



*Connections:*  
*The Quarterly Newsletter of ACRL / NY*

**Volume 21, Number 2**  
**Summer 2002**

## *Message From the President*

**Harriet Hagenbruch**

It's hard to believe that summer has officially arrived – a season usually associated with recreation, rest and, on occasion, reflection. Toward the end of April, I had a head start on reflection. I broke my foot and was laid up with a cast for at least six weeks. Unfortunately, as a result I canceled plans to attend ALA but I did have an opportunity to think about a variety of issues both personal and professional.

I remember thinking how amazing it is that almost sixteen years have elapsed since I completed Library School and while the time has gone by "in the blink of an eye," librarianship has changed so dramatically during that period. While pursuing a degree, I struggled to write reports on an old-fashioned typewriter, relied mainly on a card catalog to search for books, looked for articles by perusing print indexes, and seemed to think that one course on computers in libraries was more than sufficient. Of course the Internet, and all it has to offer in terms of communication and resources, was something that I couldn't even have imagined.

When I first started my career as a librarian (at least for the first few years) all of this remained pretty much the same. Now, technology in general, and the Internet in particular, has changed everything we do. In many respects it has greatly facilitated our jobs and many of us may wonder how we ever managed without word-processing, e-mail, online databases, and a myriad of other things that we practically take for granted. In fact, it seems we often expect as much "instant gratification" as the patrons we serve.

Of course, while technology has greatly enhanced our job performance it can also present its own set of challenges. We increasingly find ourselves pulled in many different directions and, as librarians, we also find ourselves constantly seeking to define and redefine our various roles – part of the theme of the upcoming Symposium. Those of us who are academic librarians may see our position as leaders on campus increase dramatically as we work cooperatively with other faculty in promoting information literacy and the ability to think critically.

Regardless of the setting within which we function, we remain "gatekeepers" of knowledge as well as frequent defenders of intellectual freedom. ACRL on the national level as well as through its various Chapters seeks to examine the issues confronting our profession, establish policies, and when necessary, effect change.

Speaking of Chapters, ACRL/NY has had a very busy year so far. We no sooner finished enjoying the success of the Symposium held last December, *Outcomes Assessment: A Step Forward*, than we started preparing for the 2002 Symposium.

Since January, the Symposium Planning Committee has been meeting on a regular basis and, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Francie Davis and Eloise Bellard, are making great progress toward finalizing the preparation of this major ACRL/NY event.

Also, as I mentioned in a previous newsletter, we co-sponsored two other library events. One was the

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## **Symposium 2002**

# **What's in a Name? Defining Our Profession**

### **November 15, Baruch College**

When librarians get together at meetings, they talk about the substance of the conference and exchange views and experiences. But if, perchance, someone should bring up a question about the status of librarians on campus, faculty vs. non-faculty status, tenure, new responsibilities that have resulted from new technology, or the need to publish and present, then the discussion gets quite animated. These issues concern us professionally and impact our careers, but we

seldom have an opportunity to network with our peers and learn from experts in the field about how to approach these concerns in a positive and productive manner. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ACRL/NY Symposium *What's in a Name? Defining Our Profession* on November 15<sup>th</sup> is going to present just that golden opportunity to not only hear preeminent speakers, but to share our experiences with one another in a solution-centered forum.

The symposium will be held Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> in New York City at Baruch College. Established in 1980, it continues the tradition of providing programming for academic and research librarians in the greater metropolitan area of New York City. Focusing on topics of concern that will be affecting the way libraries serve their communities in the future, the conference provides special opportunities for discussion, creative thought and networking that is not present at other library meetings. The conference has become an exciting, forward-looking highlight of the New York metropolitan area library world. There are generally 200 attendees who come from the 5 boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Westchester, New Jersey, and elsewhere.

The format for our symposium has been changed this year to reflect last year's attendees' requests. Our four guest speakers will address the audience in the morning but the afternoon program will feature workshop sessions facilitated by both our speakers and members of the symposium committee.

#### **Speakers:**

**Janet Swan Hill**, University of Colorado at Boulder.

**What our title means to our stakeholders:** status of librarians, leadership roles, tenure, faculty status, etc.

**Mary Reichel**, Appalachian State. **Peer review evaluation and promotion**

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*Connections* is published quarterly by the Greater New York Metropolitan Area Chapter / Association of College and Research Libraries, Inc. for its members.

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#### **Annual Membership Dues:**

ACRL National Members: \$10.00  
Members of Other State and Local Academic  
Institutions: \$15.00  
Non-members: \$20.00  
Students: \$5.00  
Institutional Members: \$25.00

Previous issues of *ACRL/NY Connections* may be found  
on the chapter's website:

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

## **President's Message, *cont'd***

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Spring Reception of the New York Technical Services Librarians, which was held in the Trustees Room of the New York Public Library. Addie Armstrong, Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the New York City Section, represented our Chapter at this reception. We also co-sponsored, with several other library organizations, a program brought to us by the Long Island Library Resources Council (LILRC) entitled *Licensing and Managing Electronic Resources*. It took place on April 5 at the New York Institute of Technology's deSeversky Center.

Furthermore, our Chapter has been well represented at a number of significant events. Janet Clarke, the Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the Long Island Section, attended the *Living the Future 4 Conference*, co-sponsored by the University of Arizona Library, the Association of Research Libraries Office of Leadership and Management Services and ACRL. Susan Rubin, our ACRL/NY Legislative Liaison, attended ALA's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. on May 6 and 7. Finally, Gloria Meisel, the Chair of the Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley Section served as the Chapter's Representative at the Chapter's Council meeting during ALA.

In addition, two Discussion Groups have been quite active this year and each group has met recently. The Information Literacy Discussion Group, chaired by Dona McDermott, a librarian at the Center for Business Research, C.W. Post Campus, Long Island University, met on April 26 at the New York School of Interior Design where they discussed tools for assessment.

The Education/Curriculum Materials Center Discussion Group, chaired by Irina Poznansky, the Resource Center Librarian at the Milbank Memorial Library, Teachers' College, Columbia University, met on May 31 at Teachers' College. As part of that meeting, there was a presentation by Dr. Sheila Gersh, Division Director, Center for School Development; Director, Global Education Telecommunications Network Project, the School of Education, City

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## **Information Literacy Discussion Group Holds Two Lively Meetings**

The ACRL/NY Information Literacy Discussion Group held two meetings this spring. The first meeting on March 1, 2002 was held at The Henry Birnbaum Library at Pace University in downtown Manhattan at the invitation of Susan Glickman, Instructional Services Librarian at Pace. Fifteen members attended and each discussed the information literacy initiatives underway at their institutions. The group represented a broad range of experiences, such as: credit bearing library courses, different techniques for bibliographic instruction, and integrating library instruction into subject courses.

One of the hottest topics was assessing information literacy. While the group was in agreement that much had been written on the subject as well as covered in ACRL/NY's 2001 Symposium, *Learning Outcomes Assessment: A Step Forward*, most of the material was on the theoretical level rather than on the how-to level. As a result, the group decided to concentrate the next meeting on tools for assessment. Each person in the group was asked to find information or people who had tools for assessment and bring them to the next meeting.

The Group's second meeting, attended by twenty-five ACRL/NY members, took place at the New York School of Interior Design on East 70th Street in Manhattan at the invitation of Paul Glassman, Director of the Library.

Martha Cooney, ACRL/NY member and Director of the Center for Business Research at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, presented materials that she had created in collaboration with a finance department faculty member to incorporate an information literacy component into an international finance course. Ms. Cooney brought and handed out samples of her materials which included goals for the sessions linked to ACRL standards, an information literacy inventory for students to take before the sessions, and a learning outcomes checklist to be used to assess each student.

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## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DAY

The 28th National Library Legislative Day took place in Washington, D.C. on May 6 and 7. This very important event sponsored by ALA is held every year. On the 6th, librarians from all over the country assembled to learn about legislative issues. The next day they met with their congressmen on Capital Hill to discuss the issues most important to them.

On May 6 we attended a day of briefings held at the Holiday Inn on The Hill. Topics discussed included intellectual property/copyright, internet/telecommunications, government information, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and lobbying.

ACRL held a working luncheon attended by about 60 academic librarians. Two excellent

speakers presented: Scott Jaschik, an editor of the Chronicle of Higher Education, spoke about legislative and public policy issues in higher education; and Thomas Susman, a Washington lawyer with a legislative and regulatory practice, spoke about the USA Patriot Act and access to government information.

The ALA Washington Office also distributed links to the websites below, providing current information on legislative issues.

Hope to see you at National Library Legislative Day next year!

*Susan Rubin, Mercy College  
Legislative Liaison*

ALA Washington Office Newslines (ALAWON) is a free, email publication providing urgent and late breaking news from Washington, D.C. To subscribe go to <http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon>.

The ALA Legislative Action Center at <http://congress.ala.org> allows you to communicate with your member of congress via email.

The Copyright Web Site at <http://copyright.ala.org> will help librarians understand copyright and how it affects library services.

UCITA: Issues and Concerns for Libraries at <http://www.ala.org/washoff/ucita/> will help librarians understand UCITA and how it affects library services.

Issue Briefs at <http://www.ala.org/washoff> and <http://www.ala.org/oitp> contain the latest information on library issues.

National Library Legislative Days, <http://www.ala.org/washoff/legday> is an annual event in May. Hundreds of librarians and library supporters from all fifty states come to Washington, D.C. to speak to members of Congress about the crucial importance of libraries. Please join us.

## ***Living the Future 4 Conference: A Report Tuscon, April 24-27***

The University of Arizona Library began to reorganize in 1992 when they were no longer getting resources needed to maintain functions and services and develop new ones. The first *Living the Future Conference* was held in 1994, and has been held every 2 years in order to help other libraries in the reorganization process.

At the University of Arizona, reorganization/restructuring was based on putting "customers" first, asking "how do they use the library and what do they need when they come to the library?" The library began their Strategic Long Range Planning (SLRP) Process by defining the library's mission, vision, and goals. From SLRP, teams were developed to manage specific projects.

The University of Arizona Library is characterized by a flattened hierarchy, composed of functional and cross-functional teams which make the "final decisions" on matters in their respective areas, such as a Technical Services or an Information Literacy Team.

The Conference presented the following advice for libraries in the process of reorganization:

- ◆ Libraries need to be flexible to accommodate changes in environment, such as budgets, technology, and new work. Typically, libraries tend to be inflexible organizations which in turn make change difficult.
- ◆ In order to make libraries more flexible, fluid

organizations, the traditional hierarchy of library administration should be flattened with less emphasis on assistant directors and more emphasis on team work.

- ◆ This restructuring can be achieved by looking at the organization – not from the organization's work processes – but from a client-centered focus.
- ◆ All this change is not without difficulty. Libraries work for many years to bring about their reorganization, and continue to evolve over time.

### **Relevant Websites**

University of Arizona Teams:

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/library/teams/teams/html>

University of Arizona Organization Articles:

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/library/teams/fast/biblio/html>

Brown University Library

[http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/University\\_Library/MODEL](http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/University_Library/MODEL)

University of Maryland

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/PUB/inhousenews.html>

IUPUI

<http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/libinfo/teams.html>

University of Connecticut

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/LivingTheFuture>

North Suburban Library System

<http://www.nsls.info>

*Janet Clarke, SUNY Stonybrook  
Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, Long Island Section*

## **Information Literacy Discussion Group Holds Two Lively Meetings, *cont'd***

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This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation by Susan Glickman and Sarah Higgins of Pace University. The PowerPoint presentation is used for information literacy classes at Pace. The learning objectives covered in the sessions are also linked to various ACRL standards. In the discussion that followed, Linda Poston of Nyack College shared with the group some of the programs in place at her institution for information literacy. Discussion followed about what needs students have, how these differ from one institution to another, and the need for matching an information literacy program to a specific institution's environment.

The next Information Literacy Discussion Group meeting will be held in the fall. If you are an ACRL/NY member interested in joining this discussion group, send an e-mail with your name and organizational affiliation to Dona McDermott at [dona.mcdermott@liu.edu](mailto:dona.mcdermott@liu.edu).

*Dona McDermott, Center for Business Research, C.W. Post Campus, Long Island University  
Chair, Information Literacy Discussion Group*

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College of the City University of New York. Dr. Gersh spoke on using the internet to create web-based lessons and activities as well as information literacy issues. The Group also discussed the draft of ACRL's Guidelines for Curriculum Materials Centers.

Both of these Discussion Groups plan additional meetings during the upcoming academic year.

Moreover, Executive Board members have been working behind the scenes at updating the ACRL/NY Bylaws in keeping with our new incorporated status and plans are underway to redesign the ACRL/NY Website. Also, a slate of candidates for membership on the ACRL/NY Executive Board has been assembled. Please watch for the ballot, which will be sent out to the membership sometime in the early part of the Fall.

I want to wish all of you a happy and healthy summer and for those of you who belong to our Chapter but have not been involved, please consider becoming more active during the upcoming fall season.

*Harriet Hagenbruch, Hofstra University  
President, ACRLNY*

## Symposium Update, *cont'd*

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Ray Metz**, University of Michigan-Dearborn. **Impact of technology on workload:** solutions and strategies.

**Jim Neal**, Columbia University. **Administrator's point of view:** how to direct that knowledge

The deadline for registration, limited to 180, is October 24<sup>th</sup>. As with last year, there will be no registration at the door. So mark your calendars for the ACRL/NY Symposium. Save the date (November 15<sup>th</sup>), register early, come, and participate. It's going to be an exciting conference you don't want to miss!

*Francie Davis, Dowling College &  
Eloise Bellard, Adelphi University  
Co-Chairs, ACRL/NY 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium Committee*

