



ULS UNIVERSE

Issued by the Communications Committee, University Libraries Section, Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

Volume 2

Number 2

ISSN 1539-2619

Fall 2002

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

ULS had a very successful conference in Atlanta. Our conference program, "Minding the Generation Gap: Learn How to Communicate and Work Together Across Generations," was very well received and opened an excellent dialogue in the Q&A session that followed.

The ULS Executive Committee established a new Membership Committee, chaired by Bruce Henson (bruce.henson@library.gatech.edu) in Atlanta. The Committee's charge is "To serve as a resource for all issues related to ULS members, recruit new members, promote involvement in ULS, maintain an up-to-date roster for all section committees and develop liaison relationships with the ULS Communications Committee and the ACRL Membership Committee." Please let Bruce or me know if you have suggestions for how the committee can enhance your experience as a member of ULS.

The 2003 Toronto Conference program is progressing smoothly. In collaboration with our colleagues in the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries, we are sponsoring the Great Debate. The debate topic is "Be it resolved that by 2020, academic libraries will have outlived their need for physical space." Look for more on this program in our next issue. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Please send me your comments and suggestions on how we can improve ULS, and serve your needs, as we all grapple with the serious issues of the day.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR/ CHAIR-ELECT

Are you tired of the same old stuff? Are you bored with seeing the same people on ALA/ACRL committees? Want to make a difference but don't know how? Send us your email address, your preference for where you want to have an impact, and we will place you on a committee that is guaranteed to make waves. And if it doesn't, then at least you will have tried, and sometimes that is good enough.

Let us make sure we define ourselves by what we do, not by what we have failed to do. Write that letter to your legislator; call up your council person; take a stand! Don't rely on other people to do and say what you want to do or say. After all, what do you have to lose by trying to make the world a better place for our students, faculty and colleagues to study in, conduct research, and advance the frontiers of knowledge?

Call me, email me, fill out the volunteer form in the October issue of *C&RL News*, talk to me at ALA-Midwinter in Philadelphia. Together, in ACRL and ULS, we can make a difference and let the rest of the world know where we librarians stand on the crucial issues facing us in the 21st century.

I want you!



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REVISIONING ULS

At the 2002 Midwinter Conference in New Orleans, ULS Executive Committee members took part in a lively session focused on ULS's future. Facilitator Sue Baughman, University of Maryland Libraries, asked the group to envision what ULS would look like in two years. This "reversioning" exercise resulted in valuable discussion and a wealth of ideas for ULS to pursue in the coming years.

Probing questions were asked--and answered--about the nature of ULS, how it differs from other similar organizations, and its unique contributions to librarianship. The real "meat" of the discussion, however, was in the many ideas that were generated about how ULS could be more effective. For example, there was interest in creating task forces to grapple with big issues facing university libraries, like scholarly communication, research support services, and accreditation issues. A discussion group for "new" librarians just entering the university library workforce was another idea that surfaced. Increasing section diversity was a strong theme. And getting more ULS members actively involved in the section and into leadership roles resonated with everyone.

Several of these ideas were acted upon at the Annual Conference in June. A Membership Committee was created, which will result in expanded membership services and contact with members, and will also free up the Communications Committee to focus on more effective communication within the Section. A new discussion group, the Urban University Libraries Discussion Group, was made official. And an existing discussion group, the Campus Administration and Leadership Discussion Group, was revitalized. Each of these initiatives will give ULS members more opportunities for involvement.

The effectiveness of the revisioning exercise and the creativity of the participants are reflected in the fact that we have hardly scratched the surface in exploring the ideas generated.

The ULS Executive Committee will no doubt continue to discuss the ideas that emerged in the brainstorming meeting. But it shouldn't stop there. All ULS members are encouraged to bring their ideas and interests to the Committee, for possible action. It's your Section – and together we can make ULS even more vital and responsive to the needs of university librarians.

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JOIN THE ULS DISCUSSION LIST!

Looking for a low-traffic way to stay up-to-date on ULS news and issues of interest to university libraries? Then join **uls-l**, the unmoderated e-mail list maintained by ACRL and the ULS Communications Committee. To subscribe, send an e-mail to listsproc@ala1.ala.org with "subscribe uls-l your first and last name" in the message field.

NEW STANDARDS TASK FORCE TO BEGIN WORK AT MIDWINTER

At the 2002 ALA Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans, the ACRL Board of Directors charged the College and Research Libraries Standards Task Force. The task force has three responsibilities:

- To adapt the "Standards for College Libraries" (2000) for use as a document and process that would apply across all types of academic libraries;
- To move the revised standards through the appropriate ACRL and ALA standards approval process;
- To make recommendations to the ACRL Board, including budget and other resource implications, for implementation and association support of the standards.

The appointment of the task force grew out of several discussions among members of the standards committees of ULS, the College Libraries Section, and the Community and Junior College Libraries Section. As standards have moved beyond quantitative to qualitative measures, the need and demand for unique documents for each type of library is less and less compelling. As the ULS Standards and Guidelines Review Committee began its assessment of the "Standards for University Libraries" document in 2000, we were encouraged to use the new "Standards for College Libraries" as a model. After close examination and much conversation, it made sense to us to pursue a common document for all academic libraries, and we sought a dialogue with the CLS and CJCLS committees. Perhaps the most telling exercise was taking the "Standards for College Libraries" document and "genericizing" it for all academic libraries. A task that was perceived as labor intensive was completed in about 45 minutes! This generic document paved the way for the recommendation to the ACRL Board for the formation of the new task force.

The task force, chaired by Barton Lessin from Wayne State University and the former chair of the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee, will meet for the first time at the 2003 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. David Lewis and Lori Goetsch, from the ULS Standards and Guidelines Review Committee, will represent ULS on the task force. Other members represent CLS and CJCLS. As the work of the task force progresses, information will be shared and ideas sought from the ULS leadership and membership.

Lori Goetsch
Chair, ULS Standards and Guidelines Review Committee

NEW COMMITTEE TO MEET AT MIDWINTER

The ULS Membership Committee will meet for the first time at the 2003 Midwinter Conference. Membership-related activities have previously been the responsibility of the ULS Communications Committee. After discussion about forming a Membership Committee at the 2002 midwinter ULS Executive Committee meeting, the ULS Policy and Planning Committee drafted a charge for the Membership Committee, "To serve as a resource for all issues related to ULS members, recruit new members, promote involvement in ULS, maintain an up-to-date roster for all section committees and develop liaison relationships with the ULS Communications Committee and the ACRL Membership Committee." Members of the Committee are Bruce Henson (Chair), Thomas K. Fisher, Wanda Sue Rorhough, and Janet L. Steins.

URBAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES DISCUSSION GROUP FORMED

Several years ago a group of Urban Public Universities banded together to work on issues of mutual concern under the informal name of "The Urban 13." The group ultimately expanded to about 20 members, and undertook several projects led by subgroups within the whole. An invitation to the Library Directors of those institutions to consider participation in one of the meetings led to the formation of a loosely-organized group of Urban 13 Librarians, which held its first meeting at ALA Midwinter in January 2001. The group also established a listserv through which it communicated, sometimes discussing issues of common concern. The group met at each subsequent ALA conference and decided to seek discussion group status within the University Libraries Section of ALA. Thanks to the assistance of Louise Sherby, current president of ULS, the group received recognition from the ULS Executive Committee in June 2002. The stated purpose of the new discussion group was "to provide a regularly scheduled forum to discuss issues unique to academic libraries located in urban areas." The group decided to expand their membership to anyone interested in urban university library issues, and to open their listserv to any interested parties. Charlene Hurt, University Librarian at Georgia State University, agreed to serve as its first official convener.

In October 2000 Charlene Hurt and David Lewis, Dean of Indiana University/Purdue University Libraries, distributed a jointly-authored document titled "Urban Public University Libraries: Characteristics and Concerns." That document laid out several particular challenges that result from the nature and missions of urban universities: Access and Support, Student Learning in the Urban Setting, Diversity and Pluralism, Civic Engagement, and Urban Universities as Intellectual and Cultural Resources for the City. That document was distributed to the Urban 13 list and formed the basis for subsequent discussions. At its June 2001 meeting the librarians developed seven general strands of thought regarding issues of special interest to urban university libraries:

- Service to the community
- Security
- Diversity
- Facilities
- Distance Education
- Staffing
- Information Literacy

These strands were to serve as the basis for future discussions and the development of an action agenda. The group also decided to seek information about other groups beyond the Urban 13, including a Great Cities' Universities initiative of university presidents, and the public library community's Urban Libraries Council. It is hoped that the formation of an official discussion group with an expanded membership will enable the group to move forward in developing an action agenda and in seeking linkages with other groups. Copies of both of the documents mentioned have been distributed to all members of the new listserv and can be requested from Charlene Hurt. **The first meeting of the new discussion group will be at ALA Midwinter on January 25th at 4:30**, location to be announced. The listserv may be joined by going to <http://www.library.gsu.edu/urbanlibs/>.

Charlene Hurt
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ULS CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

The Nominating Committee (Elaine Didier, Chair) presents the following candidates for ULS offices:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Karyle Butcher - Oregon State University
Carol Hughes - University of California Irvine

Secretary

Barbara Kemp - University of Houston
Cheryl Middleton - Oregon State University

Members-at-Large (2 to be elected)

Stephanie Atkins - University of Illinois
Mary George - Princeton University
Phelix Hanible - University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Barbara Jenkins - University of Oregon

Ballots will be mailed out in March and candidates notified of the results in May.



DISCUSSION GROUPS AT MIDWINTER

Campus Administration & Leadership

The Campus Administration & Leadership Discussion Group will meet **Saturday, January 25th, from 11:30-12:30** to exchange ideas on the topic "Generation Y: They're on the campus and in your library. How are the library and the campus adjusting to their unique learning styles and workplace attitudes? Can we do more?" All interested ULS members are invited.

Discussion Group Committee members : Laurel Minott (Co-Chair), Mary Munroe (Co-Chair), Carol Diedrichs, Sandra Yee, and Julie Yang.

CURRENT TOPICS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Current Topics Discussion Group initiated a conversation at last Midwinter's ALA Conference about the importance of the library as place. Ruth Kifer, Lynn Sutton, and Richard Meyer shared their experiences with their efforts to make their newly constructed and renovated libraries vital and exciting spaces that offer a multitude of new services and experiences for their users. They talked about how — in this age of networked resources and virtual space — the library can forge ahead and be an impressive physical space, drawing users in and offering a meaningful and stimulating setting for pursuing informational and intellectual endeavors. At this year's Midwinter, we will continue our discussion of this topic, looking this time at how the geographic setting of a library can influence the direction and shape of its mission. Geographic issues in librarianship are often thought of in terms of the challenges and problems that come with where we are placed. More and more, however, we are hearing of libraries using their geographic settings as opportunities for new collaborations and new approaches for fulfilling their missions. This will be the focus of our Midwinter discussion. We will hear from Patricia Breivik, Dean of Libraries at San Jose State University, who will talk about exciting plans for a combined public/university library. The goal is to create a true lifelong learning center that serves as a place where people can come with all of their research and information needs. We will then hear from a librarian at a smaller college where this public/academic mission has been carried out for over a hundred years and which was recently recommitted to in a 2001 library renovation project. Jean Donham, Library Director from Cornell College, will share with us some of the issues and benefits that come from this kind of holistic view of library in a small community. Finally, Lance Query, Dean of Libraries at Tulane University, will talk about plans that are underway to move a historic landmark building — and the politics as well as the thinking and rationale that goes with this kind of decision — to make way for a new library building. All of these examples certainly deal with the library's place and purpose, showing how where we are helps shape what we are. Come join in the conversation and share the ways in which you see your library's geographic place contributing to its purpose. Betsy Baker will chair and moderate the session. The session will be held on **Saturday, January 25th from 2:00 – 4:00.**



NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ACRL AWARDS

The deadline for submitting applications, proposals, or nominations for the upcoming ACRL 2003 awards is **December 6, 2002**. ACRL offers many opportunities for librarians and library school students to be recognized for their outstanding achievements. Apply or nominate someone today!

Please visit the ACRL website for information on all awards (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/award2.html>) or contact Stephanie Sherrod at 800-545-2433 x2515, ssherrod@ala.org for informational flyers. Awards will be presented next summer during the ALA Annual Conference in Toronto.



“Learning to Make a Difference”

ACRL NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN APRIL

Learning to Make a Difference
Charlotte, North Carolina, April 10-13, 2003

Three very different keynote speakers will provoke, entertain, and inspire attendees at the ACRL National Conference in Charlotte N.C., April 10 to 13, 2003. Different from one another, they will all sound changes on the conference theme, “Learning to Make a Difference.”

Paul Duguid, co-author of *The Social Life of Information* (Harvard Business School Press, 2000) became interested in information when he worked at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Corporation with “extraordinary” scientists. Yet, when the computer scientists talked about information, they thought about “bits on a wire,” whereas the social scientists meant people talking. Information is of course what libraries deal with. Thursday's opening keynote speaker will share his ideas on the library's role as a community, and the necessary interrelationships between librarians and their patrons and between various user groups.

The former head of the National Endowment for the Humanities, **Bill Ferris**, knows the South. Not only is he a native Mississippian, he's the co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of the South*, and newly affiliated with the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina. He'll share his views with attendees at Saturday's lunch. A student also of Southern music, he's promised to bring his guitar with him to demonstrate the South's role in blues, country music, and rock and roll.

Belle Wheelan grew up in a time and in a family in which knowledge was power. Her parents reminded her—and she has never forgotten—that other African-Americans lost their lives because they could read. Her reverence for reading carried over to her ten years as a college president, when she presided over a moment of silence when the card catalog was closed. Formerly the president of Northern Virginia Community College, the second-largest community college in the country, Dr. Wheelan is now the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia. On Sunday, she'll share her look at the past and her view of challenges for the future.

Mignon Adams
Co-Chair, ACRL Keynote Speakers Committee
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
m.adams@usip.edu



Campus Administration & Leadership Discussion Group

The Discussion Group met at ALA annual in Atlanta for a lively discussion about hiring and recruitment. It included the various stresses involved, especially in light of EEO-imposed time requirements and the attrition of applicant pools due to lengthy delays in the process. Some libraries report having standing, "core" search committees.

When asked if the discussion group should continue its work, those present agreed that it serves a very real purpose by bringing together colleagues with similar interests. They especially liked the more "intimate" group atmosphere and open-ended discussion. The current time slot was seen as convenient. Mary Munroe agreed to chair the group next year with Laurel Minott from Northwestern University serving as co-chair. Mary indicated that topics will be decided by those who come to the meeting and that continuing discussion via email will be encouraged. In response to a question from Elaine Didier, Mary said there will be no lead speaker, but on occasion a resource person might be asked to serve as facilitator.

Mem Stahley
Chair

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee meeting at ALA Annual in Atlanta focused on four main topics: the creation of a separate membership committee, the ULS brochure, the section newsletter, and ULS-L, the section's electronic discussion list.

Traditionally, the Communications Committee has been responsible for welcoming and outreach to new ULS members. As responsibilities for the committee have grown, it has become apparent that there is a need for a separate membership committee. The Communications Committee unanimously agreed to cede responsibilities and outreach to new members to a newly formed Membership Committee, created with the approval of the ULS Executive Board at ALA Annual. Bruce Henson, former co-chair of the Communications Committee, is chairing this committee.

Drafts of the new ULS brochure were distributed and minor changes were suggested. The brochure is in the process of being printed and should be available for conference-wide distribution at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia.

The Committee also discussed ways to generate more interest in the section newsletter, *ULS Universe*, and the electronic discussion list, ULS-L. It was suggested that ULS committees be encouraged to post meeting minutes, schedules, and other items of interest to the list.

The Communications Committee will be focusing on updating the ULS website at ALA Midwinter. Any suggestions should be forwarded to co-chairs John Lehner (Jlehner@uh.edu) or Leslie Madden (leslie.madden@library.gatech.edu).

Leslie Madden, Co-Chair

At the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, the ULS Policy & Planning Committee met to debate its own role within the section, concluding that it should continue to be a standing committee ready to undertake either short- or long-term assignments as directed by either the Chair of ULS or its Executive Committee. Policy & Planning Committee members also proposed the creation of a ULS Membership Committee and brainstormed about elements of its charge. Both of these recommendations were made at the second ULS Executive Committee meeting, and both were approved.

Mary George, Co-Chair

2003 Program Planning Committee

Pam Wonsek reported that the "Great Debate" program had been enthusiastically received by the ACRL and the University Libraries Section executive committees. The committee formulated the "question" for the debate: "Be it resolved that by 2020, academic libraries will have outlived their need for physical space." The committee decided that there would be two debating teams (the affirmative and the negative) with each team made up of a Canadian and a U.S. librarian. For the remainder of the meeting, the committee discussed potential members of the debate teams, a moderator, and a timekeeper; publicity, a bibliography, and an evaluation form; the time-slot for the program; and possible co-sponsors. Members of the Committee are Louise Sherby, Elizabeth Henry, Sharon Bonk, Bruce Henson, Rebecca Hankins, Pamela Wonsek, and Peter Watson-Boone (ACRL Liaison).

Pamela Wonsek
Co-Chair



ITEMS IN THE NEWS

The **California State University** (CSU) has recently begun publication of a newsletter to highlight collaborative programs and activities of the 23 CSU libraries which serve 388,700 students and 42,000 faculty and staff. The inaugural issue focuses on Information Competence, a key initiative of strategic planning efforts. The newsletter is available from <http://www.calstate.edu/LS/A1007.pdf>.

Ilene Rockman, CSU Office of the Chancellor, Systemwide Library Initiatives

Edmonton, Alberta - *Improving Practice Through Research: Current Perspectives, Future Prospects, 2nd International Evidence Based Librarianship Conference - EBL 2003*. The International Programme Committee of the 2nd International Evidence Based Librarianship Conference 2003 invites you to submit contributed papers or posters for the conference in Edmonton, Alberta, June 4 - June 6, 2003. Further conference information and the abstract submission form can be found at: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~pryan/EBL2003.html>.

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