



ULS UNIVERSE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Colleagues - it is hard at this point in the semester to pull myself out of the hectic, never-ending schedule of meetings, phone calls, email, events - the daily drudgery of academic life - in order to take stock of where our organization is going and what message I should be giving you through the usual ULS chair's column. Several reality checks with colleagues indicate that I am not alone in feeling that this has been an unusually pressured semester - and for no reason in particular on my campus. We have no capital campaign ongoing, no new library building under construction or renovation in process, no system migration to claim our time and focus our lives.

There seems to be general agreement among the colleagues I have talked to - both at the director level and otherwise - that the life of an academic librarian has become unrelentingly demanding and crowded. The cries from librarians being overburdened, stressed out, shouldering additional responsibilities, are no longer singular or cyclical occurrences. The laid-back summer schedules we used to look forward to so much are a thing of the past. The summer months are now just as frenetic as the regular academic schedule. Increased summer school programming to ensure our academic units stay afloat, automation projects, freshman orientation courses, facilities upgrades, stack shifting - all these are regular, not rare, occurrences. Add to this intensified workload the increased demands that technology places on us. I don't ever remember getting 60-100 pieces of paper mail a day, but that is the equivalent of what I get every day in email. We take for granted that a vacation will require us to come back to an email box of 200-500 items - most of which will require some kind of action/decision/comment.

In the Spring 2003 issue of *Library Administration & Management*, Bonnie Osif focuses her Manager's Bookshelf column on the topic of vacation and leisure time. She begins the article with two wonderful quotations from Harlan Ellison and J.K. Tolkien that, each in its own way, describe through a literary character the feeling of being in a rat race, the need to slow down, find some white space and relax. Her column addresses this very issue of feeling overburdened, that there is not enough time to do everything at work, never mind have a personal life as well.

What is the solution? I feel grateful that the author - like myself - believes in the ability of books to provide the answer - or if not the complete answer, at least some help on how/where to find the solution. The books she selects to cast light on this subject vary from the scholarly to the literary, the light-hearted to the serious, the global to the specific. All of these books seem interesting to me, and if and when I can find the time, I will most certainly read them. Just reading the article made me feel better, less alone, a trifle less stressed out. It is not surprising that one of the current smash successes of the magazine industry is *Real Simple* - a magazine designed to help you de-clutter your life, reduce your stress level and provide that oasis of calm we are all seeking. It would seem that many of us are desperately needing either the strength of will or the 'self permission' to take some time off, to do something non-work related.

So, I encourage you to make the effort to get off the treadmill. Turn off your email, read a book, go home early, say no to something/somebody, carve out time for reflection or white space, negotiate a timeout with your

boss, pay attention to your own needs and then the example that you are setting for staff around you. Give them permission to 'get a life!' Above all, come to San Diego for ALA in January and share your feelings on this issue with your colleagues in ULS and ACRL. Find out how they are coping and what their experiences have been. Get some mental refreshment - go to a program unrelated to your job. And take a walk on the beach! Although Osif's examples show both points of view on the relationship between regular exercise and less stress, greater health and job satisfaction, her readings did show a significant reduced risk of heart disease for people who took an annual vacation.

See you there! Don't trip over my bucket and spade!

Gillian

Gillian M. McCombs
ULS Chair 2003-04
Dean and Director, Central University Libraries
Southern Methodist University

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR/ CHAIR-ELECT

Global Connections

When I was asked to write this message to the ULS membership, I immediately (well, almost immediately) leapt at the chance. Memories of the ALA/CLA ULS program this summer can still make me smile and I want to remind everyone of what a successful program ULS sponsored. "The Great Debate of 2003: The Library as Place" (*C&RL News*, September 2003, p. 516+) was a witty and timely blending of Canadian tradition with U.S. brashness.

The conference in Toronto instilled in me a renewed awareness of just how internationally connected university librarians are. I was very pleased when ACRL established the ACRL Global Connections Fund to support, among other things, scholarships for international academic librarians to come to ACRL and ALA Conferences and for study grants abroad. There is so much to learn from our colleagues around the world as we struggle with the same challenges. After all, universities have housed international faculties and students for many years. Now we in the international academic community support even more of the same users via web-based services.

I sometimes take for granted the acquaintances I have with colleagues around the world. But they provide me with more than just pleasant company – they are essential to my success as a university librarian in providing access to global scholarship. Let's not forget the success of our recent journey across borders to Toronto last summer. Let's keep our relationships within the worldwide ULS community growing strong.

Carol Hughes
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Associate University Librarian for Public Services
University of California - Irvine

ULS CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

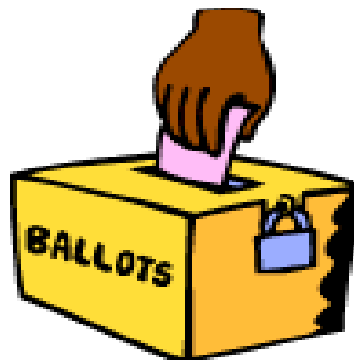
The Nominating Committee (Julia Zimmerman, Chair) presents the following candidates for the upcoming Spring election of ULS officers:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Mary Munroe - Northern Illinois University
Sandra Yee - Wayne State University

Member-at-Large

Faye Backie - Michigan State University
Mary Sellen - SUNY Albany
Julie Yang - UC San Diego



ULS MEETINGS IN SAN DIEGO

Saturday, January 10th

Executive Committee I	8:30 - 11	HOL West Coast BR
Campus Admin. & Leadership DG	11:30 - 12:30	US Horton C
Communications	11:30 - 12:30	MAR Anaheim
Membership	11:30 - 12:30	HIL Coronado
Current Topics DG	2 - 4	US Grand BR C
Nominating	4:30 - 5:30	COURT Board Room
Urban Univ. Libr. DG	4:30 - 5:30	US Horton A

Sunday, January 11th

Policy & Planning	9:30 - 11	US Executive Dining 1
Program Planning - Chicago, 2005	9:30 - 11	WEST Santa Fe
Program Planning - Orlando, 2004	9:30 - 11	MAR Del Mar
Organization & Bylaws	2 - 4	HIL Coronado
Public Serv. Dirs. of Large Research Libraries	2 - 4	HYAT Manchester C

Monday, January 12th

Executive Committee II	8:30 - 11	US Horton C
Undergrad. Librarians DG	8:30 - 11	US Horton D
Standards & Guidelines	2 - 4	MAR Oceanside

Hotel Abbreviations

COURT - Courtyard by Marriott
HIL - Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter
HOL - Holiday Inn on the Bay
HYAT - Manchester Grand Hyatt
MAR - San Diego Marriott
US - U. S. Grant Hotel
WEST - Westin Horton Plaza

Midwinter Activities

Current Topics Discussion Group

Over the past two years, the ACRL ULS Current Topics Discussion Group has focused its discussions on the topic of *library as place*, showing ways in which librarians have designed spaces and created services that make the library a welcoming and dynamic place within the college or university. This year, we want to put some closure on this topic for us, though it will certainly not be a closed topic for the field, by looking at how marketing can bring the idea of *library as place* into sharper focus and how it can help users truly understand what the library is and can do for them.

To lead off our discussion, William Miller, Dean of Libraries at Florida Atlantic University, will talk about his thinking on the topic of library as place and the work he has been doing on his campus to convey this important message. Bill is known for his thoughtful writings and was invited to share his thoughts about the library as place in two essays in *Library Issues*. Our second speaker, Danuta Nitecki, Associate University Librarian at Yale, will talk about how she has been promoting the library as place through her library's learning commons concept, a concept that is directing much of the renovation work that is taking place in the Yale Libraries and that is influencing how the library is talked about and presented to its users.

We will then turn our attention to the ALA's @ Your Library campaign and to the @ Your Library Toolkit developed by ACRL to assist academic librarians in using this marketing campaign to promote their libraries. We will first hear from Kenneth Marks, Dean of University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who chaired the ACRL task force that developed the toolkit and is now chairing ACRL's new Marketing Academic and Research Libraries Committee. Next, Mary Reichel, Dean of Library Services at Appalachian State University, and Virginia Cherry, Director of the Richard Bland College Library, will tell us how they have used the @Your Library Toolkit in their "Breaking New Ground @Your Library" and "Let Us Amaze you @Your Library" campaigns. This will lead to an exchange with the audience about how others have been marketing their libraries and services.



The discussion will take place on *Saturday, January 10, from 2:00 - 4:00 in the U.S. Grant Hotel Grand Ballroom C*. I will be moderating the discussion. It looks to be an information-packed and idea-generating session. We will be posting information about the session on various lists and appreciate anything that you can do to help us spread the word. If you would like a flyer to distribute at your Midwinter meetings, just let me know. We hope to see you on the 10th.

Betsy Baker, Chair, ULS Current Topics

Committee Members: Betsy Baker (chair), Carol Baker, Mary Casserly, Julie Cunningham, Robert Labaree, Shawn Lombardo, Natalie Pelster, Cristina Pope, Lynn Sutton, Eve Wilder

Urban Libraries Discussion Group

Saturday, 4:30 - 5:30, US Grant Hotel, Horton A

We will have a roundtable discussion of issues that are of particular interest to Urban University Libraries, with the intention of sharing experience and solutions. Some topics that have been proposed:

* Fundraising in Urban University Libraries - Are there unique challenges in an urban environment where there are likely to be many competing interests? Unique opportunities? How does one raise money if the library has no special collections?

* Special Collections - How do urban universities decide their collecting policies? Is there a greater need for coordination between other libraries in the area? How do we leverage our advantages as urban institutions?

* Service to community members - How do we open our doors to groups like high school students without getting overwhelmed? What do libraries in states that have universal (statewide) borrower cards do to manage the potential volume of non-university patrons?

I'm sure other topics of interest will also be welcomed. We may want to discuss whether we'd like to update my not-very-scientific survey of how urban libraries were responding to security concerns, especially around internet access issues. We also need to elect a new convenor.

Charlene Hurt
Convenor

ACRL/CLS Medium Sized Academic Libraries (MSALDG)

You are invited to join the MSALDG meeting at ALA Midwinter on Sunday January 11, 9:30-11 am. There will be 2 discussions in the following order:

1) PROJECT MERLOT (40 MINUTES). Advise representatives from Project MERLOT's Library Advisory Committee on the best role for libraries and librarians in making the content of MERLOT available to faculty and students. MERLOT is the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching <<http://www.merlot.org>> <<http://www.merlot.org>> .

2) ASSESSING VIRTUAL REFERENCE (40 MINUTES). Is e-mail reference the success we thought it would be? Is 24/7 the future of reference? Are your users getting what they need? How to assess how well you are serving your customers? Is virtual reference the best way to expand services beyond library hours?

ACRL, College Library Section,
Medium-Sized Academic Libraries Discussion Group
(MSALDG)
Sunday, January 11, 2004
9:30 to 11:00 am
Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego
Manchester D Room

Co-chairs:
Daniel Ortiz
Director of Libraries
University of Massachusetts, Boston Campus

Jo-Ann Michalak
Director, Tisch Library
Tufts University



ACRL's Effective Practices Clearinghouse

The Association of College & Research Libraries' (ACRL) Effective Practices Committee is accepting submissions for its web-based clearinghouse for effective practices in academic libraries. The Effective Practices web site can be found at www.acrl.org/effectivepractices. The clearinghouse will document practices from all areas of academic libraries; we're looking for examples of procedures or tools that have been developed to (for example) streamline workflow, solve problems or improve services.

An effective practice is:

- aligned with the library's and parent organization's mission
- sustainable, cost-effective and has the potential for long-term impact on the library and its constituents

An effective practice has:

- outcomes that are measurable
- some degree of transferability

Effective practices can be submitted at www.acrl.org/effectivepractices. Practices are then reviewed to see if they meet the criteria listed above. Once accepted, ACRL will post the practice on the web site and send the submitting library a letter acknowledging its contribution to the Effective Practices clearinghouse.

As more effective practices are submitted and the clearinghouse grows, academic librarians looking for ideas to improve specific practices in their own libraries or just shopping for good ideas will be able to browse by category and search by keyword. Please take a look at the effective practices already on the page and consider submitting your own. If you have questions, feel free to contact Gordon Aamot, Chair of the Effective Practices Committee at aamot@u.washington.edu or 206-616-6431.

Open Forum on Standards for Libraries in Higher Education Draft

ACRL members with an interest in library standards are cordially invited to attend an open forum on the draft Standards for Libraries in Higher Education. This session is scheduled during ALA Midwinter Conference in San Diego for Saturday, January 10th from 2-4 PM in the Hilton Harbor Boardroom. The draft statement is available for review on the ACRL website under the tab labeled "Standards and Guidelines." Members of the Standards Task Force anticipate a lively discussion on the draft statement. Please plan to join us for this opportunity for discussion and comment.

Barton Lessin, Wayne State University
Chair, ACRL Standards Task Force

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