



President's Message

This is my last message as President of ACRL/NY. I want to take this opportunity to thank the 1999 Executive Board and the Symposium Planning Committee, which is being run by our incoming President, Tian Zhang. At this writing, the Executive Board and Symposium Planning Committee are working on final plans for the 1999 Symposium, "Libraries and Technology: For Better or For Worse." Our next issue will feature a write-up of the program with highlights of the day's events. Also, ACRL/NY is currently

awaiting results of the election of officers for the year 2000.

It is not too early to ask for volunteers to serve on next year's Symposium Committee--ACRL/NY's twentieth. This will be a commemorative year for us and a very special anniversary Symposium will be planned. It is also not too early to ask for people to think about running for office in the year 2001. We are always looking for new people to work to continue the success of ACRL/NY.

Please send me your names or let me know if you know of anyone who would like to work for ACRL/NY. Next year, ACRL/NY is scheduled to become incorporated. This will also be a special event for us, given all the discussion and planning leading up to it. Thanks to all those who helped make 1999 a successful year. I look forward to working with you as the 2000 Past President.

Lucy Heckman
St. John's University

ALA President-Elect Kranich Stresses Need for Local Involvement

In Nancy Kranich's office one rain-soaked morning, I watched as she scrambled to confirm her plans for a trip to Chicago. Just back from Albany the night before, she tried not to let Hurricane Floyd ruin her travel

arrangements, as word came in telling of airport closings throughout the New York metro area.

Since being elected President of the American Library Association this past summer,

Ms. Kranich has been on the road at least once a week, attending meetings, speaking at conferences, and forging new contacts around the world.

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1999 Symposium Update

As I write this, the ACRL/NY Symposium Planning Committee is busy with final preparations for the Symposium on November 12.

We have received many helpful checks from our faithful corporate sponsors. Committee members have been excited and encouraged by the e-mails requesting Symposium information from librarians in Washington, DC, Boston, and Connecticut.

This year, we have two keynote speakers: Dr. Edward Tenner, an independent writer and consultant, author

of *Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences*; and Dr. David Magier, Director of Area Studies at Columbia University Libraries, and an Internet training consultant for librarians.

The afternoon panelists are: Dr. Peter Liebscher, Dean of the School of Library & Information Science of the Catholic University of America; Dr. Cerise Oberman, Dean of Library and Information Services of SUNY at Plattsburgh; Dr. Marie Radford, Associate

Professor at Pratt Institute; and Dr. Jay Schafer, Director of Library and Information Services at Bay Path College.

Everything has gone smoothly, and by the time you read this, you'll have had the chance to enjoy a stimulating day of presentations.

A detailed report of the Symposium will appear in the next newsletter.

Tian Xiao Zhang
St. John's University
Symposium Committee Chair

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Archival issues of *ACRL/NY Connections* may be found on the chapter's Website:
<http://www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/acrlny/acrlny.html>

ACRL/NY Connections Gets New Editor

Mary Habstritt, a reference librarian at Pace University's New York City campus, has signed on as the new editor of ACRL/NY's newsletter beginning with this issue. Jayne Johnsen-Seeberger, who has served in this capacity for many years, has moved on to a new job as a school media specialist. We wish her good fortune in her new career and offer our thanks to her for keeping us connected.

Geographic Sections and Special Interest Groups

Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley

An ACRL/NY Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley Section event took place on July 22 at Manhattanville College Library in Purchase, N. Y. The presentation was entitled, "Looking AT and BEYOND the Technology in Web Evaluation."

Anmarie Boyle, Instructional Services Librarian at Iona College, presented on the current research concern-

ing the cognitive impact of the World Wide Web on students and evaluating Websites. She focused on WWW technologies and innovations, such as Java, DHTML, etc., based on that research.

Susan Rubin, Assistant Coordinator of Reference and Instruction at Manhattanville College, presented a real life example of how to teach Web evaluation to undergraduate students in

a core session of the college's Information Literacy course. Criteria, pitfalls and examples were presented. A lively and interesting question and answer session followed the presentations.

Susan Rubin, Chair
Manhattanville College
Library

Education/Curriculum Materials Centers Special Interest Group

The Education/Curriculum Materials Center librarians met on June 17 in the St John's University Library. The theme was "Trends in K-12 Textbook Publishing."

The first speaker was Diane Goldman from Houghton Mifflin, the last independent publisher which is not part of a conglomerate. Ms. Goldman provided an interesting overview of how the company utilizes the New York State Learning Standards as a basis for developing their programs in the belief that other states with similar standards can adapt these materials to meet local needs. She also described how Houghton Mifflin employs educational consultants who are knowledgeable about various areas of the curriculum and how the company works coopera-

tively to establish partnerships with a number of school districts. Publishers also develop specific textbook series for those states, such as Texas, California and Florida that have a textbook adoption policy in place.

The second speaker was Luke Tursi from American Guidance Service (AGS). He explained that his company was initially in the business of testing and assessment. In fact, among their tests was the entrance examination for such prestigious schools as Stuyvesant and Bronx High School of Science. AGS felt that publishing textbooks that might contribute to positive test scores seemed like a logical next phase of their endeavors. They decided to become involved with special education,

a more limited market that mainstream publishers are not always interested in.

While both speakers focused on trends, they did illustrate certain points by referring to some of their textbooks. Members asked a number of thought-provoking questions which, in turn, led to a lively discussion. As usual, everyone felt energized by the opportunity these meetings provide to share ideas and mutual interests with colleagues.

Another meeting is planned on November 19 at the Milbank Memorial Library, Teacher's College, Columbia University.

Harriet Hagenbruch, Chair
Axinn Library
Hofstra University

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All this is still in her capacity as president-elect. She will not officially assume the presidency until July of 2000.

In her role as the chief elected officer of the largest library organization in the world, Ms. Kranich has been afforded the opportunity to speak out on issues that affect libraries and librarians universally. She recently returned from a trip during which she attended conferences in Thailand and Taiwan. While there, she spoke with local leaders on the importance of libraries as public access points and the need to promote literacy in all developing nations.

While Ms. Kranich raises these issues on a global scale, she still stresses the

importance of acting locally. Always a strong supporter of ALA chapters and regional organizations, she believes that the true strength of any national association resides at the local level. Only by understanding the concerns of the users in local libraries and by making those personal connections are we able to forge a national voice.

Ms. Kranich also emphasizes the opportunities available to librarians in community-based organizations. Although she became involved with ALA on a national level early in her career, she understands that such a leap can be very intimidating. Local chapters, then, can be the perfect springboard for national involvement and can provide critical support to future leaders.

With a background

in public administration, Ms. Kranich's interests have focused on public policy issues. She has championed the causes of freedom of information and access equity, working closely with both state legislative and Congressional officials on information policy issues.

Ms. Kranich has always believed that the individual can make meaningful changes that affect the larger whole. She sees ALA as an organization open to all levels of involvement, providing valuable opportunities for any interested member. In this organization, according to Ms. Kranich, "if you have an idea, the sky's the limit."

Jennifer Schwartz
Bobst Library
New York University

Three Members Report on "Racing Toward Tomorrow"

The 9th ACRL National Conference, "Racing Toward Tomorrow" took place in Detroit, April 8 - 11, 1999. Anca, Susan, and I attended some of the sessions and visited the exhibits. The trip was a very pleasant and enriching experience. Detroit is not the most inviting of cities, but it has a rich assortment of museums, and even a Greektown. The organizers held evening receptions at the Mu-

seum of African American History and the Henry Ford Museum which allowed us to visit those museums at a time when they're usually closed, and when no other events were taking place.

The invited papers discussed topics related to

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new forms of higher education, academic publishing, new genres of scholarly communication, digital libraries, and the changing nature of higher education. The full text of all the invited papers may be found at the ACRL website hosted by ALA at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/paper99.html>.

One interesting event was a roundtable discussion with Christina Smith of Boston University on Web page design and accessibility that emphasized the need to take into consideration Web users with disabilities, and/or people who use Lynx or older browsers, slower modems, etc. She maintains a very comprehensive page on Web accessibility at the Boston University Libraries Web site: <http://www.bu.edu/instruction/access2.html> with useful information for anyone interested in Web design, and/or equal Web access for all. Her site includes definitions for a variety of disabilities, accessibility factors that Web designers should keep in mind, and an annotated list of relevant links.

While on a much smaller scale than at the ALA conventions, the exhibits were still interesting. We talked to a number of vendors: UMI, ERIC, Wilson, etc., learned some new things, and picked up the usual share of documentation. There were a few developments of interest. One is that EDRS is making the full text of ERIC documents available through the Web, either on demand, or by subscription. The other one is a collection of full text education journals, made available by Wilson through their Education Abstracts Fulltext service. Information may be found at the following sites: <http://edrs.com> and <http://www.hwwilson.com>. Notable is also the fact that Grove's Dictionary of Art is now available in a Web version, while the volumes of

their Dictionary of Music are expected on the Web sometime in 2000.
(<http://www.groverreference.com>)

Cecile Hastie & Anca Meret
Milbank Memorial Library
Teacher's College

Some of the major topics presented at "Racing Toward Tomorrow" were collaboration, instruction, reference, distance learning, and university presidents' views of the changes in higher education.

In his invited paper "Emerging Discontinuity in Scholarly Communication," Clifford Lynch explained that print will always be with us, but supplemental forms of scholarly communication and enhancements will exist. He discussed supplements such as scientific databases, networked video, "collaboratories," instructional media, and scholarly Websites. He said that scientific databases are forming a genre of scholarly scientific communication and practice. They are a blending of databases that are edited and annotated. He felt that scholarly Websites are of value as well. Some are like monographs; others are like encyclopedias. They can be updated often and incorporate source material and links to critical works. Major universities in the United States are collaborating in distance learning courses through Internet2. He felt that collaboration between research universities to share specialized graduate courses is important for education. He stressed that librarians must be thoughtful and independent regarding assessment of the new genre. The full text of Lynch's paper can be found on ACRL's Web site.

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- We must think of technology as a partner. If it becomes more, it will be destructive to thought and creativity.
- Two college presidents said the library is the intellectual heart of their institutions.
- Librarians are community builders in their institutions.
- Face to face student/teacher interaction is the best way to learn. Web-based learning is just a component.
- Teaching students how to learn is the most important goal of colleges. Information literacy fosters this goal and enables students to become lifelong learners.

- Information literacy must be an all-college responsibility.
- All collaborations and partnerships must start in the library.
- No computer can replace the skills of a knowledgeable librarian.
- Every new technology throughout history has not replaced the older communication and information systems.
- Our profession is essential to democracy.

Susan Rubin
Manhattanville College Library

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