



The Quarterly Newsletter of ACRL / NY

Volume 20, Number 2. Summer 2001

Message From the President

Marilyn Rosenthal

On Sunday, June 18 during the ALA Conference in San Francisco, I was privileged to attend the ACRL Chapters Council meeting at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. Chapters Council provides an active forum to exchange information among chapters, to promote excellence and best practices, to support a network for legislative advocacy, to share successes, to further ACRL goals, and to inform on the actions of the national organization.

Evelyn Minick, the Chair, introduced the current Chapters Council officers: incoming Chair Linda Kopecky; outgoing editor of the newsletter, *Chapters Topics*, Heather Ward; and incoming editor Debbie Malone. [*Chapter Topics*, it was pointed out, will be moving to the ACRL website: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/ct/>.] Sherri Edwards from the University of Notre Dame and Tim Dodge from Auburn University were elected to the offices of Vice Chair / Chair-Elect and Secretary.

Other ACRL officers and staff members in attendance were: President Betsy Wilson; incoming President Mary Reichel; incoming Vice President/President-Elect Helen Spaulding; outgoing Executive Director Althea Jenkins; and Director of Member Services Melissa Cast. Althea Jenkins is leaving to join the Florida State University staff as Director of the University Libraries, and Mary Ellen Davis will be the new Executive Director. Of course, our own ACRL/NY Board member, Lois Cherepon, was present as a member of the ACRL Board and a past president of Chapters Council.

The ACRL officers each had a few words to

say to Council members. Betsy Wilson thanked everyone for her enjoyable year. She traveled extensively to various chapter events, and mentioned her trip to speak at our Symposium as among the most enjoyable. Mary Habstritt, a past ACRL/NY Board Member, had generously offered her apartment to the visiting speaker, and her hospitality was especially appreciated. Betsy also complimented the Council on producing an excellent brochure, *Chapters Council & Chapter Affiliates*.

Mary Reichel discussed the theme of her upcoming tenure: the ACRL Learning Community for Excellence in Academic Libraries. She will focus on promoting information literacy, emphasizing publishing, sharing information, and encouraging diversity.

Larry Hardesty, Past President, will chair the Program Committee for the ACRL 11th Annual

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Symposium Update!

The ACRLNY Symposium, *Learning Outcomes Assessment: A Step Forward*, will take place on Friday, December 7, 2001 at the New York Public Library's Bartos Forum.

Mark your calendars now!

ACRL/NY Chapter Archives – Alive and Well

The ACRL/NY Chapter, established in 1980, has accumulated over 20 years of materials that document many chapter events and programs. When I was appointed chapter archivist in 2000, the archives relocated to the Saint Johns University Staten Island campus. The collection arrived in Staten Island in Winter 2001, and it seemed as if various boxes of important documents had been lost. Much to my delight, the missing boxes of newsletters and symposium materials were later recovered in an unexpected storage area and our chapter's historical documents were once again secure.

Prior to my acquiring them, the archives were most recently housed at the SUNY Old Westbury Library. Norman Jung, former Chapter Treasurer and

Library Director at Old Westbury, served as the Chapter Archivist for many years. When Norman retired in 1997, the archives were moved from Old Westbury to the St. John's University Queens campus.

Before St. John's, Sue Schub and Ree DeDonato housed the materials at the NYU Bobst Library for several years. Parts of the collection have been located elsewhere around the metro area. Amy Beth maintained some material in the early 1990's at the CUNY Graduate Center. Documents from monthly board meetings have been held at the Fashion Institute of Technology library, under Rochell Sager's supervision, and also at Marymount College, Manhattan.

Thus, the archival collection itself has a story behind it, having journeyed from NYU to Old Westbury to SJU Queens, and ultimately to Staten Island, with contributions from satellite storage areas at FIT, Marymount Manhattan, and the CUNY Graduate Center.

The archives contain a wealth of materials, including: Board minutes & agendas; Symposium brochures, photos, and audio cassettes; Treasurer Reports; Annual Reports; flyers from ACRL/NY programs; a complete run of ACRL/NY newsletters; and ceramic mugs from our chapter's 15th anniversary.

Our documents and memorabilia span over 20 years of our chapter's rich and varied history. In these papers you'll discover, for example, that in the first decade of the chapter we coordinated library focused trips to China, India, England, and Ireland. And, that we sponsored an Ice Cream Social at the 1995 ALA Conference in NYC. And, that our Geographic Sections have sponsored tours of many Metro area libraries and have offered local programs. And, that we have co-sponsored several symposia with the Eastern New York Chapter and the New Jersey Chapter. Documents from these and other chapter-related events and programs are stored and maintained in the collection.

If you have chapter documents you would like to donate to the archives, or if you have questions about the collection, please contact Lois Cherepon, 718-390-4521, cherepol@stjohns.edu.

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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>

Librarian Limbo — Wrap-Up

On May 4, 2001 ACRL/L.I. sponsored “Librarian Limbo: Campus Status and Other Joys.” The well-attended workshop concentrated on faculty status for librarians, tenure, promotion and contract negotiations. The topic was particularly timely considering several Long Island universities are facing contract negotiations this year.

The panelists, representing various perspectives, were informative, and a lively question and answer session followed each presentation. Discussions were held on the following issues:

Non-faculty perspective

Non-faculty librarians often enjoy many of the benefits of faculty status, including representation on campus-wide committees; allotted leave time for publishing; and a generous workload and benefits package. They relish their distinction from teaching faculty. These librarians are concerned with how they are perceived by their colleagues (teaching faculty) on campus, and how their contracts represent them as professionals.

Faculty perspective

Librarians with faculty status must make challenging

commitments to the academic community, including research and publishing; committee service; and teaching. These demands, although taxing, make being a part of the academic faculty a fulfilling experience.

Administrator’s perspective

The library administrator often must focus on contract negotiations, and these concerns were discussed at length.

Union negotiations

Language in university contracts often reveals the disparity between library and teaching faculty. One objective, therefore, should be to make contracts more universal and inclusive. That goal may be achieved by using the teaching faculty and administrators’ terminology rather than that of the librarians. For example, the terms *load* and *overload* should be used, whereas, the term *vacation* should not be used.

Overall, the workshop was a great success.

Eloise Bellard

Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect, Long Island Section

President’s Message, *cont’d.*

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Conference in North Carolina in 2003.

Melissa Cast was pleased to report that all chapters are now incorporated. It was necessary for all chapters to incorporate or to become affiliated with an organization that is incorporated in order to resolve liability concerns for ACRL.

During this past year, ACRL/NY undertook the arduous process of incorporating and obtaining tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization. Thanks are due to the hard work of Treasurer Bellinda Wise and Past President Tian Zhang.

Two other influential ACRL members were introduced: Pat Walker, outgoing Head of the ACRL Legislative Network, and Carol Ashworth, UCITA Coordinator. As many are aware, UCITA is a proposed state contract law designed to standardize the licensing of software and other forms of digital information. A coalition, AFFECT (Americans for Fair Electronic Commerce Transactions), consisting of industry leaders, libraries, and consumer organizations has been formed to educate the public and policy makers about the dangers of UCITA. Carol reported on the current status in the states. The law, so far, has only passed in Maryland and Virginia, but proponents intend to have it introduced in all states. In New York, anti-UCITA legislation is being discussed. The ABA is considering taking a stand, while the FTC continues to monitor the situation.

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President's Message, *cont'd.*

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Database protection was another legislative issue under discussion, as a threat to the free flow of information in the public domain. Congress is trying to pass legislation to address this concern. ALA is working with the House Energy and Commerce and Judiciary Committees to propose suitable legislation.

Other issues discussed included the proposal to close NTIS, proposed exemption for distance learning from the requirements of the Digital Copyright Act of 1998 (DMCA), and reauthorization in 2002 of the Library and Technology Act (LSTA). Regarding the DMCA, the Senate recently passed a bill entitled the Technology Education and Copyright Harmonization Act (TEACH).

To learn more about these and other legislative issues, consult the website:
<http://www.ala.org/washoff/conferenceindex.html>.

The Chapters Council meeting proved to be enjoyable and informative. It was an opportunity to exchange ideas and to network with colleagues from all parts of the country. I thank the ACRL/NY Board for affording me the opportunity to represent the Chapter.

Stay Informed about Legislative Issues

Messages from the ALA Legislative Office are posted on the ACRL/NY email discussion list. To stay informed about the important issues, join our discussion!

Instructions for subscribing to the ACRL/NY email list are found on the ACRL/NY Website:

<http://www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/acrlny/list.htm>

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