavel to the incoming President, Bobbie Carr.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie L. Nelson
FAFLRT Secretary

Resolution on EPA Libraries

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its network of libraries have provided reliable, accurate information about sensitive environmental issues that affect the health and safety of our families and communities; and

WHEREAS, these EPA libraries have provided access to vital information to researchers and to scientists, including EPA researchers investigating environmental issues that impact our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the EPA Headquarters libraries and the 27 regional and laboratory libraries are staffed with experienced, professional librarians who facilitate access to information, fielding 134,000 research requests from EPA scientists and enforcement staff and others in the last year; and

WHEREAS, the EPA Libraries house and catalog unique collections, including approximately 50,000 primary source documents not available elsewhere in any format, on vital environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, the EPA Libraries serve as institutional repositories for internal documentation as well as commercially published literature about the topics agencies regulate, investigate, and research; and

WHEREAS, the EPA Libraries operate public reading rooms, providing access to collections that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of constituents in their geographic region, at times specifically

offering that access to comply with federal law; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the Business Case for Information Services: EPA's Regional Libraries and Centers prepared by Stratus Consulting for the EPA concluded that, "calculated conservatively, the benefit-to-cost ratio for EPA library services ranges between 2:1 and 5.7:1"; and

WHEREAS, the Draft EPA FY 2007 Library Plan: National Framework (June 1, 2006), including the current proposal to move materials to the web, does not ensure satisfactorily that the public, researchers, scientists and policymakers will have continued access to the staff, services, and high quality, accurate information found in the EPA Libraries; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2007 budget for EPA Libraries contains a \$2.5 Million cut which:

has already resulted in the closure and imminent closure of some headquarters, regional and laboratory libraries and the reduction of staff at other EPA Libraries;

will put the collections and services of the EPA Libraries at risk, causing essential information about the environment to be lost;

would compromise the public's

health and safety by making it difficult, even impossible, for the EPA staff and scientists, other scientists and researchers, the public, contractors and regulated industries, and federal, state, and local policymakers to find accurate and high-quality information upon which to base decisions about health and safety concerns; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association (ALA) urge Congress to direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reprogram \$2.5 Million of the EPA FY 2007 budget to fund EPA Libraries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ALA urge the EPA to restore funding to the EPA regional and laboratory libraries; and be it further

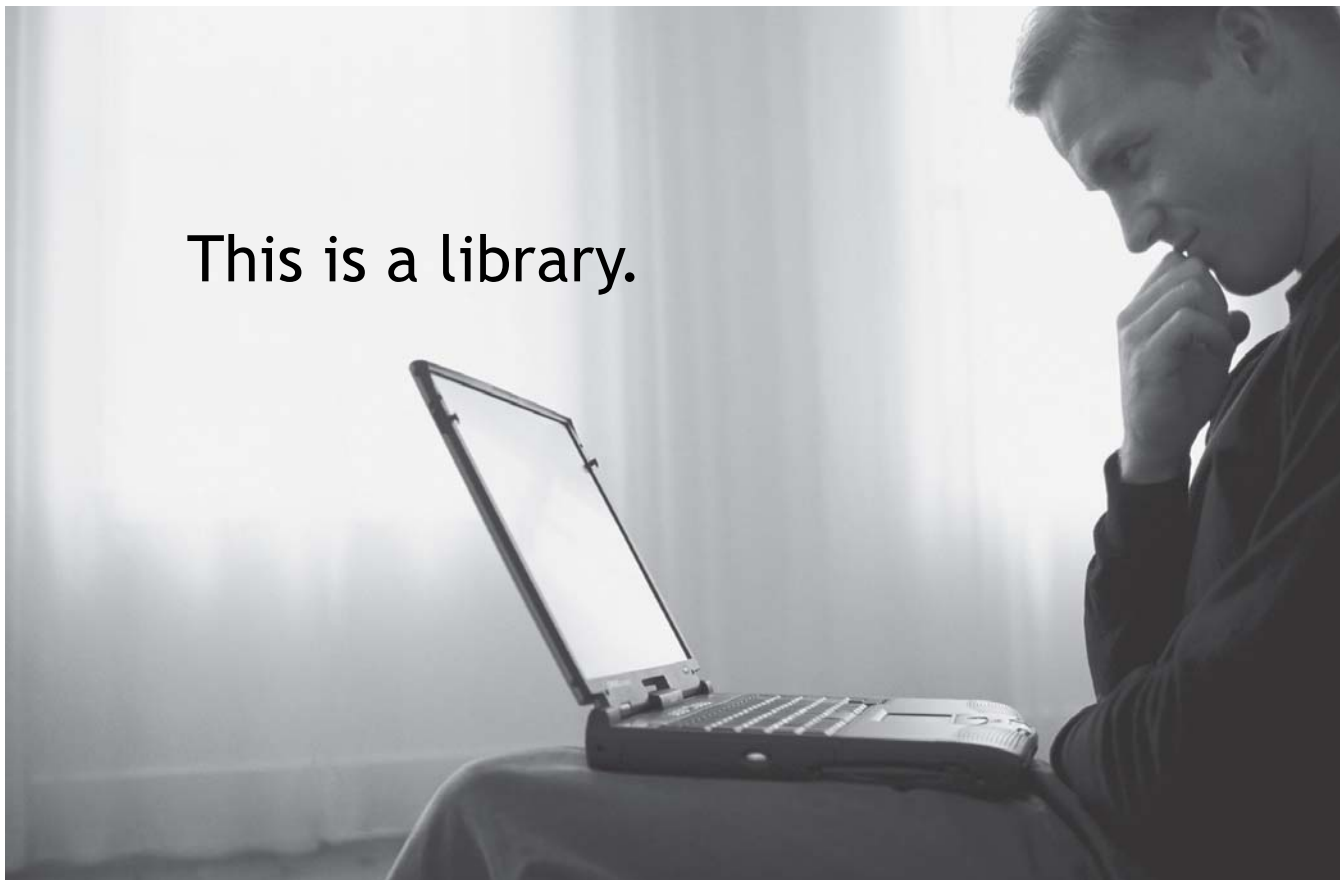
RESOLVED, that the ALA urge the EPA to develop a responsible information and collections management strategy, and make it available for public comment, to ensure continued access for the public and other stakeholders to the collections and services of the EPA Libraries.

Endorsed in principle by
GODORT Legislation Committee
06/26/2006

Endorsed in principle by FAFLRT
06/24/06

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Resolution on Saving Federal Libraries

WHEREAS, federal libraries are essential in supporting government staff to develop informed policies, write regulations, take legal action against law breakers, and educate the public; and

WHEREAS, these libraries have unique, historic and irreplaceable collections that are critical to achieving their agencies' missions; and

WHEREAS, tax dollars have been spent to establish and maintain federal libraries and some agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID),

and the Department of Energy, are dismantling these valuable libraries;

WHEREAS, federal staff will be hampered in carrying out their responsibilities without the support of knowledgeable and skilled federal librarians who possess specialized subject expertise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association (ALA) urges Congress to affirm that the federal libraries are inherently governmental and the position of librarian is essential; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ALA urges the United States Congress to hold oversight hearings investigating the ongoing destruction of federal libraries

before they are lost beyond recovery; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ALA urges Congress to adequately fund federal libraries so that they will be able to employ federal librarians with subject expertise to provide research services.

Endorsed in principle by
GODORT Legislation Committee
06/26/2006

Endorsed in principle by FAFLRT
06/24/2006

Endorsed in principle by ACRL
6/27/06

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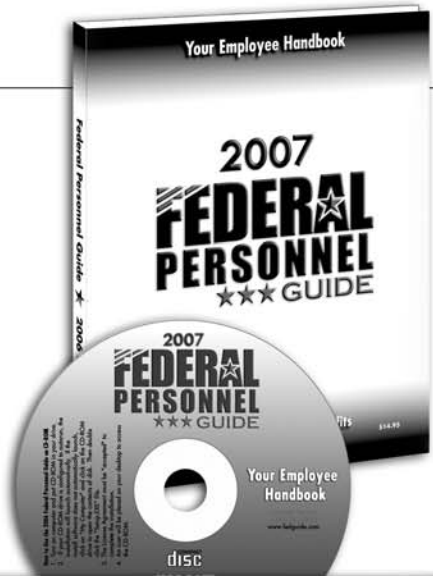
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