One of the major issues facing the profession of librarianship as we move into the 21st Century is the potential loss of large numbers of us due to retirement. We will be retiring at a rate greater than the rate of new entrants coming into our profession. The number of graduate schools and students pursuing an MLS degrees is much smaller now than when I received my degree thirty years ago. Did I say 30 years? Boy, how time flies when you are having fun, and it has been fun, no I am not on my way out, I still have a few more years to go before I can retire. I have been blessed to have a career with a variety of experiences and challenges but I believe the challenges that librarians face tomorrow will be just as great and in some instances greater. We seem to have a proliferation of literature today about the death of librarianship. I find this strange because at the same time there appears to also be a proliferation of competition from nontraditional information providers offering the same type of service to our customers, but who think they can do it better. All they have actually done is to change their titles and focus primarily on the technology versus the content or retrievability of the information being provided.

The future of our profession and more specifically, librarians working in all aspects of the federal government is in our hands. We must constantly demonstrate our added value to the agencies we serve, not sit back and allow the information technology folks to determine how we package and deliver content to our customers. We must take the lead and it may mean partnering with nontraditional sources, even our competitors. It is now a known fact that those who have not retooled and retrained to meet the challenging demands of today's technology are being considered obsolete by their respective agencies. To our credit, as I look at our member institutions, I can proudly say that in many instances the Federal and Armed Forces Library community...
From the President
Continued, from Page 1

nities have been leaders in the areas of information technology. We have successfully managed to marry the technology with traditional library services.

To survive as a profession, we must strengthen our information sharing networks; share lessons learned; and venture out of our individual institutions to experience what others are doing. Attending meetings and workshops sponsored by ALA, SLA and individual state organizations is an excellent opportunity to share, network and learn. Too often, we become complacent and comfortable and tend to ignore our need for continuous professional development. By default, our profession requires us to be “life long learners.”

The future of Federal and Armed Forces Librarians is also dependent upon our ability to recruit, attract, and encourage others to not only pursue librarianship in general as a profession, but to specifically seek opportunities with our individual agencies.

When was the last time you talked to a current or recent college graduate about continuing their education to become a professional librarian? When was the last time you took a newly hired professional on your staff under your wing to mentor them and encourage their continued service within your agency? When was the last time you talked to one of your colleagues and encouraged their membership, first in the American Library Association and then with the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table? I hope that these questions encouraged each of you to stop, think, and realize that as a community we have a lot to offer, but we do a poor job of telling our story and selling our profession to others. Individually and collectively, the responsibility for the future generation of librarians is ours. I encourage each of you to seize the challenge.

Jewel Player

Arlene Luster Receives Civilian Award

Dr. Arlene Luster received an Award for Meritorious Civilian Service as HQ Pacific Air Forces Command Librarian from October 1979 to August 2001. The letter that introduced the citation read:

During these 22 years, Dr. Luster performed in an exemplary manner. Her professional expertise, leadership, and dedication made significant and long lasting improvements with command-wide impact to Services’ quality of life programs for military and libraries throughout Pacific Air Forces. Doctor Luster spearheaded the movement to standardize library automation in Pacific Air Forces. Now, all Pacific Air Forces libraries have one fully integrated library system. Her initiatives to capture the latest technological advances resulted in the completion of retrospective conversion of all Pacific Air Forces libraries. Doctor Luster’s professional skills initiative, and teamwork reflect great credit upon herself and Armed Forces Libraries.

Citation—“In recognition of her outstanding achievements as Command Librarian, Directorate of Services, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii from 7 October 1979 to 10 August 2001. During this period, Doctor Luster’s leadership, professional expertise, and superb management skills significantly improved support for Services’ quality of life programs for military and libraries throughout Pacific Air Forces. Doctor Luster spearheaded the movement to standardize library automation in Pacific Air Forces. Now, all Pacific Air Forces libraries have one fully integrated library system. Her initiatives to capture the latest technological advances resulted in the completion of retrospective conversion of all Pacific Air Forces libraries. Doctor Luster’s professional skills initiative, and teamwork reflect great credit upon herself and the United States Air Force.

It was signed by Lt. General Lansford E. Trapp, Jr., Vice Commander, Pacific Air Forces. The award was presented to Dr. Luster at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.
Results of the FAFLRT Election

Sixty-eight FAFLRT members voted in the FAFLRT election. Margaret J. Groner, Director, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, CA is FAFLRT’s new Vice President/President Elect. We also have a new Secretary, Marie L. Nelson, who is a reference librarian at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. Both begin their terms after the ALA Annual Meeting in June. Congratulations to both Margaret and Marie.

RENAME YOUR NEWSLETTER!!

We’re having a contest to rename the Federal and Armed Forces Newsletter. The name should be no more than 3 words. The winner gets a $25 gift certificate at the ALA Store at the annual conference. The winner will be selected by the FAFLRT membership at the meeting in Atlanta. Submit your entry no later than June 7, 2002 to: jpla@loc.gov

FRI YDAY, JUNE 14:
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Awards Reception – Ritz Hotel, Georgian Room

ALA MEETING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
8:30 am - 10:00 am: Membership Meeting  CAP (Atlanta Capitol Plaza,) Peachtree BR
8:00 am - 8:30 am: Continental Breakfast
10:00 am - 12:00 Noon: Open Archives Information System What does it mean for libraries?  CAP Peachtree BR
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm: Executive Board Meeting  MAR (Atlanta Marriott Marquis) Zurich Rm

MONDAY, JUNE 17
11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Executive Board Meeting  MAR, Z Yukon/McKenzie/Rio Grande

If you will be attending the ALA annual Conference in Atlanta, your attendance at YOUR membership meeting is strongly encouraged. An excellent breakfast has been planned for you. We need your support. Please plan to attend the meeting and to stay for our excellent program to follow at 10:00.
Librarian Finds Afghan Lesson in Knowledge Symposium

The Second Annual Army Knowledge Symposium was held 1 through 4 April 2002 at Overland Park, Kansas. Librarians were among the diverse group of academic, government, and business leaders who attended. Among these was Charles Ralston, FORSCOM Library Program Director, who heard an Army general cite the ways KM could contribute to the US operation in Afghanistan.

According to Ralston’s report, BG John R. Schmader, Assistant DCS for Training-West, HQ TRADOC, learned while visiting U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, that Soldiers involved in cave clearing operations would have benefited greatly from the lessons-learned after-action reports of the Soviet military in Afghanistan in the 1980s. These reports have been in the vaults of the U.S. Army’s Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL), but Soldiers on operations in Afghanistan did not know this, nor did CALL staffers know that these reports would be relevant to current operations in Afghanistan. The Army did not know what it knew. Had it known, recent Afghan cave search and clear operations would have been accomplished more quickly and safely, and with better results.

Ralston recommended that librarians take the following ‘top 5’ actions to make Army KM begin to work for their libraries:

a. Make Army Knowledge Online (AKO) your home page. Under AKO ‘My Links’, link to other websites, even to what was your previous home page.

b. Use AKO web mail. Get your Army email address, which ends with "@us.army.mil", because sooner than later your current email address will be phased out.

c. Use the AKO IM / Chat service. This will lead to the development of virtual Communities of Interest and then to virtual Communities of Practice.

d. Move day-to-day processes and services to AKO as exemplified by the Army Library Program’s Digital Army Library Service, and CFSC’s General Library Program’s commercial databases.

e. Encourage people to share their knowledge, to work more in the "white space" between the black lines of the organizational chart. A great example of this will be found at <www.companyncommand.com> a web site created by tactical officers at West Point as a peer-assist tool for sharing best practices in the art of command of company-size units.

For more information call DSN 367-5735, or Commercial (404) 464-5735, or send an e-mail to <chuck.ralston@us.army.mil>. For latest on AKS go to Center for Army Lessons Learned <http://call.army.mil/> under Hot Topics.

Army Library Institute held in Oklahoma

The Army Library Institute (ALI) was hosted by U.S. Army Materiel Command’s (AMC) Defense Ammunition Center in Oklahoma City from 23 to 26 April 2002. The ALI is the annual professional development conference partially funded by the Army Civilian Training, Education and Development System (ACTEDS) for the Librarian Career Program. The ALI 2002 theme was "Army Librarians Linking Leaders to Knowledge." LTG John LeMoyne, G-1 and proponent for the Army Library Program, delivered the welcoming remarks to open the institute. Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths, University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Sciences, followed LTG LeMoyne with the keynote address on Librarian Leadership in Changing Times. Ms. Rilla Askew, Oklahoma novelist, the speaker at the Recognition Luncheon, talked about A Writer’s Debt to Libraries. Ms. Karen Schneider, Coordinator of the Librarian’s Index to the Internet, discussed this excellent index which is available to Army users through the Digital Army Library Service (DALS) at <http://www.libraries.army.mil>, and the Northeast Document Conservation Center offered a sobering presentation on disaster preparedness. The President of the Special Libraries Association, Ms. Hope Tillman, closed the ALI with a presentation on Updating 21st Century Competencies. Approximately 100 Army librarians from Army general, technical, academic, and special libraries attended the conference.

ACTEDS Professional Development funds could be restored in FY2003; Office staffing doubtful

Eighteen of the 30 librarians selected for Army Civilian Training, Education, and Development System (ACTEDS) Competitive Professional Development assignments were funded prior to withdrawal of 3rd and 4th quarter ACTEDS funds. Funding is expected to be reinstated for FY 03. This professional development enables librarians to gain new skills in knowledge management with Army Knowledge Management, in digital reference with the Library of Congress’ Collaborative Digital Reference Service, and in digitization with the Command and General Staff College’s Combined Arms Research Library. For the last two years, the librarian intern in the Office of the Army Librarian has provided the administrative support for this program by preparing the assignments catalog, coordinating assignment details between librarians and hosts, and preparing the travel and training documents. Due to the lack of staff to support the Army Library Program (ALP), the future of developmental assignments for librarians is in jeopardy when the intern graduates leave in October 2002. To date no resources have been provided to support the ALP despite the December 2000 DCSPER Manpower Survey recognition of one requirement for the ALP, the submission of UFRs since FY 00, and annual requests for an intern. POC: M. Ann Parham, 703-692-1452.
Army Library Program (ALP) Tests Management Reporting System

The Army Library Steering Group voted to adapt the TRADOC library management reporting system for use by libraries Army-wide. Currently, the ALP has no mechanism for collecting information from libraries Army-wide on their technical architecture, funding, staffing, and usage or for building an Army library directory. A team of six volunteer librarians, led by Mr. Ed Burgess, director of the Combined Arms Research Library (C&GSC), will conduct the review and work with the TRADOC Library Program Office to make the appropriate changes. Partial implementation of this web-accessible reporting system is expected by 3rd quarter of FY 02 with full implementation in FY 2003.

Digital Army Library Service (DALS) Offers Commercial Databases

Army Knowledge Online (AKO) users now have access to eight commercial databases and 2,000 e-books through the Digital Army Library Service (DALS). The products were purchased with year end funds by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (USACFSC) General Library Program for U.S. Army military personnel, family members and civilian employees. Users access these commercial reference sources from the DALS website (<http://www.libraries.army.mil>) and are taken through for authentication. Resources include the full text of Army Times and Sports Illustrated along with consumer health magazines, biographical information, country reports, college information and practice tests for SAT, ACT, LSAT, and others. Among the 2,000 e-books in Net Library are classics, military history, special dictionaries, mysteries, and college guides. As a result of deep discounts for enterprise-wide purchases of these and other library resources, the Army saved more than it actually spent. This centralized purchasing made efficient use of fiscal and human resources and also saved money and manpower for all Army installations through cost avoidance. Renewal of these services is dependent upon FY 03 funding.

Martha Davis, Combined Arms Library Director, dies at 59

Martha A. Davis, who directed the Combined Arms Research Library (CARL) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas until October 2001, died on February 4, 2002 at a hospital in Leavenworth following a period of illness. She had been the director at CARL since 1979 except for a three year tour as Chief Acquisitions Librarian for US Army Europe from 1984 to 1987.

Ms. Davis was born the daughter of Earl and Audrey (Burch) Davis on May 31, 1942, in St. Louis. She received her BA in History from St. Louis University in 1964, and earned Master of Arts degrees in both Library Science and History from Indiana University in 1967. She also received an MLA in Liberal Arts in 1999 from Baker University. From 1975 until coming to CARL in 1979, she held various positions in the US Army Library Program in Germany. While at CARL, she played a significant role in shaping the development of MERLN, the Military Education Research Library Network, and was the first to suggest the MERLN name.

She is survived by three brothers: David Davis, St. Charles, Mo.; Mark Davis, and Steven Davis, both of St. Louis; nephew, Joe Davis, St. Charles, Mo.; and her longtime friend and companion, Barbara Meadors, Leavenworth, Kansas. Her parents preceded her in death.

No services were planned, but the family suggested memorials could be made to Breast Cancer Research in care of the Belden-Sexton-Sumpter Funeral Chapels, 500 Oak Street, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Mike Morrison
morrisonj@ndu.edu
Carol Bursik is the new Assistant Director for Access and Organization at the Department of Justice. She has been the Systems Librarian at the U.S. Geological Survey Library in Reston since October 1991. Carol is the current FAFLRT Treasurer and a past FLRT Secretary-Treasurer.

Robert Mohrman is the director of the Medical Library at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) in Washington, DC. Robert was previously head of public services in the WRAMC Medical Library. He served as acting director from June 18, 2001 until his appointment as director on Feb. 10, 2002.

Davenport (Dav) Robertson, Chief of the Library and Information Services Branch, NIH/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, NC, was elected Chapter Cabinet Chair-elect of the Special Libraries Association in March. Dav will assume this position on the SLA Board of Directors at the SLA annual conference in Los Angeles in June. He will have the responsibility for coordinating the activities of the Chapter Cabinet, composed of the heads of the 58 SLA chapters. Dav has previously served as President of the North Carolina SLA Chapter and Chair of the Environmental Information Division.

Nancy Davenport, Director of Acquisitions at the Library of Congress, gave the keynote address at the dedication of the new university library at West Virginia University on April 10. She was once a student assistant in the WVU library. In her speech, Nancy announced that she has established the Virginia Taylor Perry Library Endowment in memory of the woman who hired her as a student assistant many years ago. Funds from the endowment will be used for travel and training opportunities for library staff.

Congratulations to Stephanie Bianchi, Chief Librarian at the National Science Foundation. She is the recipient of one of the Government Computer News Federal 100 Awards for 2002. Stephanie was recognized for leading a small team that developed a Web-based system to give NSF customers easy access to the vast information in NSF’s library and to make it easier to keep the information current and consistent. Congratulations also to Arlene Luster for being the recipient of the Award for Meritorious Civilian Service as HQ Pacific Air Forces Command Librarian from Oct. 1979 to Aug. 2001. The award was presented to her at her current duty station at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

On April 30 at the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service Departmental Awards Reception, a number of librarians were recognized for their contributions. Among them were Rod Atkinson, Pamela Dragovich, Lynne Kennedy, Mike Kolakowski, Shirley Loo, Jennifer Manning, Suzy Platt, and Sherry Shapiro. Lynne Kennedy retired from CRS at the end of May.

James King, Specialist in Library IT at the Naval Research Lab Library and our FAFLRT webmaster, graduated from Catholic University of America in May with a Masters in Library and Information Science. He was part of NRL’s Long Term Training program called the “Edison Program”.

Dan Clemmer retired May 3 as head of the Ralph Bunche Library at the Dept. of State. At his retirement party the day before, he received numerous awards including the Secretary’s Career Achievement Award signed by Secretary of State Colin Powell. Dan has been at the State Dept. for 29 years and he served ten years as chief of the library. He began his government service as a librarian at the Library of Congress in September 1967 as a member of the LC Special Recruit class. FAFLRT members at the retirement party included Carol Bursik, Steve Kerchoff, Shirley Loo, Lynn McDonald, Fran Perros, Susan Tarr, and Joan Taylor.

Amy Nogami, formerly the Librarian at the Centralized Processing Center at Schofield, is now the US Army Pacific Command Librarian. Jung Ae Kim, Library Director, Osan Air Base Library moved to the Yongsan Army Library in Korea. Ruth Roth, Library Director at the Misawa Library in Japan retired to Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Our Adelaide del Frate 2001 scholarship recipient has a new job. Jenny Peterson is managing a small, specialized federal library in Sacramento for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while still at San Jose State University. Jenny says that it’s “a wonderful opportunity to learn while in school.”

Shirley Loo
The Partnership for Public Service

In the past year a new organization promoting the value of public service has been formed. The Partnership for Public Service is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing the public service. Through an aggressive campaign of public-private partnerships, focused research and educational efforts, and legislative advocacy, the Partnership will encourage qualified men and women to choose federal service for some or all of their careers and make it possible for government to retain high-achieving federal employees.

The need for action is urgent. In the next five years, 53 percent of the federal workforce may qualify for retirement. Within the same period 71 percent of the government’s senior managers will reach retirement age. To replace these experienced workers, and to ensure quality service to the public, the government must continue to attract talented workers.

Studies show that a decreasing number of the nation’s top graduates are interested in federal employment. A survey several years ago found that only one in ten Phi Beta Kappa graduates rated the federal government as their first choice for an employer. Twenty years ago, three-quarters of the graduates of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government went to work for government; today that figure has fallen to one-third. Despite this waning interest in federal employment, more and more graduates express an interest in contributing to their society and community. These demographic realities present the government with substantial challenges but also unprecedented opportunities to engage a new generation seeking meaningful ways to serve.

To meet this challenge, the Partnership for Public Service is pursuing a comprehensive five-part strategy:

1. A communications program designed to improve public understanding and perception of government service;
2. An education and outreach effort to inform talented students and mid-career workers about employment opportunities in government;
3. A partnership with federal agencies to help create a work environment for the 21st century that allows government to better support and retain its talented workers;
4. A legislative reform agenda to address outdated laws that keep the government from attracting and retaining highly skilled employees, and to implement management practices that enable the government to compete effectively with the private sector;
5. A practical research plan to increase our understanding of the human capital crisis and its possible solutions.

In pursuing this strategy, the Partnership is building coalitions with the Administration, lawmakers, corporate leaders, federal employees, academic institutions and other interested groups. The Partnership is guided by a Board of Governors comprised of prominent, committed individuals who provide advice and expertise and serve as spokespersons for the importance of public service.

The Partnership was founded by Samuel J. Heyman and is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It has initial funding of $25 million, will employ a staff of 20 to 25 people, and is located in Washington, D.C.

The website for the partnership is: www.ourpublicservice.org

FAFLRT Co-sponsors International Law Program at LC

The Spring International Program on Legal Research occurred the evening of March 4 at the Library of Congress’ Pickford Theater. It was attended by over 53 persons.

Dr. Rubens Medina and Professor Patrick Daillier addressed the evening’s theme, “Documents and Technological Resources on International Law.” Dr. Medina, the Law Librarian of Congress and Director, Global Legal Information Network, spoke on “Legal Information in an International/Global Context.” Patrick Daillier, Professor of Law at the University of Paris, flew to Washington especially for this program. His presentation was entitled, “Electronic Tools and Documentation in International and European Community Law.” Discussion followed the speeches. Guests went to the Pickford Lobby to enjoy an elegant reception of desserts, wine, and sparkling water.

The library products firms of West Group/Westlaw and ISI were the generous corporate sponsors of this successful event. Attendees browsed through the firms’ displays in the lobby.

FAFLRT was one of five professional associations collaborating on sponsoring the event. Others were the American Society of International Law (ASIL), the Law Librarians Society of Washington, D.C. (LLSDC), the Special Library Association/DC Chapter (SLA/DC), and the District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA). Andrea Gruhl, Vice President/President Elect of DCLA and former FLRT President, was the coordinator of the event.

Andrea Morris Gruhl, IFLA Liaison

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As the kick off event for Public Service Recognition Week 2002, the Public Employees Roundtable held its Breakfast of Champions on May 6 to honor this year’s Public Service Excellence Award winners. Kay Cole James, Director of OPM was the keynote speaker. According to Kirke Harper, Chair of the roundtable’s Board of Directors, “The 2002 awards have special significance for all of us because they honor public officials who gave their lives on September 11th, as well as those who made exceptional efforts to service the needs of their communities and could be present for the ceremony on May 6th”. Winners, who were nominated by their peers, exemplified the highest standards of public service and were selected in eight categories: Federal, State, County, City, Intergovernmental, International, Community Service and Public Private Partnership.

Besides the Federal award, federal employees and federal organizations were actually involved in three other awards - international, community service and public-private partnership.

The Federal award went to the Civil Service Aircraft Maintenance Team at Laughlin Air Force Base for their championship model of what civil service support can contribute to the national defense. Between 1996 - 2001, the team saved the Air Force an estimated $126.8 million in payroll by performing its services with 47% fewer employees than a conventional military manpower model calculates for similar mission needs.

In the international category, the Cultural Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City won for its four-year effort to strengthen Mexican public administration by facilitating faculty and practitioner exchanges among other initiatives. In the community service category.

The Rising Six at Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, Illinois, a private organization comprised of junior military members, was honored for directing volunteers from 21 different organizations to rehabilitate 22 homes.

The U.S. Department of Education and the C.S. Mott Foundation were winners in the Public Private Partnership category. Their joint endeavor, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, established public schools as community hubs for expanded learning and youth development in the after-school hours. As a result of their partnership, over 6,800 centers in nearly 1,600 communities now serve 1.2 million students and 400,000 adults.

Fran Perros, Public Employees Roundtable Liaison
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