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FEDERAL LIBRARIAN NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Karl Debus-López
President, Federal and Armed
Forces Libraries Round Table
2016-2017

Dear FAFLRT Members

Welcome to the Winter 2017 issue of *Federal Librarian*! We have another issue filled with great content, including two articles on the great work being done at the Yosemite National Park Research Library, an update on topics of interest from the ALA Midwinter Conference, information on our upcoming programs at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, and our recurring columns, including Fabulous Feds.

As most of you know, we are coming to a critical time in the history of our round table. On the ALA 2017 election ballot, in addition to voting on new FAFLRT officers for the 2017-18 year, you will also be asked to vote on a referendum to merge FAFLRT with the Association of Specialized & Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division within ALA. The ballot will include background information on the rationale for



the proposed merger, and a simple yes or no question, “Should FAFLRT merge with ASCLA?” In the last issue of *Federal Librarian*, I summarized the reasons for the merger, which the FAFLRT leadership endorses. Below, I provide more information from the FAFLRT/ASCLA webinar that was held to discuss the merger. I hope that you will participate in the ballot and vote. Whatever the membership decides, your leadership will fully support, whether that be the merger with ASCLA or continuing on as a separate round table. The voting period begins on March 13th and ends on April 5th, with results announced on April 12th.

On February 14th, 2017, the President of ASCLA, Michael Golrick, and I co-hosted a webinar on the proposed merger. The webinar covered the following topics: the missions of FAFLRT and ASCLA; information on the proposed merger; why the merger has been proposed; the benefits for FAFLRT and ASCLA members; and next steps in the process. After we completed the presentation, we had a lively discussion with the participants, answering questions as best we could.

In the discussion session, a participant asked why ASCLA was interested in merging with FAFLRT. Michael responded by mentioning that there are commonalities between the division and the round table. Many librarians who are members of ASCLA are also members of FAFLRT, work in federal or armed forces libraries, or serve communities that have overlap with federal and armed forces libraries. An example of overlap between communities that was discussed was ASCLA providing service to veterans who may have been disabled (e.g. hearing or visually impaired) in combat, and FAFLRT providing service to those same communities through libraries of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Another example are librarians who work in state libraries, currently supported by ASCLA, who have a similar focus and clientele to librarians who work in federal libraries, supported by FAFLRT. Additionally, unlike the divisions within ALA that are focused on a function (such as ALCTS), ASCLA and FAFLRT are both groups that focus on *types* of libraries. I am sure we can think of many more commonalities.

Chris Corrigan, ASCLA Councilor, mentioned that since ASCLA is relatively small, there will be opportunities for federal and armed forces librarians to participate and move into leadership roles, relatively early in their careers. I mentioned that the ASCLA organizational structure would easily allow our communities to form at least two interest groups, one for federal libraries and another for armed forces libraries, allowing for increased focus and attention on the needs of those libraries within ALA. Additional interest groups could be considered, as well.



The question of membership dues also came up. Currently, ASCLA dues are \$56 annually, much higher than the FAFLRT dues of \$15. However, ASCLA is considering having reduced rates for FAFLRT members who join ASCLA within the first one or two years after the merger, if it is approved. Former FAFLRT President, Vicky Crone mentioned that “One of the things to consider about the cost of ASCLA versus FAFLRT is what you get for your money. FAFLRT’s budget is very small because only collecting \$15 per person for a few hundred people does not give us much to work with.”

All in all, it was a very interesting discussion. The webinar was taped, so it is available for you to listen to at: <http://ala.adobeconnect.com/p8hzbhlwtdn/> Please note that you will need to start the webinar at the 5 minutes and 30 seconds time-stamp, as the time before that is preliminary banter between the session hosts as they set up the webinar.

Beyond the vote, we are planning an exciting ALA Annual Conference with three programs and participation in the joint ASCLA/FAFLRT awards ceremony, which is sponsored by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). The FAFLRT Board will provide more information on the programs and awards ceremony in the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Chicago in June.

Best regards,

Karl Debus-López

President, Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table 2016-2017

Chief, U.S. Programs, Law, and Literature Division

Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate

The Library of Congress

101 Independence Ave. S.E., LM-501

Washington, D.C. 20540-4280

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Phone: (202) 707-6641



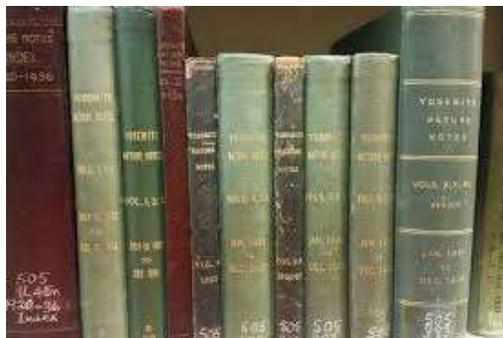
YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY

by Heather Kiger

The Yosemite National Park Research Library (YRL) completed two major projects in 2016 as part of a library modernization grant received from Yosemite Conservancy. With the assistance of interns and volunteers, librarian Virginia Sanchez pushed the library closer to the 21st century to improve its relevance, accessibility, and efficiency. These improvements create a sustainable infrastructure as the collection grows in both size and scope and as scientific disciplines diversify.

About the Library

Housed within Yosemite's historic Museum Building, YRL is just over 900 square feet. It houses historic maps, photographs, ephemera, and rare books, in addition to a circulating book collection serving the research needs of Yosemite staff and unaffiliated researchers.



It is one of only a handful of libraries in the National Park Service (NPS) staffed by an MLIS-holding librarian, and one of very few

that is open to the public. YRL is part of Yosemite's Museum Branch, within the Division of Interpretation and Education; the Museum Branch includes the Yosemite Museum, Archives, and Research Library. Prior to 2016, YRL's sole web presence was a brief mention on the Museum's webpage, with no meaningful information for potential visitors.

The library was staffed only by a Library Technician for many years, and upon that staff member's retirement the facility was slated for permanent closure. Enough outcry from the Yosemite community kept the library off the chopping block, and for several months the facility was staffed intermittently by volunteers when time permitted. The library was in disarray, and it was decided that an MLIS-holding librarian was needed to establish order and connect the world with its hidden treasures. In late 2014 Virginia Sanchez filled this role, coming from the technical library at China Lake Naval Weapons Station and many years' experience running public and governmental libraries.

When she arrived, the physical card catalog was well ahead of the online catalog, as no cataloging occurred for at least the past three years. Countless boxes were stacked everywhere, labeled "to process", "ephemera" and "to file", and there was no space for technical processing. There were more unaccessioned materials than cataloged. There was no intern or volunteer program in place.



In Sanchez's initial assessment, some of the most pressing needs for YRL were wider outreach to and collaboration with NPS staff and park partners, improved bibliographic control, streamlined workflows, an overall cleanup and reorganization of the facility, and development of administrative records and policies. Many challenges stemmed from how outdated the library was in its operations, holdings, and technology.

The 2016 Library Modernization Grant

Under the banner of library modernization, Sanchez submitted a successful grant proposal for 2016 to Yosemite Conservancy, the grant-making organization supporting essential and innovative Yosemite National Park programs and initiatives that are not funded by NPS. The grant covered wages and local housing for two interns, as well as necessary supplies. The primary goals of the modernization grant were as follows:

1. Convert the YRL collections from Dewey Decimal to the Library of Congress classification system, to adhere to modern federal Research Library classification standards.
2. Create a YRL web presence to further aid researchers, staff, and the public in locating the library and identifying resources of interest.
3. Develop and document library management and collection development guidelines, to have a viable Scope of Collection and Standard Operating Procedure.

Results

The reclassification of the circulating collection is complete. In addition, the books are relabeled and rearranged accordingly. Each item is searchable via NPS Libris, the online catalog of the National Park Service (NPS) libraries: <http://tinyurl.com/hkjaosg>

Over 6000 items were added to the online catalog and to the circulating collection, many of which were backlogged items that awaited processing for over three years. Almost 500 of these were entirely new items within the NPS system. This project makes the YRL compatible with research organizations worldwide as well as with other National Park Service libraries.

The [Yosemite Research Library \(YRL\) website](#) is live and linked to the Yosemite National Park website. It consists of nine pages and includes a link to the NPS Libris online catalog. The website is fully ADA-compliant.



These major upgrades increased access to library's book collections 80%. As a helpful bonus, the webpage streamlines workflows by providing answers to [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) such as library hours, location, services and more. The work completed through this grant provides a



level of bibliographic control and public visibility never before achieved in the YRL's 88-year history.

Process

Two interns from the San Jose State University School of Information were selected in December 2015 and working by February 2016, one in place, one virtual. The virtual intern resigned in February 2016, as she was uncomfortable with the newly updated OPM background process for volunteers. A second virtual intern, a recent San Jose State School of Information graduate, was selected and on board by March 2016.

The reclassification project began with an inventory of the collections. This process identified hundreds of items not listed in Yosemite's collections within the NPS Libris catalog. Additionally, hundreds of books were identified as candidates for deaccession.



The NPS library program provided online training in the NPS Libris cataloging module, granting increased permissions with each level of training. YRL became one of the first NPS libraries authorized to perform original cataloging in NPS Libris.

The website development intern completed DOI Learn Beginner and Intermediate Web Training that included elements of universal design, ADA compliance, the NPS.gov content management system, and webpage development. The intern developed and utilized a Content Strategy and Planning document that clarified goals, audience and





website development timeline. After a delay, due to changes in personnel and difficulty in obtaining NPS guidance, the final webpages were posted in December 2016.

During the first half of the year, the YRL team drafted Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) and Scope of Collection (SoC) documents for library. Interns and staff consulted past documentation of the library, documents of various other federal libraries, and Yosemite Museum Branch staff to develop drafts. Through this process, they learned of many complicating contextual factors that had not been evident upon initiating the work. This meant that the development of policies and scope would take more time and interdisciplinary collaboration than expected. These documents are now under final review.

In addition to interns, 11 volunteers served the Library through the VIP (Volunteers-In-Parks) Program, both on-site and virtually. Together, interns and volunteers contributed 3177 hours to bringing the library up to date, working both on these projects and laying groundwork for others. Spreadsheets were created to improve tracking of circulation and to document non-book library resources that lacked cataloging, including over 20,000 historic photographs.

Yosemite Natl Park Research Library

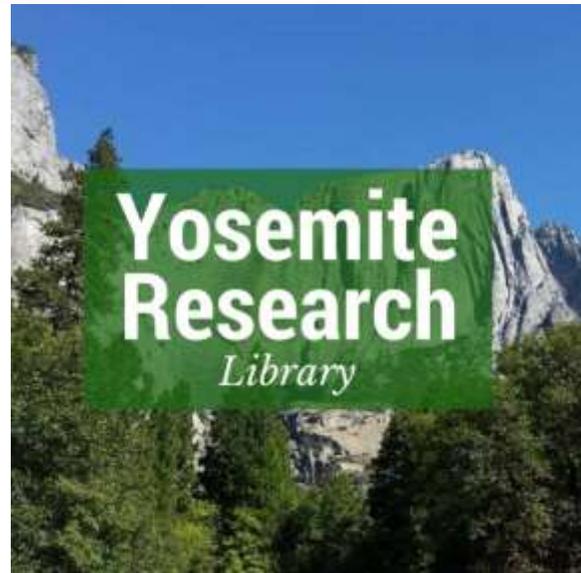
[Website](#)

[Directions](#)

Library in the Yosemite Valley, California

Address: 9039 Village Dr, Yosemite Natl Pk, CA 95389

Phone: (209) 372-0280



Reflections

The insight gained through the experiences of 2016 has been invaluable. Lessons were learned regarding project timelines, budgeting, expectations, availability of space and housing for volunteers, NPS-wide security and privacy protocol, technology limitations, and training learning curves for volunteers/interns and the supervisor alike. In developing the webpages, staff and interns discovered ways to use the website to streamline workflows and allow the librarian more time to focus on library goals and research needs.

Actively collaborating with other NPS units, Park Partners and the larger community will be a necessary part of continuing to move YRL forward. To improve collaboration and identify means of better serving the Yosemite community, staff and interns held meetings with the numerous departments and organizations, with many more planned for 2017.



Join FAFLRT at
ALA Annual
CHICAGO

We are excited to announce a special panel presentation at 2017 Annual that is sure to be informative! This discussion is a must for librarians, administrators, and other stakeholders with oversight managing private and federally-funded sponsored research, working in the open access ecosystem, managing institutional repositories, and engaged in scholarly outreach. Featured speakers are:

**Funding Mandates:
A Game Changer in
Faculty and
Scientific Research**

Saturday, June 24th
1:00 – 2:30 pm



Caitlin Bakker

Topic: Coaches, teammates, or cheerleaders? Librarians' roles in the changing funding landscape

As the Research Services Liaison at the University of Minnesota Health Sciences Libraries, Caitlin's focus is on developing and providing research support services for faculty in the Academic Health Center, including data management, scholarly communication, and research impact assessment.



Nina Exner

Topic: Embedding to grow funded research: Liaison librarianship between scholarly communications and Sponsored Research

As the Researcher and Grant Support Services Librarian at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Nina supports research development through teaching, consultation, and collaboration with Sponsored Research professionals.



Phyllis Ovsiew

Topic: Repurposing Collaborative Tools

As a Customer Support Specialist at the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), Ms. Ovsiew responds to a variety of customer inquiries regarding DTIC products and other Defense related matters. In addition, she promotes DTIC products in such a way as to maintain a positive public image of the agency. At DTIC since 1993, she previously held librarian positions at the Executive Office of the President and at the Department of Justice.

Tweet using the hashtags [#FAFLRT](#) or [#alaac17](#) to share the 2017 ALA Annual conference with the FAFLRT community.



ALA *Annual* CHICAGO

FAFLRT/co-sponsored by ASCLA

Leadership & Librarianship are a Team Sport **Presented by Dr. Edward A. Scott**

Sunday, June 25th 10:30 – 11:30 am



**Personal motto – “It is my mission to help you succeed.
To help you learn and grow into a leader.”**

Dr. Edward A. Scott, Associate Dean and Director of the McDermott Library, United States Air Force Academy offers words of wisdom, satirical insights, and jovial sarcasm about how you can build a productive team.

He has spent his career in academic libraries, the last twenty-one years at the Air Force Academy, he recognizes that there are professional principles that apply to all types of libraries, librarians, and their patrons.

The juxtaposition of an Englishman erudite pedigree meld with his genteel Southern upbringing produces a quick witticism or a calming response. Never one to mince words, you know that whatever advice Dr. Scott dispenses will be honest, relevant, humorous, and at times, hard to swallow. If the problem is lack of maturity and inexperience be prepared for his signature phrase “it sucks to be you!” comment. Edward Scott, offers words of wisdom, satirical insights, and jovial sarcasm about how you can build a productive team.

Join us on Twitter to continue the discussion by using [#FAFLRT](https://twitter.com/FAFLRT). We look forward to seeing you at the event!



ASCLA/co-sponsored by FAFLRT The Glass is Half Full:

Getting More Out of Less

The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) and the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) are partnering to offer a program that will feature presentations from library staff on their innovative strategies for service in difficult times.

Monday, June 26th 10:30 - 11:30 am

Featured speakers:

- ✚ Sarah Houghton, Director, San Rafael Public Library
Title: *Poor and Scrappy: Public Libraries on a Shoestring Budget*

- ✚ Virginia Sanchez, Librarian, Research Library Yosemite National Park
Title: *The Quest for Modernization: Bringing the Yosemite National Park Research Library into the 21st Century*

- ✚ Janice Young, Librarian
Title: *The Foundation of Library Innovation: Learn to be Resourceful, Resilient, and Relevant*

- ✚ Denise Zielinski, Community Engagement Officer, Joliet Public Library
Title: *Without Homes?...or Without Help?: Providing Help to the Homeless at the Public Library*

Tweet using the hashtags [#FAFLRT](#) or [#alaac17](#)



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A Year in the Life of a National Parks Service Intern

My name is Heather Kiger, and I have just completed a full year working in Yosemite National Park. Getting to live in the area and become a member of the Yosemite community has been a dream come true. The daily commute was full of awe-inspiring views, even when I didn't have time to go out and explore. Volunteers and interns are encouraged to get involved in as much as possible to get a real sense of the spectrum of experiences that come with living and working in the wilderness.

It's sad to leave, but I'm grateful to have had this amazing experience. I believe that somewhere, an adventure exists to suit every librarian, and I encourage you to go find yours. As a starting point, I'm going to share some info on the National Park Service, or NPS.

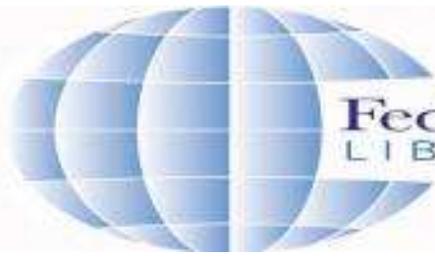
Many NPS parks and monuments have special libraries, as well as organizational archives. These libraries are not reliably funded...or if they are funded, they are generally not staffed by MLIS-holding librarians. Most do not have a web presence, either. So, while there are not many jobs in NPS libraries, there is great potential for getting involved as a volunteer or intern. This can be a path into other federal jobs and agencies you might not have previously considered. If you already love spending vacations in the national parks, why not build up your library or archival resume with some federal experience while you're there? And then when a desirable job does come along

there, you already have connections and experience in the environment.

Though many of the NPS libraries rely on volunteers to keep their doors open, Yosemite's Research Library has had the very experienced and talented librarian Virginia Sanchez on staff for the past two years, and she is making major strides to modernize the library and make it relevant and usable for anyone interested in studying Yosemite. This is one of the few NPS libraries open to the public, and the research requests we receive from the public may be from genealogists, publishers, novelists, naturalists, grad students, history buffs, media outlets, and the occasional conspiracy theorist. This is in addition to supporting a large body of Yosemite scientists, historians, engineers, rangers, and public information professionals.

The library was awarded a Yosemite Conservancy grant for 2016 that covered the cost of two interns coming in to complete projects: One project was the creation of a library website, which was completed by fellow iSchool grad Melissa Gross and went live in January. My project was to convert the library collections from Dewey Decimal to Library of Congress Classification, and catalog a large backlog of materials. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like any of the grants we submitted for 2017 interns will be funded. But regardless, the SJSU SLASC group will be collaborating with the library for short-term service learning opportunities. So, make sure you are subscribed to SLASC's email list and social media to find out when these get scheduled!

The future of libraries in NPS is not looking good, but LIS skills are very valuable in this agency. There is a lot of appreciation for people



Federal and Armed Forces LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

who can manage information and keep operations organized in a way that makes sense. Likewise, if you love being outdoors and connecting people to history and nature, you can apply for a seasonal interpretive ranger job, because you have the ability to translate complex information into a message the public can easily understand and appreciate. In my opinion, these jobs are like an adventure boot camp that will have you ready for ANY public-facing job in the library world—combined with your education, of course.

Also, many people with advanced degrees work in Yosemite in positions that don't clearly connect to their degrees, because simply being here brings them such satisfaction. Part of the beauty of becoming a trained librarian is that working in so many non-library jobs can still help you along the way to becoming a librarian. My experience, and that of countless other MLIS graduates, is that internships are invaluable, even if you're already employed. Do at least one in the kind of setting where you hope to work. And beyond that, if you aren't employed, take advantage of this time when you have "student" status to include some adventures in your professional dossier! Get involved with Librarians Without Borders or another international librarianship program. Apply for short-term positions in places you've always wanted to live or visit. Face a fear to do something that is far out of your comfort zone so that you know you can, even if you don't like it (this will make a big difference in your confidence level, and give you a story to tell when interviewers ask about a challenge you've overcome). Talk with people who are "living the dream", whatever that means to you, to explore alternative paths to your goals.

If you'd like to find out a lot more about applying your LIS skills in various kinds of government jobs, I highly recommend viewing Virginia Sanchez's Career Colloquium on the SJSU iSchool website, which she recorded before she became the Yosemite librarian. She has traveled through a variety of public and special library roles in her career, in addition to working in Naval Intelligence, and her experience shows that librarians have a place throughout government, even though they rarely have the title of "Librarian".

Volunteer.gov is the hub of all federal volunteering, but individual agencies and parks will have their own sites as well. If the place you contact doesn't respond or show interest in you, please do not take it personally. Some of the popular places like Yosemite have more people wanting to volunteer than there is space or resources to manage them. Even though you aren't getting paid, there are still expenses for the place that is hosting you as a volunteer, and often they simply don't have those funds, as much as they would like to have your help. The best advice I can give for applying as a library volunteer or intern in the national parks is to apply early, be flexible, and visit before making a lengthy commitment.

Note that most national parks also work with nonprofit partners, so check the websites of individual parks for special opportunities hosted by these affiliated organizations. Student Conservation Association is a great one to look at for internships involving GIS, cultural resources management, and engaging with the public, and often these are AmeriCorps positions.

Also consider looking into your state's library,



Federal and Armed Forces LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

archives, and departments for parks, wildlife, land management, and the like. The State of California has many jobs for which you can take exams online; some of the job titles you might consider for temporary gigs include Staff Services Analyst, Information Systems Technician, or (Assistant) Information Systems Analyst.

Another option I highly recommend is the Pathways Program on USAjobs.gov. This is an excellent way to get in the door in a relevant position either as a student or a recent graduate. There aren't a vast amount of positions for library and archives people, but they do come up, and I'm in the running for one of them so I know it is worth keeping your eye on these.

The Federal and Armed Forces Library Roundtable, or FAFLRT, is currently the place to go in ALA for learning more from working librarians in this field; they may merge in the coming year with ASCLA, the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, which is another place to learn about librarianship in government.

Please be sure to visit the Yosemite Research Library's new website to learn more about this awesome little space and its collections. If you don't want to bookmark the URL you can always do a quick web search for YRL Yosemite.

Finally, if you'd like to learn more about my specific internship experience in Yosemite, please browse through my previous blog postings. Because I have used this blog for the iSchool's formal internship reporting requirements, it can be pretty wordy at times. But on the bright side, there is also a section on

my experiences as a virtual cataloging intern in 2015, if virtual internships are of interest to you as well.

FABULOUS FEDS NEW APPOINTMENTS

Say hello to Lance D. Wiscamb! Lance is joining the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table Board as an Armed Forces Director.

Lance is currently the Chief of the Technical Information Flight at Edwards Air Force Base with responsibility for the Technical Research Library and the 412th Test Wing STINFO program. Originally from Colorado, he received his Undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado, Denver campus and his Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State, Kansas. Lance's first duty location with the Air Force was Andersen AFB, Guam, as the Reference Librarian and then later detailed into the Library Director position at the base. From Guam, he moved to the position of Assistant Library Director at Yokota AB, Japan, before becoming the Library Director for the base library. Returning to the states, Lance accepted the position of District Librarian with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District. When the opportunity presented itself to return overseas, he accepted the position of Library Director at RAF Mildenhall, UK. From there Lance went on to become the Chief of the Library Service Center at Ramstein AB, Germany before accepting his present position here in California.

Welcome Lisa (Leyser) Jochelson to her new position as lead acquisitions librarian at the State Department. Previously, Lisa was the



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Library Director at the Federal Communications Commission.

Ms. Stacie M. Parillo is the new Serials & Metadata Librarian in the Naval War College Library's Infrastructure and Content Department.

Ms. Parillo holds a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and English from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; a Master of Arts in Communication Studies from Suffolk University; and a Library and Information Science (MS) degree from Simmons College. She brings to this position substantial experience working with digital repositories, metadata content and structural standards, including *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS) and Encoded Archival Description (EAD). Prior to joining the NWC she held positions at the Providence Public Library as Digital Projects Manager/Technology and Marketing Coordinator; Head of Collections and Digital Initiatives Manager, Newport Historical Society; Digital Librarian for the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities; and Fellow for Dean's Initiatives at Simmons College.

Ms. Parillo will be managing the library's continuing resources for their entire life-cycle in all formats including databases, eJournals, print journals, and microforms. Her position includes collection development, acquisitions and cataloging of these resources.

JOIN US!

**To Bridge, Build and Go Boldly into
the Future**

**Federal and Armed Forces
Libraries Round Table**

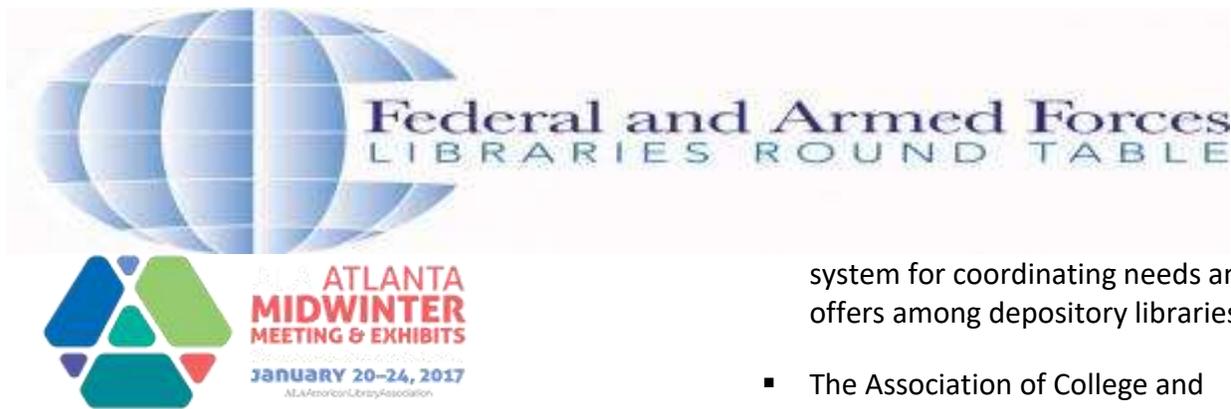


**Twitter your
involvement at 2017
ALA Annual
Volunteers needed!**

FAFLRT is seeking conference attendees to tweet using the hashtags [#FAFLRT](#) or [#alaac17](#) to share the 2017 ALA Annual conference with the FAFLRT community. For those who can't attend, you can follow along Twitter from afar in the experience of session programs, speaker series, and discussion groups that match interests and expertise.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Stacy Marchant at: stacyleona@gmail.com.

CONNECT & SHARE



Pass It On: Reporting from ALA Midwinter

By Richard Huffine

I recently attended the American Library Association's Midwinter meeting in Atlanta and I wanted to share a brief summary of the activities that occurred in Atlanta of relevance to our community.

There were a number of sessions featuring or focused on federal government information. These included:

- Government Documents Round Table: Federal Documents Task Force discussed whether or not agencies should pursue creating eBooks of consumer-facing documents and whether those documents should be made available free of charge on eBook platforms. There was no consensus on this but there was a concern that any eBooks should be derivatives of official formats that can be preserved.
- The Government Publishing Office was on-hand at the conference to give an update on their efforts to support Federal Depository Libraries and they highlighted their progress in developing a Federal Preservation Network. They are also developing a

system for coordinating needs and offers among depository libraries.

- The Association of College and Research Libraries, Science and Technology Section held their regular Federal Science Update and featured two Atlanta-based Agencies, the CDC and EPA Region 4. Both presenters talked about their Atlanta-area libraries and what was available to both their staff and the visiting public. NTIS was also on-hand to talk about their transition to a free service and their new efforts to assist in managing the data assets of federal agencies.
- The ALA Chapter Relations Office held a session on Money Smart Week featuring both public and academic libraries that use the annual event every year to encourage their users to learn about managing their money. The Federal Reserve Board of Chicago coordinates Money mart Week with several Agencies that partner in the effort.
- There were several federal agencies exhibiting at the conference including the Library of Congress, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the U.S. Department of State-Atlanta Passport Agency. The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) was exhibiting for the first time. BHL has several federal government partners including the Smithsonian, USDA and Interior.



The Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table did not hold any events at this meeting but the Round Table is planning several activities, including three programs, an open board meeting, and an awards ceremony, at the next ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 22-27, 2017. FAFLRT will be voting in April on a proposal to merge with the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, a Division of the American Library Association.



The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASLCA) is the division within the American Library Association (ALA) that speaks to the needs of librarians who work in state agencies, specialized libraries, library cooperatives, and library consultants. It is our sincere hope to also be a home for federal librarians and librarians who serve the nation's military service members. This document proposes a merger between ASCLA and the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT). It describes the advantages of ASCLA as a home for federal librarians within ALA, and outlines the next steps for the potential merger.

ABOUT ASCLA

Being a small division within ALA gives ASCLA members special benefits. Any ASCLA member has the ability to quickly join interest groups, committees, and boards early on and begin to make an impact within the division and the wider ALA community. ASLCA provides exceptional networking and educational opportunities for its members. In 2016, ASCLA will offer ten programming opportunities at the ALA annual conference and

approximately eight or more online learning opportunities throughout the year.¹

ASLCA currently has eighteen interest groups that provide advocacy and learning opportunities for members of the division. These interest groups also draft standards and compile resources for their membership, the broader library community, and other interested parties.

As opposed to a Round Table—which is entirely volunteer operated—ASCLA has a committed professional staff. Staffing consists of an Executive Director, a Marketing and Program Director, and a Web Services Manager. All of these staff members work tirelessly on behalf of the membership of the division and make themselves quickly available to answer questions or address issues. While programming is membership-driven, ASCLA staff avail themselves to assist with the division's programs, preconferences and institutes at ALA conferences and events. ASCLA staff also work with division members to coordinate and promote our many online learning opportunities.

In addition, ASCLA staff work on the fundraising aspects of the organization so members can focus more on programming, writing standards, and networking. One of ASCLA's major fundraising ventures is an annual overseas excursion. Our last three were to Scotland, French/Italian Rivas and Madrid. In 2016, ASCLA began publishing a calendar featuring professional photos of library users and has key dates for ALA events highlighted throughout the year. We plan to continue this promotion in 2017.



ASCLA Currently has a budget of \$116,849. ASCLA's membership consists of 814 members and is growing. While other ALA divisions have maintained or lost members, ASCLA is the only division within ALA that has demonstrated consistent growth throughout the past two years.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Federal and armed forces librarians play a vital role in the nation by curating information for the public and assisting federal agencies with their important information needs. Armed forces libraries are an essential component to our national security by maintaining current and accurate information for our military leaders. What is more, these military librarians are also in many cases the public librarians for US service personnel on military bases. Their importance was recently highlighted in a resolution brought to ALA Council by FAFLRT Councilor Vicky Crone calling for the restoration of funding for Air Force libraries.² These libraries and librarians need a voice within ALA.

However, on December 16, 2015 in an open letter to FAFLRT membership titled *FAFLRT in Crisis: Shall we Disband*, FAFLRT leadership cited the Round Table's declining membership and lack of volunteers to serve on its governing board. The letter stated that if membership and leadership problems could not be addressed, FAFLRT may dissolve. While FAFLRT was able to find volunteers to serve its leadership roles this year, the underlying problems remain. Federal and armed forces librarians are too important not to be represented in ALA and ASCLA hopes to be a home for federal and armed forces librarians.

WHY ASCLA

ASCLA is an ideal division for FAFLRT members. ASCLA's current relationship with state libraries and state librarians represents a model for how FAFLRT members would be incorporated into the new division. State library agencies are a more localized model of libraries on the federal level. Many of FAFLRT's federal librarians have positions that are analogous to those in state libraries. This would represent an opportunity for networking and sharing of ideas among members with similar interests—at both the state and federal levels—that would not be found in any other division within ALA. FAFLRT members represent a diverse body of librarians who would feel welcome in a division with librarians who serve unique populations of users. Currently, ASCLA members include (but are not limited to) librarians who work in prisons, special libraries, librarians who serve people with disabilities, librarians who serve Native Americans living on reservations, cooperative library agencies, and library consultants.

What is more, ASCLA's interest groups cover topics such as collaborative digitization, consortial management, and interlibrary loans. Because federal librarians oversee the digitization of millions of public records and share information through a variety of channels (such as FEDLINK) these subjects speak to the everyday workings of federal librarians.

As briefly mentioned above, ASCLA also is the home for librarians who serve people who are incarcerated. Currently, all federal prison facilities maintain two libraries, one for leisure and one for legal resources.³ Librarians who work in these institutions would benefit from the cross collaboration with the librarians who



work in state prison facilities found within ASCLA.

In addition, ASLCA recently added a Consumer Health Information Librarians Interest Group. Members of this new interest group are themselves federal librarians who work with the National Library of Medicine.

Finally, because ASCLA is the division for librarians who work with people who are blind or visually impaired, many staff members of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped—a division of the Library of Congress—are ASCLA members.

POSSIBLE STRUCTURE FOR THE NEW DIVISION

If FAFLRT were to merge with ASCLA, the ASCLA and FAFLRT leadership would work together to draft a mission statement, by-laws, and new possible name for the division that would comprehensively suit the interests of the new organization. Two new interest groups would be created within ASCLA for federal and armed forces librarians. Further, ASCLA would add at least two additional seats on the Board of Directors: one for Federal Librarians and one Armed Forces Librarians. There is the possibility of also adding an additional At-Large seat on the Board to better represent the interests of the larger membership. This would maintain the voice of federal and armed forces librarians within ALA.

In anticipation of a possible merger, FAFLRT and ASCLA members are already collaborating to offer programs at the ALA Annual Conference in 2017. ASCLA is looking forward to our joint networking reception and Awards Ceremony in Orlando where members of both organizations

will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to each other.

CONCLUSION

ASCLA now officially proposes to FAFLRT that FAFLRT join with ASCLA beginning at the conclusion of the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. ASLCA leadership believes that our two organizations serve librarians with similar interests and that the ASCLA division is the best fit for FAFLRT membership with the American Library Association.

The Executive Committee of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA):

Rhonda K. Gould

President

Kathleen Ann Moeller-Peiffer

Immediate Past-President

Christopher Corrigan

Councilor

Michael A. Golrick

Vice-President/President Elect

Tracy Byerly

Secretary

Susan Hornung

Executive Director

1 Find a full listing of ASCLA's conference programs and online learning opportunities from the following links: Annual Conference Programs: <http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaevents/annual>
Online Learning Programs: <http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaevents/onlinelearning/onlinelearning>



Federal and Armed Forces LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

2 Council of the American Library Association (2014, June). Resolution in support of stable funding for Air Force libraries.

Council Documents Midwinter/Annual Conference 2014. Retrieved from

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/about_ala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2014_annual_conference_documents/cd_43_resolution_supp_t_20of%20airforce_libs_62814_act.pdf

3 Zoukis, C. (2013, June 10). Library services in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. *Prison Law Blog*. Retrieved from

<http://www.prisonlawblog.com/blog/library-services-federal-bureau-prisons#.VwURmkZnHiE>

- The kind of legislative initiatives you would like ALA Washington Office to pursue that would benefit federal libraries
- The type of conference programming or events you would like FAFLRT to develop
- The ways FAFLRT might improve service to you and your library, or
- The items you would like the FAFLRT board to consider including changes to the by-laws.

Submit your thoughts and suggestions to help improve your round table.

The Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table participates in several social networking sites to help its members better connect with each other.

- ❖ [FAFLRT Discussion List](#)
- ❖ [FAFLRT on Facebook](#)
- ❖ [FAFLRT on Twitter](#)
- ❖ [FAFLRT on LinkedIn](#)

Be on the leading edge of key issues and opportunities affecting Federal and Armed Forces libraries and information professionals. FAFLRT membership is open to all ALA members - check out the [ALA Join/Renew/Add page](#) for more information on how to join FAFLRT.

Learn more about FAFLRT through this web site and our FAFLRT [Brochure](#).

FAFLRT BOARD MEETING MINUTES & OUTREACH

View the [minutes of previous meetings](#) of the FAFLRT Board and Membership.

- 2017**
 - [January 17, 2017](#)
- 2016**
 - [September 9, 2016](#)
 - [October 28, 2016](#)
 - [December 20, 2016](#)

To strengthen the Round Table and improve communications, Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) needs your help. Please provide feedback to us on these or other topics of interest to you:

- The issues or problems you are experiencing in your library which you would like to share with ALA



FEDERAL AND ARMED FORCES LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

BOARD AND COMMITTEES: 2016-2017

The Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) exists as an official round table under the American Library Association to promote library and information service and the library and information profession in the federal and armed forces communities; to promote appropriate utilization of federal and armed forces library and information resources and facilities; and to provide an environment for the stimulation of research and development relating to the planning, development, and operation of federal and armed forces libraries.

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Shared by FAFLRT Board members
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FAFLRT COMMITTEES, LIAISONS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Vacant

FEDLINK LIAISON

Vacant

IFLA LIAISON

Vacant

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Vacant



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE FEDERAL AND ARMED FORCES LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

Article I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table of the American Library Association.

Article II. Purpose.

The purpose of this organization is as follows:

- a. to promote library and information service and the library and information profession in the federal and armed forces communities.
- b. to promote appropriate utilization of federal and armed forces library and information resources and facilities.
- c. to provide an environment for the stimulation of research and development relating to the planning, development, and operation of federal and armed forces libraries.

Article III. Membership.

Section 1. Any member of the American Library Association may become a member of the Round Table upon payment of annual ALA and Round Table dues.

- a. Personal Members. ALA individual members interested in FAFLRT's purpose may become personal members upon payment of ALA and FAFLRT dues.
- b. Organization members. Institutions, businesses, and other organizations who support FAFLRT's purpose may become organization members upon payment of ALA and FAFLRT dues.
- c. Student and retired members. Any library school student or retired librarian may become a member of FAFLRT upon payment of ALA and FAFLRT dues.

Section 2. Rights and privileges. Members are entitled to participate fully in the organization and activities of the Round Table except that only personal members who are (a) currently employed or retired federal or armed forces library or information personnel, (b) employed at an academic or nonprofit institution with an interest in federal or armed forces library or information centers, or (c) students actively enrolled in an accredited program leading to a degree in information studies/librarianship at the time of their election and during their stay in office shall have the right to hold office.

Section 3. Dues. There shall be separate dues structures for personal, organization, student, and retired memberships. All Round Table funds are to be in the custody of the Executive Board of the American Library Association, to be accounted for and disbursed by its designated officer or authorization of the Round Table Board of Directors. The dues schedules remain in effect until amended by a majority vote of the members participating in a regular or special meeting of the Round Table, or by ballot.



Article IV. Governance.

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Round Table shall be the president, vice-president who is also the president-elect, two federal directors, two armed forces directors, secretary, treasurer, and the immediate past president of the Round Table.

Section 2. Term of Office. The vice-president/president-elect shall serve for a term of one year, after which time that person shall serve as president for a term of one year and shall continue for another year as immediate past president. The offices for secretary and treasurer shall be for two years, elected in alternate years. Directors will serve for two year, staggered terms, with one federal and one armed forces director elected each year. Officers will serve through the close of the annual ALA conference of the membership year for which they were elected.

Section 3. Duties. The duties of all officers shall be such as are ordinarily implied by their respective titles and such others as are specified by the Board of Directors.

- a. President. The president shall chair the Board of Directors, shall appoint the chair and members of each standing and special committee, and be an ex officio member of such committees without the right to vote except in case of a tie.
- b. Immediate Past President. The immediate past president shall assist in setting policy for the Round Table and may be appointed to serve on other special committees or projects.
- c. Vice-President/President-Elect. The vice-president/president-elect shall be responsible for chairing the Round Table Program Committee for the annual ALA conference, shall perform the duties of the president in his/her absence and shall become president in the event a vacancy occurs in that office due to resignation or other causes, and in such an instance the vice president will continue to serve his/her own term of office as president.
- d. Secretary. The secretary shall be responsible for the general correspondence of the Round Table, its proceedings, and the minutes of board and business meetings.
- e. Treasurer. The treasurer shall review and approve all expenses, coordinating with ALA staff liaison, and prepare reports and a proposed budget for each fiscal year.
- f. Directors. The federal and armed forces directors shall ensure that the interests of their communities are addressed by the board and the Round Table as a whole, and may be appointed to perform special projects or to serve as liaisons or on committees.

Article V. Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors of the Round Table shall consist of the President, Vice-President/President-Elect, four Directors (two federal and two armed forces), Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President of the Round Table. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Round Table. It shall establish general policies for the Round Table, such as filling vacancies in office created by resignation or other causes, except in the case of the president, as noted in Article IV, section 3, above. All officers are expected to attend all general and Board of Directors meetings. The election of the armed forces directors shall be rotated as much as possible on a schedule to allow full representation of the military services (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy).

Article VI. Sections.

The Round Table may organize sections with the approval of the Board of Directors, when and if the need for such sections arises.



Article VII. Meetings.

Section 1. General Meetings. The annual business meeting shall be held during and in connection with the annual ALA conference. A quorum shall consist of 1% of the membership.

Section 2. Board of Directors meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in connection with the annual ALA conference, the ALA midwinter meeting, and at other times on call of the president. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII. Committees.

The president may authorize committees and appoint a chair and members of such committees.

Article IX. Elections.

Section 1. A slate with one or more candidates for the offices of vice-president/president-elect, secretary or treasurer, one federal director, and one armed forces director, shall be prepared by a nominating committee appointed by the president. The officers shall be selected by a majority vote of the voting membership through the ALA spring ballot.

Section 2. The slate shall also contain one or more candidates for an ALA councilor position. The ALA councilor position shall be elected in accordance with Article IV. Council of the ALA Bylaws.

Article X. Official Publications.

The official information resources shall be the newsletter, known as The Federal Librarian, and the FAFLRT website.

Article XI. Amendments.

The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a majority of the members participating in person or electronically in a regular or special meeting of the Round Table provided the membership is notified by the Board of Directors of proposed changes at least one month before such vote.

Article XII. Rules of Order.

The rules contained in the latest edition of The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice F. Sturgis shall govern this Round Table in all cases to which they can be applied and are not inconsistent with the bylaws or special rules of order of the Round Table or of the American Library Association.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The **Federal Librarian** newsletter is the journal of the American Library Association's Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) and published electronically. It presents recent developments and events of interest to the Federal and Armed Forces library community, including news and reports on international, federal, state, and local government issues.

The **Federal Librarian** is published three times per year. All issues are available online at: www.ala.org/faflrt/newsletters.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

Summer	May 16 th
Fall	September 16 th
Winter	January 16 th

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