



Biblio-Notes

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Notes from the Chair

Dear LES Members,

I hope your fall semester has been productive without too much stress (sometimes easier said than done). LES has also been productive and has another exciting year ahead. I am so happy to be serving as your chair during this time.

We had an excellent program at ALA Annual this year. We co-sponsored the “Literary Texts and the Library in the Digital Age: New Collaborations for European and American Studies” panel along with WESS and SEES. Speakers included Paula Kaufman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Glen Worthey (Stanford University). About 200 people attended this program. I know I found it very beneficial to my own efforts to strengthen collaborations at my institution. Our discussion groups were also a great success. Our General Membership forum was especially interesting this year. We had an LES Authors Panel, where members could get advice from other members who have experience publishing articles and books.

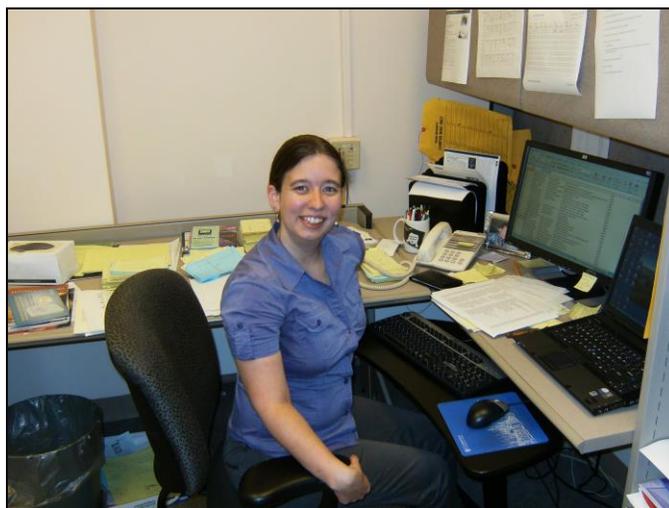


Photo provided by Arianne Hartsell-Gundy

Looking ahead, we will be holding our Midwinter meetings and discussion groups virtually again this year. Last year our Virtual Participation Committee performed a survey of members to see how you all felt about these all-virtual meetings. The majority of you appreciate this format since it gives you the chance to be active in our section while not putting a large strain on your travel budgets. Some of you did express some concerns about the valuable connections that can be made when we meet face-to-face, which is a very understandable. We will have an informal social for those of us who will be at Midwinter, and we are investigating other kinds of meet-ups at other conferences and maybe even regionally. Thanks to the Virtual Participation Committee for their hard work on this survey! Right now our committee chairs and discussion group leaders are working on scheduling our virtual meetings. We should have the dates for those meetings very soon. At that time we will post information about these meetings on LES-L, ALA Connect, and our other social media platforms. If you have any questions, just let me know.

Speaking of surveys, we also had a Publications Survey last year. This survey discovered that most of you are satisfied with the newsletter format that you are reading right now. People also really appreciate our listserv and find it to be a valuable way to exchange information and ideas. We will be keeping these modes of

communication, but we are also expanding our ways of communicating. Thanks to John Glover, Laura Braunstein, and Ruth Boeder for their work on this survey. Our new Social Media Coordinator, Amanda Binder, has been hard at work expanding the ways we can connect. Please visit our blog, our Facebook page, and our Twitter feed. It has been especially fun to see some of the interesting articles and pictures that have been posted on our Facebook page. As far as I know, no cat pictures yet, but there have been plenty of links to articles about such diverse topics as digital poetry, researching in the archives, and Legos.

We have multiple ways for you to get involved this year with our section. Our mentorship program is up and running. If you are new to the profession, you can sign up to receive a mentor. We are also looking for members willing to serve as mentors. We know trying to match people according to location can be difficult, so we encourage people who are paired up to investigate online communication like Google Hangout and Skype. You can also try to arrange potential meetings at conferences. The form can be found here:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/lesmentors>

We also have two new projects that came out of last year's Collections Discussion Group. The first project centers around updating the LES Statement on Primary Materials. This statement hasn't been updated since 1997. Now seems like a good time to investigate this to examine this statement and make changes to bring it in line with the digital environment. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please contact Kathy Johnson (kjohnson6@unl.edu). The other project aims to create a weeding guideline for literature librarians. I think most literature librarians cringe at the word "weeding," but space constraints make it a real concern for many of us, and some guidelines might help us all tackle this activity with more confidence. If you are interested in joining this task force, please contact Robin Imhof (rimhof@pacific.edu).

We will be once again looking for volunteers for our various committees. Please consider becoming a volunteer to help us guide the work of our section. Laura Taddeo, our current Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, will be sending out more information in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for that e-mail. The 2014 Nominating Committee has created another excellent slate of candidates for the upcoming LES election. Positions include LES Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Please make sure to vote in next year's ACRL election. Thanks to Faye Christenberry, the committee chair, and the rest of the Nomination Committee.

Some of our other efforts include co-sponsoring an ALA Emerging Leader this year with the WESS and SEES sections. Former Emerging Leader Amanda Dinscore is serving on the selection committee. Look for an announcement about who we will be sponsoring in the coming months. We are also still co-sponsoring a representative to the Modern Language Association, along with WESS. Sarah Wenzel has been ably serving in this role by attending the MLA conferences and representing us.

As I wrap up this note, I just want to say thanks to all our volunteers, committee chairs, and discussion group leaders. You all make our section a success.

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Going Virtual: Reflections on Chairing the Virtual Participation Committee

by David D. Oberhelman

For the last few years, LES has been exploring new opportunities for members to participate and become involved in the section by holding virtual online meetings instead of face-to-face meetings at ALA Midwinters. We had received feedback from members about the cost and difficulties of traveling to two national ALA conferences a year in order to serve on LES committees or participate in the membership forum or the various discussion groups, so in 2010 the then-chair Angela Courtney created a Virtual Participation Task Force charged with looking for ways LES could transition to a virtual Midwinter to ease the travel burden on its members while still holding in-person meetings at summer ALA Annual Conferences.

I was honored to be asked to chair this task force to look at different free and fee-based platforms for online meetings and to draft guidelines for how LES committees and discussion groups could meet virtually while still abiding by the open meetings requirements. Other ACRL sections and ALA units had already implemented virtual meeting procedures, so we looked at those and made guidelines that would work for LES. We finally developed some recommendations for virtual Midwinter meetings, and at Midwinter 2011 in San Diego the LES Executive Committee made our group a standing committee to oversee virtual meetings and seek new forms of participation to allow LES members to network and share ideas. We held our first all-virtual Midwinter in 2011-2012 and our second in 2012-2013, having both online committee meetings and open discussion group meetings using Adobe Connect at which we had forty to fifty members attend. My term as the first Virtual Participation Committee chair ended last July and handed the reins over to Amanda Rust, who has served on the initial task force and later the committee. Amanda has many great ideas for how we can improve our virtual meeting experience and still find ways to get together as colleagues.

From my time as chair of the committee, I know that for some, virtual meetings are not ideal. What makes LES special (and what drew me into the section initially) is that direct interaction with other subject librarians who work with all the various literatures in English and are committed to keeping the humanities a vibrant part of the academic library and higher education landscape. Face-to-face meetings are in many ways better for sharing ideas and conducting the section's business, and I miss the chance to talk with other literature librarians and visit with friends at conferences. Yet the economic realities facing many of our libraries (and us!) and the greater demands on our time have made some adjustments necessary, and now, fortunately, the distance meeting technology has improved to the point that we can have both small and large group meetings without having to travel across the country. Based on our survey of the membership we conducted in the spring and many conversations I have had with members, I have learned that many who never were able to serve on a committee or attend a LES session were now able to do so thanks to virtual Midwinters, and many who regularly attend LES functions also benefit from meeting virtually in the winter.

Under Amanda, the Virtual Participation Committee and the LES Executive Committee will continue to refine the way we conduct our virtual meetings while also helping LES members connect with each other in various ways both at Midwinters (for those who will be there) and at other conference or perhaps smaller, regional gatherings. We will help LES continue to find a good balance between virtual and in-person participation to keep the section strong and benefit its members.

I am happy to have helped more people become involved in LES, and look forward to meeting up with my LES colleagues both in virtual sessions and in person when we next get together in Las Vegas!

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Report from Lower Manhattan and Environs

by Jim Kelly

I am just completing my third and final year on the *MLA International Bibliography* Advisory Committee. Having served on the Committee once before (ca. 1994-1997), I was delighted to have a second chance to take part in the group's discussions and deliberations and to witness the changes that had taken place in the intervening years.

The Committee came into existence, if memory serves, in the early 1990's during Terry Ford's tenure as editor of the *MLA International Bibliography*. At that time, the majority of the places on the Committee were occupied by academics, with a smattering of librarians filling out their ranks. Some, but by no means all, of the Committee members were practicing field bibliographers. While we all sensed the potential for the Committee to render important service to the world of serial bibliography in the changing times heralded by the Internet, we were gratified to make gradual but measurable progress in giving direction to the Committee's mandate and increasing its visibility.

Now imagine the passage of 14 years and my chance to return for a second term, albeit to the new headquarters on lower Broadway. What a change there had been in the intervening years! The Committee had found its modus vivendi and expanded the scope of its activities to include everything from organizing sessions on topics of interest at the annual Convention to esoteric (and scintillating—at least to the bibliographers amongst us) discussions as to the question of when a dissertation is considered "published." Beyond the liveliness of the agenda items and the chance to visit New York City during the pleasant weather of October (more on that later!), the Committee now comprised a greater proportion of librarians and by far a greater number of practicing field bibliographers. All of this together with the gentle guidance of Barbara Chen and her staff made for three years of memorable hours spent with engaging company in congenial circumstances.

I would be remiss if I didn't make an impassioned plea for all of you reading this report to consider volunteering to serve as a field bibliographer. I've been doing so since 1979 and have found it to be my one unalloyed pleasure throughout that time. The benefits are numerous, both to you and to the world of scholarship. The practice of bibliography does wonders for focusing the mind and expanding the intellect. It may at times seem abstract in the extreme, but when one sees the results in working with a student or faculty member, the benefits are obvious.

Everything worked in happy concert to make my visits to New York everything I could wish, save my unfortunate effects on the city's weather. In 2011, my arrival for the meeting coincided with the Halloween snowstorm

which caused power outages through New England and New York. Undaunted, the following year I arrived, checked in, but by day's end was turned out of the hotel as it was evacuated in advance of Hurricane Sandy's arrival (that meeting was rescheduled for the following April, which distinguished itself by having no meteorological mishaps). And now, just a few weeks ago, I arrived at the meeting, only to be greeted by seasonable weather and the shutdown of the federal government. Happenstance? Or reason to consider twice before asking me to be on a committee?!

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Sessions of Interest to LES Members at the MLA Annual Convention in Chicago

by Laura Braunstein

If you're planning to attend MLA in Chicago this January, bring warm boots and a down coat, and join some of your LES colleagues at the following sessions. For additional session suggestions, see also [Digital Humanities at MLA 2014](#).

Meeting Where Students Are: Faculty-Library Collaborations and Undergraduate Research

Friday, 10 January, 5:15–6:30 p.m., Ohio, Sheraton Chicago

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Libraries and Research in Languages and Literatures

Presiding: Dawn Childress, Penn State Univ., University Park

Speakers: Susanna Boylston, Davidson Coll.; Anne Geller, Saint John's Univ., NY; Laura E. McGrane, Haverford Coll.; Susette Newberry, Cornell Univ.; Jennifer Rajchel, Haverford Coll.; Blythe E. Roveland-Brenton, Saint John's Univ., NY

For abstracts, visit wp.me/p29LID-1A after 1 Dec.

Session Description: Panelists will discuss collaborations among librarians and faculty members that create curriculum-based research opportunities for students in the use, building, and interpretation of collections. Perspectives on introducing students to the protocols of research include the literary-critical, archival, programmatic, and compositional and cross the analog-digital divide in their methods and tools.

Discoverability: New Methods (and Experiences) of Scholarly "Wild Surmise"

Sunday, 12 January, 8:30–9:45 a.m., Parlor C, Sheraton Chicago

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Libraries and Research in Languages and Literatures

Presiding: Regine I. Heberlein, Princeton Univ.; William Thompson, Western Illinois Univ.

Speakers: Bradley Daigle, Univ. of Virginia; Dan Santamaria, Princeton Univ.

For more information, visit wiu.edu/users/libclass/tutorials/2014mla/discoverability.html after 15 Dec.

Session Description: Discoverability is the ability to be found, to be known—and discovery tools are what make the move from unknowable to knowable possible. (Think telescopes in the Renaissance.) Scholars will come away from the roundtable understanding what discoverability is (and was) and with a sense of what discovery tools are, where their future lies, and how we are all likely to benefit.

Power Searching the *MLA International Bibliography*

Thursday, 9 January, 3:30–4:45 p.m., Sheffield, Chicago Marriott

Program arranged by the Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*

Presiding: Barbara Chen, MLA

"How to Maximize Your Research with the *MLA International Bibliography*," Gregory Grazevich, MLA

The Twenty-First-Century Library: Discovery Services versus Subject Specialists

Friday, 10 January, 10:15–11:30 a.m., Huron, Chicago Marriott

Program arranged by the MLA Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*

Presiding: James Raymond Kelly, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst

Speakers: Laura R. Braunstein, Dartmouth Coll.; Barbara Chen, MLA; Sarah G. Wenzel, Univ. of Chicago

Session Description: Currently the style of providing research access to online catalogs and databases for undergraduate students is through the use of a discovery system. Some panelists will discuss how traditional methods are a more logical means to the desired end, while others will discuss how they have used discovery services successfully in research instruction in both writing and literature classrooms.

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LES Social Media

by Amanda Binder

LES Blog - The LES Blog has become a great forum for sharing ideas about our work, and the events planned by the Literatures in English section. This summer, Julie Judkins, the 2013 ALA Emerging Leader sponsored by the LES and Arts sections of ACRL, shared a library programming idea that incorporates poetry ("Programming Idea: Mad Libs Poetry"). This fall, LES member, Nancy Foasberg summarized the discussion from the LES Authors Panel that took place at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago ("LES Authors Panel"). If you would like to write a piece for the LES Blog, please visit http://www.acrl.ala.org/lesblog/?page_id=11.

Twitter - The LES Twitter account was created last Spring to help promote LES events, news, and the great work of our members. It is also used to recruit new members for the Section. Follow us at [https://twitter.com/LES ACRL](https://twitter.com/LES_ACRL). We also have a list of LES members on Twitter to help us connect with each other: [https://twitter.com/LES ACRL/acrl-les-members/members](https://twitter.com/LES_ACRL/acrl-les-members/members).

Facebook - The LES Facebook group has provided a wonderful space for members to share interesting articles and news. It has also been used to promote LES news, and share pictures from LES events. Join us online at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/202772333122825>.

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Call for Award Nominations

Excellence in Academic Libraries Award

\$3,000 and a plaque

Sponsored by YBP Library Services

Information for many other award opportunities may be obtained on the ACRL Web site:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards>

or by contacting Chase Ollis at (312) 280-2521 or collis@ala.org

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year

\$5,000 and a plaque

Sponsored by YBP Library Services

DEADLINE: December 6, 2013

Apply for ACRL Immersion '14 (Teacher and Program Tracks)

ACRL is currently accepting applications for the Information Literacy Immersion '14 Program ([Teacher](#) and [Program](#) tracks) to be held July 20-25, 2014 at Champlain College in Burlington, VT. [Immersion '14](#) provides four-and-a-half days of intensive information literacy training and education for academic librarians. Immersion allows you to embrace your educational role by embarking on a path of teacher development and pedagogical inquiry in a community of practice for academic librarians devoted to collaborative learning, individual renewal, and instructional effectiveness.

Acceptance to Immersion '14 is competitive to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. Complete program and track details, along with application materials, are [available online](#). The application deadline is **December 6, 2013** and notifications will be issued in February 2014. Questions concerning the program or application process should be directed to Margot Conahan at (312) 280-2522 or e-mail mconahan@ala.org.

ACRL 2015

Submit a proposal for ACRL 2015! The Call for Participation will be available November 2013. Watch the ACRL website for details!



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.

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