Greetings From the President:

Large ALA Annual Conference schedule book. Thank you for your input to discussion on printing the large Annual Conference schedule book. I sent comments up the ALA chain. Submissions included creative ideas for reducing costs, anecdotes about tossing the book, habits of the organized ones who plan before traveling, reasons for continuing tangible distribution, raised eyebrows as to how 20,000 people would have computer access, and several inquiries about the loss of advertising revenue and vendor reaction to such a decision.

Nominating Committee & Elections. FAFLRT is an incredible group! Before I ran for office, I hadn’t a clue as to the breadth and depth of talent in our membership. If you haven’t served in an office yet, I would heartily encourage you to begin thinking about it. Feel free to email me with any questions (nfaget@gpo.gov). You may want to hold an office (looks great on your resume!) or you might want to help for a couple of months on a short-term project (Nominating Committee).

FAFLRT Web Page Usability. Can you find things such as the feedback form to submit comments? the FAFLRT President’s Blog to keep up with what’s new? or the Careers in Federal Libraries group to join the hundreds of folks collaborating there? Please give us some feedback http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/faflrt/index.cfm

ALA 2009 Midwinter Conference. FAFLRT will hold a board/committee/membership meeting at midwinter on Sunday, January 25, 2008 from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. We’ll provide a continental breakfast, so plan to enjoy some java and a bagel while we chat about the upcoming year.

FAFLRT Virtual Meeting. ALA is eager to support virtual meetings by allowing use of their OPAL room. Thus far, I have been unsuccessful in scheduling use of the room, but look for news in the New Year.

More Effective Communication. Not all FAFLRT members are subscribed to the FAFLRT list. The Federal Librarian newsletter is not currently emailed to members.

Most members don’t know they can subscribe to an RSS feed from the web page. We’ll be working over the next few months to improve dissemination.

Oh … and here are some great links you might have missed …

- Send feedback to FAFLRT: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/faflrt/index.cfm
- FAFLRT President’s Blog: http://www.faflrt.ala.org/president/ (Did you know the time in grade requirements were changing? Did you know a federal librarian was running to be ALA President and invites you to join her on Facebook http://www.new.facebook.com/people/RobertaStevens/1344487837?)
- Careers in Federal Libraries: http://groups.google.com/group/careers-in-federal-libraries so you can join the group discussion! Did you know two library schools held mini-Career events in November?

ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver
January 23-28, 2009

MEETING ROOM LOCATIONS
Colorado Convention Center – CCC Denver Marriott City Center – MAR
Brown Palace – BROWN *Hyatt Regency Denver – REG
Crowne Plaza City Center– CROWN Ritz Carlton Denver – RITZ
The Curtis - CURT *Sheraton Denver - SHER
Grand Hyatt Denver – GRAND Westin Tabor Center - WEST
Hilton Garden Inn – HIL Hotel Teatro - TEATR
* Co-Headquarters
Student membership for FAFLRT is now free

Consider this: the average annual salary for all librarians in the Federal Government in nonsupervisory, supervisory, and managerial positions was $80,873 in 2007. Sound enticing? Learn more about Federal librarianship by joining the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT). Student membership is now free.

At this year’s annual conference, approximately 125 participants attended the “Careers in Federal Libraries” pre-conference to learn about federal jobs. Attendees interacted with a panel of librarians from a wide range of government agencies and networked over lunch. Responses from participants were overwhelmingly positive and prompted FAFLRT to eliminate the fee for student membership.

Janet Scheitle, 2007-2008 FAFLRT President, explains, "In looking to the future of Federal librarianship, FAFLRT decided to change its dues structure to attract new librarians. In doing so, FAFLRT hopes to not only attract highly qualified librarians to bring fresh ideas and energy to the round table, but we hope that we can influence and mentor new librarians to pursue careers within the Federal sector."

“I really want to attract students to our round table,” agrees Nancy Faget, 2008-2009 FAFLRT President. “It's so much fun to learn from students and help them discover opportunities. The job pays well, and there is significant potential for growing your career. You can work in a special, academic, public, medical, school or law library anywhere in the world and never leave the same employer.”

FAFLRT membership benefits include a subscription to the newsletter, the ability to exchange ideas on the FAFLRT discussion list, and invitations to programs and networking functions throughout the year. FAFLRT also offers two scholarships to students who have an interest in Federal librarianship: the Cicely Phippen Marks Scholarship Award of $1,500 to support the education of a student in an ALA-accredited master’s degree program and the Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award of $1,000 to support attendance at an ALA annual meeting.

For those who will be in the Washington, DC area September 16th, there will be a Federal Job Fair at the Library of Congress. This event sponsored by FLICC / FEDLINK features tips on resume writing, interviewing, and the federal application process. On-site resume review will be available as well as representatives from federal organizations currently hiring. For more information, contact Holly Kerwin (hninc@loc.gov).

Current library school students, recent graduates, and job seekers interested in federal librarianship should seriously consider joining FAFLRT to learn more about issues affecting federal libraries and information policy. To become a member, go to http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/membership/index.cfm and add FAFLRT to your membership profile. To learn more about federal librarianship, visit www.ala.org/faflrt or join the new Careers in Federal Libraries group: http://groups.google.com/group/careers-in-federal-libraries?lnk.

By Michelle Chronister  
(michelle.chronister@gmail.com) and Kim Lyall (kim.lyall@gmail.com)

Michelle Chronister is currently a master’s student in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She plans to graduate in May 2009.

Kim Lyall received her MLS in May 2008 from the University of Maryland College of Information Studies. Kim is currently working at the NASA Center for AeroSpace Information where she performs database searching, training, and various outreach activities.
This is a library.

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After over a year of construction, the ground floor of the Nimitz Library was opened to midshipmen with a ribbon-cutting ceremony August 22. The $13.7 million renovation began in June of 2007, and was completed August 1 under budget and on time. This project resulted from the Regional Studies/Critical Languages effort to expand and renovate parts of Nimitz. Beginning on 1 June 2007, the construction contract increased the number of faculty offices and classrooms on the perimeter of the building on the ground floor, and renovated existing spaces in the Library in order to relocate some activities and services and create seminar-sized rooms for classes.

During the ceremony, Multimedia Support Center (MSC) Director, Larry Clemens and Nimitz Library Associate Director, Patti Patterson were both honored with the Civilian Meritorious Award for their work on the project. Mr. Clemens has worked for USNA for 19 years and is also head of the collection department for Nimitz Library. Ms. Patterson has worked for Nimitz Library for 24 years and it also the building’s 1st Lieutenant.

Mr. Kevin Jones, Library Director at Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois, will retire on this 56th birthday, March 2009. He states that it was a great ride with tours of duty in Italy, Japan, Korea, California, New York and Georgia with the longest stint being at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Jane Crabill, Senior Librarian at Marquat Memorial Library, US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, NC, participated in a focus group on public library services for baby boomers and senior citizens. The focus group facilitator was Dr. Joanne Gard Marshall, former Dean of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and currently a Senior Research Scientist at the UNC Institute on Aging. The purpose of the focus group was to assist Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center improve services to an aging population.

Angelique Simmons has accepted a position as the Programming Librarian at the Turnbull Memorial Library on the Hohenfels Combat Maneuver Training Center [CMTC] in Hohenfels, Germany. She will begin her appointment on February 2, 2009. She currently works for the Montgomery County Public Librarian, Maryland. We welcome her to Federal librarianship!

Congratulations to Bob Mohrman on his retirement! Bob is retiring at the end of October after 30 years of service in federal libraries. Bob spent the first 19 years or so in VA hospital libraries and the last 11 years at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Bob has provided outstanding support not only to the AMEDD but to the AMEDD MEDLI-NET staffs and the Army Library Program as well. In particular, his participation as a Partner in the Digital Library Research Service (DRLRS) and answering medical questions sent to the Ask A Librarian service on AKO from Iraq and Afghanistan was much appreciated. Bob was an excellent librarian who went the extra mile to provide outstanding library service. He will be missed!

It is with regret that we pass on the news that Grace Feng, former Redstone Scientific Information Center (RSIC) Reference Librarian until December 2005, had a massive stroke and passed away on Thursday, 16 Oct 2008. Before joining RSIC, Grace was the manager of the USAVSCOM Library in St. Louis and worked at the Corps of Engineers - Memphis Library.

Susanna Joyner, Library Director, Woodworth Consolidated Library, Ft. Gordon was honored with the Armed Forces Recreation Society “Special Citation Award” 2008 at a ceremony in Baltimore, MD in October 2008. This award is for civilian or military individuals who are not necessarily recreation professionals or members of AFRS/NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association). These individuals represent significant contributions to the field of armed forces recreation in the areas of leadership, public relations, pioneering or research.

From the citation: “Ms. Joyner is a natural innovator, leader, and team builder. She is dedicated to providing high quality services. She excels in project management, problem solving, programming, and positive interactions. Susie strives to blend the best of Recreation and Education to build fun and engaging learning and leisure opportunities for all patrons. Her efforts have ensured Woodworth Consolidated Library’s rejuvenation for the direct benefit of the Soldiers and Families we serve. She makes a compelling and positive impact every day.”


Abstract: "One special collection of German, Polish and Russian language books, maps and reports in the US Geological Survey Library has an interesting and unusual history. The "Heringen Collection" came from Nazi Germany. In the last days of the war, these maps, photos and other records were sent from the Military Geology offices in Berlin to the safety of a deep potash mine shaft in Heringen (Werra), in Hessen, Germany. A special group of US Army soldiers were ordered to find these lost records of the Third Reich.

When found and removed from the Heringen mine, those records which dealt with the earth sciences, terrain analysis, military geology and other geological matters were sent to the USGS, and eventually came to reside at the USGS Library. The printed papers and books were mostly incorporated into the main collection, but a significant portion of the materials were never cataloged, calendared or indexed. This paper describes the history of the USGS Library's "Heringen Collection," and some overview of the scope of the materials."

A .pdf copy of the article is available free from the author on request at Robert L. Hadden@usace.army.mil

Submitted by Cynthia Shipley

@your library
The average annual salary for all librarians in the Federal Government in non-supervisory, supervisory, and managerial positions was $80,873 in 2007.

Armed with this knowledge and the desire to learn more about an exciting career with the opportunity to serve citizens in meaningful ways, approximately 125 participants attended the “Careers in Federal Libraries” pre-conference session at Annual in Anaheim. The interactive day of events was sponsored by the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT), Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC), Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science, Library Associates Inc., New Member Round Table, and the ALA Placement Office.

Roberta I. Shaffer, Executive Director of FLICC, welcomed participants and introduced Helen Sherman, Director, User Services for the Defense Technical Information Center, who presented a talk on the “Road to Federal Librarianship.” Sherman provided a detailed overview of the federal job application process from an employers’ perspective. She also offered valuable tips for job seekers on how to read and decipher job descriptions, as well as effectively work through the process. Sherman also reviewed and explained salary tables for government positions.

After the general overview of federal jobs, librarians from a wide range of government agencies sat on a panel discussion where participants asked questions about specific topics of interest. Panelists included Doria Grimes, librarian at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Central Library; Sandra Jensen, Public Librarian at the Camp Pendleton libraries; Steven Kerchoff, Foreign Service Information Resource Officer, U.S. Department of State; Greta Marlatt, Academic Librarian at the Naval Postgraduate School, Dudley Knox Library; Deborah Schwarz, CEO of Library Associates, Inc.; Carla Southers, School Librarian at the Department of Defense Education Activity; and Bill Tuceling, Reference Librarian, Government Accountability Office.

The panel was followed by a short talk from Margie J. Thomas of the LSU School of Library and Information Science about the value of obtaining internships, practicums, and field experiences when looking toward federal positions. Library Associates then provided lunch and participants networked with each other as well as the panelists and other speakers. The day concluded with Vicki Burger facilitating a workshop on interviewing strategies sponsored by the ALA Placement Office.

Michelle Chronister, Masters Candidate, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Roberta Stevens, Federal Librarian, Seeks ALA Presidency

Roberta Stevens, Outreach Projects and Partnerships Officer at the Library of Congress and Project Manager of the National Book Festival, is running for ALA President.

A federal librarian for nearly 24 years, Stevens began her career as a school librarian. She headed up media services for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and directed technical services at the Fairfax County Public Library before joining the Library of Congress. She was the Program Manager for the Library of Congress Bicentennial Program (1998-2000) and has been Project Manager for the National Book Festival since its beginning in 2001.


A Year of Change for the Brooke Army Medical Center Library

The Medical Library, Brooke Army Medical Center, (Army) has undergone a year of change. In March 2008, the library was downsized and merged with the Medical Library at Wilford Hall Medical Center (Air Force). The collection at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) was transferred to Wilford Hall and other libraries; downsizing the collection to fit into a 400 sq ft “library office”. The librarian and a technician remained at BAMC providing a “virtual library” to personnel with back-up support from the Wilford Hall library. The other three library technicians relocated to Wilford Hall library providing support to BAMC and working to merge the collection for the Army and Air Force into what is to become SAMMC-North and South.

In July, a separate 250 sq ft computer room was added to provide public computers for hospital personnel. By fall 2008, it was determined that the library would have to move again and a larger space was needed. The current collection was 800 books and 2000 bound journals. Mobile shelving was purchased and installed allowing the library staff to move again at the end of October 2008. Now the Medical Library is a 1500 sq ft area with desks, shelves and computers for personnel use 24 hours a day. A “real library” once again.

Beverly Rakowitz

Attendees at the Federal Library Careers pre-session in Anaheim.
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Minutes

FAFLRT BOARD MEETING
June 29, 2008, 8 a.m.

Meeting was called to order at 8:05.

1. Janet Sheitle recognized two
Washington Office Staff members: Rosalind
Reynolds, ALA rep to FAFLRT, and Jessica
McGilvray.

2. The Board held two teleconferences
this past year. Minutes of the 6/4/08 tele-
conference were approved.

3. Nancy Faget spoke about our events
here at ALA; the Listening Sessions that
were held; the article on p. 14 of the
Cognotes which mentioned our afternoon
session. She thanked Mary Ghikas for the
help she gave us.

Michelle Chronister, our ALA Assistant,
will attend our meetings and write them up.
She’s an MLS intern.

4. RTCA (Round Table Coordinating
Assembly):

ALA President Jim wants electronic
participation. ALA purchased OPAL and he
wants us to use podcasts, UTube.

The conference will end one day earlier
next year. ALA is also reducing the number
of meeting rooms and encouraging folks to
use time slots better.

A new Advocacy Group has been
established.

Janet will be doing a session entitled ALA
101.

ALA has a new website and they are looking
for our feedback.

Speaker fees: ALA members cannot be
paid a fee by a Round Table to speak. Mary
Ghikas is looking at this carefully. However,
Round Tables can use their OWN money to
pay for speakers.

There has been some interest in how
much money is being spent on the ALA
Presidential Race.

5. Information Impact Statement:
Jane Sessa sees it as not such a useful tool.
Richard Huffine thought that it did not appear that
the impact statement would go anywhere. Bernadine is looking for it
to go into the Federal Register. Jane Sessa
is not comfortable with the document in
its current form. Should the document be
put forth as a recommended best practice?
Nancy Faget suggested using OPAL sessions
to discuss.

Nancy Faget’s Motion concerning the
impact statement: That FAFLRT recom-
mand that any ALA subcommittees should
not move forward at this conference until
we fully vet it with all stakeholders and
constituencies. The motion passed.

Jane Sessa sensed that the group working on
the Impact Statement would not approve
it.

9. Jane requested that we briefly discuss
the Subcommittee on Legislation-FAFLRT
Committee on Legislation. Richard pro-
posed the following motion:

The FAFLRT Executive Board requests
that the Committee on Legislation dis-
continue the Committee on Legislation
Subcommittee on Federal Libraries and refer
future issues to the FAFLRT Committee on
Legislation. FAFLRT commits to coordinat-
ing their efforts with other Round Tables
and stakeholders.

The FAFLRT Executive Board believes the
Subcommittee has completed their charge and
done an excellent job in raising the
issue to the membership of ALA and to the
American Public. Motion passed.

6. Discussion turned to charging dues to
students to belong to the round table. Fran
Perros said that only one other Round Table
charged nothing. Most fees ranged from
$5-10. Maria suggested eliminating fees for
students for a trial period of one year to see
how it might work. Retired Librarians could
also fall into the same class. The thought is
that more students might join if member-
ship were free. Were that to happen, we
could bring them on board sooner and get
the word out on a broader level.

Report of the Membership Chair:
Currently total membership is 367. Lost 10
and gained 8.

Cindi Blasche wanted to see if there was
any way to reach out to distance ed students. Virtual sessions was amongst the sugges-
tions offered.

This Round Table does not get/ have high
visibility. Nancy suggested compiling a list
of Grad Schools that have a federal informa-
tion class and then contacting them. Maria
suggested getting the students involved
early.

Nancy Faget Motion: Approve waiving
fees for Students and retirees for the next
2 years. Motion passed. ALA will get this
ready for Sept. 1.

7. New FAFLRT Web Site: Nancy
suggests that we look at the site and send
comments to James. One suggestion was
to add a blurb or a link to provide a place
to volunteer. Send pictures and bio if you
are a committee chair. What’s in it for you?
Jannie volunteered to mentor students.

8. Sponsorship report: Michelle
Worthington got 3K from LexisNexis.
Agrest gave 2K – Janet Scheitle.
Discussion ensured about seeking less used
sponsors.

9. Richard Huffine wants to pursue
classification restructuring of librarians.
Examine relationship between librarians
and contract librarians. Can contract librar-
ians serve on the FAFLRT board? Some
thought no, others yes.

10. Nancy Faget said that she will get
the new Committee Chairs put up on the
website.

11. Marie Nelson reported on the costs
involved with the production of the newsletter.
Rosalind stated that she will examine
the publication as it is done in the ALA
Office.

12. Reports from various chairs & com-
mittees were held for the membership
meeting.

Executive Board meeting ended at 1003.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
June 29, 1004.

Membership passed the waiving of dues
for students and retirees.

Janet talked about the issues we had
already done.

Committee Reports:

Helen Sherman, Education Liaison spoke
on the FLICC Forum and the Tech Program.

Maria Pisa reported on Award Recipients:
Achievement Award went to Robert E.
Schnare, Jr.; Cicely Phiffen Award went to
Alina Johnson; the Adelaide Del Frate award
went to Cindi Blaschke.

Eileen Welsh, Booth Coordinator, pointed
out that we were #1840 in the Membership
Pavilion.

Jannie Davis, Armed Forces Federal
Director for the Army/Air Force, reported
that the Army is producing reports which
continues on page 8
Veteran’s Day Storytime at Kadena AB Library, Okinawa, Japan

On November 10, 2008, the Kadena Base Library presented a special pajama story time on the eve of Veteran’s Day, which was observed the following day as a national holiday. Kadena Elementary School Literacy Facilitator, Dr. Suzanne Landrum, presented a series of stories with the theme of how one can serve one’s country by joining the armed services, and reinforced the stories with additional activities. In addition to books, she had the 14 participants, age 4-11, call off appropriate words for each letter of the alphabet to describe America’s warriors, as she wrote them on a flip chart set up on an easel. An American flag was borrowed to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A children’s white table was set up to represent the table reserved for MIAs found in many mess halls, and Dr. Landrum read the story, America’s White Table to the children. She also had four U.S. Veterans speak to the children about their experiences with the military. Patriotic candy canes and cookies were given out at the end of the program, which lasted 70 minutes.

In the photograph, Dr. Landrum poses with U.S. Veterans who came to talk to the children about their military service. The fourteen children who attended the story time learned the true meaning of Veteran’s Day thanks to Dr. Landrum’s stories, activities, and guests who gave generously of their time. It was an innovative program that made for a memorable evening!

Minutes

Continued from previous page

will include stats from Libraries.

Fran Perros reported for the Nominating Committee.

Marie Nelson provided a Treasurer’s report that shows we ended in the black.

Lucille Rosa reminded everyone that materials to be sent to the archives from offices and committees need to go to her for submission.

Meeting adjourned.

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Careers in Federal Libraries –
So you want to be a Federal Librarian?

Have you ever considered a library or information management career in the federal government but weren’t sure where to look, how to apply, or what kind of opportunities might exist? The Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT), in cooperation with the Government Information and Military Librarians Divisions of the Special Libraries Association have created a new online resource that may help in your quest to land a federal position.

FAFLRT President Nancy Faget began this effort earlier this year by setting up the Careers in Federal Libraries Google Group. The idea for an online space was conceived after the successful Careers in Federal Libraries events that took place at ALA conferences. According to Nancy, the organizers “wanted a way to continue the discussion between library school students, job seekers, and federal librarians. Federal employees know that finding a federal job is sometimes a long and tricky process. We want to help those with an interest in serving as a Federal information professional.”

Groups are one of the many free services offered through Google. They allow users to join, participate in discussions, and post documents to one shared online space. The Careers in Federal Libraries Google Group acts as a collaboration tool that connects federal librarians to current library school students, recent grads, and those interested in pursuing a federal library career.

Collaborative online spaces facilitate open communication, knowledge sharing, and networking. Joyce Lee, a current student involved in the initiative notes that, “Social networking tools really help overcome geographic boundaries and enable people all over the country and world to communicate quickly and effectively. People expect to be able to find and share information online and communicate with others through discussion boards and social networking sites.”

Although this group is only in its beginning stages there are already over 100 members and 20 discussion threads. We are currently soliciting feedback and ideas in order to improve the user experience with additional online functionalities and programming of interest to the users.

Michelle Chronister, another student involved in the initiative, believes that a “mentorship program would be great for students who are interested in this field. Applying for federal jobs is a process that is unlike applying for most other library positions. It would be nice to talk with someone who has gone through this process and can provide insight into federal opportunities.”

Other suggestions include a series of interviews with federal librarians, in-person events and a shared online calendar function to support tracking events.

The Careers in Federal Libraries site not only provides a forum for members to suggest ideas but also serves as a place to ask for career advice from seasoned federal librarians.

A current online member who is a federal librarian provides the following practical advice, “Look at www.usajobs.gov to get all the information about an application under the 1410 series…. Also, have patience. Although they are trying to streamline the process for applying for any federal job, it can take months to hear back. It can depend on the agency, the clearance needed, and the person applying.”

A Marine Corps Station Librarian offers this encouragement to federal job seekers, “…the opportunity for travel and advancement is second to none. There are federal libraries worldwide and openings are continuously posted via the federal government’s jobsite. Europe, Asia, Pacific Region….these are just a few of the places a federal librarian can live and work.”

By harnessing the power of the social web and the interest of the library and information science community the Careers in Federal Libraries group may one day become the “go to” resource for federal job seekers and information professionals. If you are interested in joining the Careers in Federal Libraries group please go to the following address: http://groups.google.com/group/careers-in-federal-libraries.

Kim Lyall
Kim Lyall currently works for a government contractor that manages a scientific and technical information database.

Federal Libraries Spotlighted in ALA Annual 2010

Because the ALA Annual Conference will be in Washington DC in 2010, FAFLRT has begun working with the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) to highlight federal libraries in the DC area and focus conference attendees’ attention on these libraries’ significance to the Federal Government and the American Public. FAFLRT met with COL during their retreat in early December at the ALA Washington office. Some of the ideas discussed included:

**Federal library fact sheet** – a fact sheet about the role and importance of federal libraries to accompany the Librarians on The Hill day.

**Federal library tours** – tours of a few of the unique federal library collections in the DC area.

**Spotlight on federal libraries** – a display at the convention spotlighting federal libraries; videos, brochures, etc.

If you have thoughts or ideas about how to promote federal libraries at ALA 2010 or would like to participate in the planning process, please contact Richard Huffine, Chair of the FAFLRT publicity committee.
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FAFLRT sponsored a popular day of programming at this year’s Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA. Over 200 people attended programs on Sunday, June 29, 2008, which began with a session on the state of federal libraries, followed by an update from the “wikinomics” folks, and then a review of working for the U.S. Congress.

**What is the State of Federal Libraries?**

Janet Scheitle, FAFLRT President, started the “What is the State of Federal Libraries?” session by reviewing the outcomes from a series of Listening Sessions held for federal and military librarians. She then asked the approx. 75 attendees to voice their opinions about the current state of federal libraries. Responses were numerous and ranged from opinions about contracted work to the closure of EPA libraries. Some common themes were voiced, including the need to justify the library’s existence, prove the credibility of librarians, deal with changes and shrinking budgets, and work with senior management.

**Gov 2.0: Going further with the Wikinomics folks**

The first afternoon session, “Gov 2.0: Going further with the Wikinomics folks,” began with a general overview from Michele Springer of the Library of Congress about how government agencies are using social technologies. Springer highlighted how some agencies are using blogs, Twitter, social bookmarking, wikis, YouTube, and even Facebook.

Tiffany Smith, Project Lead for the Office of eDiplomacy, then discussed how the State Department is using social media for internal communication and managing knowledge. Diplopedia is the Department’s encyclopedic wiki that acts as a depository and drafting space for internal documents. It also makes sharing information easier and follows the motto Smith shared, “Work smarter, not harder.” Smith also reviewed the use of Second Life, YouTube, and Facebook for external communications, as well as blogging as a means of interacting with the public.

Next on the “wikinomics” agenda was a briefing on Intellipedia, an internal wiki, and the use of other social media tools by Sean Denney and Chris Rasmussen. They outlined a suite of government applications, including Intellipedia for aggregating information, blogs for communication, and social bookmarking, image and video galleries, and a document management system which all make communicating easier. They also reviewed the lessons learned from implementing such tools. The text of their presentation is available online: http://wikis.ala.org/annual2008/index.php/Briefing_on_Intellipedia_and_Enterprise_2.0.

Michelle Springer also ended the session by reviewing how the Library of Congress is using Flickr.com to expose photography collections. Flickr users tagged each photo and then the Library of Congress updated the catalog records with these tags to allow the non-scholar better access. The biggest hurdle the Library of Congress faced was applying licensing information to the photos in their collections. They worked with Flickr to create the statement “No known copyright restrictions.” After beginning the Flickr project, visits to the photos section of the Library of Congress website increased by 20% and the total downloads of Flickr items also rose a substantial amount for each photo set.

**Researching, Archiving, and Collecting for the U.S. Congress**

Robin Reeder, Archivist, Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, started the last session on “Researching, Archiving, and Collecting for the U.S. Congress” by explaining the process of a bill and showing examples of different types of documents. Reeder then reviewed their records management manual and discussed record guidance for individual members. Individual papers are the personal property of the Representative, so the Office of History and Preservation encourages members to deposit their papers and then tracks where they are located.

Erin Hromada, Publications Specialist, Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, then reviewed the publications her office produces. Such titles include Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, which is now only published electronically, and Women in Congress 1917-2006. In September 2008, Hromada’s office will release Black Americans in Congress 1870-2007 and they are working on future titles including Hispanic Americans in Congress and Asian Pacific Islander Americans in Congress. She also discussed the types and frequency of reference questions her office receives, approx. 710 last year, which include information on former members, assistance obtaining pieces of legislation, and “when was the last time…” questions (i.e. “When was the last time a woman from Pennsylvania was elected?”).

To end the session, Kimberly Ferguson, Reference Librarian from the U.S. Senate Library, discussed the services her library provides to Senators and Senate staff. The Senate Library was formed exclusively to provide assistant to Senators and didn’t begin to serve the public until 2002 when senate.gov was launched. The Library has ten reference librarians who meet information needs as quickly as possible, mostly by email. For comparison purposes, Ferguson reported that in the 1980s the Library received 86,000 telephone calls in a year and today they only receive 23,000.

Overall, Sunday’s programs provided a stimulating environment for discussion and the exchange of ideas within and between Federal and other librarians. FAFLRT thanks all who presented and participated.

**Award Nominations Due: April 13, 2009**

FAFLRT Achievement
FAFLRT Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship
FAFLRT Cicely Phippen Marks Scholarship
FAFLRT Distinguished Service

Please submit your nominations to: Chair: Shirley Loo, sloo@crs.loc.gov , (202-707-6785)  
Co-Chair: Maria Pisa, maria.pisa@ars.usda.gov , (301-504-5834)

For more information about the FAFLRT awards and how to apply, visit:
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/faflrt/initiatives/awards/index.cfm
ALA Anaheim 2008 Experience

While attending my last semester at Louisiana State University (LSU), an opportunity for a student to attend the 2008 American Library Association (ALA) Anaheim conference was posted on the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) listserv. All one had to do was complete the application and forms from the ALA website.

I did not know too much about all the roundtables within the ALA, other than that they were composed of a huge conglomeration of acronyms that were difficult to pronounce. But when I researched further about this roundtable with the acronym FAFLRT - the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table - I thought it would provide a great match for the career and educational experiences in my background.

The previous year, another LSU student had been selected as an awards recipient for this roundtable. I thought, “Wouldn’t it be terrific if an LSU student were selected this year, also?” In addition, this would also be my last opportunity as a student to compete for any awards or scholarships.

I was so excited when I was notified by the awards committee that I was selected as the conference attendee! I would have an incredible opportunity to meet and network with other library professionals in the federal arena, and develop lifelong professional relationships which could provide leads to federal library positions.

I began my Anaheim experience on June 27 by attending the afternoon segment of the “Careers in Federal Librarians”, sponsored by LSU. I was fortunate to attend the interviewing section of the session. Speakers, as well as participants, provided many excellent suggestions for individuals that are pursuing employment but focused specifically on the federal employment aspects. At the breaks, I had the opportunity to introduce myself to other federal librarians, and discuss their experience with employment as a federal librarian.

Immediately following “Careers in Federal Librarians” was the FAFLRT Awards ceremony. I was honored to meet Mr. Robert Schnare, Jr., Director of the Naval War College Library in Newport, Rhode Island, who was selected as the FAFLRT Distinguished Service Award recipient, “for his outstanding and sustained contributions to FAFLRT” (http://www.al.org/ala/faflrt/faflrtawards/).

On Sunday, June 29, FAFLRT scheduled back-to-back sessions during the entire day. Sessions were located in meeting rooms within close proximity to one another in the Anaheim Convention Center which made it very convenient for attendees. In fact, Sunday’s ALA Cognotes featured articles on FAFLRT sponsored sessions on Government 2.0 applications and providing information services to Members of Congress.

While in attendance at the FAFLRT Board and general membership meeting, I was able to view the members of the board and roundtable in action. Lively discussions among the board included policymaking, budget, and ideas for promoting the FAFLRT. The general meeting was well attended by FAFLRT members as well as individuals with an interest in learning more about this section.

During the “State of Federal Libraries” session, attendees shared their unique experiences at their federal libraries. Participants at this session included FAFLRT members, as well as individuals with an interest in the current status of federal libraries. I discovered by attending this session, is that librarians overall have very global issues, regardless of their organization or agency, whether it is a federal agency, or public, academic, or special library setting.

You can see the presentations from FAFLRT events at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference on Slideshare (http://www.slideshare.net/tag/faflrt).

One of the highlights of the Anaheim conference was the Camp Pendleton Tour, on Monday June 30, sponsored by FAFLRT. Participants included librarians from all over the US, as well as Europe and Australia. Many of the tour participants had very specific reasons for participating in this event, including myself. My brother had been stationed at Pendleton during his tour of duty. Many others on the tour also had family members stationed at this base. Other participants were interested in seeing the pristine landscape and flora of southern California or the architecture of the base.

The itinerary included a tour of the Camp Pendleton Main Library on the 250 square mile base. During the afternoon, we went on a tour of the World War II and Korea LVT Museum and the Assault Amphibious School, where we were provided a demonstration of the assault vehicles currently utilized in the Iraq War.

To close out the conference experience, I attended the FAFLRT information session on June 30, held in the Exhibits Hall at the ALA Member Pavilion. During this presentation, I was able to learn more about this section and the types of federal librarianship, including special, academic and medical libraries, which this round table supports.

I left the 2008 conference with a fresh perspective on the opportunities that would be available to me within the federal arena. This ALA experience broadened my knowledge of the world of federal librarianship opportunities. It provided me the opportunity of meeting and conversing with professionals in the federal arena, and to have a glimpse of their duties. This experience furthered my desire to be among the ranks of these information professionals.

Thanks to Nancy Faget, FAFLRT president and LSU SLIS graduate, for posting the scholarship announcement on the SLIS listserv. I would like to thank the FAFLRT awards committees for selecting me for this award. I want to thank Dr. Michelyn McKnight from the School of Library and Information Science at LSU for recommending me for this award. I would also like to thank Suzanne Martin, Fletcher Technical Community College Head Librarian, for encouraging me to pursue the MLIS, as well as scholarships that are available.

I encourage all library students to apply for the FAFLRT scholarships and awards while in pursuit of their degree. These opportunities will broaden their knowledge of the profession, and allow them to meet and network with other library professionals in the federal arena, and develop lifelong professional relationships during their careers.

By Cindi Blaschke
Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table Board: 2008-2009

President (2008-2009)
Nancy G. Faget
Library Services & Content Mgmt
U.S. Government Printing Office
732 N. Capitol St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20401
Phone: (202) 512-2290
Fax: (202) 512-2300
E-mail: nfaget@gpo.gov

Federal Director (Thu 6/2010)
Michele Worthington
Library Services & Content Management
U.S. Government Printing Office
732 North Capitol Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20401
Phone: (202) 512-2075
Fax: (202) 512-2300
E-mail: mworthington@gpo.gov

Past President
Janet M. Scheitel
Planning & Development/Library Services
U.S. Government Printing Office
732 N. Capitol St. NW
Washington DC 20401
Phone: (202) 512-0140
Fax: (202) 512-2300
Phone: (202) 512-2075
E-mail: jscheitle@gpo.gov

Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table Board: 2008-2009

Secretary (2008-2010)
Sally Bosken
Library Director
U.S. Naval Observatory
3450 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington DC 20392
Phone: 202-762-1463
Fax: 202-762-1083
E-mail: sally.bosken@usno.navy.mil

American Forces Director (Thu 6/2009)
Jannie Davis
U.S. Army Installation Management Command
Northeast Region MWR Division
5-B Northgate Road, Room 111
Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1038
Phone: 757-788-5264
Fax: 757-788-2750
E-mail: jannie.davis@us.army.mil

Treasurer (2007-2009)
Marie L. Nelson
Chief, AFFTC Technical Research Library
812 TSS/ENTL, Bldg 1400, Room 106
307 E. Popson Ave.
Edwards Air Force Base, CA
93524-6630
Phone: 661-277-3606 (DSN 527-3606)
Fax: 661-277-6451
E-mail: marie.nelson@edwards.af.mil

FALR Committee Chairs and Liaisons
ALA Legislation Assembly
Georgette Harris
FLICC/FLER/DCNK
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave SE
Adams Building, Room 217
Washington, DC 20540
Phone: (202) 707-4850
E-mail: gharris@loc.gov

Awards Committee
Shirley Loo, Chair
Library of Congress, CRS
625 A Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20033-1225
Phone: (202) 707-6785
Fax: (202) 707-7021
E-mail: shlo@srs.loc.gov

Maria G. Pisa, Co-Chair
Associate Director for Public Services
National Agricultural Library
6 Room 203
10301 Baltimore Avenue, Rm. 203
Beltsville, Maryland 20725
Phone: (301) 504-5834
Fax: (301) 504-6951
E-mail: mpisa@narl.usda.gov

Michele Worthington
ALA Council (through 6/2009)
Mary McNroy
University of Iowa
University Libraries
Washington & Madison Streets
Iowa City, IA 52242-1420
Phone: (319)335-6247
Email: Mary-McInroy@uiowa.edu

ALA Liaison
Rosalind (Ros) Reynolds, CPS
Assistant Director, Administration
American Library Association
1615 New Hampshire Ave NW
First Floor
Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone: (202) 628-8410 or
(800) 941-8478
Fax: (202) 628-8419
E-mail: reynolds@alawash.org

Archivist
Lucille M. Rosa
Head, Tech Services
Eccles Library
Naval War College
668 Cushing Road
Newport, RI 02841-1207
Phone: (401) 841-6492
DSN: 948-6492
E-mail: rosal@nwc.navy.mil

ALA Education Assembly
Helen Q. Sherman
Director, User Services
Defense Technical Information Center
8723 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 0944
Ft. Belvoir, VA. 22060-6218
Phone: (703) 767-8228
E-mail: hsherman@dtic.mil

FALR Committee Chairs and Liaisons
Membership Committee
Trent Reynolds
Library Manager
Station Library
MCAS New River
PO Box 4128
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Phone: (910) 449-5942
Fax: (910) 449-6037
E-mail: trentreynolds@usmc-mccs.org

ALA Planning & Budget Assembly
Marie L. Nelson
Chief, AFFTC Technical Research Library
812 TSS/ENTL, Bldg 1400, Room 106
307 E. Popson Ave.
Edwards Air Force Base, CA
93524-6630
Phone: 661-277-3606 (DSN 527-3606)
Fax: 661-277-6451
E-mail: marie.nelson@edwards.af.mil

ALA Round Table Coordinating Committee
Nancy G. Faget

Internet/Web Enhancement Committee
James King
Naval Research Laboratory Library
4555 Overlook Ave, Code 5596
Washington, DC 20375-5334
Phone: (202) 767-2357
Fax: (202) 767-3352
E-mail: jamesk@library.nrl.navy.mil

Alba Scott
Technical Information Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
US Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1825
Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: 916-978-5593
E-mail: ascott@mp.usbr.gov

Booth Coordinator
Eileen Welsh
USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection
4700 River Road, Unit 6
Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone: (301) 734-5240
Fax: (301) 734-8391
E-mail: Eileen.L.Welch@usda.gov

FLICC Liaison
Helen Q. Sherman
Bylaws and Constitution
Fran Perros
RALP Bench Library
U.S. Dept of State
Room 3239
Washington, D.C. 20520
Phone: (202) 647-2196
Fax: (202) 647-0203
E-mail: perrosf@state.gov

Editor, Federal Librarian
Jane T. Sessa
Dept. of Commerce Law Library
Rm. 1894
14th & Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520
Phone: (202) 428-8160 (w)
Fax: (202) 428-0221
E-mail: jsessa@doc.gov

Annual Conference
Nancy G. Faget
FALR Committee on Legislation
Richard Huffman
National Library Coordinator
U.S. Geological Survey (MS 159)
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
Phone: (703) 647-8182
Fax: (703) 647-0203
E-mail: rhuffman@usgs.gov