

AFAS



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

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 2

FALL 2010

ISSN 1076-8955

In this Issue

Greetings from the Chair	Page 1-2
Committee Reports/Member News	Page 3
Book Review	Page 4
ALA/ACRL News	Page 5
News of Interest	Page 6-7

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear AFAS Members,

I am truly excited to serve as the 2010-2011 Chair of AFAS. I am looking forward to meeting all of the 247 members and the new ones that we recruit to join our section. I have two major goals that I would like to accomplish during my tenure as Chair.

Goal one is to increase our membership by at least 10% of the current membership of 247. That means that we must both retain our current members and invite new members to join us. So please encourage your colleagues, friends, and foe to join us.

The second goal is to increase attendance at our general membership meetings. If you attend the conference, I beg you to attend the general membership meeting. Please let me know what we need to do to have you present at our membership meetings. For the general membership meeting at the mid-winter conference in San Diego, ***a prize will be given to the 26th attendee.***

The 2010 Program committee, chaired by LeRoy LeFleur and Johnnique Love, is commended for the program, "Digitization: Preserving and Open Access to African American Collections". Over 100 attendees heard Ida Jones (Howard University's Moorland Spingard Research Center), Robert Cox (UMass), and Ira Revels (HBCU Alliance-Cornell University Digitization Partnership) speak of digitization programs in which they are involved. Sarah Brechner, of Proquest (our co-sponsor) discussed new and continuing products and of the recent creation of a new Spectrum Scholarship named for the late Ron Clowney of Proquest. Please see *C&RL News* 71(8), 403-404 for Rebecca Hankins' write-up of the program.

In an effort to expand the ACRL liaison outreach to higher education organizations, the ACRL Board recently approved a new structure for the old Council of Liaisons with the following new committees:

- Liaisons Coordinating Committee – Oversees and coordinates ACRL liaison

relationship activities across all levels of the association; establishes and manages processes of establishing liaison relationships and provides common guidelines for appointing liaisons to the ACRL units managing liaison relationships; assesses effectiveness of the liaison program and makes recommendations for its improvement.

- Liaisons Grants Committee – Manages liaison program support budget; establishes and manages competitive processes for liaisons to apply for funding for specific liaison activities over a period of time with a focus on assessable outcomes.
- Liaisons Training and Development Committee – Manages ALA Connect Community for liaisons; provides training and resource material for liaisons including suggestions for communicating the results of liaison work to ACRL membership.
- Liaisons Assembly – Members of the ALA Connect Community who are currently serving in liaison positions at all levels of the association.

We will not have a program at the 2011 Annual Conference in New Orleans, but the 2012 Program Committee is very busy planning an exciting program for the 2012 Conference.

I look forward to a very productive year, so please join us in making AFAS a stronger and more vibrant organization—together WE CAN DO IT.

Joyce K. Thornton
Chair, 2010-2011
Associate Dean for faculty Affairs
Texas A&M University Libraries
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-5000
jkthorn@library.tamu.edu

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MEMBER NEWS

2011-2012 ACRL/AFAS LEADERS

Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

Rebecca Hankins, Texas A&M University

Member at Large

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.

Thanks to all that voted.

Please continue to support Us!

Member Kudos

Congratulations to Kathleen Bethels on her recently published article *In Historic, Fraught Birmingham, Black Librarians Gather for Seventh National Conference*. The article can be viewed on Library Journal.com via the following link http://www.libraryjournal.com/lj/home/886589-264/in_historic_fraught_birmingham_black.html.csp

Congratulation to Sylvia Nyana on her recently published article in the September issue of the *Journal of Pan African Studies*, titled "[Information Use in African American Studies Doctoral Dissertations at Pennsylvania State University, 2000-2007.](#)"

Congratulations to Kathleen Bethel on her recent election to the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of African American Life & History, Inc., the founders of Black History Month. <http://www.asalh.org/>.

Congratulations to Courtney L. Young in her new position as Head Librarian at Penn State Greater Allegheny.

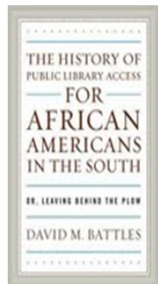
About AFAS

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.

BOOK REVIEW



Author David M. Battles presented his latest work, *The History of Public Library Access for African American in the South: Or, Leaving behind the Plow* to attendees at the 7th National Conference of African American Librarians in Birmingham in August.

This important work weaves together the African American history and the story of library services in the South to provide one of the most comprehensive examinations to date. Widely reviewed, Battles is repeatedly commended on his ability to write library history that is interesting, rich in diversity and historical detail that captures and keeps the reader's attention.

This book, not only chronicles library services to African Americans, it exposes the reluctance of the American Library Association to enter into sensitive racial battles taking place in southern libraries during the 1950s and 60s. Battles writes that the Library Bill of Rights was born out of this period and ALA accepted its mission to ensure universal access to public libraries in the United States.

The History of Public Library Access for African Americans in the South: Or, Leaving behind the Plow is published by Scarecrow Press and is highly recommended for all librarians. A great read.

--Akilah Nosakhere

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

ACRL 2011: A Declaration of Interdependence

The ACRL 2011 conference is the premier event for academic libraries, drawing librarians, support staff, and vendors from across the country and around the world.

ACRL 2011 will feature more than 300 peer-reviewed sessions.

Register by **February 4, 2011**, and save more than **20 percent**. Group rates, reduced airfares, hotel discounts, and scholarships are also available. www.acrl.org/acrlconference

ACRL e-Learning Program

Looking to expand your professional horizons? Register for an ACRL e-Learning event. Stretch your professional development budget by registering for these affordable distance learning courses and webcasts! For more information, visit www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/elearning/index.cfm. Space is limited, so register early to reserve your seat! Group rates are available for live Webcasts.

Submit a Poster Session Proposal for ACRL 2011-Deadline November 1, 2010

Submit a poster session proposal for ACRL 2011 to be held in historic Philadelphia, March 30 - April 2, 2011. We encourage you to participate in this exciting and

energizing exchange of ideas—bring your latest research, cutting-edge practices, and innovative developments to share with your colleagues. We invite you to submit your innovative or radical proposals to help us make ACRL 2011 a truly revolutionary conference!

Poster sessions use graphic displays to informally present innovative library-based projects, successful solutions to problems, or present the findings of a unique research project while summarizing lessons for the academic and research library community. Presenters will share their main ideas with colleagues via a brief discussion of their topic as attendees navigate the poster session area.

Posters should be an eye-catching visual representation of the topic, including graphics, tables, charts, text, and images. Each interactive poster session will be scheduled for one hour in one of five time blocks. The Poster Session Committee expects poster sessions that engage attendees during repeated presentations.

The poster sessions will be located near the exhibits area. Presenters are encouraged to create online handouts in order to communicate more detailed information. Since space is limited at a poster session, a maximum of two presenters per presentation at any one time is recommended. Best practices for a successful poster sessions will be available prior to the conference.

The deadline for submission is November 1, 2010. Use the online submission form at <http://bit.ly/ACRL11Call>. Questions about poster session submissions should be directed to: Trevor A. Dawes, Princeton University, tdawes@princeton.edu

Volunteer for an ACRL Committee

ACRL volunteers are an integral part of the Association who help shape the organization by advancing the goals set forth in our strategic plan and influencing the direction of academic and research librarianship. Volunteering to serve on a committee is one of the best ways to be involved and make an impact with your Association. The deadline to submit your completed volunteer form is February 15, 2011. Forms can be found at the following link: [Volunteer Now](#)



News of Interest

BCALA 7th National Conference

The Black Caucus of ALA met in Birmingham, Alabama for the 7th National Conference. African American librarians shared their experiences in the development of digital initiatives to increase access to southern civil rights collections. The photo below (Left to right) are: Dr. Toby Graham, Associate Library Director at the University of Georgia and Director of the Civil Rights Digital Library; Kerrie Cotten Williams, Archivist/Manager, Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History; Jennifer Brannock, Archivist, McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi, Akilah Nosakhere, panel moderator, co-chair of the BCALA conference program committee, and Andrea Jackson, Head of the Archives Research Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center.



The HistoryMakers Receives a Major Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to Support Increasing African American Diversity in Archives

The HistoryMakers Inc is pleased to offer a year-long fellowship working in African American archives. The purpose of this fellowship program is to provide training for African American archivists and other archivists interested in working with African American archival collections. Additional information can be obtained from Emily Martorano at em@thehistorymakers.com.

Patricia Lessane Named Director of the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center

Lessane joins the College after teaching at five Chicago-area colleges and universities, most recently as Assistant Professor of Social Science and Humanities in the Department of Professional and Liberal Studies at Roosevelt University. I am delighted to serve as the Director of the Avery Research Center of African American History and Culture and I look forward to working with my talented and dedicated staff, as well as The College of Charleston's community of prolific scholars to continue to build on the Avery Normal Institute's legacy of academic excellence and community advocacy, out of which Avery grew, ³ says Lessane. ³With the center's robust collection of African American art, artifacts, and archives and The College of Charleston's most viable resources, namely the students and faculty, we are poised to propel Avery onto the international radar as one the most important repositories of African American history and culture including that of the Gullah and Low Country traditions.²

The Avery Research Center maintains an archive of primary and secondary source material of nearly 4,000 holdings relating to the unique historical and cultural heritage of African Americans in Charleston and the South Carolina Lowcountry. The Center also operates as a small museum, a national historic site with a listing on the National Register of Historic Sites, and a cultural center. The Center was established in 1985 as a source of community outreach on African-American issues.

Lessane is a graduate of Fisk University (BA in English '92), Dartmouth College (MALS '95), and UIC (Ph.D 2005).

"Holding Fast the Dream: Hawaii's African American Experience"

The documentary film "Holding Fast the Dream: Hawaii's African American Experience" will be ready in late September. It is a one hour documentary film made for PBS. For further information see holdingthedream.org

NEWS OF INTEREST CONTD.

The New York Historical Society Makes Its Most Important Collection Relating to Slavery Available Online

The New-York Historical Society is proud to announce the launch of a new [online portal](#) to nearly 12,000 pages of source materials documenting the history of slavery in the United States, the Atlantic slave trade and the abolitionist movement. Made readily accessible to the general public for the first time, these documents from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries represent fourteen of the most important collections in the library's Manuscript Department.

The collections include account books and ship manifests documenting the financial aspects of the slave trade; legal papers such as birth certificates and deeds of manumission; and political works and polemics. The materials range from writings by the abolitionists Granville Sharp, Lysander Spooner and Charles Sumner to the diary of a plantation manager and overseer of slaves in Cuba, Joseph Goodwin, and that of a former slave in Fishkill, New York, James F. Brown. The site also provides access to the archives of abolitionist organizations such as the New-York Manumission Society and the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, as well as the records of the African Free School, which document the education of free blacks in early nineteenth-century New York.

National Council for Black Studies [Call for Papers](#)

2011 National Conference, Cincinnati, OH

NCBS is accepting abstracts for individual paper, poster, panel, session, roundtable discussion, workshop, town hall meeting that explore the Black experience locally, nationally, and/or globally from a variety of perspectives. The deadline for submission is November 15, 2010. Many of your AFAS colleagues have presented at NCBS including Akilah Nosakhere, Thomas Weissinger, Carmelita Pickett, and Rebecca Hankins.

ProQuest Extends HBCU Access to *Black Studies Center*

Last year, ProQuest developed a program to give Historically Black Colleges and Universities access to one of its premier databases—**Black Studies Center**—at half-price or no cost, depending on each school's full-

time enrollment (FTE) size. ProQuest is pleased to extend this program through February 28, 2011.

ProQuest Updates Black Abolitionist Papers

Over 600 new full text records have been added to **Black Abolitionist Papers** in this release, both to the standalone and the add-on module for *Black Studies Center*. Other enhancements to *Black Abolitionist Papers* include hit highlighting for records from the University of North Carolina Press 5-volume set, the ability to search for records by author, the addition of newspapers to the Browse by Source listing, and XML gateway and Z39.50 compatibility. Users also have the option to select either Flash (with scrolling and zooming) or JPEG (with hit highlighting) as the default image view within their session – the JPEG view is now shown by default unless Flash is selected.

ProQuest Updates Black Studies Center and Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience

The **Black Studies Center** resource and **Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience** have been updated with a new essay and full text readings. The new essay, *Black Intellectual History: An Introduction*, is contributed by Demetrius L. Eudell, PhD, who teaches U.S. history and African American Studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. The essay includes several full text resources linked from the Recommended Reading section. Some other full text Readings have been added in this release for other essays.

UC Berkeley Exhibit: Born of Struggle: Forty Years of African American Studies

Forty years of African American Studies at UC Berkeley will be celebrated with an exhibit in the Doe Library Brown Gallery from September 15, 2010 -- February 28, 2011. The exhibit chronicles the African American presence on campus prior to 1960, and five decades of academic development from the 1960s to 2010. The exhibit runs from September 15-February 28, 2011. Contacts for the exhibit are Jason Schultz, Librarian for African and African American Collections (jschultz@library.berkeley.edu), and Myrtis Cochran, Acting Head, Research and Collections, Humanities and Social Sciences, (mcochran@library.berkeley.edu).

AFAS Newsletter
c/o ACRL
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
American Library
Association

AFAS Newsletter
(ISSN 1076-8955) is
published by the African
American Studies
Librarians' Section of the
Association of College and
Research Libraries, a
division of the American
Library Association, 50
East Huron Street,
Chicago, IL 60611, 1-800
-545-2433, x. 2523.

©American Library
Association, 2003.

Editor

Rebecca Hankins, C.A.
Africana Resources
Curator/Librarian
Texas A&M University
MS5000
College Station, TX 77840
rhankins@tamu.edu

and

Genive Purchase

Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

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:

afasacr.wordpress.com

AFAS WIKI

To directly access the AFAS Wiki
use the following URL: [http://
wikis.ala.org/acrl/](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](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main_Page).

**AFAS OFFICERS
2010/2011**

Joyce Thornton
Chair

Vivian Njeri Fisher,
Past Chair

Shauna Collier, Secretary
Malaika Grant,
Member-at-Large

Adam Burling,
Staff liaison
American Library Assn
ACRL Division

Lisabeth A. Chabot
ACRL Board Liaison

Committee Chairs

Membership

Gennice W. King

Access to African
American Content
Discussion Group

Kathleen E. Bethel

Nominating

Vivian Njeri Fisher
Policy and Research

William C. Welburn

Publications

Heather Martin