

## Greetings From the President:

The word of the day for federal libraries is Reductions: reduced budgets, reduced staffing and reduced physical space. The future of federal libraries depends on how well librarians mitigate these problems and still keep the library program operating effectively and smoothly. For federal librarians this is business as usual. We have been doing more with less for so long that we make it seem easy. But are we at the breaking point? How do we ensure the success of the federal library further limited by government budget constraints and called upon to increase use of the latest computerized information systems.

Librarians know how to cope with reduced budgets, staff and space. We have formed consortia to conduct multi-agency purchases, retrained support staff to take on more responsibility and converted physical libraries to virtual libraries.

We have done everything right or have we? Have we become our own worst enemy? Librarians have trained patrons so well that patrons now feel they can conduct business without us. Sure, "eventually" our patrons will realize how important librarians are to the agency's mission but, in the interim, librarians will take some hard knocks.

This makes it the perfect time to reconnect with library patrons. When was the last time librarians asked the patrons if we were meeting their needs? This is an internal opportunity that is often overlooked. Librarians need to bridge the gap between what the library has to offer and what patrons need. Patrons can be strong advocates for the library. Patrons will always need librarians to help develop database-searching techniques,

address complicated reference requests and redefine patron needs. Redirecting marketing and outreach towards patrons produces beneficial results for both. The personalized attention and service reinforces the patrons' feeling of being well-served and goes a long way toward creating a lifetime advocate for the library.

*Georgette Harris*



# DTIC Participates in FLICC Orientation Series

As part of a series of orientations to libraries and information centers, the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) recently offered the opportunity for federal librarians to become acquainted with DTIC. This two-hour briefing was held at the Library of Congress on February 14, 2006.

R. Paul Ryan, DTIC's Administrator, opened the program with an overview of the organization. His presentation included a brief history of DTIC and its mission. He discussed DTIC's content repository and the importance of safeguarding and preserving information. He also spoke about DTIC's new search page, the Research & Engineering (R&E) Portal and the important roles played by DTIC-sponsored Information Analysis Centers (IACs) in support of warfighters.

He was accompanied by DTIC staffers Roberta Schoen, Director, Directorate of Operations; Philip

Tomposki, Senior Analyst, Reference and Retrieval Branch, Directorate of User Services; and Helen Sherman, Team Leader, Reference and Retrieval Branch, Directorate of User Services.

Schoen explained how DTIC databases benefit the R&D community and noted significant increases in the percentage of electronic vs. paper document submissions in recent years. Tomposki discussed the wide range of defense information available on Public STINET and what DTIC can do for its customers. Sherman concluded the briefing with a presentation of the numerous DTIC sources available to federal librarians.

DTIC's participation in the FLICC series was one of the many briefings periodically offered by FLICC. For further information on additional events, visit the FLICC Educational Programs Web site at [www.loc.gov/flicc/edutaining.html](http://www.loc.gov/flicc/edutaining.html).

## Librarians Build Communities! *Volunteer Opportunities in New Orleans*

**Friday, June 23, 2006, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm or  
Tuesday, June 27, 2006, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm**

Help rebuild New Orleans. Participate in one or both of these daylong community service efforts. Exact jobs to be determined as we work with The New Orleans Public Library and community service groups such as Habitat for Humanity, United Way, etc. All participants will be notified in advance of the various projects and be able to pick the one in which they wish to participate. The registration fee is \$10, and will be contributed to the "ALA Hurricane Katrina Library Relief Fund." Lunch, transportation and a participation t-shirt are included. To register to participate, please go to the Registration Page and use the online registration form, or the print registration form. If you are already registered for the Annual Conference, you can register for the Volunteer Days by submitting a second registration form, just for this event.

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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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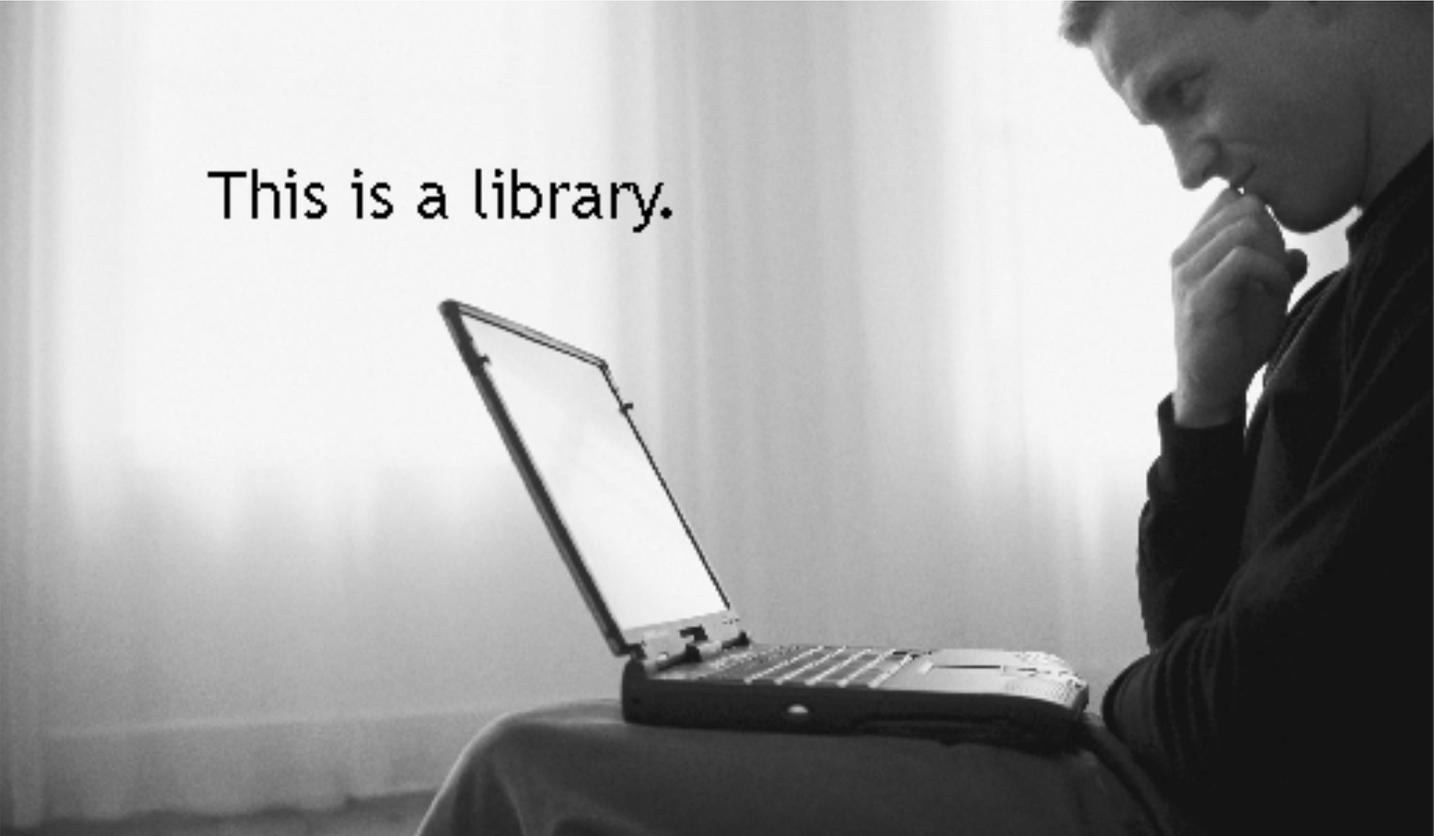
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# Fabulous Feds

Congratulations to the FLICC awards recipients who will be honored March 23 at the 23rd Annual FLICC Forum on Federal Information Policies. Leslie Campbell, Law Library program administrator at the National Judiciary Library Program for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, is the Federal Librarian of the Year. The Librarian Technician of the Year award went to Sue Hubbard at the Little Rock Air Force Base Library in Arkansas. The Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC) at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Library in Fort Huachuca, Arizona are the Federal Library/Information Center of the Year for large and small libraries respectively.

Diane Schnurrpusch, Program Analyst in the Marketing Division at Defense Technical Information Center, was installed as President of the Iota Chapter of Beta Phi Mu on Feb. 23. She succeeded Andrea Gruhl, FLRT Past President. Helen Sherman, Team Leader, Reference and Retrieval at DTIC, is now Vice President/President-Elect. Joan Taylor took on a two-year term as treasurer of Beta Phi Mu. Joan is chair of the Membership Committee for FAFLRT.

Robin Daly is now director of the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division China Lake Technical Library. Robin has worked in the library for a number of years and held other positions at China Lake.

Riley A. Flynn is the new Camp Foster Library Director, Okinawa,

Japan. Riley began her 3-year tour with the USMC library in October 2005. Her previous position was Technical Services Librarian for Onslow County Public Library, Jacksonville, NC.

Eleanor Uhlinger began March 6 as Associate Provost for Library & Information Resources at the Naval Postgraduate School's Dudley Knox Library. Eleanor has been the Associate Library Director for the joint library serving the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, MA since 2001. Her prior library experience includes working in the marine sciences libraries at the University of Rhode Island and UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory.

Did you see Shirley Loo on ABC's "World News Tonight" on Feb. 7? She was part of the Women's Health Initiative study of 48,000 women. The study examined the impact of a low-fat diet on the incidence of cancer, heart disease, and stroke. The study did not find a correlation.

Steve Kerchoff, formerly of FLICC and now with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, was quoted in the Mexico section of the February 22 Miami Herald, International Edition, in an article about the U.S. Embassy's Benjamin Franklin Library. R. James King, Chief Librarian, Naval Research Laboratory has been nominated for the Lexis/Nexis 'Innovations in Technology' Award.

Moira Zelechowski, has been selected as the new reference librarian at the technical library for NAVAIR at Patuxent River. She worked previ-

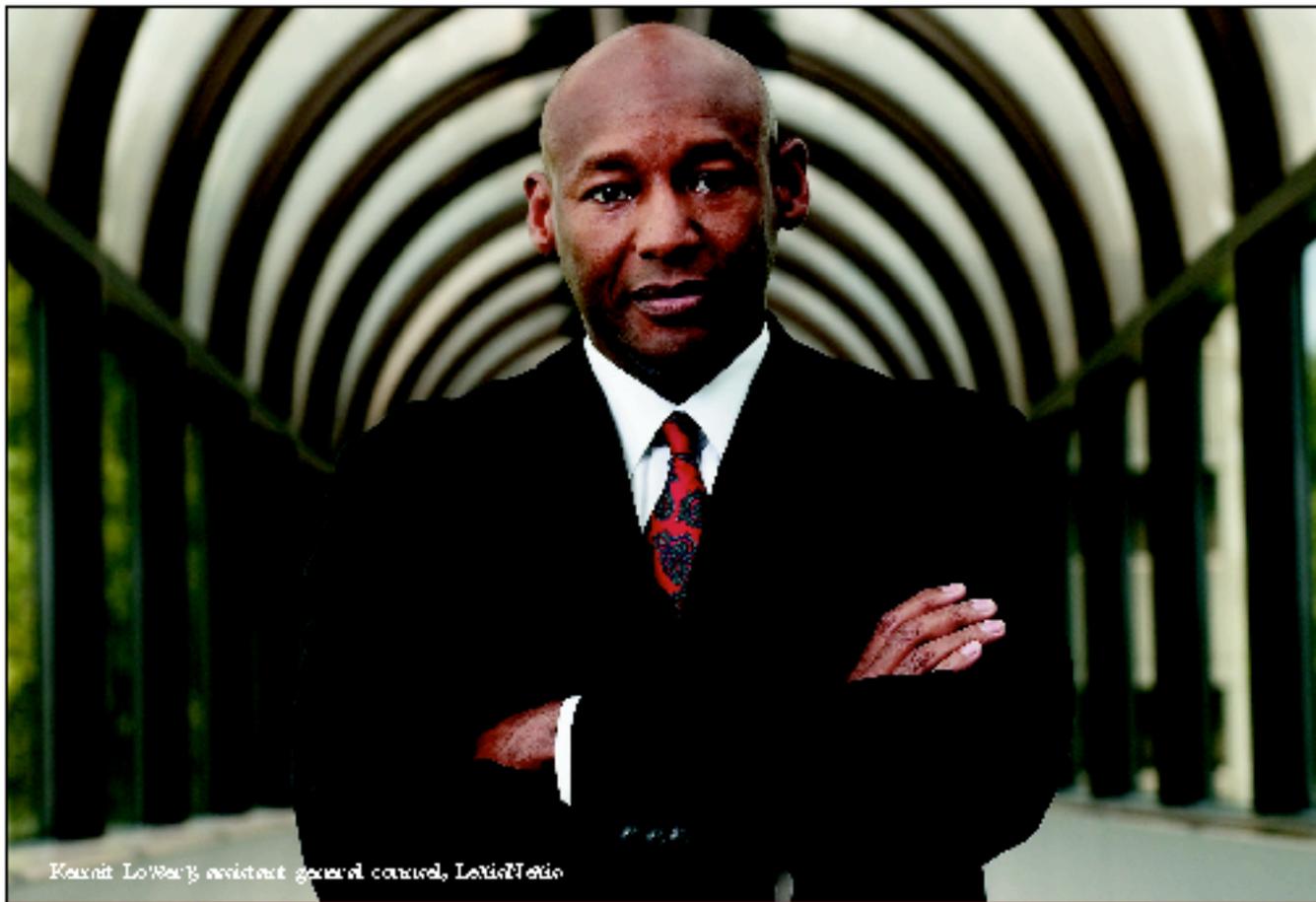
ously for the Charles County Public Library and received her MLS from the University of Maryland in 2001. As a Navy and Air Force family member, Moira has an appreciation for military libraries.

Jan Dempsey, Medical Reference Librarian at Naval Medical Center, San Diego retired on June 30, 2005, after more than 30 years of Federal Service. She received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her visionary focus, dedication, and commitment to the mission of the Naval Medical Center, San Diego. Just a few months ago, Simona Konecna was selected to fill this position. Previously, Simona worked as a Reference Librarian at University of California, San Diego.

Ms. Terri Sato was selected as the Library Director for NAF Atsugi, Japan. She will begin her tour in March, 2006. She was previously the Community Librarian at Ledward Barracks (US Army) in Schweinfurt, Germany. She has worked at NAS Sigonella Library and at Pearl Harbor Library.

Cora Besco Ahrens, who was most recently the Library Director for the Air Combat Command's Holloman AFB Library in New Mexico, died on February 7. Cora was noted as a quiet, unassuming leader who led by example. As ACC Librarians stepped out in AF libraries to implement the first web automated library system, Cora served on the Tiger Team and shared in-depth knowledge of system policies and lessons-learned, which became the template for the ACC system. She was willing and able to

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Kenneth L. Perry, assistant general counsel, LexisNexis

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# AIR FORCE UPDATE

The Air Force Library Steering Committee met 4-5 Dec 05 in conjunction with the Military Librarians' Workshop, Las Vegas NV. The Advocacy and Assessment sub-committees provided progress reports and plans to launch the assessment survey in Feb 06 and conduct advocacy training at the Joint Air Force/Navy Librarians' Conference, Baltimore MD, 8-10 Jun 06. The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for 20-23 Mar 06 in San Antonio TX.

The revised Air Force Instruction (AFI) 34-270, Air Force Library and Information System (AFLIS) was approved and published on the Air Force e-publishing web site 23 Jun 05. The instruction was expanded to include pertinent information about technical and academic libraries. Compliance with this publication is mandatory.

Air Force libraries continued their progress this year in meeting the 5-Star Library Recognition Program criteria using selected key elements in five categories: Operations, Programs, Training, Facilities, and Customer Services. Nineteen libraries will be recognized with 4 certificates and thirteen libraries will be recognized with 5 star plaques at the Fourth Joint Air Force/Navy Librarians' Conference in Jun 06. The 4-star certificates will be awarded to Altus AFB OK, Barksdale AF Base LA, Hickam AFB HI, Kadena AB Okinawa Japan, Kirtland AFB NM, Lackland AFB TX, Lajes AFB Azores, Laughlin AFB TS, Little Rock AFB AR, Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex AL, Minot AFB ND, Offutt AFB NE, Robins AFB GA, Scott AFB IL, Shaw

AFB SC, Tyndall AFB FL, Vandenberg AFB CA, and Whiteman AFB MO, and Wright Patterson AFB OH. The 5-Star plaques will be awarded to Bolling AFB DC, Columbus AFB MS, Edwards AFB CA, Eglin AFB FL, Ellsworth AFB SD, Hanscom AFB MA, Holloman AFB NM, Misawa AB Japan, Patrick AFB FL, Randolph AFB TX, Seymour Johnson AFB NC, and Sheppard AFB TX.

The Air Force Service Agency Manpower Office requested a major review of all library process descriptions. The Library Program Office is currently establishing a database with all general library tasks and their process descriptions. This is a needed study since libraries have changed considerably in the past ten years.

Of the 82 Air Force general libraries, 44 libraries (54%) comply with 100% of the DOD Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) core library standards; 38 libraries (46%) complied with less than 100% of the core standards – 20 of the libraries missed the 100% by one standard. The majority of the non-compliance items are related to facility issues, which will continue to be a problem until library facilities are upgraded. Five Air Force libraries comply with 100% of the core and premier standards, which qualifies the libraries for DOD Premier Certification.

*Written by Barbara D. Wrinkle  
Director, Air Force Libraries*

## *Fab Feds*

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assist other government librarians in ACC as they implemented their first automated library systems. She loved customer service and provided outstanding programs through talented staff. Hers was the first and only ACC library to ever out rank every other ACC service activity for customer service on the Air Force-Wide, Customer Feedback Survey. This meant, for example, that her library's score was higher than other activities such as Fitness.

Lucille Rosa, FAFLRT Armed Forces Director and Archivist, was recently re-elected to the position of Library Trustee, Freetown, MA. Lucille has been a Trustee there since 1995.

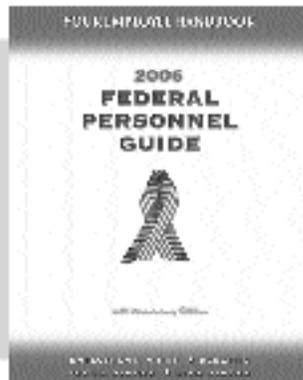
Sarah (Sally) Bosken became the new Head Librarian at the U. S. Naval Observatory in February. She comes from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) where she had been employed for 6 years and was most recently Head of Collection Management. She has long been active in the American Library Association and is currently FAFLRT's Federal Director. She holds an MLS from Catholic University (Washington, DC) and has done postgraduate work at the University of Maryland. A good part of her career (18 years) has been spent living and working overseas. Sally has a long-time interest in astronomy, and is very happy to be working in an astronomy library.

*Submitted by Shirley Loo*

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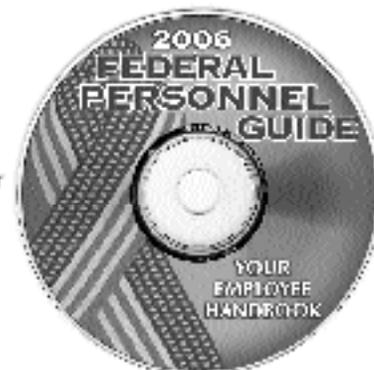


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# Minutes . . . . .

## Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT)

### Board Meeting

ALA Midwinter Conference, 2006  
Convention Center, San Antonio, TX  
Saturday, January 21, 2006

**Attendees:** Hope Beyer, Carol Bursik, Bobbie Carr, Arthalene Gordey, Georgette Harris, Emily C. Mardis, Marie L. Nelson, Donna E. Ramsey, Lucille M. Rosa, Jordan Scepaniski, Reginald M. Scott, Jane Sessa, Helen Sherman

### Welcome and Call to Order.

Georgette Harris, FAFLRT President, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The Agenda items were accepted.

The minutes of the June 2005 General Membership Meeting and Board Meeting were accepted as written.

**Newsletter Report.** Jane Sessa reported that the submission of more articles for the Federal Librarian would be helpful, as would additional vendors for ad submissions. Information about FAFLRT's Annual Program and Reception is needed for the next newsletter. She is also still seeking a volunteer to replace her as newsletter editor.

**Membership Report.** Georgette Harris, reporting for Joan Taylor, submitted the report, dated January 13, 2006. As of August 2005 there were 273 Personal and 53 Corporate/Organizational members, for a total of 326. There still continue to be some issues about ALA's accuracy, as they are still crediting some memberships to AFLRT, one of our old organizational components.

**Treasurer's Report.** Carol Bursik distributed:

FAFLRT's "Final Financial Statement for FY 2005, Based on Performance Report of August 31, 2005," showing Beginning Net Assets (9/01/04) of (\$564.07), Revenues for the Year of \$9,485.98, Expenses for the Year of \$7,213.73, resulting in Net Revenue (Expense) of \$2,272.25 and an Ending Net Asset Balance of \$1,708.18;

"Financial Statement for FY2006, Based on Performance Report of November 30, 2005," showing beginning Net Assets (9/01/05) of \$1,707.93, Revenues for the Year of \$1,101.09, Expenses for the Year of \$2,761.39, ALA Overhead of \$108.00, resulting in Net Revenue (Expense) of (\$1,768.30) and an Ending Net Asset Balance of (\$60.37).

There was also billed, but un-posted, revenue as of January 13, 2006 of \$2,295.00.

Also distributed were the FY2006 budget, and the FY2007 budget proposal.

### Committee Reports.

**a. ALA Round Table Coordinating Committee.** Georgette Harris announced that this committee is discussing means to reach potential new members. There is an ALA employee who could do a direct mailing to potential new members of round tables. It was pointed out that perhaps generating interest in round tables, could also encourage new people to join ALA.

**b. Annual Program.** Georgette Harris reported that Jewel Player has the 2006 Annual program planned. However, we need to

now concentrate on the 2007 Program in Washington, D.C. A location for the Reception is being sought, such as a military facility; i.e. the Navy Officer's Club. Some program topic suggestions were to concentrate on political issues, such as the Patriot Act, with the assistance of ALA's Washington Office, or digitization issues. A joint program with the ALA Committee on Legislation was also proposed. Any further ideas should be sent to Georgette.

**Archives.** Lucille Rosa requested that materials be submitted to her. She has plans to send out a direct mailing to officers soliciting their files.

**Awards.** Georgette Harris, reporting for Shirley Loo, stated that nominees are needed for the Adelaide del Fra ALA Scholarship Award.

**Bylaws and Constitution.** Georgette, reporting for Andrea Gruhl, reminded us that the Bylaws Change that we planned for 2006 needs to be submitted by ALA's deadline.

**FAFLRT Web Site.** Georgette, reporting for James King, stated that there are 201 subscribers to FAFLRT's discussion list. He also plans to research how many hits our web site has received.

**Booth Coordinator.** FAFLRT only displays at the Annual June ALA Conference.

**Nominating Committee.** Georgette reported that Linda Resler has nominees for four of the open FAFLRT Board positions, but would

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like names of any additional people interested in serving.

**Federal Personnel.** Donna Ramsey reported that:

The Competitive Sourcing Working Group is preparing a survey, using Survey Monkey, which has been completed by 13 people up to this time. It is hoped that the survey will be taken by FLICC Council members, as well as the entire FLICC membership.

The Human Resources Working Group is finalizing the revising of the GS-1410 Librarian's qualifications, as well as holding a workshop on pay banding scheduled for Feb 28 at the Library of Congress.

Newly appointed Army Base Librarians coming into MWR organizations will be NAF employees.

The National Security Personnel System (NSPS) implementation is being held-up in court by twelve unions, with a scheduled court date of January 24, 2006.

## Liaison Reports.

**ALA Councilor.** Jordan Sczepanski reported that, as representative for the twelve smaller round tables, he tries to attend all of their meetings if scheduling permits. As his term ends after the June ALA this year, he suggested that we advance a candidate for his replacement, or join forces with another round table to do so. (The five largest round tables each have their own councilor, but the smallest twelve are represented by only one who represents them all. GODORT is no longer 5th in size, and our memberships overlap some-

what with GODORT and also with some other round tables.) Mr. Sczepanski suggested that we endorse a resolution to add four additional round table councilors, so that only the smallest eight round tables would share one councilor, instead of twelve. The FAFLRT Board voted to endorse this resolution, which Mr. Sczepanski will communicate to the ALA Council.

**ALA Education Assembly.** Helen Sherman, as the new Education Assembly representative, reported that the issue they discussed is the value of online courses versus traditional courses.

**ALA Planning and Budget Assembly.** Carol Bursik reported that they apparently didn't meet at this Conference, as she received no notification.

**ALA Legislative Assembly.** Jane Sessa reported that they are working on a resolution concerning the Patriot Act. She is also seeking a volunteer to be the new liaison to this Assembly.

**FLICCLiaison.** Carol Bursik had no report. Georgette mentioned that they are working on a survey.

**IFLA.** No report.

**Public Employees Round Table.** No report. (Fran Perros did, however, post an email on Jan 20, 2006 to the FAFLRT discussion list about the Public Service Recognition Week 2006, which will be celebrated on May 1-7, 2006.)

**Armed Forces Report.** Lucille Rosa, reporting on behalf of Cynthia Shipley, stated that there is a new

SECNAV Instruction 5070.2D, which designates that the Librarian of the Navy position be collateral duties attached to someone else's primary position. She also reported that the Naval Postgraduate School has a new director, Eleanor Uhlinger, who will start in March.

## Old Business.

Additional discussion took place on ways of increasing membership.

A suggestion was to distribute FAFLRT brochures at other associations' meetings, such as the Military Librarian's Workshop (MLW), Army Library Institute (ALI), and the Air Force and Navy Librarian's Workshop

Provide FAFLRT brochures to the ALA New Members Round Table, and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color.

Place brochures in the ALA bins at the conferences. (Reggie regularly puts left-over Federal Librarian newsletters in them, also.)

Write an article for the Federal Librarian about what FAFLRT does.

Place an article about FAFLRT in the other groups' newsletters, and in discussionlists such as Fedlink and ArmyLib.

Hope Beyer volunteered to be of assistance with membership issues.

FAFLRT's activities at the June Annual Conference were discussed further.

**FAFLRT Reception.** Lucille Rosa and Bobbie Carr are working on the plans.

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The Annual Program is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The Board voted to have the combined Membership/Board meeting on Saturday morning. It may, however, be too late to ask a vendor to sponsor a breakfast.

Reggie Scott stated that there shouldn't be any health issues regarding the New Orleans conference. The devastating damage was in a different part of town than the Convention Center, and hotels are replacing their carpets and other items as necessary to make it environmentally safe.

## New Business.

- a. Hope Beyer has volunteered to replace Joan Taylor as the Membership Committee chair.
- b. Georgette will send out an email asking for volunteers to be the candidate for the ALA Councilor representing the smaller round tables.

The Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2006 was cancelled, as all business was concluded at today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m. by Georgette Harris.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marie L. Nelson  
FAFLRT Secretary*

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# A Library of Last Resort

*Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress*

John Y. Cole and Jane Aikin, Editors

The Library of Congress, in association with Bernan Press, 2004

Developed in cooperation with the International Encyclopedia Society

The Library of Congress is a wonder. It has during its own lifetime attained the mythical status of the libraries at Alexandria or Timbuktu. Aside from being simply the world's largest library, it has the world's largest performing arts collection, the world's largest map collection, the world's largest conservation laboratory, and a string of other superlatives. Its collection totals 128 million items in 460 languages, and in 2003 it recorded more than 2.6 billion transactions on its computer systems.

*Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress: For Congress, the Nation & the World* is a handsome large-format book of 569 pages (plus xxxi pages of front material) published by the LOC (in association with Bernan Press). Its 14 essays and 79 shorter articles present the history of the LOC from its establishment in 1800 and the development of several of its major activities. I wouldn't have chosen the term "Encyclopedia" as a descriptor; the book is not comprehensive, but it does present the LOC in its vast complexity.

The *Encyclopedia* opens with 19 color prints of the LOC's impressive buildings, mostly of The Thomas Jefferson Building. The photos convey its neo-classical majesty; the photo of the Great Hall, with its elegant colonnade, reflects the dignity of the

library's collection. Furthermore, there are more than 350 black-and-white illustrations relieving the density of the text. They range from prosaic photos to sublime items like a page of the Gutenberg Bible (from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division). There's even a 19th-century advertisement for Cocaine Toothache Drops (who says the legislative branch doesn't have a sense of humor?).

The text reflects the LOC's involvement with its enormous range of concerns: acquisitions, automation, congressional research, the digital library, copyright, classification, etc... Its special collections, such as The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The Law Library, and The Hispanic Division, are explored here, as are many of the Library's functions, ranging from interlibrary lending to children's literature.

Librarians will be particularly interested in its tenth essay, "The Library of Congress and American Librarianship", which traces the Library's relationship with the library community and its partnership with the ALA. We learn that "for most librarians, the Library of Congress was not a source of assistance during the nineteenth century." The chapter proceeds to explain its recent contributions in the areas of preservation, networking and digitization, made while the LOC has become imbedded in the life of the community.

In tracing the development of collections and functions, the *Encyclopedia* details the history of the library through successive administrations, appointments, wars, et

al. It reveals an endless succession of committees, task forces and reviews designed to further, to renew or otherwise to promote the library's goals. It's amazing that the LOC has managed to overcome the drag of politics and bureaucracy so well.

There are articles on each of the 13 Librarians of Congress, and the Librarians appear throughout the book. The *Encyclopedia* credits Herbert Putnam (in the office from 1899 until 1939) with doing "the most to extend the Library to the American people." Archibald MacLeish, it acknowledges, was "the most publicly visible Librarian of Congress in the history of the office." The present Librarian of Congress, James Billington, who took office in 1987, is credited with taking "personal charge" of the Library and instituting its major reorganization. The *Encyclopedia* doesn't mention the opposition to his nomination expressed by the American Library Association, who felt that the position demanded "someone who has the background of an information professional".

The article on the library's Poetry and Literature Center is of particular interest to writers. The Center sponsors awards, fellowships and literary events, as well as the position of the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. The chapter reminds us that our Poets Laureate and Poetry Consultants (as they were first called) have been the icons of American letters, including Robert Penn Warren, Robert Lowell, Robert Frost, and other heroes. What's more, its Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature

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# *A Library of Last Resort*

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has preserved audio records of more than 2,000 poets reading their own work. The article also relates, in a remarkable passage, an unfortunate incident that took place in 1949, when Ezra Pound was awarded the LOC's Bollingen Prize in Poetry:

At the time Pound, who had been indicted for treason, was in an institution for the insane. Because of the ensuing controversy, in August the Joint Committee on the Library [the LOC's link to Congress] unanimously recommended that the Library cancel all arrangements it had made for giving prizes and making awards, and Librarian [of Congress Luther] Evans immediately complied.

Thankfully, the Poetry and Literature Center's prizes and awards recovered from the setback.

The Encyclopedia's Appendices provide statistical material, including a table detailing the growth of the Library's collections – from 740 volumes in 1801 to 57 million items in the manuscript collection alone in 2003.

The index, unfortunately, doesn't meet the demands of the material. We need to be able to access every reference to individuals, places and events; the index doesn't even attempt this function. Programs and collections are reasonably well covered; individuals and concepts are not. And it's highly literal. One illustration, "Teaching of the Indians" is referenced only in an entry under Photographs; it is not accessible via a search for "native American." However, another photo, "Native American Child", is ac-

cessible either way.

Although the size of the LOC's collection has more than tripled since 1950, its history hasn't been one of uncontrolled expansion. Much to its credit, it has pursued selective growth. In 1962, it was suggested that the Library's national activities and services be expanded, but circumstances "made increased national library aspirations impractical." In the 1970's, as library networking developed, a Task Force on Goals, Organization and Planning concurred with the library community that "there is no hope for one institution to go the whole way alone." And the Encyclopedia allows that today "the Library of Congress is much less the acknowledged leader of the American library community than it was a century ago.

It is mentioned several times that the LOC is not officially our "national library". The ALA recommended in 1896 that the LOC be designated as the national library. The National Advisory Committee on Libraries did the same in 1968, and The National Committee on Libraries and Information Science did so in 1975. The White House, however, never acted on the recommendations. The Encyclopedia acknowledges that the LOC is "the de facto national library of the United States", and refers to it repeatedly as a national library (indeed, a passage on the LOC's website refers to "our special status as the national library").

But the book never discusses what it would mean to be a national library. We're told only that the ALA's

1896 recommendation was intended "to broaden the LOC's role to include assistance to libraries nationwide" – assistance it unquestionably supplies.

Actually, it is the LOC's function as the national copyright depository that makes it our de facto national library. As the Encyclopedia's discussion of The Copyright Office (which is a part of the LOC) tells us, the owner of a copyright is required to deposit two copies of a published work in the Copyright Office, and "the primary purpose of this mandatory deposit so to build and preserve a comprehensive collection of American publications as a record of the country's national heritage, thus creating in effect a library of last resort for all works published domestically."

In fact, the central question is not whether the LOC is a national library, but whether it is a legal deposit library. Legal deposit libraries, such as the British Library or the National Library of France, receive, by law, a copy of each book published in the country. When I asked the LOC about its status as such, The General Counsel's Office of the Copyright Office explained:

In the United States, mandatory deposit is part of the copyright law. We generally referred to legal deposit as mandatory deposit. The Library of Congress is the legal deposit in the United States, although the statutory underpinning of mandatory deposit is considerably different from legal deposit systems abroad. To my knowledge, the United States is the

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## *A Library of Last Resort*

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only country that has made mandatory deposit a part of its copyright law.

Mandatory deposit applies to all works under copyright, unless exempted by regulation. It does not apply to works in the public domain. However, since copyright applies to works automatically, the mere failure to apply a copyright notice to a work does not take the work out of mandatory deposit. In order to place an otherwise copyrightable work into the public domain, it is necessary to include a disclaimer of copyright on the work. This is uncommon, but it does occur.

Most commercial works are registered in the Copyright Office due to the significant legal advantages such registration brings. In instances where registration has been made, the deposit for registration generally satisfies the mandatory deposit obligation. Copyright registration, however, is optional. Where registration has not been sought, mandatory deposit is still required. Exceptions, then, being “uncommon”, the LOC does function essentially as a legal deposit – or mandatory deposit – library.

Of course, The Encyclopedia doesn't discuss the implications of having these powerful collections husbanded by the federal government. Certainly, the library community is in agreement that library funding is the exquisite use of government funds. But the LOC is not above reproach. Our poets laureate have been criticized for not being more vocal in their reaction to censorship, i.e., the

“content restrictions” on National Endowment for the Arts grants.

The Encyclopedia is not a tool for understanding the structure and organization of the LOC. The appendices contain no charted history, and they don't even include the organizational chart we find on the LOC's website. But the book will prove itself a unique tool for the researcher in many specialty fields. For the ca-

sual browser or the professional librarian, it's a treasure.

By the way, the Strategic Plan tells us that the Library has a disproportionate number of staff approaching retirement age - an intriguing fact as we design our careers...

- *Steve Greechie*

# GET INVOLVED!



**Join a  
committee.**

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office.**

**FAFLRT is  
only as**

**effective as you  
make it.**

**Contact any Board  
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back page.**

# Report on Army Libraries

1. The Military Intelligence Library at Ft. Huachuca has won the 2005 Federal Library of the Year award in the small category (10 staff members or less). The presentation will be held March 23 at the Library of Congress. This is a link to the Library's homepage: [http://www.universityofmilitaryintelligence.us/mi\\_library/default.asp](http://www.universityofmilitaryintelligence.us/mi_library/default.asp)

Dr. Vee Herrington, the Library Director, can be reached at: [herringtonv@hua.army.mil](mailto:herringtonv@hua.army.mil)

2. Ann Parham's email address has changed to [myrtis.parham@hqda.army.mil](mailto:myrtis.parham@hqda.army.mil) and her new phone numbers are below.

M. Ann Parham  
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HQDA, DCS, G-1  
ATTN: DAPE-ZXI, Rm 2C453  
300 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0300  
Voice (DSN 225) 703-695-5600  
Fax (DSN 225) 703-695-6988

3. The Army Library Training Institute (ALTI) 2006 will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac in St. Louis, MO from 24 to 28 April 2006. The ALTI '06 website, a work in progress, is available at <http://www.libraries.army.mil/ali2006/index.htm>. The agenda, complete with all names, is available on our ALP team page on AKO at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/136583>. The Army Library Program Files channel is the first channel below the graphic on the right. The ALTI 06 folder includes the tentative agenda, Army G-1 support memo, and poster session application. Contact Neta L. Cox ([neta.cox@hqda.army.mil](mailto:neta.cox@hqda.army.mil)) if you need help finding

it. Phone: 703-697-1446 DSN 227

4. Reminder for METRICS, the Army Library Program Measurement, Tracking, and Information Collection System (METRICS): METRICS is the web-based statistics reporting system for collecting and storing data on Army library collections, resources, and services:

<https://www.libraries.army.mil/metrics/>. METRICS is designed to provide senior Army leaders and library management at all levels with a standardized system for information required for library program evaluation, management planning and decision-making. Several changes in METRICS are summarized below.

## Library Information

The information entered for individual libraries is used to generate the Army Libraries Directory available on the DALs website: <http://www.libraries.army.mil/>.

1. 'Registered Borrowers' has been moved from Services to Library Information.

2. The telephone number fields have been revised: Library Manager, Library, ILL and FAX. The Library number will be the number included in the Army Libraries Directory. 3) We have revised the population fields. All of the libraries will show the military population. This will be top loaded for the General Libraries. The other population fields will vary according to type of library. Please see the Help text in METRICS for explanations. Briefly,

a. General: ASIP Total and Baseline Standards/ISR III. This will be top loaded.

b. Academic: Student and Faculty/Staff. Obtain from AT-TRS data or RMO.

c. Medical, Scientific/Technical, Special: Organization. Obtain from RMO.

4. Please review the URL and update if needed. We are now linking to the library websites from both the Army Libraries Directory and our Library Reference Center.

## Services

We added two fields: Attendance at Programs/Orientations and Publications. We've had several questions about Current Awareness services. We added Current Awareness/SDI to Short Reference IF the librarian is involved in producing/editing the bibliography and sending it to the individual.

Again, we want to encourage you to give read-only access to all of your library staff so that they can see what METRICS is all about and what data are available in METRICS. To do this, the Primary Account holder can click on Manage Accounts, click on 'Add a User' for your Library, and select the Role of 'Other'.

The freeze date for the annual data has been extended to 31 March 2006.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Lucille M. Rosa**  
**Armed Forces Director**

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