



Federal and
Armed Forces
Libraries Roundtable

FEDERAL

LIBRARIAN

Vol. 24, No. 4, Summer 2007

Greetings From the President:

The Hochosterwitz Castle in southern Austria suffered a long siege by the forces of the Duchess of Tyrol early in the 14th century. When the Castle's foodstores had been reduced to one ox and two sacks full of grain, the commandant of the Castle ordered the ox killed, stuffed the carcass with the two remaining sacks of grain, and threw it down the cliff in front of the Duchess' forces. Discouraged by this action, the Duchess abandoned the siege.

What does this have to do with federal libraries and librarians? It seems to me that federal libraries, like the occupants of Hochosterwitz Castle, are under siege. Several Environmental Protection Agency Libraries, the Armed Forces Medical Library, and the Fort Huachuca Army Library are among those that are being closed. Libraries are being contracted out and services are being curtailed. Many armed forces libraries have been converted from appropriated to non-appropriated fund support, which in the long run may jeopardize their standing as federal libraries.

Librarians are asked to justify their libraries' existence by participating in "most efficient organization", Lean Six Sigma, and other evaluation

processes. They are asked to meet standards which may or may not be appropriate for libraries. Often, librarians are not given much, if any, advance notice when asked to conduct studies producing evidence of their worth.

In the quest for "efficiency" and "cost effectiveness" it is important to remember the concept of "excellence" and to strive to provide the best libraries and library services. We know that our libraries give back far more in terms of services, materials, and resources than they receive in funding and we must spread the word.

Marketing, networking and advocacy are important tools to insure that excellence is recognized. FAFLRT's presence and programs at ALA in June will provide good marketing, networking, and educational opportunities.

Federal librarians may not be able to show their spirit with a single gesture as dramatic as that of the Commandant of Hochosterwitz Castle but intangibles such as their commitment to service, excellence, and integrity will surely strengthen their position.

Bobbie Carr



FAFLRT Meetings at ALA

Membership Meeting

Sunday
8:00 am – 10:00 am
Regency Regency A

Board Meetings

Sunday
10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Regency Ticonderoga
Monday
10:30 am – 12:00 noon
Doubletree Terrace Ballroom

Ever thought of working as a FED?

Join us in person for this event or participate remotely via Webcast during the 2007 ALA Annual Conference!

"The average annual salary for all librarians in the Federal Government in non-supervisory, supervisory, and managerial positions was \$74,630 in 2005." From the Occupational Outlook Handbook 2006-07 edition viewed 12062006 at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos068.htm#earnings>

Date: Friday, June 22, 2007

Time: 9:00–1:30 (entry to the building at 8:30)

Location: Library of Congress, Madison Bldg, Mumford Room

Co-sponsors: FLICC, LSU School of Library and Information Science, DCLA, DC SLA, and Library Associates

Or via the internet at <http://opal-online.org> (archive and MP3 files will be available there in future)

Please email feds.panel@gmail.com for more information on registration or details on the webcast.

- Learn about jobs for information professionals as FEDS (federal employees)
- Hear from a variety of speakers working in a variety of federal jobs (e.g., administration, public services, technical services, technology)
- Ask questions and network over lunch with a variety of federal librarians and potential employers. A stand-up buffet will be provided by corporate sponsors, Library Associates.

If you want to participate in the webcast, join us in the auditorium at <http://opal-online.org>. An archive will be posted after the event.

If you want to view the video feed from the Library of Congress, email us at feds.panel@gmail.com. An archive will be posted after the event.

For more information or to register, contact feds.panel@gmail.com.

COL Subcommittee on Federal Libraries Meeting

Sunday June 24, 2007

1:30PM – 3:30P • WCC – Room 141

★ NEW TIME ★

Monday June 25, 2007

8:00AM – 10:00AM • WCC – Room 143 C

Rates for Advertising in the



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GENERAL INFORMATION

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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| ISSUE | DEADLINE |
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FAFLRT Awards Reception

Sponsors: LexisNexis and SirsiDynix

Friday, June 22, 2007
6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



- ★ Army and Navy Club
- ★ 901 17th Street, NW (on Faragut Square)
- ★ Metro — Faragut West on Orange or Blue Line
- ★ Faragut North on Red Line
- ★ Valet Service: \$7.00

Fabulous Feds

The United States Naval Academy's Nimitz Library announced the appointment of Ms. Patricia R. Patterson to the position of Associate Librarian as Head of the Reference Department and Co-Chair of the Collection Development Group. Ms. Patterson brings to this position over 15 years of increasingly responsible experience including serving as chair of ALA's Buildings for College and University Libraries Committee.

Mohammed Abdul Shaheed Khan has recently been awarded a PhD degree in Information systems. He had completed his course work from Nova Southeastern University, Florida and successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at The Graduate Foundation, South Bend, Indiana. Dr. Khan is currently working as Chief Librarian, Chaplain School Center, Columbia, South Carolina. He was born in Hyderabad, India and received his B.S., B.L.S., and M.A. degrees from Osmania University.

Ms. Marilyn Smith, PhD announced her retirement from federal service on 30 June 2007. She has served over 15 years as Librarian at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. Her career also included an overseas assignment from 1998-2003 as Librarian at the Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. She also served as AFLRT newsletter editor.

Ms. Lorna Dodt, long time military librarian and member of ALA and FAFLRT retired 30 April 2007. Ms. Dodt spent 35 years working in Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps Libraries including Ft. Lewis, Ft. McPherson, the Pentagon, Navy Hospital San Diego, Camp Pendleton, Kadena AB, National Defense

University and Army Materiel Command. She has spent the last four years as the team leader for Reference and Research at the U.S. Dept. of State, Ralph J. Bunche Library. She will reside in Northern Virginia.

Ms. Mary Mathis Friedline, Ft Stewart Library retired 30 April 2007.

Ms. Sue E. Neufeld, Chief, Reference Branch, McDermott Library, U.S. Air Force Academy retired 1 May 2007 with more than 20 years of federal service.

Ms. Helen Q. Sherman was recently promoted to Deputy Director of the User Services Directorate at the Defense Technical Information Center, Ft. Belvoir, VA. Ms. Sherman previously served as Team Leader of DTIC's Reference and Retrieval Team.

Ms. Judith Russell, former Superintendent at the U.S.

Government Printing Office, was named the University of Florida's new Dean of

University Libraries effective 1 May 2007. Ms. Russell began working for the GPO in 1991 as Director of the Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services. Ms. Russell

decided to pursue a position in academia after working with academic and research libraries during her time with the U.S. Government.

"The Geology of Somalia: A Selected Bibliography of Somalian Geology,

Geography and Earth Science", an annotated Somalian bibliography by Mr. Robert Lee Hadden, Geospatial Information Library, Topographic Engineering Center, Army Corps of Engineers, Alexandria, VA is available online. It has been electronically added to the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) library collection, and is now available world-wide at: <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA464006>

Access to Mr. Hadden's other writings are available at: <http://www.librarything.com/author/haddenrobertlee>.

Jane Sessa was elected ALA Chapter Councilor for the District of Columbia Library Association. She will begin a three year term at the end of the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in June.

Submitted by Cynthia Shipley

FAFLRT 2007 Election Results

Vice-President/President Elect: Nancy Gomez

Treasurer: Marie Nelson

Armed Forces Director: Jannie Davis

Director-at-Large, Federal: Linda Resler

Director-at-Large, Federal: Doria Grimes



Kermit Lowery, assistant general counsel, LexisNexis

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FAFLRT Events at ALA

Friday, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Careers in Federal Libraries

Location: Library of Congress –
Madison Building, Mumford Room

Want to work as an academic, school, special, or law librarian? Ever considered being a records manager, taxonomist, or information architect? Want to travel and work around the globe? And did you know that the average annual salary for all librarians in the Federal Government in non-supervisory, supervisory, and managerial positions was \$74,630 in 2005? Join us in person for a highly informative session and broaden your career opportunities or tune in to the live Webcast. Co-sponsors: Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC); Special Libraries Association, Washington DC Chapter; Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science. This event is free but has limited availability. To make a reservation, contact XX:

Friday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and

Tuesday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tour the Newest Federal Government Library

ALA FAFLRT

Location: see below

The U.S. Census Bureau Library is celebrating the Grand Opening of our new building. Come join the Census' Library staff in touring our new facility. The new Bureau of the Census facility is a state of the art structure with 1.5 million square feet, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, who also designed America's

tallest building, Chicago's Sears Tower. Glass and green-tinted concrete walls have a shield of willow farmed tropical species wood. The U.S. Bureau of Census is the largest statistical agency of the federal government and premier source of information about the American people & the economy. Bring Photo ID. Address is 4700 Silver Hill Rd., Suitland, Maryland, 20746. Take Green line Metro to Suitland-Federal Center stop and meet at Bureau of Census Security Gate. Circulation desk number – 301-763-2529 and Reference desk number 301-763-2511.

Friday, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

FAFLRT Awards Reception

ALA FAFLRT

Location: Army-Navy Club, 901 17th St. NW

Join the Federal and Armed Forces Librarians at the Awards Reception to be held at the Army-Navy Club, 901 17th St. N.W. (Farragut Square).

Saturday, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Finding Environmental Information in the New Millennium: Continuing the Dialogue

ALA SRRT/ ALA FAFLRT

Location: Grand Hyatt Washington [Apr. 19, becomes a Westin] Independence B-C

Co-sponsors: GODORT, FAFLRT, COL, Federal Libraries Subcmte.

In the past year there has been much talk and discussion about ac-

cess to environmental information. Much of the controversy stems from the restructuring of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Library Network, which has seen the closing of five of its units in response to a \$2 million cut in its fiscal year 2007 budget (about an 80 percent reduction). The EPA stopped further library closing and engaged in a lengthy and frank discussion of its actions in 2006 with regard to its libraries. Various speakers representing different perspectives on this issue, including speakers from the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the EPA Library Users community, and the EPA Office of Environmental Information will continue this dialogue on access to environmental information.

Monday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

ALA FAFLRT

Location: Renaissance Mayflower, State Room

Co-sponsored by FLICC.

This panel will explore the 'comparative advantage' of the Federal Government in regards to the Open Access movement. We will describe what the Open Access movement is, how it could affect federal publications and federal libraries, the various legislative efforts that have attempted to broaden access to Federally-funded research results, and the potential impact on access to government information.

Speakers: James King, Chief Librarian, Naval Research Laboratory; Heather Joseph, Executive Director,

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AIR FORCE LIBRARY UPDATE

Air Force & Navy will be hosting the annual training workshop 20-22 Jun 07, just prior to ALA in Washington D.C. The workshop focuses on "Changing Strategies for Future Innovations" and includes success stories from installation libraries; dynamic keynote speakers – Robert Goldstein, NPR Music Librarian, and Stephen Abram, President of SLA and Vice President for SIRSI/DYNIX; and training on disaster planning, AF library web system, MERLN, and managing change. The workshop, which will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, offers AF & Navy librarians an excellent opportunity to network with other librarians as well as attend FAFLRT events and ALA exhibits.

Some highlights from Air Force base libraries include the following initiatives:

The BIG READ, a National Endowment of the Arts initiative to promote literacy, provides citizens the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. A team of distinguished professional writers, librarians, critics, artists and publishing selected classic literature titles for library and community programs. Five Air Force libraries are participating with their local communities and/or public library BIG READ projects: Bolling AFB in Washington D.C.; Moody AFB, Georgia; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; Pope AFB, North Carolina; and Shaw AFB, South Carolina.

Linguists from the Offutt Language Learning Center at Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska are teaching once a week at an on-base public school and working to add multi-lingual reading



Sabrina Honda at Hurlburt Field Library, reading at a story hour.

to the base library Summer Reading Program. Ms. Becky Sims, Library Director, stated, "I'm hoping to encourage English-only parents to help their children become bilingual, show parents who are native speakers of other languages that we have something for them, and encourage their children to learn and retain the language of their heritage." The fifth- and sixth-graders started learning the languages last month in a pilot program at the school involving language specialists from Offutt Air Force Base. The partnership formed after representatives from the Bellevue Public Schools, Metropolitan Community College, and Bellevue University toured Offutt's language-training center.

More than 100 military personnel, Shaw Air Force Base personnel, and civilians turned out Friday, 27 April, for the dedication of Shaw's new library to the late W.A. "Bubba" McElveen, a former Sumter, South

Carolina, mayor. The facility, which took nearly two years to complete, was dedicated in McElveen's honor because of his tireless commitment to both the Sumter and Shaw communities. McElveen's dedicated efforts to catalogue anything remotely historical about Sumter County in his "Bubba Archives" made naming the library after him an appropriate action. The new library features more than 40,000 books in a general book collection area as well as children and teen rooms. The library also has a 19-station computer lab with eight reference stations, two conference rooms and a coffee shop. "We really wanted this building to meet the mission of our airmen here at Shaw," said Lisa Romans, library director.

Yahoo! Yikes...Skypes! Giggling?... no, Googling! The Services (Base) Library on McGuire AFB, New Jersey, has jumped right into the 21st century. Defining itself as the base "literary

continued on page 10

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marketplace”, the library added new technology equipment and services to its collections of books, movies, and audio downloads. MP3 players, pre-loaded with audiobooks, are now available for 21-day checkout at the library. OVERDRIVE, a subscription audio book service, is now accessible on and off-site for McGuire library card holders. Recently, the library purchased software to provide patrons with “text-messaging” reference service. Patrons can text an inquiry to the library, and the reference librarian e-mail the response to a cell phone. This is part of the library’s commitment to meet the mobile and consistently changing needs of our McGuire community. Within the next several weeks, the library will be opening its “Airwaves Room”. This is a private study room housing an internet PC, a webcam, and a wireless phone. This system will provide our McGuire families and airmen with FREE e-mail and phone accessibility through SKYPE internet service, to contact their friends and loved ones who are deployed, TDY, or just “miles away”. Literature, e-books, fax, fiction, and user friendly technology are just the beginning for McGuire Library’s mission, a mission to meet the changing needs of military communities and their families. Jump on board... take flight relax...refuel...read...re-compute @ the library!

Federal Library Technician of the Year Award: Ms. Sabrina Honda, Library Technician at the Hurlburt Field Base Library, received the prestigious Federal Library Technician of the Year Award for 2006 from the Federal Library & Information Center



Ramstein Library Children's room, showing the parent w/ laptop, and newly painted "Grimms Fairy Tales" wall.

Committee (FLICC). This award recognizes and commends exceptional technical competency and flexibility, commitment to service, and excellence in support of the library mission.

Ms. Honda planned and implemented 120 unique programs, including 2 weekly story times and a very popular summer reading program. She also organized the logistics of a complex, 3-day renovation with installation of 7,000 SF carpet, 75 shelving units, and re-shelving of 35,000 books. She and her boss, Ms. Vicky Stever, Library Director, will attend the award presentations on 12 October 2007 at the Library of Congress’ annual FLICC Forum.

Air Force Library Program of the Year Award: Ramstein AB, Germany.

Led by Ms. Cindy Tews, the Ramstein AB library has provided outstanding mission and education support to the Kaiserslautern community. The library offers wireless internet (even in the children’s room), laptops for in-library use, and exceptional children’s programs. A unique hand-held paging system allows customers to browse through the library while waiting for a computer. The library also added a state-of-the-art GO PRINT system that send print jobs directly to a queue so customers can print as needed; this eliminated long waiting lines for copier printing. Participating with the Fitness Center, the library developed a Brains & Brawn program for mental fitness. All in all, a banner year for the Ramstein Base library!

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ALA's Washington Office (WO) Federal Libraries Recent Activities

The WO is engaged with the Federal Libraries Subcommittee as well as external partner organizations to determine how we can best work together to address federal library issues. A preliminary goal has been for us all to remain connected and share information on this issue to facilitate a united front and work more effectively. The wiki should help address this. The WO has drafted a letter, which will be sent to members for review, that can be sent to Federal Agencies facing threats or reorganizations. The overall goal is to make decisions concerning these libraries and their resources a more open and transparent process so the impact on the stakeholders can be reviewed, and the most appropriate course of action or non-action may be pursued.

The Washington Office continues to be actively involved in the EPA Library issue working closely with external partners as well as House and Senate Committees. In late April, several EPA internal procedure documents surfaced that seemed to indicate EPA had resumed dispersing materials. This prompted a letter from the chairs of four House Committees requesting a briefing. At that briefing, as well as in discussions with the ALA, SLA, and AALL, EPA representatives stated they are not dispersing materials, and the documents released were draft documents. Washington Office has completed several press releases and numerous email updates to keep members informed.

WO is engaged in discussions with

EPA concerning planning a meeting in which stakeholders can provide comments/input to EPA on the library plans, and EPA will discuss how they will incorporate these as they move forward.

The WO has also been investigating the closing of the library on the Fort Huachuca Army installation in Arizona, which closed in late March. WO received a response in late April from the Army stating that the base library was not meeting Army library standards and the city library will. It is unclear how this is the case because according to our contacts within the Army, the city library cannot offer many of the military-related services the base library can because access to military networks is required. Also, the Army is only providing funds for materials, not reference staff.

Recently, the WO learned that indeed the NERO bases are trying to get authorization in the FY09 DOD authorization to participate in these "partnerships" with local government libraries. Unfortunately, many legislators do not understand that "partnerships" means "closing." WO is plan-

ning to draft letters and schedule meetings to educate members of Congress so they are aware of this language and the ramifications and if it can be amended in previous authorizations and removed from future ones as well.

In March, the ALA and partners met with National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) regarding the possible closing of its Reading Room that contains many valuable resources used by public safety groups, journalists, lawyers, and corporations, among others. While we were assured by NHTSA that the Reading Room would be included in their upcoming move, we did learn that several important resources including databases containing historical information have been missing since last year and may be permanently removed from public access.

ALA WO, working closely with a coalition of concerned organizations, has sent two letters to NHTSA stating their concerns. WO staff was quoted in the Washington Post concerning this issue.

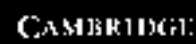
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Public Access to Government-Sponsored Research

Join us for a highly relevant and controversial session that is being held during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC!

June 25, 2007
1:30-3:30pm
Renaissance Mayflower, State Room

Join us as we explore the 'comparative advantage' that the Federal Government holds in the Open Access debate. James King, Chief Librarian of the Naval Research Laboratory, will lead a well-rounded panel discussion through the history, issues, legislative efforts, and opportunities related to Open Access and US Federal Government-sponsored research.

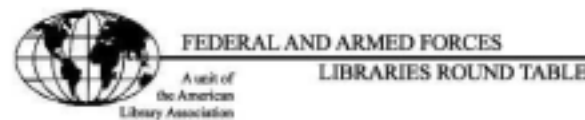
Specifically, we have Heather Joseph, formerly of BioOne and currently the Executive Director of SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition) who will discuss her group's advocacy efforts related to Open Access and the *Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006*.

The second speaker is Michael Mabe, formerly VP at Elsevier and currently CEO of the International Association of STM Publishers (with membership representing nearly all major society and commercial publishers); who will present the commercial and society publisher perspective on the Open Access debate including the *Brussels Declaration* opposed to many of the tenants of Open Access.

Our final speaker is Dr. Neil Thakur, the point person for the National Institutes of Health's Public Access policy who will share the NIH perspective in this debate and their progress to date on making pre-prints of all NIH-sponsored work available to the public.

Please direct question to James King, event coordinator, at james.king@nrl.navy.mil or 202-767-2357.

Sponsors:



Federal Library Status Wiki Launched

ALA's Washington Office recently created a wiki, accessible from the Federal Libraries section of their website, to track and share information across a broad coalition of organizations and individuals on threatened federal libraries and strategies to address this issue. The wiki is co-hosted by ALA's COL Subcommittee on Federal Libraries. There are currently eight libraries listed as well pages on advocacy and resources to be

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