



# Biblio-Notes

Issued by the Literatures in English Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association

#58 Fall 2011

ISSN 1076-8947

## Notes from the Chair



(Photograph provided by Faye Christenberry)

Greetings LES Members:

As the new academic year begins and I am frantically arranging instruction sessions, research consultations, and managing all the other activities involved in being an English Studies Librarian, I welcome the opportunity to step back, take a sip of my double-shot espresso, and contemplate what it means to be part of the LES community. For me and many others, LES provides a unique support network that has proven invaluable when struggling with difficult reference questions, searching for new ways to market services to faculty, or in need of advice on challenging collection management issues. As a group, we have numerous options

for communicating with each other: LES-L; the LES Blog; Facebook; and our section's Wiki. In addition, we have the old-fashioned method of face-to-face contact at ALA conferences.

This year marks a new era for LES: we will hold all virtual meetings for ALA Midwinter! This change creates new opportunities for the LES membership. As many of our institutions' budgets continue to decline, travelling to both ALA Annual and Midwinter is no longer a viable option. Virtual meetings will allow more of our 600 members to become involved in the section's activities. If you've been thinking about volunteering to serve on a committee or chair a discussion group but could not commit to attending two conferences, now is the time to take action! Feel free to contact me or Melissa Van Vuuren, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, if you are interested or have any questions. You can learn more about what's going on by reading meeting minutes from New Orleans on the LES Wiki. The notes below will provide an overview of the many projects in which LES committees are involved.

The Membership Committee (Jaena Alabi, Chair) is in the process of contacting members to gather current information for the Directory of LES Literature Librarians. The directory will be updated bi-annually and published in PDF on the section's website, as well as posted on the LES Wiki. In other Membership news, Liorah Golomb will take over leadership of the Job

Shadowing program. This program provides an opportunity for potential librarians to learn more about the field of librarianship and the day-to-day work of a librarian. If you are interested in volunteering to mentor a student, please complete the form on the LES website: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/les/lesmentoringform.cfm>.

The Nominating 2012 Committee (David Oberhelman, Chair) has successfully developed a slate of outstanding candidates to run for the positions of LES Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Please remember to vote for your favorite contenders next spring!

The Planning Committee (Frank Gravier, Chair) updated the LES Governance Procedures to reflect changes made by the Executive Committee, including the creation of the Virtual Participation Committee. Next, members of Planning will tackle the Research Competency Guidelines and hope to have a draft ready for virtual Midwinter 2012. A final version should be available for approval at ALA Annual 2012 in Anaheim.

The work of the Promotional Video Task Force is complete. Thanks to the efforts of Co-chairs Millie Jackson and Laura Braunstein, a video highlighting the many benefits of librarian-teaching faculty collaboration is now ready for prime time. Faculty from Dartmouth, Purchase, University of Alabama Birmingham, and Oklahoma State discuss how working with literature librarians has enhanced their teaching and research. The promotional video is available to view via the ACRL YouTube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icxmYxHyDxw>) and on the LES website. In addition, the video is featured in the September 21 edition of *ACRL Insider*:

<http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/archives/3967>.

The Publications Committee (Christine Ruotolo, Chair) has been busy preparing for the migration of the LES website from Collage to Drupal. The new system will be easier to update, allow multiple editors, and more dynamic content. We are grateful to Christine for agreeing to serve one more year as Website Editor, ensuring a smooth migration process this fall. In addition to the website update, Blake Landor is working to convert entries in the "Bibliography: Studies of Interest to Literatures in English Librarians" to Zotero. Finally, I'm pleased to welcome two new appointments to Publications positions: John Glover, *Biblio-Notes* Editor; and Aaron McCullough, Blog Moderator. Thanks for your willingness to serve LES!

Based on the recommendation of the Virtual Participation Committee, LES Executive approved funds to purchase a one-year subscription to WebEx. Since then, members of Virtual Participation have created a timeline to assist chairs in scheduling meetings, gathered information on possible platforms to use, and will soon have a "Best Practices" document that will provide tips on holding successful virtual meetings. Many thanks to David Oberhelman (Chair) and all the members of the committee for preparing us for our first virtual Midwinter meeting.

The Reference (Jaena Alabi, Chair) and Collections (Kristina De Voe and Michaelyn Burnette, Co-chairs) Discussion Groups met in a combined time-slot this year for the first time. Approximately 30 people attended Sunday's session in New Orleans to discuss topics such as patron-driven acquisitions and the role of embedded librarians. Everyone felt the

combined discussion group option worked well, so we will discuss the option of making this change permanent.

Saturday's meeting of the New Members Discussion Group (Harriett Green and Mary Thill, Co-chairs) featured a lively discussion of outreach to faculty, partnering with faculty on research projects, various issues relating to collection management, and other topics of interest to literature librarians.

In other news, Sarah Wenzel reported on activities completed during her term as the first liaison from LES and WESS to MLA, including sessions she attended at the MLA Convention in Los Angeles. For more information on Sarah's activities, see her article in this issue of *Biblio-Notes*. Also, Liorah Golomb reported that LES is co-sponsoring a 2012 ALA Emerging Leader with WESS. Four jurors (2 each from LES and WESS) have reviewed applications and recently submitted their selection to ACRL. An announcement on the person chosen to fill this important position will be forthcoming.

Finally, looking ahead to ALA Annual 2012, I am pleased to announce that LES is organizing a both a preconference workshop and a major program, each focusing on issues that impact our work as literature librarians. Angela Courtney, Melissa Van Vuuren, and Harriett Green are planning a day-long Digital Humanities preconference that will include a panel discussion and a hands-on tool workshop for participants. More information on "Digital Humanities in Theory and Practice: Tools and Methods for Librarians," will be forthcoming on the ALA website. In addition to the preconference workshop, the LES Conference Program Planning Committee (Shawn Martin, Chair) is putting together a panel of expert speakers on the topic of Copyright and New

Media. Co-sponsors of the program with LES include the ACRL Copyright Committee and the Scholarly Communication Committee. I've taken the liberty of copying directly from the committee's program proposal: "As libraries continue to acquire digital content (books, films, websites, and other media), they face an increasing demand both to adhere to relevant intellectual property laws, and to open up materials for teaching and research purposes. This session will feature a panel of professors, lawyers, and librarians to discuss how librarians can assert fair use rights and understand the complex range of issues concerning intellectual property rights over new media materials." The first confirmed panelist is Peter Decherney (Associate Professor of Cinema Studies and English at the University of Pennsylvania), who worked on Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) exemptions for film studies. Both the preconference workshop and the program promise to be well-attended events. I hope everyone can make it to Anaheim to attend one or both!

Sigh—my coffee is gone, and I have just a few minutes before my next appointment. I'd like to conclude with a hearty "thanks!" to everyone who participated in LES activities over the last year. I'm looking forward to hearing from you online for our first virtual Midwinter, and seeing you in person for ALA Annual in Anaheim.

Faye Christenberry  
LES Chair, 2011-2012



## ACRL Liaison to the MLA, or One Can Never Wear Enough Black

By Sarah Wenzel

As the first official liaison to the MLA from ACRL, I wasn't quite sure what to expect at the 126 MLA Annual Convention in Los Angeles this past January. With a warm reception from the MLA International Bibliography staff, and Jim Kelly having prepared the way with a great program to kick off the newly formed Libraries and Research in Languages and Literatures Discussion Group, the omens were good.

In keeping with my liaison role, I chose to attend sessions that seemed to be particularly relevant to librarians or ACRL. You may perceive a persistent theme in their titles:

"The Brave New World of Scholarly Publishing"

"E-Books as Bibliographical Objects"

"Scholarly Publishing in an Age of Translingual and Transcultural Competence"

"The History and Future of the Digital Humanities"

"Textual Scholarship and New Media"

"Will Publications Perish? The Paradigm Shift in Scholarly Communication"

"Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) and the Scholarly Edition : Bringing Architectures of the Book into the Digital Age"

The program put together by our esteemed Jim Kelly, "Literary Research in/and Digital Humanities," fit nicely into the overall themes of "whither scholarship?", "whither publishing?", and "whither the digital humanities?" At the same time, it celebrated the possibilities open to literary research thanks to the digital.

The inaugural business meeting of the Discussion Group was off to a good start with Jim at the helm. The challenge was to organize an Executive Committee, handicapped by the fact that almost none of those present had previously done this within the MLA structure (many thanks go to Bill Thompson). The end result, following some changes post-Convention, was a Committee formed of Christina Czajkoski, Bob Kieft, David Oberhelman, Dawn Childress, and Bill Thompson, with the ACRL-MLA liaison as *ex-officio*.

All in all, as regards the sessions, what I primarily learned is that there's a lack of understanding about how libraries and scholars and presses fit together in the scholarly publishing relationship. I also found that while libraries are sometimes expected to fulfill the role of data and project archiving, there often isn't a realization of the costs involved and the choices that need to be made. Finally, there is some confusion over archiving organizations, library digital archives, and aggregators—one presenter assured the audience quite confidently that the contents of the online journal she edited were archived because they are in EBSCO.

In Susanne Woods' presentation I learned about an effort of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), MLA, and ACRL, supported by a Mellon Foundation grant, to allow students, faculty, and libraries to work together in promoting "information fluency in the literature disciplines." I was struck by the fact that I hadn't previously heard about this project, nor had LES been asked to lend subject expertise in literature to the project. I brought this up at the ACRL Liaisons meeting, and we'll try to work toward more communication. Apparently the

CIC had thought that LES and WESS members are found only at large research universities and thus wouldn't have anything to contribute to a program for liberal arts colleges.

Bob Kieft has done yeoman's work to organize a stellar program for the upcoming Convention (if you'll be in Seattle, you must come!):

"Preservation Is (Not) Just Another Word for Nothing Left to Lose." In conjunction with Alan Rauch of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals, we're also putting on "Learned Journals and Libraries: Knowledge Economies and Economics of Knowledge." The latter is officially included in Russell Berman's presidential theme of "Language, Literature, Learning."

All in all, this has been a busy year as liaison, but one in which I think we've begun to realize LES goals for the position. The 2012 Convention programs will be exciting; I hope to see many 'non-library' faces there. And next year I'll know that the Convention dress code is black and black alone, and I shan't bring my aubergine blazer.

Sarah Wenzel  
Bibliographer for Literatures of Europe &  
the Americas  
University of Chicago  
[sgwenzel@uchicago.edu](mailto:sgwenzel@uchicago.edu)



## **Needle in a Haystack: Finding Something to Read in an Academic Library**

by Laura Braunstein and John Glover

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Hey Laura,

Remember the talk we had about the leisure reading workshops we've each run in past? My turnout this time around, on the second day of classes at VCU, was seven people. That included five students, one staff member, and one Friend of the Library. It seemed relatively well received, and I was asked by a colleague to consider offering it again for specialized audiences—Friends of the Library, graduating seniors, etc. It's fun and easy to prepare, so I'll probably take her up on it.

Attendees really got excited about Fiction Connection, the reader's advisory database that Bowker provides free of charge for Books in Print subscribers. Don't know if that would be useful at Dartmouth or fit your patrons' needs, but here's more info:

<http://www.bowker.com/index.php/bowker-brands/fiction-connection>. The browsing tools caught attendees' attention, as did the "Find Similar" button. It would be nice if it were connected to our catalog, but even without that, it's a neat tool.

I ran the same workshop last winter for a small but enthusiastic group. No big changes since then, other than that this time I led off with a spiel about "Finding Books at VCU," instead of starting with the whole world of fiction. I gave them a handout that blends VCU-centric

resources and free online tools. I'd be curious to hear about your experiences with leisure reading outreach at some point; it's a small but enjoyable part of my job, and I've wound up doing more of it than I ever expected.

Cheers,  
JG

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Hi John,

Here's my experience: A few years ago our library's Staff Development Committee put out a call for programming suggestions. I suggested that we (and "we" meaning "me") should do a workshop called "What Should I Read Next?"

When I held the workshop I had all sorts of activities planned, and a list of web resources (mostly readers' advisory suggestion generators). About 12 people from the Library and Computing attended the workshop. We began by going around the room, introducing ourselves and talking about what interesting books we had read most recently or were planning to read. This turned out to be the best part! I wrote down everyone's books and then emailed the list to the group. We did the workshop once more internally to the Library and Computing, and then talked to the College's Human Resources department about offering it to the whole campus (for staff development). "What Should I Read Next" was held once a month for about four months, with the last one in December 2009, with a theme of "What Book Should I Give Next?" After that—diminishing returns. I enjoyed facilitating the discussion, and I had some "groupies" (friends of mine mostly) who attended every workshop, but without new people, it played itself out, and

now I just go out for coffee with the friends who liked attending.

The dorms and Greek houses here are required to do a certain number of hours of "academic programming" each term, and I've visited some of them to provide a kind of readers' advisory (mostly with Alpha Theta, the coed fraternity with all the gamers and sci-fi fans—these are the kids who build a snow Cthulhu every winter). I haven't considered reaching out to the Friends of the Library—mostly because there's an excellent public library in Hanover that fulfills that function, and more reading groups than you can shake a Nook at. It's a very literate community—I think people already have their sources. But I'm always happy to suggest books when asked!

We do have Fiction Connection as part of Books in Print—I just haven't done anything to highlight it or otherwise encourage discovery. I have thought about adding a "What Should I Read Next?" tab to my English LibGuide.

LRB

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Hi Laura,

Snowthulhu! I love it. Also, very interesting to hear about the ways that your work has been connected with the institutional outreach/programming objectives. VCU's student population is drawn largely from Virginia, and many of our folks are first-generation college students. Some of them arrive with little exposure to libraries, or not having cultivated the habit of reading. For some, I'm the first librarian who's ever recommended a book to them. It's been an interesting part of my work; it fell to me because of my work with the humanities, but

very often I'm making recommendations to non-humanities students who just want something to read. Students from the English department seem to make a beeline to the stacks on their own hook. Have you noticed anything similar about who comes to you for recommendations?

I tend to think about all of this as "leisure reading outreach," and this program or that blog, or the like, but I've had the same experience as you with book recommendations. Students, staff, and faculty stop by my office or e-mail just to see if I have a book to recommend, or they'll ask me if I can suggest a title they might like in a given genre. So, while I think programmatically, very often it's people wanting what amounts to hand-crafted recommendations—much like what I've heard from independent booksellers. Richmond has a reasonable number of book groups, as well as multiple library systems with reciprocal borrowing privileges.

JG

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Hi John,

I think, despite institutional differences, we have had similar experiences—there's something about the "English Librarian" that makes people assume that we are a fount of reading suggestions. Or that we've read every book, or that we have opinions about every book—or at least that we've read reviews of many books, which is what I come closest to!

Yes, I have also noticed that the English majors tend to seek out leisure reading on their own, and the ones who come to me tend to be in other fields and sometimes don't know what to

look for beyond the old favorites of their childhoods. I get a glimpse into students' tastes every spring, with our "Student Library Service Bookplate Program"—each graduating student who has worked for the library gets to select a book for the collections. We have no restrictions—some students select academic books, many select DVDs, but since the only criteria are "meaningful to you" and "not already held by the library," we tend to get a lot of children's books and inspirational works.

Here's the website:

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/ris/bookplate.html>

I wonder how many of the bookplate selections in turn inspire leisure reading among future students...

There just happens to be an academic article about leisure reading in this month's *C&RL*—I think I tried to email it to you separately, let me know if you can't access it:

<http://crl.acrl.org/content/72/5/474.abstract>

[Full disclosure: *Biblio-Notes* editor John is mentioned in this article. —Ed.]

Enough for now!

LRB

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*Do you point readers toward particular leisure reading resources? Does your library have a popular fiction section that sees heavy use? What do your patrons want to read for pleasure, and has this had any effect on your purchasing? Please share your stories on LES-L! Let's continue the conversation.*

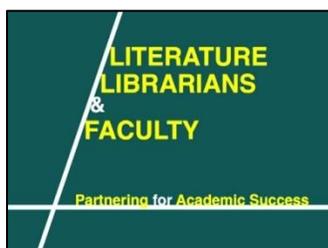
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Laura Braunstein  
English Language and Literature Librarian  
Dartmouth College  
[lrb@dartmouth.edu](mailto:lrb@dartmouth.edu)

John Glover  
Reference Librarian for the Humanities  
and Reference Collection Coordinator  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
[jglover2@vcu.edu](mailto:jglover2@vcu.edu)



## LES Promotional Video



Have you seen our new video? "Literature Librarians and Faculty Partnering for Academic Success Video"

features professors from four different institutions talking about the value they see in working with literature librarians. You can send this video to faculty, administrators, and students to demonstrate the value of working with literature librarians. The video was made possible through the efforts of the Promotional Video Task Force, including Co-chairs Laura Braunstein and Mildred Jackson, George Germek, Liorah Golomb, Heather Martin, David Oberhelman, Rebecca Oling, editor Christina Cortland, and many others. The video is available on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icxmYxHyDxw>.

## Recent Member Publications

Julianne Buchsbaum's third book of poems, *With Venom and Wonder*, was chosen by Lucie Brock-Broido as a National Poetry Series winner this year. The book will be published by Penguin Books. A *Poets & Writers* announcement was posted September 28th: [http://www.pw.org/content/national\\_poetry\\_series\\_winners\\_span\\_the\\_states](http://www.pw.org/content/national_poetry_series_winners_span_the_states).

Timothy Hackman's article, "A Blues Song Just for Fighters: The Legend of Sonny Liston," was published in the most recent issue (27:2) of *Aethlon: The Journal of Sport Literature* (p. 1-22). The article examines reflections of heavyweight boxing champion Charles "Sonny" Liston in biography, literature, and song to consider him as an unlikely folk hero. It is available online via UM's Digital Repository at <http://hdl.handle.net/1903/11856>.

Aaron McCullough's fourth book of poems, *No Grave Can Hold My Body Down*, was just released (Sept. 30) from Ahsahta Press. It can be purchased directly from the press, from [spdbooks.org](http://spdbooks.org), and from Amazon.com.



### Submit a proposal for ACRL 2013

The ACRL 2013 Conference committee invites you to submit a proposal for ACRL 2013: *Imagine, Innovate, Inspire*. The conference, to be held in Indianapolis, April 10-13, 2013, will

feature the best and brightest ideas in academic librarianship. Imagine, innovate, and inspire your colleagues and others in the higher education community with proposals that explore the most dynamic and challenging issues and ideas facing academic and research librarians today.

### **Session formats**

Proposals are sought for a variety of formats including contributed papers, cyber zed shed presentations, panel sessions, preconferences, virtual conference webcasts, workshops, poster sessions, and roundtable discussions. [Session format descriptions are online.](#)

### **How to submit**

Proposals must be submitted via the Program Proposal Form, available online at [www.acrl.org/acrlconference](http://www.acrl.org/acrlconference) (click "Program").

### **Deadlines**

**May 11, 2012** –Proposals due for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences

**November 9, 2012** - Proposals due for cyber zed shed presentations, poster sessions, roundtable discussions, and virtual conference Webcasts

Complete details about the conference are online at [www.acrl.org/acrlconference](http://www.acrl.org/acrlconference).

Questions about the Call for Participation or ACRL 2013 should be directed Margot Conahan at (312) 280-2522 or e-mail [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org).

## **53rd Annual RBMS Preconference**

Westin San Diego  
June 19 – 22, 2012

This year's theme is FUTURES! The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual RBMS Preconference will explore a multiplicity of futures for the rare book, manuscript, and special collections community. How are special collections materials being discovered and used today? How will they be discovered and used tomorrow? Who will our users be, and what will they need? What forms will special collections materials take? Join us to learn, discuss, share, and contemplate. Now is the time to shape and prepare, because the future is now. Information forthcoming at <http://www.rbms.info/conferences/>

## **Editorial information**

*Biblio-Notes* is a biannual electronic publication of the Literatures in English section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. To submit articles, photos, announcements or news items, please contact the newsletter editor, John Glover, at [jglover2@vcu.edu](mailto:jglover2@vcu.edu).

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ACRL  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(800) 545-2433, ext. 2523  
[www.acrl.org](http://www.acrl.org)