

AFAS



AFAS: African American Studies Librarians Section
Association of College and Research Libraries - ALA

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear AFAS Members,

As I come to the close of my term as Chair of the African American Studies Section (AFAS), I would like to thank all those who agreed to serve as committee chairs—Heather Martin, Publications Committee; Rebecca Hankins, AFAS newsletter editor; Thomas Weissinger, Nominating Committee; LeRoy LaFleur and Johnnieque Love, co-chairs, 2010 Conference Program Committee; Gennice King and Sylvia A. Nyana, co-chairs, Membership Committee; William Welburn, Policy and Research Committee; and, Elaine Westbrooks, Convener of the Access to African American Content Discussion Group. Also, let me acknowledge all who willingly gave of their time and dedication to serve on a committee. Without you the work of this section could not move forward and for your participation and work, I thank you.

During our midwinter conference meeting, ACRL has proposed some changes that will affect positively all ACRL sections. One fundamental change is that ACRL will no longer require the traditional Action Plans. Action Plans will be discontinued starting in 2010. Instead all **ACRL sections may** submit items, including proposals for projects that advance the strategic plan and require funding, for Board consideration. The process for submitting a Board Action Form is detailed on the ACRL website at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/resources/policies/chapter5board.cfm#5seven>. I encourage the section to use this venue for future projects. The Board accepts these proposals four times a year. Questions about the submission process or timeline may be directed to ACRL Program Officer Katie Coombes at kcoombes@ala.org.

During the Executive Meeting several ideas were discussed including the need for AFAS to have more of a presence at the various diversity national conferences. The AFAS newsletter would serve as a venue to encourage members to share their research and publications. Also, we need to encourage new and retiring members to stay active in the section to work on projects via ALA connect. This format will allow us to collaborate and work on various projects such as HBCU collections of interest, joint publications, the tenure process mentorship, and the encouragement of members to use other AFAS members as a resource before submission of proposals and papers to ACRL and other conferences. Our members are a valued resource.

As we continue to look for ways to increase our membership, the membership committee discussed ideas about how to recruit other ethnic studies members to our section. We can look to recruit new library school graduates and other interdisciplinary groups that have a stake in African American Studies.

The Access to African American Content Discussion Group discussed the name change of

the group, barriers to access to African American materials, digital scholarship and interdisciplinary research, and making the transition from print to electronic resources during the midwinter meeting. From this meeting, the committee concluded that they needed to “work with other groups such as BCALA to solve problems and leverage materials about marginalized groups.”

This year many members were not able to attend midwinter due to budget restraints. As we begin to look for members to run for office, the question was raised about the Executive Board members’ commitment to attend both the midwinter and annual meeting in person and how that impacts one’s decision to run for office? There was discussion about the use of virtual meetings and how other sections were using this format for their midwinter meetings. ACRL does support virtual meetings in lieu of a face-to-face meeting and they have the software to run these meetings. This item was tabled until the June 2010 Annual meeting for further discussion.

The 2010 Programming Committee LeRoy LaFleur, Johnnieque Love, and Glenda Alvin, has planned an exciting and informative program on the digitization of African American Studies Collections. The program title is “Digitization: Preserving and Open Access to African American Collections.” Dr. Ida Jones, Assistant Curator and Manuscript Librarians at Howard University’s Moorland Spingarn Research Center; Ira Revel, Project Manager for the HBCU Alliance, Cornell University Digitization partnership; and Robert Cox, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Massachusetts Amherst are the keynote speakers. This session will be held on Sunday, June 27, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you at this session. I would like to extend a special thank you to AFAS member and Proquest representative Sarah Brechner, who urged her company to support this program. Proquest is our corporate sponsor who will provide refreshments for the occasion.

In closing, let us continue to keep the work of this section moving forward. As we embark on new initiatives in the 21st century, our efforts and our voice are important to the profession. I hope that you will continue to support, volunteer, and participate in the activities of this section. Our strong legacy must continue with your expertise, dedication, and support. I look forward to seeing you in June at the Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Vivian Fisher

Chair, AFAS 2009 – 2010

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COMMITTEE REPORTS & MEMBER NEWS

2010 ACRL/AFAS CANDIDATES

Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

Rebecca Hankins, Texas A&M University

Gennice W. King, Xavier University, LA

Member at Large

Angela Gooden, University of Cincinnati

Malaika Grant, University of Minnesota

Secretary

Shauna Collier, UNC-Chapel Hill

AFAS continues to build on a strong foundation of devoted and qualified leadership. AFAS is stronger and more focused on its mission of service to scholars in the field of African American studies. As we thrive, the membership has to volunteer for committee work, be willing to serve in leadership positions, and support its leaders.

Don't Forget to Vote by April 23, 2010!

Member Kudos

Congratulations to Ira Revels, has an article titled *Managing Digital Projects* in the April issue of *American Libraries*! The article in AL is taken from Ira's book *Managing Digital Projects*, to be published this fall (2010) by ALA Editions.

Congratulations to former AFAS President Carmelita Pickett's recently published article titled *Black Studies Scholarship and Its Coverage in Thomson Reuters' Web of Science* in the journal *Collection Management*, Oct-Dec. 2009, Vol. 34, Issue 4.

Congratulations to Rebecca Hankins who has been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor at Texas A&M University.

A big and sincere thank you to Drexel University library graduate student **Genive Purchase** for her work on this Spring issue of our newsletter.

About AFAS

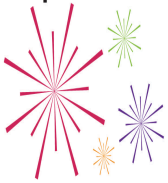
Established as a section within the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association, AFAS is the outgrowth of a discussion group consisting of dynamic librarians with interest in and concern for African American Studies and librarianship. Its circle of founding leaders include Clarence Chisholm, Stanton Biddle, Doris H. Clack, William Welburn, and others.

Mission Statement

The mission of the African American Studies Librarians Section is to study librarianship and collection development as it progresses and relates to African American Studies collections; to conduct ongoing evaluation and discussion of research in African American Studies; to focus on resource sharing, archival materials, bibliographic control, retrospective collecting/purchasing, mechanized information, retrieval selection policies and procedures, oral history, and others as they relate to collection development and librarianship of African American Studies.

ALA CONFERENCE JUNE 24-30, 2010 & WEB NEWS

ALA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
& EXHIBITION



DC
2010
JUNE 24-30

We are excited to present on behalf of the AFAS membership our Annual program at the upcoming ALA Conference in Washington DC on Sunday, 27 June 2010, 8:00am - 12:00pm.

This year's program, "Digitization: Preserving and Open Access to African American Collections" will focus on the role that library digitization efforts play in providing long-term storage and access to resources of significance to African American history and culture.

Program contents will highlight the importance and benefits of developing a digitization program, as well as some of the tools, technologies and strategies for establishing and maintaining these initiatives.

Speakers will include Dr. Ida Jones, Assistant Curator and Manuscript Librarian at Howard University's Moorland Spingarn Research Center, Ira Revels, the Project Manager for the HBCU Alliance-Cornell University Digitization partnership, and Robert Cox, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

LeRoy Jason LaFleur
Head, Arlington Campus Library

AFAS is on FACEBOOK

Have a facebook account. If so, look for AFAS on Facebook. AFAS has joined ACRL, the Instruction Section, and other ACRL Sections on the social networking site.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22843361484>

NEW AFAS DISCUSSION LIST



acrl-afas-l@ala.org

This is the official discussion list of the ACRL African American Studies Librarians Section.

Go to <http://lists.ala.org/sympa/info/acrl-afas-l> and click subscribe

Get Involved!

What do members of the African American Studies Librarians Section do?

- Participate in AFAS committees whose objectives are promoting, supporting and fostering information services in the field.
- Plan programs of interest to members and their constituents.
- Network with librarians with similar interests. Maintain an online list of core resources in African American Studies.
- Promote librarianship among African American Studies organizations.

ALA/ACRL NEWS

DAWN MUELLER-PRODUCTION MANAGER/ALA

**Annual Conference
Information Online**

Find updated program details and speaker information on the ACRL at Annual Conference Web page. Go to www.acrl.org, select “Conferences & Events,” and click on “ACRL @ Annual Conference” for the latest!

Locations for programs and meetings will be available on the ALA Web site approximately one month prior to the beginning of Annual Conference; look for the “Event Planner” link on the ALA Annual Conference Web site at www.ala.org/annual. Fully registered attendees can create a personalized agenda and search for meeting, program, and event times and locations.

ACRL 2011



Philadelphia

March 30 – April 2, 2011

**ACRL 2011: A Declaration of
Interdependence**

In today’s fast paced and changing world, keeping current is more essential than ever. Access cutting-edge information, discover new ideas, and engage in conversations with academic and research librarians from around the world at ACRL 2011. You can’t afford to miss it!

Program

ACRL 2011 will feature more than 300 peer-reviewed programs addressing hot topics such as assessment, digital initiatives, information literacy, scholarly communication, and emerging technologies.

Registration

Registration and housing materials are available now at www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference. Register by February 4, 2011, to take advantage of discounted early-bird registration fees and save more than 20%! Group discounts are available for institutions that register ten or more employees. Save up to an additional 20% off conference registration fees.

Scholarships

ACRL is offering over 80 scholarships worth over \$40,000 for librarians, support staff and students to participate in the ACRL 2011 conference. Apply at www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference by November 9, 2010.

Connect with ACRL 2011 Online www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference

Twitter: #acrl2011

**ACRL sets 2010 Legislative
Agenda**

Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from the ACRL Scholarly Communications and Copyright Committees, along with additional committees, ACRL leaders, and ALA Washington Office, the legislative agenda is prioritized and includes objectives for legislative action at the national level on issues that may affect the welfare of academic and research libraries. The ACRL Board of Directors recently approved the 2010 ACRL Legislative Agenda in time for Library Advocacy Day on June 29 in Washington, D.C.

The 2010 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on eight priorities, including public access to federally-funded research, Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, network neutrality, government information, orphan works, fair use and ant circumvention, lead in books, and supporting school librarians. Read the complete legislative agenda for more details at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/washingtonwatch/10agenda.cfm>

News of Interest

AARL Archives Internship Program

The Auburn Avenue Research Library Archives Division has formally begun its internship program with several metro-Atlanta colleges and universities. Dr. Wesley Chenault, AARL Library Research Associate, is the coordinator for the program which currently has twelve students from schools that include Spelman College, Georgia State University, Morehouse College, Kennesaw State University, and Emory University. The program has attracted academic and volunteer undergraduate and graduate student interns. The students assist Archives staff with processing and preserving collections, creating descriptive inventory records, and sorting through unprocessed materials.

Jonathan Collins, Mario Stephens, and Kenton Ramsby are Morehouse College English majors and members of Upsilon Nu Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, an International English Honor Society. Motivated to learn more about the role and function of research libraries, the honor students are excited about the opportunity to work with historical documents and artifacts. Ramsby explains, "This particular experience will provide an opportunity for me to learn and grow as a scholar and give me an extra something that classroom lectures cannot offer. Working with the various documents allows me to actually *feel* a piece of history."

The Archives Division Internship Program will continue to grow as Dr. Chenault will supervise two Emory University/University of North Texas Digital Librarian School interns in Spring 2010. The students will assist the division in strengthening the research library's digital collections.

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The Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Digital Library of Georgia receive NHPRC grant

The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History (AARL), a special library of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System (AFPLS), and the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) received funds from the National Historical Papers and Records Commission (NHPRC) to digitize and make Web-accessible late nineteenth and mid-twentieth century manuscript collections that document the historical development of education for African Americans, primarily in the South, from the early 1860s to the early 1950s. These materials, owned and housed at AARL, are of great national significance as they were created during the near-century long struggle to improve educational opportunities for African Americans in the United States, a period when "separate but equal" was the standard rule of U.S. law and racial segregation compelled black and white race relations.

The collaborative project will result in the creation of 74, 000 pages of digital content made available through AARL and the DLG. The two-year project will begin in April 2010. For more information, please visit the official announcement for the NHPRC grant initiatives:

<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2010/nr10-28-attachment.html>

NEWS OF INTEREST CONTD.

UMASS AMHERST LIBRARIES PROVIDE RESOURCES ON HAITI

In response to the earthquake in Haiti, the UMass Amherst Libraries has compiled a list of resources for the campus community and the public. This list is available at <http://guides.library.umass.edu/haiti>. The web page includes links to local/international news coverage of this tragedy and organizations that are providing assistance, as well as library resources for background information. This page will be updated frequently in the coming days and months. For more information, contact Isabel Espinal (iespinal@library.umass.edu, 413-545-6817).

UMass Amherst librarians received emails from many librarians in other institutions who wanted to use our guide as a model for theirs. Most of them actually used our LibGuide template as their starting point in the LibGuides system. It was hard to keep track of all the emails, but we heard from at least the following: Eastern Connecticut State University, Johnson & Wales University in North Miami, Merrimack College, New Mexico State University, NorQuest College, Northwestern College (Orange City, IA), Soka University, SUNY Geneseo, Syracuse University, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Three Rivers Community College, University of Alberta, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Southern Maine, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Washington University.

Here are links to some of those guides:

Haiti - Support@Syracuse University
<http://researchguides.library.syr.edu/haitidisaster>

Haiti - "Disaster in Haiti" (Washington University)
<http://libguides.wustl.edu/content.php?pid=91380>

Haiti Earthquake Disaster (SUNY Geneseo)
<http://libguides.geneseo.edu/haiti>

Disaster in Haiti - A guide to research and information (Johnson & Wales North Miami campus)
<http://jwufloida.libguides.com/haitirelief>

Haiti: Past and Present (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

<http://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/haiti>

Isabel Espinal

<http://guides.library.umass.edu/haiti>

<http://people.umass.edu/iespinal>

Texas A&M University Libraries Offers Open-Access Resource for Scholarly Publishing

University Libraries has joined a growing international group of top research institutions in providing support for arXiv, a key open-access resource for faculty and researchers in the sciences and engineering. Based at Cornell University Library, the online repository, arXiv (pronounced "archive"), boasts nearly 600,000 e-prints—research articles published online in physics, mathematics, statistics, computer science and related disciplines. Users can submit their own research to the online repository and access the work of others.

"We are pleased to offer this shared resource for scholarly communication to our faculty and researchers at Texas A&M," explained Colleen Cook, Dean of the University Libraries. "It establishes a collaborative network for providing and accessing scientific research which benefits a large number of institutions and researchers worldwide," she added.

Researchers upload their own articles which become available to others the next day through arXiv. Faculty at Texas A&M are already taking advantage of this open-access resource in several science and engineering disciplines. As the 43rd highest international institutional user of this resource, Texas A&M already counts among its faculty and students in the sciences enthusiastic users of this online repository.

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The *AFAS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editor, preferably in electronic format.

The *AFAS Newsletter* is sent to all AFAS members at no additional cost. Claims and address changes should be sent to the ALA address, Attention: Membership.

AFAS WEBSITE:

www.afassection.org

AFAS WIKI

To directly access the AFAS Wiki use the following URL: <http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/AFAS>.

[index.php/AFAS](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/AFAS). You can also access our Wiki from the ACRL Wiki main page: http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main_Page.

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