

**ALA's Library Support Staff Interests Round Table**



**Newsletter**

**May  
2007**

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**Special points of interest:**

- More photos from ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle (pg. 7)
- Mama said what??? (pg.3)
- Empowerment Conf. (pg.2)
- New ALA Membership Pavilion to debut (pg.2)
- Notice our new logo?

**President's Corner**

Greetings:

I wanted to go out with great pomp and circumstance since my term serving as your President will end at the close of the annual conference. I believe Sandy has excellent leadership qualities and trust you will give her the same support and confidence that I experienced.

The annual conference is right around the corner and whether you are doing the full conference or the Empowerment Conference, this year promises to be better than ever and there is still time to sign up on the ALA website or onsite. You may also want to sign up for the LSSIRT Night Out, if you haven't already. It should be a fabulous evening at the City Lights Restaurant, which is an award winning restaurant featuring Chinese cuisine. What an excellent opportunity to have a great meal plus a chance to network with old acquaintances or make new library friends! If you registered already but want to attend this event (\$35 per

person) it's not to late to do an addition to your registration on the website. I would also like to invite you to join us on Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to noon for the LSSIRT Steering Committee/Membership meeting in the Washington Convention Center, Room 209-C.

During my term, I was hoping to address educational opportunities; but alas, time goes by so fast. Perhaps at some time in the future LSSIRT will consider establishing a program or approach other ALA roundtables and/or divisions to collaborate on workshops/seminars that can be facilitated through videoconferencing, electronic modalities or other web-based interactions for support staff everywhere. The benefits of this type of programming would be phenomenal for support staff that may not be able to attend conferences where educational library programs are offered.

Serving as President of this group of exceptional mem-



bers with an outstanding Steering Committee has been an amazing experience. The advice or suggestions, the dedication, teamwork, decision making and ideas that I received have been invaluable. I would like to see the momentum continue as new ideas, concepts, possibilities or opportunities emerge in the future for support staff. Thank you to everyone. It has been my pleasure to serve you.

Sue Knoche  
President, ALA-LSSIRT

## LSSIRT Election Results



Here are the elections results from the ALA 2007 Elections. Listed to the right is the voting results for the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table.

The new ALA president for 2008-09 will be Jim Rettig.

Please join us in congratulating our newly elected representatives. We look forward to your years of service. Thanks to all who voted and a special thank you to all who agreed to run on this years ballot!

### LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF INTERESTS ROUND TABLE NEW OFFICERS 2007-2010

#### VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT (3 YEAR CYCLE)

- DOROTHY A. MORGAN

#### MEMBER-AT-LARGE (3 YEARS)

- ANITA KOSINSKI
- MARY E. NATION

#### ROUNDTABLE COUNCILOR {NEW POSITION} --- (3 YEARS)

- JENNIFER S. KUTZIK

## “A Supreme Deal” — ALA 2007 Annual Conference & Exhibition

Washington, DC, June 21-27, 2007

**WELCOME:** The ALA Membership Pavilion debuts at this conference to provide a warm welcome to conference attendees. Looking for where you fit in the big picture of ALA? John Chrastka and the Membership Office will guide you through the choices of Divisions, Sections and Round Tables. There will be give-aways and exciting promotions.

**SPEAKERS:** The speaker's list for ALA Annual 2007 reads like a Who's Who of American culture: authors Khaded Hosseini (*The Kite Runner*) and David Baldacci (*Wish You Well*); entertainers Julie Andrews and Garrison Keillor; ACLU President Anthony Romero; Attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr.; documentary film maker Ken Burns (*Civil War, Baseball*); and Children's Defense Fund founder,

Marian Wright Edelman. These notables and other speakers will delight and educate attendees during the conference.

**PROGRAMS:** The Empowerment Conference continues to evolve and expand with its mission to provide support-staff centered programming. (see article on the EC found in this newsletter) In addition, the conference brochure contains literally thousands of programs on every aspect of library work. There's something for everyone.

**NIGHT LIFE:** Political satirists **Capitol Steps** will highlight this year's Scholarship Bash on June 24. This annual event costs \$35 and provides scholarships for graduate students. The LSSIRT Night Out networking event will be held on Sunday, June 24 at City Lights of China Restaurant.

<http://www.citylightsofchina.com/>

Conveniently located near the Dupont Circle Metro stop, this restaurant is truly a treasure. Lisa Cherkasky, a food stylist for *The Washington Post*, recently said this is one of her two favorite Oriental restaurants in D.C. The tickets are \$35.

Read a Frommer's review

here: <http://tinyurl.com/35elp8>

For more information on the ALA 2007 Annual Conference, visit the web site at:

<http://tinyurl.com/yx2r28>



## Heading to Washington D.C.?



**U.S. Capitol Building**

Our nation's capitol will be hosting this year's ALA Annual Conference. So if you are heading to D.C., here's some info that may help you plan your stay.

Visit the D.C. Visitor's Center webpage for hotel information, event calendars, shopping, dining and even how to get a tour of your favorite Federal building or The White House.

<http://www.dcvisit.com/>

You can also visit the webpage for the Washington Convention Center. This helpful site can even tell you where you'll be able to grab a bite to eat, building details and floor plans of the center.

<http://www.dconvention.com/meeting/default.asp>

Also if you get a chance to visit the National Mall, you may visit such monuments as the Washington

Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, among others. You can also visit the National Archives building and see the Declaration of Independence, as well as numerous museums including the Smithsonian, Museum of Natural History, Air & Space Museum, to name just a few.

ALA's [American Libraries Direct](#) magazine has a section in it every month called D.C. Update, which has many interesting facts and items of interest. So, check it out!

We hope to see you in D.C.!

## Mama Said What?! ALA Empowerment Conference 2007



by Denise Zielinski,  
Empowerment Conference Chair

How many times have you had one of *those days*? Worked at a public service desk only to deal with that one most difficult patron for which nothing you did satisfied? Then this year's ALA Empowerment Conference, *Mama Said There'd Be Days Like This (But I Didn't Believe Her)!*, is the professional development opportunity for you!

This year's event offers library support staff a variety of programs, addressing topics such as *Career*

*Paths and Transitions, E-Learning, Wellness, Safety and Security, and Diversity.*

- Go to your choice of 15 programs specifically developed for library support staff!
- Get inspired at the opening Breakfast while gaining valuable tips for making the most of your conference experience.
- Attend the Author Breakfast with up and coming authors as well as those you may already know and admire.
- Enjoy networking opportunities with colleagues from across the nation.
- Tour the world's largest library exhibition.
- Hear dynamic speakers at these sessions as well as the

ALA Opening General Session with former New Jersey Senator William Bradley and the ALA President's Program on Sunday afternoon with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

We guarantee that you'll come away rejuvenated, refreshed, and ready to conquer those days Mama warned you about!

**If you want to be truly successful, invest in yourself to get the knowledge you need to find your unique factor. When you find it and focus on it and persevere, your success will blossom.**

**—Sidney Madwed**

## An Odyssey Through Time by Ruby Wilson

It started out as a way to escape the heat. In June, when my boss suggested I spend half a day over at our archives storage building while the air conditioning unit at our library was being repaired, it sounded like a great idea. "Oh by the way, you could inventory those old government documents that are being stored in the basement over there, while you cool off," he casually mentioned. Since my prior position was government documents technician, it didn't seem like an unreasonable request. That is how I began my odyssey in the "dungeon", as I have affectionately begun to call it.

The work began routinely enough, with Library of Congress publications dating from 1901. Within the first week, I made my first interesting discovery, a book about the origin of the swastika. It was published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1896, long before the second World War when the symbol achieved world-wide notoriety representing the Nazi party. Prior to finding this book, I knew that the swastika was an ancient symbol that had been used by American Indians for centuries. Scanning the first few pages, I learned that it was probably one of the oldest symbols used by human civilizations. According to this document, the name derives from the Sanskrit language and signifies "happiness, pleasure, good luck."

Next, I sped through shelves of periodical publications such as the Department of Education's *Good References*, and *Index Catalogs* from the Surgeon General's Office. I'd

We turn not older with years, but newer every day.

— Emily Dickinson

have to open and scan the books periodically, because the government agency that published the series would often change. Much like today, many of what I would consider to be civilian agencies would be re-channeled under security or war departments during wartime, eventually returning to a non-defense agency some years after the end of the war.

For example, the Bureau of Education started out under the Department of the Interior in the earliest publications that I inventoried (1906 Bureau of Education bulletins). In 1940 the publications originated in the Federal Security Agency, and continued that way through 1952, after which time it changed again to come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Another example is the *Notices of Judgment* of the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration. This publication started out in 1927 being published by the Department of Agriculture. In 1941 the name changed to the Food and Drug Administration, and became absorbed by the Federal Security Agency until 1953, when its lead agency changed to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In addition to obvious patterns like the originating agency of certain documents, there were interesting patterns in serials that were more subtle, such as the Department of Education bulletins and circulars. I noticed that during relatively peaceful times like the late 1930's, there were numerous publications in one year, bound into an average of seven volumes or so. However, the publications in 1942 and 1943 shared one small volume. During the remainder of the 40's and early 50's, the circulars and bulletins consisted of one bound volume per year. After that, the volume of pub-

lications per year gradually increased to 20 or more bound volumes in the early to mid 1960's. It seemed a tangible indication, that during times of war, resources and money may be taken away from civilian endeavors and channeled into the war effort.

Moving along down the range I encountered the *Gazetteers*, volumes of geographic place names for the countries of the world. This publication contains latitude and longitude designations for populated areas, geographical features such as



canyons, mountains and hills, and also man-made structures such as wells, walls and ditches. I was moving right along, inventorying one or two volumes for most of the countries, like Madagascar and Tanzania. Then I came to *Gazetteer # 42*, with seven volumes in two editions in 1959 and 1970, for a total of 14 volumes. I wondered what was going on, until I saw that the volumes were for the Soviet Union. It made a lot of sense, in light of the Cold War that was taking place during those decades. Other large and populated countries like China and India had one or two volumes, at a maximum.

The last range that I'm working on consists of 57 shelves of congressional hearings dating from 1962 to 1972, a total of 4087 publications. I was sure that these last publications would be a marathon of boring, tedious work. To my surprise,

## Odyssey, cont.

however, I started to notice very interesting titles on some of these documents. The first one that caught my eye was *Communist Activities in the Minneapolis, Minn. Area*, hearings before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, published in 1964. Right next door was, *Protecting Postal Patrons from Obscene and Obnoxious Mail and*



*Communist Propaganda*. After encountering those two, I started to pay more attention to the dusty, curled volumes that I was handling.

After a few more years' worth of published hearings I found *Campus Unrest*, a hearing before the Committee on Education and Labor that sought to terminate assistance to campuses where disruptions occur, and would have created a Federal Higher Education Mediation and Conciliation Service. The hearing was held in 1969, during the height of the Vietnam protests on campuses. Not surprisingly, I eventually encountered *U.S.-Vietnam Relations 1945-1967*, also known as the Pen-

tagon Papers. Immediately following, was *Extension of the Draft and Bill Related to the Voluntary Force Concept and Authorization of Strength Levels*, published by the House Committee on Armed Services.

Among all of these hearings, were other notable ones on civil rights issues, discrimination against women, and desegregation of public schools. I was struck by how much turmoil and change marked this decade of our country's history. I imagine if we looked at any other decade in our past, we would be surprised by how much change we've struggled through. On the other hand, we may be saddened that we seem to keep making some of the same mistakes over and over again.

I am nearing the end of this interesting adventure. While I won't be sad to get out of the gloomy, dusty environment, the small discoveries along the way were enlightening and engaging. How else would I have known about the Battle of the Cowpens (Revolutionary War), the Office of Facts & Figures (my favorite government department), or *How Liberal Clergymen Aid the Revolutionists* (published in 1970)?

History was the most boring class that I had to take in high school. I just couldn't keep all those names and dates straight. Events in the present, and those that might come in the future, were much more

interesting to me. Later, when I told people that I work in government documents in the library, their eyes would glaze over. Now I find that the two, history and government documents, are much more interesting than I would have imagined. Now that my own decades since high school are history, it's clear that books and classes can't possibly encompass the whole of human experience that comprise our story. The older government documents become, the more they have to say about the lives and times of their creators.

*Ruby Wilson*

*Archives & Special Collections*

*Hilton M. Briggs Library*

*South Dakota State University*

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## LSSIRT Business/Membership Meeting

LSSIRT will hold its membership/business meeting on Monday morning, June 25, 2007, from 8 am. to 12:30 p.m. Washington Convention Center, Room 209-C. We would love to greet you there, there will be a continental breakfast and everyone is welcome!

Also another reminder about the LSSIRT Night Out. It will be held on Sunday, June 24 at City Lights of China Restaurant. <http://www.citylightsofchina.com/> Conveniently located near the DuPont Circle Metro stop, this restaurant is truly a treasure. Lisa Cherkasky, a food stylist for *The Washington Post*, recently said this is one of her two favorite Oriental restaurants in D.C. The tickets are \$35. Read a Frommer's review here: <http://tinyurl.com/35elp8>

## ALA Council News from Midwinter Meeting

ALA Council Session, Jan. 21, 2007  
Seattle Convention Center

ALA President Leslie Burger reviewed the inaugural Emerging Leaders Program. She has support from ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels to continue this program in upcoming years. Leslie admitted that since the program was brand new, there were some fumbles. The requirements were expanded to include librarians under age 35 OR with less than 5 years post-MLS experience. Some Divisions and Round Tables are funding scholarships to support their Emerging Leaders (EL). Currently, support staff without an MLS degree would not be eligible for Emerging Leaders. However, this could change over time. Leslie agreed that the EL group would be prime candidates for committee appointments and council seats. As

support staff take on higher-visibility roles in ALA governance, LSSIRT will continue to lobby for inclusion by non-MLS professionals.

ALA President-Elect Loriene Roy reported she will work with the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Appointments to fill over 400 seats. One of Loriene's presidential initiatives is work-place wellness. She will promote a Wellness Fair at ALA Annual in Anaheim, CA, with mile markers around the Exhibition Hall, donation of pedometers to support a 10,000 steps contest and celebrity chefs. She is also investigating the feasibility of a National Library Camp as a recruitment tool for young people.

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels highlighted the recent ALA opposition to several EPA library closings. He also re-

ported on a major redesign in the ALA web site and a change to the content management system. The stated goals are permanent mechanisms for delivering accessible information with easy navigation. Several prototypes will be made available to the membership during the design process. Mr. Fiels also noted that 2007 begins the 100<sup>th</sup> year of publishing for *American Libraries* and the recent Advocacy Institute trained 90 people. ALA recently approved an additional 150 socially responsible companies, bringing the total to 300.

For more information on ALA Council proceedings during the 2007 Midwinter meetings, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/3638yn>

**Reported by Jennifer S. Kutzik**

## Library Support Staff Certification Program

ALA-APA Library Support Staff Certification Program Committee meeting Jan. 20, 2007, Seattle Convention Ctr.

Nancy Bolt convened the meeting with 17 committee members in attendance. Sandy Olson and Dorothy Morgan represented LSSIRT.

Nancy outlined the goal for this program. A graduate will be vali-

dated to have certain competencies, which have been identified as critical to library support staff positions. The ALA-APA already has a model in place with the Certified Public Library Administrator program. ALA-APA will approve the providers of the content, as soon as the competencies are identified. Western Council and Minnesota have models in place for both the competencies and providers.

Committee members will develop

lists of competencies within their areas of expertise and report at their next meeting, March 23-24, in Chicago. LSSIRT had previously budgeted travel funds to the Chicago meeting for Sandy and Dorothy.



## ALA-APA Council News from Midwinter Meeting

ALA-APA Council, Jan. 22, 2007

The resolution to endorse a non-binding minimum salary for professional librarians was a hot topic. Michael Gorman, past ALA President, spoke to the term "professional librarian." "Nowadays, someone who loans someone a book in Cuba is known as a librarian. This needs to be glossed out." However, no amendments were offered, and the resolution to endorse a minimum salary

for full-time librarians with a master's degree to be \$40,000 per year.

ALA-APA was created by ALA in 2001 to enable the certification

of individuals in specializations beyond the initial professional degree. In January 2002, the organization's scope was broadened to include advocacy for the "mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers." With the recent publication of the support staff salary survey, ALA-APA Council now has concrete numbers to craft a resolution to endorse minimum salaries for all full-time library workers.

"Nowadays, someone who loans someone a book in Cuba is known as a librarian." Michael Gorman

# More Photographs from ALA Midwinter Meeting Seattle, WA, January 20-14, 2007



The Pike Place Public Market Center, home to the Fish! Philosophy. ↑  
At right, Deena Ebbert, Fish! Philosopher, and ALA President Leslie Burger visit before the ALA President's program, "Learn to Fish!"



↑ A chocolate Space Needle!!



Jennifer S. Kutzik, LSSIRT Secretary and Webmaster, visits with Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum. They create the comic strip *Unshelved* about daily life in a public library.



Exhibits, exhibits and more exhibits.



↑ Left to right: Nina Manning (LSSIRT Treasurer), Sandy Olsen (LSSIRT President Elect), Lorelle Swader (ALA HRDR) and Sue Knoche (LSSIRT President) meet to plan the 2007-08 LSSIRT Budget ,

## ALA'S LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF INTERESTS ROUND TABLE

Subscription questions (e.g. missing issues, address change) should be sent to:

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[http://www.ala.org/  
lssirt](http://www.ala.org/lssirt)

The **LSSIRT Newsletter** is the official publication of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) of the American Library Association.

It is distributed free to members of LSSIRT and is published three-four times a year.

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# LSSIRT

Library Support Staff Interests Round Table

*Our mission is to provide an arena within ALA for programming, communication and networking for library support staff.*

## **Sign-up for the LSSIRT Members only E-list!**

For timely updates and for networking with LSSIRT colleagues, be sure and sign-up for the very low volume LSSIRT e-list.

To sign-up, send email to Martha Parsons at [parsons@halcyon.com](mailto:parsons@halcyon.com) with your ALA membership number and ask to be subscribed.

