FROM THE CLS CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

Writing this column is one of the most challenging things I have ever had to do in my professional career. Our year within ALA and ACRL along with my term as CLS Chair is ending while COVID-19 continues to ravish the world. It is hard to not continuously contemplate and mourn the losses we have experienced. The persistent feeling of unfinished business will linger with us and will become our "new normal" for many months to come.

So many of us had plans and goals as we entered the current academic year and this calendar year that have been completely dismantled. Several of us have suffered through the hardship of losing cherished loved ones. Our feelings of stress and anxiety are often compounded by the fact that there is no clarity on what lies ahead of us. Balancing family and personal needs while also working remotely is a heavy burden for many of us to shoulder.

While new methods of academic library work and pedagogy are being created in real time, some of our members have experienced layoffs, furloughs, and/or salary reductions. We expect more impact to the academic library workforce as we get closer to July 1st and throughout the summer months.

Yet in spite of these extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in, I remain very proud of the resolve of CLS members. Reports from the field and information shared on various listservs demonstrate an impressive determination to provide a high quality service model to support remote teaching and learning.

It has been heartwarming to read your messages and see the ways in which CLS members are supporting each other. We, in many aspects, were built to thrive in virtual work environments. Long before it was in vogue to virtually collaborate, create digital learning objects and foster support networks, CLS members were in the vanguard of these important practices. Our expertise in these areas means that CLS members have and will continue to model excellence on how to succeed - even during this crisis.

Our work outputs are a demonstration of hope and hopefulness that we can all turn to through the tough times we will continue to face. I urge you to keep connected to each other, be inspired by the great work many CLS members are leading and to take good care of yourselves and your loved ones.

There are many people to thank as I conclude my term. I want to thank the fabulous CLS Executive Committee and our incredible ACRL liaisons. These wonderful people kept me on track and helped activities and deliverables run smoothly throughout the course of our programmatic year. I also extend my congratulations to the newly elected CLS leadership and my appreciation to all of those who stood for election. These colleagues have proven a commitment to lead and support CLS – in spite of the ambiguity that we continue to face due to the pandemic.

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Lastly, I appreciate you for supporting me during my term. It has been my honor to serve as CLS Chair. My hope is that you will extend the same kindness and consideration to Mary Mallory as she moves into the Chair role. I will transition into Immediate Past Chair and will make myself available when and how I am needed.

As always, my ears and Zoom login is open if you want to talk. Thank you again for supporting CLS and we will see better days in the near future.

Sincerely,

Alexia

Alexia Hudson-Ward

Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries

Oberlin College and Conservatory

Chair, College Libraries Section

Especially now, today's higher education environment calls for innovative ways to support student, faculty, and institution success. Complete details about ACRL 2021 available on the conference website. ACRL 2021 will feature more than 500 conference programs carefully selected and presented by leaders in the profession, a variety of formal and networking opportunities, exhibits from more than 200 companies, and more.

A Brand-New Academic Librarian During a Pandemic

After working in special libraries for several years, I finally started my first academic librarian position as a Business Librarian at Rollins College in Orlando, Florida in October. The year started out in the typical academic library fashion: I had some opportunities for information literacy instruction, I got to work on an engaging collection development project, and I was getting to know Rollins students, faculty, and staff through my work. I assumed things would continue on from there.

During the spring semester, I knew there was a disease outbreak going on elsewhere in the world. However, somehow, I did not make the connection as to how it would affect my own life and work when it arrived here. Rollins is a small liberal arts college that usually relies almost entirely on in-person instruction as part of its educational mission. As the pandemic approached, the transition to a virtual environment was challenging for most of our faculty members. However, library faculty and staff and our classroom faculty have risen to the occasion. This would not have been possible without the support of our colleagues in Instructional Design and Technology (IDT), the Endeavor Foundation Center for Faculty Development, and other stakeholders across campus.

Olin Library has closed its doors temporarily as a result of the pandemic, although it is still very much alive online, and everyone has been working from home. I assumed I would hate working from home, as I am a people person. Traditionally, I have struggled working from home and have gone to a coffee shop to do my research, but I have been more productive than expected.

We've moved all our instruction sessions and research consultations online, and those have been going rather well for me. I had a rush of instruction requests in the first few weeks after the college's physical closure, and I know some of my colleagues have as well. Meanwhile, research consultation requests from students have been steady for me. These consultations are going well, and I never cease to be impressed with our students' ambition and initiative.

I assumed it would be more difficult to work from home, but as a Business Librarian, the vast majority of the resources my students need are online anyway. More broadly, Olin Library has prioritized e-resource collection development over the years, so we have a robust e-book and e-journal collection. Meanwhile, I've enjoyed spending more time with my cat, Cinnamon, although I'm not sure the feeling is mutual. It's also nice having a coffee maker and a full kitchen within walking distance.

I deeply miss my colleagues and students, and I hope we are able to return to campus as soon as possible. However, this experience hasn't been completely bad, and it's been nice to know that my job is flexible in this way. This pandemic has been difficult for everyone, but I hope we are able to take some lessons away from it going forward.

-- Blake Robinson

Business Librarian

Olin Library, Rollins College

Librarians Launch Podcast

Long time instruction librarians, Jessica Kiebler (Pace University) and Amanda Piekart (Berkeley College), have recently combined their passion for podcasts and information literacy instruction and started *The Librarian's Guide to Teaching* podcast! They are interested in sharing their experiences teaching information literacy, discussing current trends, and having meaningful conversations about librarianship! Recent episode topics include diving into The 2020 Horizon Report, storytelling in education and an interview with the co-author of the recent Project Information Literacy algorithm report, Barbara Fister. They welcome listener suggestions for upcoming episodes and host conversations on librarianship and teaching at their podcast Twitter account @Librarian_Guide.

The bi-weekly podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Overcast and Spotify as well as additional platforms.

Follow CLS Online

CLS Website: for committee information, events, and policies as well as links to supporting CLS-sponsored pages

CLS Facebook and Twitter feed: for upcoming events, announcements, and interesting happenings related to college libraries. Suggestions are welcome from CLS members

CLS LibGuides through ACRL: LibGuides offer a great way to highlight specific CLS programs you are working on as they allow you to have direct control over the content of your page, as well as a unique link for access

If you are interested in posting content through any of these options, please contact CLS volunteer Stephanie Diaz.

Conference Cancellations

RBMS

The ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) made the decision to cancel the RBMS 2020 Conference at Indiana University, Bloomington because of the serious health risks posed by COVID-19. We are truly grateful for all the interest and support for what would have been another terrific RBMS conference and will be working with conference registrants directly over the coming weeks.

RBMS will also be working on ways we can possibly re-arrange and refresh content in coming years and very much look forward to the days when our RBMS community can safely gather again.

ALA Annual Conference

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, The American Library Association's Executive Board announced that the 2020 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition scheduled for June 25-30 in Chicago was canceled due to COVID-19.

ALA staff, in partnership with ALA member leaders, are developing plans to carry out the important business of the association and are coordinating for a virtual event.

Council of Independent Colleges Update

In my role as the liaison from ACRL to the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), I had the privilege of attending the Chief Academic Officers Institute (CAOI), hosted by the CIC, from Nov. 2-4, 2019, in Baltimore. I am pleased to share this report of my experiences with the CLS community.

The program from the CAOI conference is available at https://www.cic.edu/programs/2019-cao-institute. From the sessions I attended and conversations I participated in, two themes stood out to me:

Dealing with student enrollment challenges, particularly among the traditional undergraduate population. Institutions are seeking new sources of revenue, whether through philanthropic giving and/or revenue-generating graduate programs, and working hard to retain their existing students.

- The plenary session, "Perceptions and Challenges for Higher Education," argued that a growing, though still small, number of liberal arts institutions will likely be closing, or seeking mergers, in the coming years, due to financial constraints.
- "Three Approaches to Graduate Programs" outlined different approaches to developing new grad programs, with a common theme of the need for additional revenue sources.
- Presenters at "Campus Planning and Student Learning" talked about the need to create master plans for spaces that intentionally seek to foster student success -- do classroom spaces match how we say we teach? Are there spaces that create opportunities for faculty and student interaction and community? One presenter at this session talked about repurposing library space from shelving to a tutoring and learning space.

A continued focus on diversity and inclusivity. Much of the conversation at the 2018 CAO Institute was about ensuring diverse students feel welcome at our institutions; I noted in 2019 also significant conversation about ensuring diverse faculty and staff feel welcome.

- "Building Organizational Support for Recruitment and Retention of Faculty of Color" reminded me of similar programs I've seen at librarian conferences. Many ideas were shared about inclusive hiring practices, such as requiring all search committee members to participate in implicit bias training; adding an equity advocate to every search committee; a focused onboarding process for new faculty of color; and much more.

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CIC Update (cont.)

- "Diversity and Civility in the Liberal Arts" featured presenters who talked about developing faculty capacity for inclusive teaching. They shared initiatives such as building inclusive teaching into faculty T&P processes; developing prompts about inclusiveness in peer observations; and auditing courses in the catalog for levels of inclusiveness. The breakfast roundtable on "Peer-Led Faculty Development Programs" also touched on giving faculty tools to make their syllabi and classrooms more inclusive.

Also, I led a breakfast roundtable discussion on library assessment, focused on ACRL's new Project Outcome initiative, with three chief academic officers attending. The attendees all expressed great interest in Project Outcome, and took flyers to share with their librarians.

Finally, if your college is a CIC member, be sure to follow the CIC's initiatives. Two current CIC projects that offer grant opportunities to libraries include *Humanities Research for the Public Good* and *Legacies of American Slavery: Reckoning with the Past*. Visit the CIC website, https://www.cic.edu/, for more information about these initiatives.

I welcome any questions you may have about this report. I can be contacted at lvilelle@hollins.edu, or 540-362-6232.

Luke Vilelle
University Librarian
Hollins University (Roanoke, Va.)

ACRL Offices Have Moved

Effective May 2020 the new ACRL address will be

225 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 1300
Chicago IL 60601

Phone numbers and email contact information will remain the same.

ACRL Advancing learning Transforming scholarship
Association of College & Research Libraries

Pandemic Resources for Academic Libraries

ALA and ACRL are committed to supporting our members, staff, and all librarians and library workers during these uncertain times. Now more than ever, academic and research librarians and libraries are essential to a thriving global community of learners and scholars. A LibGuide(https://acrl.libguides.com/pandemic) was created by ACRL to support the academic and research library community during global public health crises. The guide features resources for distance education and engagement, free professional development resources, best practices, and up-to-date information from public health officials.

New Titles from ACRL

ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and exploring developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

- *Library Partnerships in International Liberal Arts Education: Building Relationships Across Cultural and Institutional Lines*
- *The Critical Thinking About Sources Cookbook*
- *Learning Beyond the Classroom: Engaging Students in Information Literacy through Co-Curricular Activities*
- *Leading Change in Academic Libraries*
- *Developing the Next Generation of Library Leaders (ACRL Publications in Librarianship No. 75)*
- *Becoming a Library Leader: Seven Stages of Leadership Development for Academic Librarians*

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL's Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org for more information.

Shave the Date!

As this journey began, the shift to working from home and creating a new "normal", I often felt helpless. Much of my identity comes from being the purplehairlibrarian@umass. How as the Student Success and Outreach Librarian was I going to help the students at UMass Amherst? I often felt like my powers as the purple hair librarian were weakened in this new reality, from this an idea emerged. What if I shaved my head for a cause? I reached out to some members of the UMass Amherst libraries as well as connections on campus. And soon Shave the Date was born!

I decided that I would raise money for students in need using SCERF, the Student Care and Emergency Response Fund. This is something that is available all the time, but during this current crisis the need has increased. A fundraising page was set up, and I decided if I received $5,000 in donations, I would shave my head live on the libraries Facebook page. I am happy to say that I went over my goal, getting 106%! And last week I shaved my head live on our Facebook page: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVwmX3OGvc8. It was a great way for some people to contribute and maybe feel a bit less helpless themselves. It brought awareness to the fund and maybe some students who need it, learned about its existence. And it brought people together and made them smile.

I will admit that when I first had the idea I was not so sure if it was a good one. But I think these unprecedented times call for creative ideas and ingenuity. I feel people should play to their strengths, one of mine is that I like to add levity to situations and make people laugh, even at my expense. During and since the fundraiser I have had an overwhelming amount of amazing feedback. I received an email from a student this week that I never met, he wrote after seeing our Twitter "I wouldn't mind waking up every day if I get to read about people like you. Thanks for starting my day with a smile!"

Our work has changed but that does not mean we are any less essential. It just may be that how we used to do our jobs needs to change. And that we have to get creative and be willing to try new things. You never know what may make an impact on someone!

-- Annette Vadnais
Student Success & Outreach Librarian
University of Massachusetts Amherst