

AFAS



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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

"We have a much brighter future as we are masters of our own destiny!"

—W.H. Henley

Notes from the Chair of AFAS

Since the AFAS general meeting last summer at ALA Chicago, there has been a great deal of planning and progress on two major issues facing our section. Our 'New Directions' survey conducted last summer uncovered rich data that proved to be helpful in the decisions to revise the focus of AFAS and transition from 'Section' to 'Interest Group' status in 2015-2016.

Since 2000, ACRL AFAS membership has hovered around 230 members. Over the years, an active core of 20 librarians has maintained the section's administrative and Africana-focused programming activities—and we remain cognizant of their many contributions. ACRL's new Communities of Practice guidelines are now in effect and sections with less than 400 members must make crucial decisions regarding their level of participation in the new ACRL. As subject specialists and advocates of African American Studies, many of us were shocked, saddened, and even a bit angry about the possible loss of section status. However, after examining the options and understanding the economic motive of the organizational change, AFAS leadership now looks toward the future as an ACRL interest group with great optimism.

ACRL-AFAS To Become an Interest Group in 2015-2016

AFAS will find operational flexibility with the 'retirement' of section status. This new organizational structure will provide AFAS with opportunities to revise the mission; appeal to new practitioners in librarianship; build relationships with related organizations with similar focus; and change the name of the section to reflect the global reality of people of African descent.

As the Section transforms into a new entity, I am confident that innovative energies from AFAS membership will rise and lead the organization to new and exciting vistas. As chair, and representative of a dynamic group of Africana subject specialists, I invite you to actively participate in the building of a new organizational structure within the Association of College and Research Libraries.

AFAS: To revise Mission Statement and Select New Name in 2014-2015

In preparation of group status change, the 2014-2015 goals are: 1. Revise the mission statement of the interest group to reflect the global focus of Africana Studies; 2. Define group activities related to the development of librarianship devoted to the management of Africana world scholarship; and most importantly, 3. Select a new name for our new interest group!

AFAS membership will continue to meet at ALA midwinter and annual conferences. All members are urged to share in the make-over of the group. It is exciting to think that instead of spending the majority of meeting time managing administrative tasks we can now devote our discussions to recent scholarship, trends in ethnic studies librarianship, and planning discipline-related programs for possible

presentation at ACRL, ALA, and related Africana-focused conferences, such as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), a formal partner of ACRL. The ACRL/AFAS Liaison to ASALH position, established in 2006 by former AFAS Chair Carmelita Pickett, is a casualty of this transition. For many years, individual AFAS members have played an active role in ASALH and I think this relationship will continue. In fact, I predict the participation level of individual AFAS librarians will increase as seasoned subject specialists and academic librarians requiring scholastic opportunities within the discipline look to ASALH to submit papers and panel proposals related to Africana studies librarianship.

ACRL/AFAS: The Interest Group

This new flexible organizational model will enable ACRL to direct resources to popular trends and prepare new generations of librarians entering the profession —and AFAS leadership acknowledge this change to be a positive and sensible path for ACRL. Likewise, this new structure liberates the imaginations of AFAS librarians to soar as leaders, managers and creators of Africana Studies reference and resource material.

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 28 at ALA Annual in Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC) Room N102. Thank you for your support of AFAS together we can build a new vision for ACRL/AFAS the Interest Group!

Johnnie Love,

Chair, AFAS Section

afasacrl.wordpress.com

AFAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2014-2015

Chair—Malaika Grant

University of Minnesota

Vice Chair—Derrick Mosley

Morehouse College

Secretary — Latanya Jenkins

Temple University

Member-At Large —Dr. Grace Jackson-Brown

Missouri State University

Liaison to ASALH — Glenda Alvin

Tennessee State University

ACRL Board Liaison—Julia M. Gelfand

AFAS COMMITTEES

2014-2015

Membership Committee

Dr. Ruth A. Hodges, Chair

South Carolina State University

Dr. Lynne Simpson, Oklahoma State University

Dee Holliday, Indiana University

Publication and Research Committee

Akilah S. Nosakhare, Chair

New Mexico State University Carlsbad

Tracey M. Hughes, University of Missouri

Holly A. Smith, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dalena Estelle Hunter, UCLA Ralph Bunche Center

Jamillah R. Gabriel, Purdue University

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee

The AFAS Program Committee presents an exciting panel to open discussions on **Research and Scholarship in African American Studies**. Speaking to trends in teaching, digital preservation and archival collection building are Karen Jean Hunt of Duke University, Aaisha Haykal of Chicago State University, and Rebecca Hankins of Texas A & M University. The AFAS Research Forum is scheduled for Saturday, June 28 at 3 p.m. at ALA Annual in Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC) Room N235. *See page 5 for details.*

Membership Committee

AFAS members are invited to submit proposals for panel discussions for the 2014 ASALH Conference at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis Tennessee September 24—28, 2014. The deadline for submission of proposals is Saturday, May 31, 2014. The theme of the 99th ASALH conference is “Civil Rights in America.” For details, visit ‘call for papers’ on the ASALH website. Individual AFAS librarians attending the conference are encouraged to network with library colleagues in the Memphis area to plan a tour or reception. Members attending ALA Annual in Las Vegas are urged to attend the general meeting on Saturday, June 28 3 p.m. at ALA Annual in Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC) Room N102 and the African American Studies Research Forum at 4:30 p.m.—6 p.m. at the Las Vegas Convention Center-N235.

Publications & Research Committee

The new chair is looking forward to meeting new members in Las Vegas to collaborate on a variety of tasks related to the transformation of AFAS. Some of the tasks include documenting the contributions of the African American Subject Funnel Project, evaluation of the core list of journals project, the website, and redesign of brochure.

Editor’s Note: *At Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, the Executive Committee voted to phase out the following committees as AFAS Section transitions to an interest group.*

Conference Program Planning—San Francisco, 2015

As an interest group AFAS may sponsor programming within ACRL and ALA so this remains a possibility in the future. *See ACRL call on page 6.* For subject based projects it may be better to apply to calls from discipline-focused organizations such as, The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASAHL) the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) and the like, where support and opportunity for librarian-authored papers, panels and programs focused within Africana studies.

ACRL/AFAS Nominating Committee, 2015

In 2016, the African American Studies Librarians Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries will officially become an interest group. Interest groups do not participate in the formal ACRL elections process.

Access to African American Content Discussion Group

This discussion group, also known as the African American Subject Funnel Project, is no longer active. The Executive Committee will produce a summary report of the history and important contributions related to Africana subject headings used by libraries worldwide. AFAS members who were active with this discussion group over the years are encouraged to contribute to the summary. Express your interest on the ACRL/AFAS List.

MEMBER NEWS

Former AFAS chairs, **Rebecca Hankins**, Archivist and **Joyce Thornton**, Associate Professor Emerita, of Texas A&M University Libraries, produced a chapter for new publication, [Muslims and American Popular Culture](#) by Iraj Omidvar and Anne R. Richards. A two-volume series published by ABC-CLIO's Praeger Imprint. The chapter titled, "The Influence of Muslims and Islam in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Comics" appears in volume 1.

Glenda Alvin, ACRL/AFAS Liaison, has been appointed to the 2014 Academic Program Committee for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The Annual Conference will be held at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN, September 24-28, 2014. This year's theme is "*Civil Rights in America.*" Paper and panel proposal deadline is Saturday, May 31. For more details, visit the [ASALH](#) website.

Dr. Grace Jackson-Brown, Assistant Professor of Library Science at Missouri State University is the 2014 winner of RUSA's Zora Neale Hurston Award for the Springfield African American Read-In program, which celebrates African American authors and literacy, and the Dream Big program, which showcases African American authors, promotes reading by youths and adults and encourages all to dream big! Dr. Jackson-Brown also co-authored the article "The African American Read-in: Building Campus and Community Partnerships," *College and Research Libraries News*, 74(7) 2013, pp. 364-367.

News from the ACRL/AFAS LIST

ProQuest reps Scott Schultz and Sarah Brechner will meet with AFAS members to find ways of resolving gaps found in its Historical Newspapers database. Interested AFAS librarians are invited to meet with ProQuest at ALA Annual. RSVP Email: Scott.Schultz@proquest.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Koritha Mitchell, Associate Professor at Ohio State University author of *Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship 1890-1930*

shared her award winning research at a Lecture and Book Signing at the James Madison Memorial Building of the Library of Congress in March. Dr. Mitchell's unique research brings to light a little-known genre of plays and represents the first full-length critical study of lynching plays. *Living with Lynching* is the winner of the [American Theatre and Drama Society Award 2011/2012](#) and the [Society of American Women Writers Book Award for 2012](#). The book discussion is can be viewed on [CSPAN](#). <http://www.c-span.org/video/?318296-1/book-discussion-living-lynching>.

Black Metropolis Research Consortium Honored by Society of American Archivists with Distinguished Service Award

Chicago's [Black Metropolis Research Consortium](#) (BMRC) was honored by the Society of American Archivists with the 2013 Distinguished Service Award. The SAA Award Committee noted that the BMRC provided "important contributions to archival theory and practice, fostered collaborative relationships between member institutions, and shown ingenuity in its service to the community" with the completion of the "Color Curtain Processing Project: Unveiling the Archives of Chicago's Black Metropolis."

Some 100 collections, including over 10,000 linear feet of primary source materials related to African American History, were processed. Many were discussed on the [BMRC Processing Project Blog](#) and the BMRC [Facebook](#) page. The [Council on Library and Information Resources](#) (CLIR) awarded a twenty-eight month "Hidden Collections" grant to the BMRC for this work. This award also enabled the BMRC to formally introduce undergraduate students to the archival profession. The [Consortium Survey](#) continues to be a tremendous electronic resource leading to EAD finding aids for fabulous materials available in member collections. The BMRC is dedicated to making broadly accessible its members' holdings of materials that document African American and African diaspora culture, history, and politics, with a specific focus on materials relating to Chicago.

The University of Chicago serves as Host Institution of the BMRC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

African American Studies Librarians' Section
RESEARCH FORUM
*Research and Scholarship
in African American Studies*

Saturday, June 28 at 4:30pm - 6:00pm
Las Vegas Convention Center, Room 235

A Panel Discussion with

Rebecca Hankins , Texas A&M University-College Station

“If You Build Them They Will Come:

Radical and Revolutionary Collecting at Texas A&M University”

Aaisha Haykal, Chicago State University

“Continuing the life cycle of scholarship:

Digital Preservation and African American Studies”

Karen Jean Hunt, Duke University

“The Course Librarian: Taking a Stand in the Classroom”

afasacrl.wordpress.com

AFAS MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 28

8:30am -10:00am

Paris Hotel Loire

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 28

1:00pm - 2:30pm

LVCC N102



AFAS IS ON FACEBOOK





Call for Participation

<http://conference.acrl.org/program-pages-166.php>

Deadlines

May 9, 2014 - Proposals due for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences

November 3, 2014 - Proposals due for poster sessions, roundtable discussions, TechConnect presentations, and virtual conference webcasts

Libraries are living ecosystems that adapt, change and innovate to remain relevant to our users, our institutions, and the broader environment of higher education. Many of our successes and challenges come from shifts within our system: financial, human and other resources interact to generate services, collections and facilities, and these resources must be continuously renewed in order to ensure our future viability. Beyond our borders, however, academic libraries must also interact productively with other interrelated systems including publishers, public policy makers, information technology experts, and more. Academic librarians actively engage with these systems and increasingly challenge them to build a sustainable world that fosters a creative, robust community of information generators and consumers.

Knowledge creation and discovery is vital to the health and dynamism of our library ecosystem. To that end, the ACRL 2015 conference planning committee invites you to share your research and creative endeavors with your colleagues on the theme **Creating Sustainable Community** on March 25-28, 2015, in Portland, Oregon. Portland, known for environmental awareness, innovation, and active involvement in creating and nurturing forward-looking communities, serves as the perfect backdrop for exploring and advancing libraries' own sustainability. The conference will also celebrate the Association of College and Research Libraries' 75th anniversary, a testament to our longevity and value!

The ACRL Conference offers a variety of options for participation. In addition, the 2015 committee has created a set of conference tags to stimulate your thinking and to empower you to position your proposal within the conference theme. When submitting a proposal, include up to three tags. The tags will serve to create our own conference ecosystem and guide attendees to themes of interest and inspiration.



**The 55th Annual RBMS Preconference, *Retrofit: Exploring Space, Place and the Artifact in Special Collections*
Las Vegas, June 24 - 27, 2014**

The annual RBMS Preconference will consider the broad metaphorical themes of space, place, and the artifact in the special collections milieu inspired by the RBMS pre-conferences and meetings of the early 1960s. Register by May 23, 2014, to learn, discuss, share, and contemplate. <http://www.preconference14.rbms.info/>



Assessment in Action: Year One Project Posters, I

Friday, June 27, 2014, 2-4pm

Assessment in Action: Year One Project Posters, II

Saturday, June 28, 2014, 8:30-10:30am

Assessment Project Posters! Presented by the first participants in ACRL's "Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success" program, made possible by IMLS. Librarian-led teams carried out assessment projects at their colleges and universities examining the impact of the library (instruction, reference, collections, space, and more) on student learning/success. In each session, half of the 75 teams will present posters. In mid-June, find poster abstracts at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/>

Host ACRL Standards, Scholarly Communication Workshops in 2014

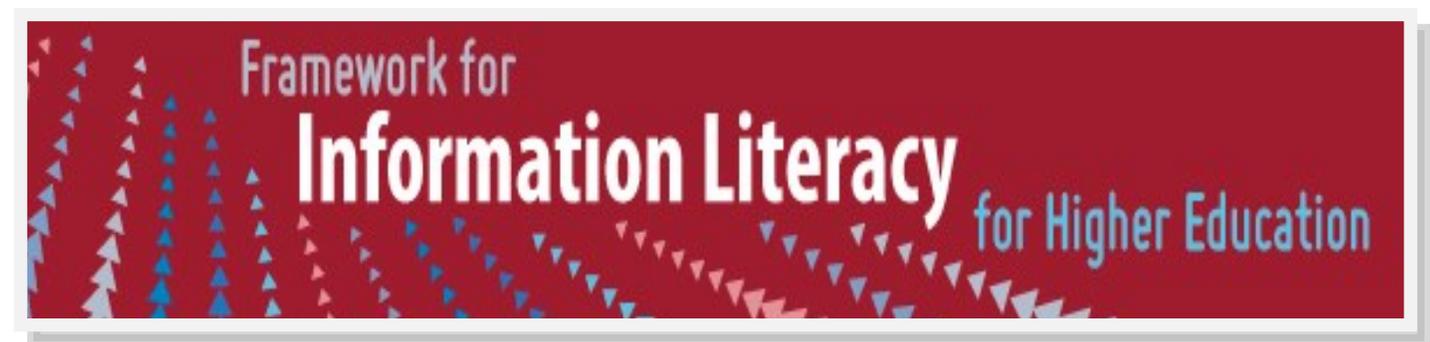
Today's academic and research librarians increasingly act as change agents in the higher education community while being called on to demonstrate their value on campus. ACRL's one-day scholarly communication and Standards for Libraries in Higher Education workshops help you achieve those goals through learning more about these important topics at your campus, chapter, or consortia. Facilitated by our team of expert presenters, both workshops provide a framework for libraries to grow, innovate, lead, and succeed.



Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement

To help empower our community in accelerating the transformation of the scholarly communication system, ACRL is pleased to offer the day-long workshop, "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement." The workshop helps participants in very practical ways, such as preparing for library staff or faculty outreach, contextualizing collection development decisions to internal and external stakeholders, and initiating or supporting new models for scholarly communication. Details are available on the ACRL website at www.ala.org/acrl/issues/scholcomm/roadshow.

"The workshop helped me connect complex issues like the relationship between the open movement, copyright, and economics in a coherent way. It is good to have this conceptual framework moving forward."
— Scholarly Communication Workshop Participant



Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

ACRL's task force is scheduled to release a revised draft of the Framework in mid June. They will hold a hearing at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Las Vegas (Saturday, June 28, 10:30 am – 11:30 am) as well as online hearings in June. Task force members will continue the iterative process, modifying the *Framework* based on feedback they receive then. They expect to submit a final document to the ACRL Board in August 2014 for their consideration and approval in September. For more see <http://acrl.ala.org/ilstandards/>

AFRICANA NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR BIBLIOGRAPHERS

The Journal of Pan African Studies

(www.jpnafrican.com) seeks a person or a collaborative to write an annotated bibliography or a bibliographic essay on the works of Yosef-ben-Jochannan based on the following texts:

We the Black Jews (1938, 1993), The Need for a Black Bible (1996), Black Man of the Nile (1970), Black Man of the Nile and His Family (1996), Africa: Mother of “Western Civilization” (1971, 1988), The Black Man’s North and East Africa (2005), African Origins of the Major “Western Religions” (1970, 1988, 1991), Abu Simbel to Ghizeh: A Guide Book and Manual (1989), A Chronology of the Bible: Challenge to the Standard Version (1972, 1991), New Dimensions in African History (with John Henrik Clarke) (1991), Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum (1972), Our Black Seminarians and Black Clergy Without a Black Theology (1976, 1996), The Myth of Exodus and Genesis and the Exclusion of Their African Origins (1996), Understanding the African Philosophical Concept Behind the “Diagram of the Law of Opposites” (1975, 2005).

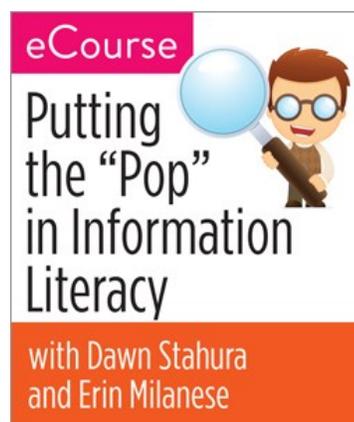
The Rape of Africa and the Crisis in Angola (1958), An African Nationalist View of Black Power (1966), The Black Man’s Religion: Extracts and Comments from the Sacred Scriptures of the Holy Bible (1974), Influence of Great Myths on Contemporary Life, Or the Need for Black Family in Mental Health Vol. I (1976), The Black Man’s or the “Negro’s” Bicentennial Year Or ??? from 1619-20 C.E., Vol. I (1976), The Saga of the “Black Marxist Verses the Black Nationalist:” A Debate Revisited (1978), Tutankhamun’s African Roots Haley, Et Al Overlooked (1978), In Pursuit of George G.M. James Study of the Craft and Sisters of the House: “Heaven is Between a Black Woman’s Legs (1980), The African Mysteries System of Wa’set, Egypt and its European Stepchild: “Greek Philosophy” (1984), The Alkebu-lanians of Ta-Merry’s “Mysteries System” and the Ritualization of the Late Bro. Kwese Adebisi (1981).

Those who wish to participate should contact Itibari M. Zulu, the editor of The Journal of Pan African Studies for more information, at: atjpas@gmail.com.

Calling All Graduates of Atlanta University SLIS and Clark University SLIS

Dr. Yvonne Chandler, class of 1979 and Associate Professor at the University of North Texas College of Information, and Dr. Lorene Brown, Dean Emerita and Associate Professor at the Atlanta University/Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies, are writing a history of the amazing library school program and its graduates! Contact information for AU/CAU graduates is sought to complete the project.

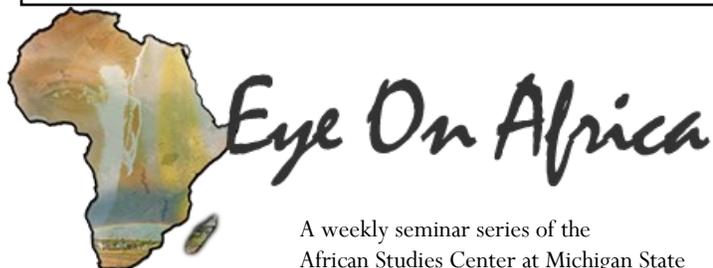
If you are a graduate of the historic AU/CAU School of Library and Information Studies please forward your full name, address, email, phone number, graduation year, current position, or retirement announcement to Dr. Chandler. For more information, contact Dr. Yvonne Chandler: Email: yvonne.chandler@unt.edu Phone: 940-391-0555 Snail mail: 2408 Loon Lake Dr. Denton, TX 76210.



In this course, Dawn Stahura and Erin Milanese will offer you two tools that can make it easy to liven up your instructional sessions—popular culture and assessment. Learn how to incorporate pop culture into your instruction—through your weekly assignments, you’ll build a fully defined, one-shot instructional session using a popular-culture theme. Along the way, you’ll learn about how you can effectively assess your instruction by engaging with students to discover your strengths and weaknesses.

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/04/putting-pop-information-literacy>

AFRICANA NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES



A weekly seminar series of the African Studies Center at Michigan State University.
<http://eyeonafrika.matrix.msu.edu>

The Project on the History of Black Writing

The Project on the History of Black Writing (HBW) has been in the forefront of research and inclusion efforts in higher education for twenty-five years. Founded in 1983 at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, HBW is committed to

1. literary recovery work in black studies
2. textual scholarship, book history and pedagogy;
3. professional development, curriculum change and innovation; and
4. public literacy programming

As a major site for training graduate students and teachers, HBW operates within a network of collaborating professionals who are employed at various institutions and are often in different disciplines. AFAS members Sibyl Moses, P.HD., and African American Studies Librarian, Kathleen Bethel, serve on the HBW Board.



http://www.hbw.ku.edu/about_us.html

The Voice of Black Studies

National Council for Black Studies

Be A Part of *The Voice of Black Studies*

Would you like to submit an article in the newsletter of one of the nations premier black organizations? *The Voice of Black Studies* is the official newsletter of NCBS. The newsletter serves to highlight NCBS's organized achievements and the achievements of its members.

The Voice is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the National Council for Black Studies. We are currently soliciting article submissions for our upcoming editions. (Deadlines below) If you are interested in submitting an article, click on the link below and fill out the application. Articles will be approved and selected by the NCBS publications committee.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Articles should focus on topics that approach the discipline of Africana Studies.
2. Articles must be unpublished pieces.
3. Articles must be 500-1000 words in length.
4. Include a brief bio and contact information.

Submission Date	Deadline Publication Date
July 31	December 31
August 31	March 31
November 30	April 30

http://www.ncbsonline.org/the_voice_of_black_studies

NEW AFAS DISCUSSION LIST
ACRL-AFAS-L@ALA.ORG THIS IS THE OFFICIAL DISCUSSION LIST OF THE ACRL AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES LIS SECTION.

GO TO [HTTP://LISTS.ALA.ORG/SYMPA/INFO/ACRL-AFAS-L](http://lists.ala.org/sympa/info/acrl-afas-l) AND
CLICK SUBSCRIBE



An Associate Editor is sought to work with new ASALH semi-annual e-publication, "***FIRE!***
The multimedia journal of Black Studies."
For more information contact Johnnieque B. Love. jlove1@umd.edu

CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA

2014 BLACK HISTORY THEME

CALL FOR PAPERS

Early Bird Deadline for submission of proposals: Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Hard deadline for submission of proposals: May 30, 2014

<http://www.asalh.org/callforpapers.html>

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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:

afasacrl.wordpress.com

AFAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2013– 2014

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Broadnax Secretary

Aslaku Berhanu
Members-at-Large

Julia M. Gelfand
ACRL Board Liaison

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Conference Program
Derek Mosley

Nominating
Gennice King

Publications and Research
Vivian Njeri Fisher

Membership
Aslaku Berhanu

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