

**ACRL Literatures in English Section
Reference & Collections Discussion Groups
ALA Midwinter Meeting
Sunday, June 26, 2011, 10:30-12:30 pm
Doubletree Hotel, Crescent B**

Minutes

- I. Introductions
- II. Collections Discussion Topics
 - a. Small press publications -- publishers, selection tools, etc.
 - i. Due to budgetary constraints, some people are doing very little ordering right now.
 - ii. One participant served as a judge for Forward's poetry competition and received free books (to review for the competition).
 - iii. You can easily subscribe to publisher's mailing lists and email lists to keep in the loop.
 - iv. One librarian placed a box in the faculty office and asked them to drop in any publisher mailings or brochures they received (and wanted).
 - v. One caution: living writers tend to be clique-ish, so if you're relying on the advice of only one faculty member, you may be building an unbalanced collection.
 - vi. The Small Press Distribution (spd) catalog is a great place to find many of these.
 - vii. Reasons librarians may collect small press books: creative writers want these types of things; university press books are already received on the approval plan, but small presses may be overlooked; want to preserve intellectual/creative record, but buying all small press books may not work for small libraries—they may need to limit geographically and specify which small presses they want to purchase from; buy representative stuff from presses to provide different views and representations; faculty want MFA students exposed to a broad range of poetry and creative writing.
 - b. Our role(s) in purchasing and adding non-literary items (film, TV, music, etc.) requested by literature faculty
 - i. Some librarians are now being asked to field media requests, instead of forwarding them on to a film fund or digital media librarian.
 - ii. At some institutions, librarians are required to provide DVDs via streaming media for distance education students.
 - iii. Some librarians purchases whatever DVDs or other materials their faculty members request, as long as funds allow.
 - iv. At one institution, students began asking for popular DVDs and eventually the SGA contributed funds to start a popular DVD collection.
 - v. Some librarians select audiobooks outside of faculty requests.
 - c. E-books/E-readers
 - i. Some libraries have purchased iPads and are circulating them.
 - ii. Ebooks are also becoming more common in some libraries because of distance education courses and lack of physical space in the library.

- iii. One issue with current ebooks is that students want to be able to download the books (instead of having to view them online). This is supposed to change with Ebsco's acquisition of NetLibrary and may also be changing with Ebrary.
- iv. Both JSTOR & Project Muse are going to start offering ebook collections.
- v. One major concern regarding ebooks is the inability to loan them. Some librarians continue to purchase print books because their libraries belong to consortia and need to be able to loan the books they purchase.

III. Reference Discussion Topics

- a. What reference outreach activities are LES librarians doing with non-library entities, including Writing Centers, Student Life Offices, and Centers for Teaching and Learning?
 - i. Office hours in the English Department lounge with a laptop
 - ii. "Librarian on Location" in writing center or other outside-of-library location
 - iii. Course management systems
 - iv. Open mic reading series in the library
 - v. These ideas are good for forming relationships with faculty and students and providing the library with positive PR. There may be issues, though, involved with staffing these and traditional service points simultaneously.
- b. Additional topics suggested by members present
 - i. Reference Universe—one search to go through online and (some of your) print reference collections.
 - ii. Scopus and coverage of humanities—not many people commented on this topic because they didn't have or didn't use Scopus.
 - iii. Auditing/sitting in on grad classes—benefits include access to students & the ability to step in at appropriate, teachable moments. It also helps librarians to understand the tone/position/theory of certain courses and departments.