

# CLS Newsletter

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A Division of the American Library Association

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## CLS Chair lauds section as a resource for college librarians

Although it has become something of a cliché within the profession to say that our libraries are characterized by rapid change, the truth of this statement is found in the reality of most college library workplaces. In today's turbulent library world, a world I am sometimes tempted to think has gone awry, it is most often toward the College Libraries Section that I turn. Within the section, those increasingly rare qualities of balance, stability, and collegiality are still in generous supply. CLS offers me an invaluable group of peers, friends really, with whom I identify, and to whom I can go for practical and theoretical advice.

The services that the College Libraries Section provides working librarians and career staff are numerous and forums for communication abound. The *CLS Newsletter* (edited by Paul Frisch); the *COLLIB-L* listserv (which I moderate here at Willamette University); the CLS Publication series, *Clip Notes* (whose parent committee is chaired by Lewis R. Miller); the section's Web page (maintained by Larry Hardesty at Austin College), and the two conference discussion forums, the College Library Directors Discussion Group and the College Libraries Discussion

Group, are all invaluable CLS venues for the sharing of practical information and the exchange of ideas.

My willingness to stand for chair of the College Libraries Section grew out of a sense of professional obligation, certainly, but it was also a response to the delight I take in contributing to this remarkably active and vital organization. The experience of being chair has not disappointed, for it has given me the opportunity to get to know many of you better. My first official duty as new chair was to make committee appointments. This has been done and I am pleased to report success in having identified a strong and balanced slate of candidates and having convinced them to serve.

The work of the committees promises to be varied and productive. The Conference Program Planning Committee, ably chaired by Damon Hickey, is actively preparing the section's summer conference program. The topic, chosen to complement Lee Hisle's ACRL President's Program theme of values, is exploring the implications of the industrial/business model for libraries, which, in the past, have been considered a public good. The Nominations Committee, chaired by Lynn Chmelir, has secured an excellent slate of candidates for the upcoming election.

The Continuing Education Committee's Needs Assessment Survey is reproduced in this issue of the *CLS Newsletter*. [Chair Tara Lynn Fulton asks that I remind you to fill out and return the questionnaire to Sheridan Stormes]. The challenges faced by the Standards Committee, as they assess the relative merits of input and output performance measures and prepare to review our *Standards for College Libraries*, are discussed by committee chair Will Bridegam and by Tom Kirk. The Leadership Committee, chaired by Damon Hickey, is considering continuing the successful series of open discussions that have been conducted at recent summer conferences.

The Research for College Librarianship Committee, having completed *InPrint, Publishing Opportunities for College Librarians* (ALA, 1997), continues to sponsor discussions and roundtables at ACRL national and at ALA Midwinter meetings. This Midwinter discussion is entitled "Ready, Set, Go: Publish and Present," and features noted speakers Carolyn Sheehy, Peter Hernon, Richard AmRhein, and Peggy Seiden.

The Clip Notes Committee issued its *Clip Note on Displays and Exhibits* in September and has given final approval to a new publication on promotion and tenure. The committee is searching for a compiler for a *Clip Note* on ADA practices and policies in college libraries; librarians interested in working on this topic should contact the committee chair for guidelines on proposal submission.

Larry Hardesty's mentoring program for library directors of small colleges, operated under the aegis of the CLS Leadership Committee, continues to register successes. Larry reports some 6-7 new mentor-mentee matches already this year, and notes that the program is now self-supporting. Small college library directors who wish to participate in this program are invited to contact Larry at [lhardesty@austinc.edu](mailto:lhardesty@austinc.edu).

It would be remiss of me not to thank my immediate predecessor, past chair Pam Snelson, for the valuable advice and counsel she generously offered as I assumed the duties of this office. I look forward to a successful and productive year for the College Libraries Section and I

encourage you to take advantage of, and, indeed, to participate actively in, the section's numerous and rewarding activities and programs.

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## CLS information now available on the Web

The College Library Section has a Web page. Its URL is: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/cls/clsl.html>. This Web site includes a list of the current members of the Executive Committee with postal addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses; a list of CLS committees and discussion groups; a list of liaisons to ACRL committees; a list of CLS electronic and print publications; minutes of the CLS Executive Committee; upcoming conferences and programs; issues of the *CLS Newsletter*, and the *College Library Section Manual* prepared by the CLS Historical Commission (last revised in June 1997). As committee members change, as more newsletters are published and as conferences are announced, the CLS Web page will be updated. To submit material for the Web page, please contact Larry Hardesty ([lhardesty@austinc.edu](mailto:lhardesty@austinc.edu)). Austin College, the oldest college in Texas operating under its original charter and soon to reach its sesquicentennial year, is providing the server space. If you have any questions about the Web page, contact John West, Associate College Librarian/Systems Administrator and CLS member or Larry Hardesty, College Librarian at Austin College.

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## College Libraries Listserv

*COLLIB-L*, the College Libraries Listserv, has now been available to the networking community for nearly five years. The list serves both as a means of communication within the College Libraries Section and as a general discussion forum for college librarians and career staff. At the 1993 American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting in Denver, Mignon Adams, then CLS chair, and the CLS Executive Committee charged me with the task of creating a listserv that would enhance communication within the Section, supplement its excellent printed newsletter, increase membership, and, with any luck at all, *amuser les badauds*.

An instant success, subscriptions to *COLLIB-L* increased to over 700 by the end of the first year of its availability. (They have since leveled off to something over 1000.) From the list's inception, postings represented diverse perspectives and opinions that ran the gamut from the practical (How many student employees does it take to dust the stacks?) to the theoretical (Use support staff at the reference desk? You've got to be kidding!)

Discussion on *COLLIB-L* has always been lively and occasionally it can be heated. In the early days, tempers flared with some regularity. Today, the list seems to have found its own unique voice, one that, although moderated, remains challenging. It is a voice that somehow manages to balance the opinions and perspectives of library directors, line librarians, support staff, library school students, and occasional friends of the library with AOL accounts and time on their hands.

In the past few years, subscribers have become more sophisticated. We have all learned, for example, the fine art of replying to an individual, but not to all subscribers. (First message, inadvertently posted to the entire list: "Larry, x is not only a hothead, he's a trouble-maker as well: You should kick him off the list!" Follow-up message posted the next day: "I can't tell you how embarrassed I am that a personal message of mine went out to all of you... Actually, x is a fine fellow and, clearly, I overreacted...") Most of us have also learned how to postpone our mail and reactivate our subscriptions while we are on holiday or at conference without addressing heartfelt cries for help to all subscribers. And we have stopped, for the most part, cluttering the air waves with "me, too!" nuisance messages.

We can all speculate, of course, on whether listservs depress or elevate the level of discourse within the profession, but we would be hard pressed to deny their popularity. Upon occasion, our colleagues' voices can be shrill, tedious, and cantankerous, but they can also be insightful, provocative, even moving. Listservs, and electronic means of communication in general, appear to satisfy our need for the rapid communication of ideas and information. This is a need that is clearly exacerbated in a period characterized by ubiquitous change, declining budgets, and the

infusion of more technology into our libraries in the past twenty years than we had known in the prior one hundred.

*COLLIB-L*, I believe, minimizes professional isolation and keeps all college library staff aware of new developments in our field. It also helps them to resolve practical problems and clarify theoretical issues through increased communication and collaboration. You can, and indeed should subscribe to *COLLIB-L* by sending the following command: <subscribe collib-l Your Name> to: <listproc@willamette.edu>.

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## Library-computer center relationships discussed

As technology and information intermingle, so, too, do computer centers and college libraries. The extent, though, of this twining varies from campus to campus. On June 29, during the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, the CLS College Library Leadership Committee sponsored "The College Library and the Computer Center: Marriage, Good Friends, or the War of the Roses?"--a discussion to further explore a variety of existing models between college libraries and computer centers.

Moderated by Carolyn Sheehy (North Central College), the discussion was launched by Larry Hardesty (Austin College), who provided a brief report on his research on the subject. These remarks were followed by observations from four CLS members, who work either in institutions where the library and the computer center have merged or in institutions where the library and the computer center remain separate entities. Mark E. Cain, Director of Information Services and Support (College of Mount Saint Joseph); Connie Dowell, Dean of Information Services (Connecticut College); Damon Hickey, Director of Libraries (College of Wooster); and Robin Wagner, Librarian (Gettysburg College) provided thoughtful insights into the nature of computer center and college library relationships.

Discussion participants appeared almost universal in their acceptance of some type of

integration, merger, or close working relationship between the college library and the computer center. All spoke about the importance of this relationship growing from "the bottom up" rather than "top down" and also about the importance of thoughtful, thorough planning for the joining together of these two entities. Moreover, respecting each other's "culture" and not promulgating stereotypes was considered essential, whether the relationship was that of "good friends" or "marriage," in order to avoid a "war of the roses."

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## ACRL's 9th National Conference in Detroit

ACRL has changed the dates of its conference. The new dates are April 8-11, 1999. The one day shift in dates will enable the conference to end Sunday, allowing participants to return to work on Monday morning. The conference theme is "Racing Toward Tomorrow..." The program is being planned by the ACRL National Conference Executive Committee chaired by Charles Beard, director of university libraries, State University of West Georgia.

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## Kudos for CLS Members

Mignon Adams, Director of Library Services at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, has been appointed chair of the Library and Educational Resources Section of the American Association of the Colleges of Pharmacy.

Lisa Chabot, College Librarian at Mary Baldwin College, is the President of the Virginia Library Association.

Evan Farber, College Librarian Emeritus at Earlham College, wrote "Books Not for College Libraries: a Weeding Proposal to Prevent Possible Disaster and Speed up the Project," *Library Journal* 122 (August 1997): 44-45.

Paul Frisch, Head Librarian at Washington and Jefferson College, wrote the article "American Revolutionary War," in *Censorship*, edited by Lawrence Amey *et al* (Salem Press, 1997), 678-680.

Carol Goodson, Head of Access Services at State University of West Georgia, has published *The Complete Guide to Performance Standards for Library Personnel* (Neal-Schuman, 1997); and "Putting the 'Service' Back in Library Service," *C&RL News* 58 (March 1997): 186-87.

Larry Hardesty, College Librarian at Austin College, has published "College Library Directors Mentor Program: 'Passing It On:' A Personal Reflection," *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 23 (July 1997): 281-290; and "Library and Computer Center Relations at Smaller Academic Institutions," *Library Issues* 18 (September 1997): 1-4.

Arlene Rodda Quaratiello, Emerson College, has published *The College Student's Research Companion* (Neal-Schuman, 1997); and "The Way I See It: Greatly Exaggerated Death of the Library," *C&RL News* 58 (October 1997).

Carolyn Sheehy, Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services at North Central College, edited *Managing Business Collections in Libraries* (Greenwood, 1997); Sheehy received a 1997 Crystal Award, sponsored by Citibank Naperville (IL), for her contributions in the field of technologies and research

Rise Smith, Public Services Librarian/Associate Professor at Dakota State University, is the President of the South Dakota Library Association.

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## New Directors

Kathleen Schulz has been appointed director of the library at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Schulz came to Wittenberg in 1984 as a reference librarian; she later served as humanities librarian and, since 1995, had been acting library director. She earned her B.S. from the Ohio State University, her M.L.S. from Kent State University, and her M.Hum. from Wright State University.

[Editor's Note: If you have been recently published, elected to a state, regional or national professional office, appointed to a library directorship, or received some professional recognition, please send this information along to me for future *Newsletter* issues.]

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## Committee Report on Academic Status

These are highlights of the ACRL Academic Status Committee held at the Annual Conference in San Francisco. The committee has begun to develop a Web site. The Web Manager is Lara Bushallow-Wilber and the URL is <http://wings.buffalo.edu/~lbw/academic/>.

A major question asked of the committee is "What status do librarians have at specific institutions?" In addition to the standards and guidelines issued by ACRL, librarians are looking for specific data from similar institutions as "ammunition" to make their own cases with their administration. In response to this need, the committee is investigating the development of a searchable, non-evaluative database for its Web site. This database would allow searchers to determine which elements of faculty and / or academic status have been established at specific libraries. Finally, the committee is deciding whether to proceed with a revision of its Guidelines for Academic Status.



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## ACRL Task Force on Academic Library Outcomes Assessment

The ACRL Board of Directors, at its 1996 Annual Meeting in New York, appointed a Task Force on Academic Library Outcomes Assessment. The formation of the Task Force was a response to the Board's perception that ACRL's standards, largely written as input measures, are out of step with the practices and philosophy of regional and professional accrediting agencies.

The impetus for the formation of the Task Force came from a report of the ACRL Standards Study Task Force, chaired by Edward D. Garten, University of Dayton. This group reached the following conclusions:

- The current climate in which accreditation agencies operate is considerably problematic, and issues related to academic libraries may well be, at this time, on a lower priority level with these agencies.
- The current ACRL Standards do not address well many of the contemporary concerns being discussed by both professional and regional accreditation bodies, e.g. outcomes and assessment measures, support for distance delivery of education, and rapidly emerging and changing instructional and information technologies.

Within their criteria, few accreditation agencies have begun to address the radically changed academic library environment.

Based on these conclusions the Task Force has been given three charges:

1. Develop a philosophical framework for assessing libraries in terms of desired campus outcomes.
2. Develop prototypes for such assessment.
3. Develop a recommendation for one or more processes for implementation of the former (#2) with a time frame for completion.

The Task Force has held two meetings. It hopes to be able to share some of its preliminary thinking on this subject with the larger Association membership and will therefore hold hearings at the ALA Midwinter meetings in 1998.

The apparent conflict between input standards and trends towards greater attention to outcomes as a method of assessment has been a profession-wide concern as evidenced by the many articles in the literature. However, none of the literature has developed the kind of philosophical statement about input standards and outcome assessment that creates a new synthetic paradigm or clearly articulates a relationship between ACRL's current Standards, particularly the College Standards, and the outcomes assessment approach used by regional accrediting agencies. This Task Force will make an attempt to bring the outcomes assessment concept into concert with the traditional input standards.

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## CLS Standards Committee

With instructions from the ACRL Board to take no further action on the revision of college library standards until the Task Force on Academic Library Outcomes Assessment has made its report, the College Library Standards Committee continued general discussions of factors to be considered in the revision of College Library Standards. The Committee looked at law libraries' accreditation and discussed feedback solicited from directors of several private college libraries in the northeast. It reviewed the ACRL standards for undergraduate university libraries as an example of a broader type of standard that relies less on input statistics and more on a series of general questions and recognition that is difficult to apply the same standards to many

different sizes and types of libraries. The Committee also recognized that libraries today are more directly involved with teaching and computing.

The Committee is inviting a representative of the Undergraduate University Libraries Committee to attend its next meeting at the ALA Midwinter Conference in 1998. In addition to discussing the Undergraduate University Library Standards, the Committee will review the report of the Task Force on Academic Library Outcomes Assessment and plan its next steps towards revision of the College Library Standards.

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## Needs Assessment Survey

conducted by

The Continuing Education Committee, College Libraries Section, ACRL

Below is a needs assessment developed by members of the CLS Continuing Education Committee. We are interested in learning what your concerns/needs are in relation to continuing education activities so that our committee may better plan future activities. We also are interested in knowing what presentation format(s) (e.g., video, workshop, publication, etc.) would be most useful to you.

Please rank (placing numbers in the lines provided in front of each suggested topic) your top five choices for workshop/project topics from the list provided below. You may indicate your format preference by writing one of the following letters after the ranking number: "e" = electronic (Web page, listserv, etc.), "p" = publication, "v" = video, "w" = workshop/program. If you have a particular interest in a topic not listed, please describe the topic as fully as possible in the spaces provided after the term, "other." Thank you for your interest and assistance.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The "team" approach - Can it work for college libraries?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Effective staffing - Finding the right balance (may include discussions of professional/ support staff, public services/technical services, outsourcing, sharing staff with other institutions, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Consortia-How to set them up, how to get the most from them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Library instruction in the Age of Technology - Focus on life-long learning skills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Small staff dynamics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Running a meaningful staff retreat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Building and maintaining balanced collections in college libraries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Evaluating electronic resources.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Keeping up with hardware and software demands: How to plan, finance, and maintain computers and printers in college libraries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Philosophies of reference service in college libraries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Student assistants in college libraries-Hiring, training, evaluating, and determining appropriate levels of responsibility.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. College Libraries and disabled students: Meeting our responsibilities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Electronic journals-Are they a viable alternative to print resources?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Confronting space issues: Should we find another plot or harvest more effectively?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Library services and responsibilities to distance learning students.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Finding the "right fit" - Elements of conducting a successful job search.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. "Big librarian is watching:" Monitoring Internet use and the Bill of Rights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Conducting meaningful and effective performance evaluations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. OTHER:

*Please return completed survey to:*

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## Tentative Schedule of CLS Meetings at 1998 Midwinter

***Saturday, January 10***

8:00 - 9:00 am	CLIP NOTES Committee
	Medium-Sized Academic Libraries Committee
9:30 - 11:00 am	Executive Board
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	1998 Conference Program Committee
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Communications Committee

***Sunday, January 11***

9:00 - 10:15 am	Research for College Librarianship Committee
9:30 - 11:00 am	Standards Committee
10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Research for College Librarianship Panel Discussion
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	College Libraries Discussion Group
2:00 - 4:00 pm	College Library Directors' Discussion Group

***Monday, January 12***

8:30 - 11:00 am	1999 Conference Program Committee
9:30 - 11:00 am	Continuing Education Committee
	College Library Leadership Committee
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Standards Committee
	Medium-Sized Libraries Discussion Group

***Tuesday, January 13***

9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Executive Board
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The final schedule with room locations will be published on the COLLIB-L listserv and in the conference program.

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