

BIBLIO-NOTES

ACRL Literatures in English Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, LES members!

I hope your fall semester is going well. We seem to be busier than ever on my campus, very nearly back to pre-pandemic levels of teaching, consultations, and student engagement. But the stresses of living through a pandemic and navigating a new normal remain. Burnout is a real concern and something I've been talking about with each of the members on my team. I hope each of you are finding ways to relax and rejuvenate – whether by reading a good book, taking a walk, spending time with loved ones, or some other favorite activity. Through it all, the good work of LES continues, and there is much to celebrate. For the second year in a row, LES presented a program at ALA Annual. The program proposal process is competitive, so we were delighted to be chosen again this year. This year's program, *Interdisciplinarity and Humanities Librarianship: Are Librarians (and Libraries) Keeping Pace, and What's Next?* was offered during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago and focused on the increasing rise of interdisciplinary studies in the humanities and how well libraries and librarians are, or are not, adapting. The panel featured Dylan Ruediger, Program Manager for the Research Enterprise at Ithaca S + R; Dr. Trishula Patel, Assistant Professor of African/African Diaspora History at the University of Denver; and Glenda Insua, Librarian for English, Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics at the University of Illinois Chicago, and was moderated by LES Conference Planning Committee member Candice Dahl. During a lively discussion, the panelists responded to the following prompts:

- Please share an example of what libraries or librarians are currently doing well to support interdisciplinary humanities scholars.
- What is the research telling us about the practices and needs of interdisciplinary scholars, and to what extent are these results currently shaping the actions of librarians and services of libraries?
- What are the most significant barriers to supporting interdisciplinary researchers in academic libraries, and what would you like to change first?

IN THIS ISSUE :

Notes from the Chair

Leslie Madden – p. 1-2

Editor's Introduction

Hugh Burkhart – p.3

Digitized Historical Periodicals

Jenny Dale – p.4

ACRL LES Collections Group Report

Alexis Pavenick
& Erin Durham Wright – p.4

New Books/ Upcoming Conference – p.5



Leslie Madden

- Where do you think library support for interdisciplinary researchers is heading in the future, or where would you like it to go?

Despite an early Monday morning time slot, the audience of approximately 75 was engaged, asked interesting questions, and a good number of attendees stayed afterwards to continue the discussion. Also during the ALA Annual Conference, the LES Executive Committee approved the formation of the new standing JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee to further the work of the section's 2021 Anti-Racist Action Plan. The committee will identify, advocate for, and implement actions related to issues of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as belonging and accessibility in literatures in English librarianship and LES, including: promoting the recruitment, advancement, engagement, and retention of underrepresented groups; making sure that strategies from the section's Anti-Racist Action Plan are implemented; communicating about JEDI work within the section and other LES committees; and advising the LES Executive Committee on programming, practices, and actions in support of these efforts (JEDI Committee Charge). Membership appointments and the work of the committee will begin in early 2024. My thanks to Glenda Insua, who led the working group, and the members who drafted the charge for this important committee.

Over the past year, the LES Planning Committee, led by Eric Jeitner, has been hard at work on a new LES Membership Handbook. The handbook is a resource for new LES members and leadership and offers best practices for conducting the work of the section. Moving forward, the handbook will be shared with new LES members and will be used for onboarding new LES officers, committee chairs, editors, and discussion conveners. Thank you to the committee for this excellent resource!

In September, LES Past-Chair, Kristina DeVoe, offered the first LES Leadership Orientation. Topics included section structure and documentation, how to navigate ALA Connect, and how to be an effective committee chair. The session was intended to demystify the work of the section and bolster confidence. Attendees agreed that the session was worthwhile, and I intend to offer it again next year. Even as someone who has served in a variety of LES positions over the years, I learned a lot!

In closing, I offer my thanks to each of you who volunteer your time and effort to the work of LES. I appreciate all that you do. If you are not yet involved, please know that this is a welcoming section and we would love to have you join us. There are many opportunities for participation in LES. Please let me know if you have any questions about the section and how to participate.

All my best,
Leslie Madden

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Dear LES Members,

I would like to start by echoing new LES Chair, Leslie Madden, in saying that this seems to be an especially busy semester for me. I am sure it has been for you as well. Now that we appear to be truly past navigating the pandemic, the usual demands of campus life have returned, and then some! Given the demands we all have in our regular duties, it is amazing to read of the accomplishment of our LES members as detailed in Leslie's "Notes from the Chair."

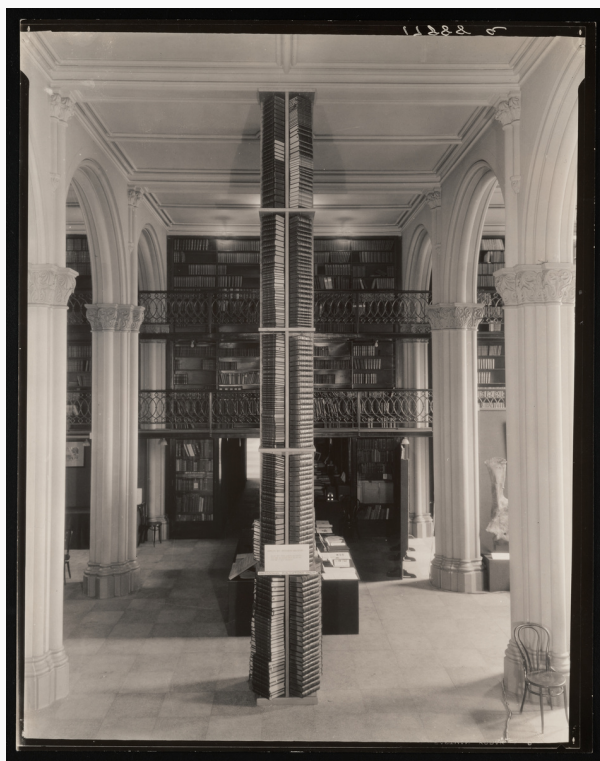
In this fall's issue, you can also read Jenny Dale's piece about digitized historical periodicals. Like many of you do, I teach students who have projects requiring primary source materials, especially 19th century periodicals. After reading Jenny's article, I will add the Marist College LibGuide collecting periodicals in the public domain to my list of go-to resources.

In closing, I encourage you to save the dates of April 29-30, 2024, when Copley Library – the university library of my home institution, the University of San Diego – will be hosting its 10th Digital Initiatives Symposium. The symposium focuses on the digital aspects of the information ecosystem, covering a range of topics, from copyright, open access, and digital repositories to special collections and digital humanities projects. I invite you to browse the contents of programs from previous symposiums here: <https://digital.sandiego.edu/symposium/>

I hope you enjoy reading the Fall issue of Biblio-Notes. As always, I encourage you to submit articles, news items, and announcements that highlight the important work we do.

Best,

Hugh Burkhart



Conference on the Future of the Smithsonian,
Smithsonian Library Exhibit, 1927

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 95, Box 41, Folder 09, Image No.
SIA_000095_B41_F09_037

Member News

Have you landed a new position? Are you transitioning to retirement? Have you received a grant or published something? We want to hear from you! Send your updates to biblionotes@gmail.com for the next newsletter.

DIGITIZED HISTORICAL PERIODICALS: AN OPEN ACCESS RESOURCE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

by Jenny Dale, Professor and Head of Research, Outreach, and Instruction, UNC Greensboro University Libraries

As a liaison librarian, I try to pay attention to trends in the types of research assignments that teaching faculty at my institution are assigning. One of my favorite trends in recent years has been an increased focus on the use of digitized historical periodicals in English assignments. I have worked with both undergraduate and graduate courses covering a variety of literatures in English spanning the 18th to the early 20th centuries. Historical periodicals offer students unique socio-historical insights into a time period. These sources can provide context about how language was being used in a particular time period and location, contemporary critical reception of a literary work, how major ideas were discussed and debated, and more. Students can also, in some cases, find primary literary texts originally published in periodicals.

At my institution, we are fortunate to subscribe to several powerful databases that provide access to digitized historical periodicals from the United States and the British empire, but with dwindling budgets and limitations on access for non-university patrons, I went searching for open access alternatives. I couldn't believe my luck when my colleague shared this LibGuide from Marist College: <https://libguides.marist.edu/19thcentperiodicals>. This incredibly rich resource collects digitized 19th century periodicals that are in the public domain and available without a subscription or paywall. Organized by date, place of publication, and subject, this guide offers many entry points to digitized historical periodicals. I've been recommending it to students, faculty, and library colleagues ever since I found it, and I hope that you, my LES colleagues, find it useful as well!

ACRL LES COLLECTIONS GROUP REPORT

by Alexis Pavenick, Associate Librarian for Literatures and Languages, CSU Long Beach;
and Erin Durham Wright, Reference and Instruction Librarian, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The LES Collections Discussion Group held two discussions that took place virtually over zoom this past year: one before ALA LibLearnX on January 24, 2023, and one before ALA Annual on June 20, 2023.

The collection discussions included the following topics: outreach, adding new editions of classic works, digital humanities, interlibrary loan, small press purchases, and student suggestions. Participants shared recommendations, suggestions, and ideas via chat and discussion during the sessions.

Detailed minutes of the discussions can be found through these links:

Midwinter: <https://tinyurl.com/LEScollectionsJan2023>

Annual: <https://tinyurl.com/LEScollectionsJun2023>

NEW BOOKS



ACRL books provide timely and practical advice and thought-provoking research for academic library workers worldwide. Some recent titles:

- [Practicing Privacy Literacy in Academic Libraries: Theories, Methods, and Cases](#)
- [Creators in the Academic Library: Collections & Spaces and Instruction & Outreach](#)
- [The Critical Librarianship and Pedagogy Symposium: Reflections, Revisions, and New Works](#)
- [Instructional Identities and Information Literacy, 3 Volume Set](#)
- [Managing Crises in the Academic Library: Past, Present, and Future](#)

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UPCOMING CONFERENCE



RBMS 2024, Momentum, June 25 - 28, 2024, Hilton Orange County, Costa Mesa CA

Join us at RBMS 2024 for an immersive exploration of how we can leverage the invaluable lessons, experiences, and progress of the past three years to propel our profession towards greater equity, diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement. This conference will delve into critical questions: How do we reignite and sustain vital initiatives in both physical and virtual realms? How can we maintain momentum in a landscape where change often comes in small steps? Discover the keys to fostering and sustaining momentum in collaborative partnerships. The call for proposals will be announced this fall and registration will open in the spring. See [rbms.info](#) for details.