



Biblio-Notes

Issued by the Literatures in English Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association

#55 Spring 2010

ISSN 1076-8947

Notes from the Chair



(Photograph provided by Angela Courtney)

Greetings,

Welcome to spring, finally!

I want to thank those of you who were able to attend the mid-winter meetings in Boston. I know it was not the easiest conference to get to, with budgets and weather being uncooperative. Weather was really more of a problem when it came time to go home, and I also owe a debt of gratitude to the counter agent who took pity and moved me to a completely different airline to get me home on time.

As usual, we had a productive conference. We have now established a group of interested members that is looking into how we can incorporate virtual meetings into our practices. Interest in virtual participation is very strong, and I am confident that LES will quickly be one of the leaders in this emerging practice.

Happily our MLA endeavors represent a great leap forward. We held fast to our goal this year to create liaison relationships between the Modern Language Association and LES. Our proposal to create a discussion group within the MLA was approved this fall by the MLA Executive Council. This group is called the *Libraries and Research in Language and Literature Discussion Group*. This group will be able to sponsor a session at the 2011 MLA convention. A call for papers has been issued. Our more difficult endeavor, with our colleagues in the Western European Studies Section of ACRL, is to establish a formal liaison with the MLA. Because ACRL is re-evaluating the Council of Liaisons, we cannot have an official liaison now. ACRL did, however, agree to fund our efforts in developing a stronger affiliation with the MLA for the next two years. We will devote considerable attention to this good news at our summer meetings.

Also on the plate for this summer's conference in Washington D.C. is our always interesting and engaging program. This year, LES worked with WESS to bring together an excellent line-up of speakers who will discuss contemporary European literature in translation. Our program planning chair, Melissa Van Vuuren, and her committee have devoted much time and energy to the presentation, and it promises to be instructive and enlightening. I encourage you to attend.

Remember that we have many ways for our members to keep up with current happenings, issues, questions, and events.

Our email discussion list (LES-L) is one of the best ways to get immediate, high-quality, and friendly help with reference questions that have you stumped. Our area is broad, and luckily our membership is diverse. Help is usually an email away. Our blog (<http://www.acrl.ala.org/lesblog/>) and wiki (<http://literaturesinenglish.pbworks.com/>) are also great places to go for information about the section and its members. Our mentoring program is active and rewarding for mentees and their mentors. Traditionally, we always need mentors and appreciate willing volunteers! Our new job shadowing project is gearing up for what is certain to be of great interest. Geographical proximity is a primary concern with this project, so please volunteer to let a new librarian or library student in your area visit you on the job.

If you are a new member and are eager to become involved in the activities of LES, please let us know if you are willing to serve on one of our several committees, and try to attend our New Members Discussion Group this summer. This meeting is followed by a social hour at a nearby location to be announced shortly.

Please feel free to send me a note at ancourtn@indiana.edu if you want more information about the section, how to become involved, or any of our meetings and events at this summer's conference.

Angela Courtney
LES Chair, 2009-10
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LES-L: Join in the Discussion



The purpose of **LES-L** is to provide a forum for discussion relevant to the acquisition, organization, and use of information sources related to the study and teaching of literature written in English from around the world. Recent discussion topics have included whether to weed long-standing series that go unused in favor of online sources; publishers and publishing practices; and popular fiction collections. Open positions and professional development opportunities are also announced on the list from time to time. Faced with a difficult reference question? Ask for assistance from your LES colleagues. Finally, LES-L serves as the primary venue for members to announce activities, meetings, and programs at ALA Annual and Midwinter.

To subscribe to LES-L, send an e-mail message to **sympa@ala.org** from the address you want to subscribe to the list. In the subject line of your message, type in: **subscribe LES-L Firstname Name** (using your own first name and name). **Leave the message body blank.** Alternatively, subscribe via the Internet at <http://lists.ala.org/www/info/les-l>. If you have any problems, please feel free to contact LES-L Discussion List Moderator, Amanda Rust a.rust@neu.edu.

Welcome New Members!



(Photograph provided by Joshua Finnell)

Joshua Finnell completed his Master in Library & Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007, and is the humanities librarian at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Before coming to Denison, Josh spent two years as an assistant professor of library science and reference librarian at McNeese State University in St. Louis. He is still active in McNeese's School Library Certification program as a visiting professor, teaching a cataloging and technical services course.

Josh has been active in professional organizations at both the state and national level for several years, serving as publicity chair for the ACRL-Louisiana chapter and as a member of the New Member Round Table Committee (NMRT) for Scholarship, Writing, and Research. In 2009, Josh was selected as an Emerging Leader by ALA, collaborating with the Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums (CALM). In 2010, Josh was appointed to a 2-year appointment as a member of the ACRL/LES Publications Committee.

Josh is a reviewer for *Codex*, ACRL-LA's new scholarly journal, and copy-editor for the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. He is also a performing arts and fiction reviewer for *Library Journal* and *American Reference Book Annual*. His own scholarly work has been published in *New Library*

World, Journal of Bloglandia, C&RL News, The Electronic Journal of Academic and Special Librarianship, and Reference and Users Services Quarterly. His literary interests are in creative non-fiction, graphic novels, and anarchist literature.

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Life as a Humanities Librarian By Julianne Buchsbaum



(Photograph provided by Julianne Buchsbaum)

As a recipient of an IMLS Scholarship (funded by the U.S. Institute for Museum and Library Services) for the Digital Information Management Program at the University of Arizona, I am currently enrolled in the class "Managing the Digital Environment". This course explores the management issues involved in curating data collections and delivering user services in the digital environment. Topics include strategic planning, project management, the acquisition and deployment of systems, hardware and software lifecycles, information ethics, policy development, and organizational change. The course provides students an in-depth look at current strategies used by curators to build large-

scale data collections in a range of institutional settings.

I am excited by the potential uses digital libraries offer scholars, such as more open access to resources, facilitating scholarly communications, meeting needs not met by current sources, and advanced forms of teaching and research. I believe future digital libraries for the humanities will create new research portals that will add immense value to the research process. My current career goal is to become a Digital Humanities Librarian. I am interested in working in an academic library, such as the one I currently work in (University of Kansas), and I am interested in working in the disciplines of English Literature, Classics, and Philosophy. I am particularly interested in Digital Poetics and in setting up a digital library or archive of the Modern American Poetry resources we currently have in the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. As a poet and writer, and also as a librarian, I realize that many of these important resources remain undiscovered and unused by the community because of the difficulty of accessing them. First, I would like to become familiar with digital collections services and the tools available for building digital collections. Then I would like to propose to digitize the materials held in the Spencer Research Library relating to Modern American Poetry, ranging from broadsides to rare, out-of-print, first-edition books and journals.

I would also like to explore how digital technology has impacted the field of experimental poetics. This includes the uses of digital technology to expand the techniques that poets use--whether this be in multimedia, interactivity, algorithmic processes, and digital typefaces--as well as how the web can serve as an alternative distribution source for texts both of poetry

and criticism. I am interested in finding, preserving, and making public a period of literary history that is non-print-oriented. The act of rescuing e-literature from the obsolescence of digital formats seems particularly important to me. I would like to make this archive out of cinemoems (poetry on film), videopoems (poetry on video), live events (both performance and discussion), works on audio tape, or audio/sound poems, and all combinations thereof. Ultimately, I am interested in forging new modes of poetic expression through digital media. I am personally interested in promoting and pioneering radical approaches to writing and reading, combining hypertext, programmable media, Web design, video, film, and net culture. I believe the cross-pollination of computational poetics with traditional literary traditions is where the future lies in terms of creative and scholarly work in the humanities.

I recently published the article: "Academic Libraries and the Remaking of the Canon: Implications for Collection Development Librarians," in *Library Philosophy and Practice*, May 2009. In addition, look for my article: "Presenting the Unrepresentable: Edmund Burke, Jean-Francois Lyotard, and the Postmodern Sublime in Contemporary Poetry," forthcoming in *Fulcrum: An Annual of Poetry and Aesthetics*, Issue 7, 2010.

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Awards/Honors



Jim Harner's electronic *Literary Research Guide: An Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies* (<http://www.mlalrg.org>) won a 2009 Association of American Publisher's PROSE award for the best humanities e-product <http://www.proseawards.com/current-winners.html>. "The PROSE Awards annually recognize the very best in professional and scholarly publishing by bringing attention to distinguished books, journals, and electronic content in over 40 categories." The online *Literary Research Guide* is based on the fifth print edition and is updated regularly. With the electronic edition, among other unique features, you have the power to look up materials in *WorldCat*, *Google Books*, and your library's online catalog (<http://www.mlalrg.org>). Congratulations, Jim!



LES Strategic Plan 2009-2013 -- Open for Comments

A draft of the extensively updated *LES Strategic Plan* has been completed and is open for comments by members of

Literatures in English Section, through May 31, 2010.

Please review the draft of the *ACRL Literatures in English Section Strategic Plan 2009-2013* and send your comments by the end of May 2010 to the Chair of the LES Planning Committee, Kathy Johnson, kjohnson6@unl.edu, or to LES Chair Angela Courtney, ancourtn@indiana.edu. If you wish to post your comments to LES-L, please do so.

Highlights of the *Strategic Plan* include the following ACRL-based Strategic Objectives. The full text of LES document details how LES plans to carry out these objectives.

Strategic Objective: The Literatures in English Section works to improve the knowledge and techniques of academic and research librarians to teach research competency skills to students and faculty of literatures in English.

Strategic Objective: Strengthen ACRL's relationships with higher education organizations that are important to faculty and administrators in order to develop institutional understanding of librarians' roles in enhancing teaching and learning.

Strategic Objective: Enhance ACRL members' understanding of how scholars work and the systems, tools, and technology to support the evolving work of the creation, personal organization, aggregation, discovery, preservation, access and exchange of information in all formats.

Strategic Objective: Increase ACRL's influence in public policy affecting higher education.

Strategic Objective: Continue to play a leadership role in promoting research and

publication in academic and research librarianship thereby creating and disseminating tools and a body of knowledge for the field.

Strategic Objective: Increase recognition of the value of libraries and librarians by leaders in higher education, information technology, funding agencies, and campus decision making.

Strategic Objective: Support members in their exploration, research on, and implementation of new and emerging information technologies and their application for library services in educational environments.

Strategic Objective: Increase ACRL's membership from professionally underrepresented ethnic and racial groups.

In June, the LES Planning Committee will forward all comments to the LES Executive Committee for consideration at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. (June 24-29, 2010).

For more information on the *ACRL Literatures in English Section Strategic Plan 2009-2013*, visit the LES web page <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/les/lesstrategic.cfm> and LES wiki <http://literaturesinenglish.pbworks.com/>

Kathy Johnson
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Scholarly Communication



A panel presentation entitled “Digital Humanities, Libraries, and Institutional Repositories” was held on March 26, 2010 at the University at Buffalo Libraries. Funded by the UB Digital Humanities Initiative (<http://digitalhumanities.buffalo.edu/>) and the University Libraries (<http://library.buffalo.edu/>), the program featured three outstanding experts on scholarly communication. The three invited panelists included Marilyn S. Billings, Scholarly Communication & Special Initiatives Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; Chad Curtis, Librarian for Literary Studies and Digital Scholarship in the Humanities, New York University; and Shawn Martin, Scholarly Communication Librarian at the Van Pelt Library of the University of Pennsylvania.

The speakers showcased ways to market an institutional repository (IR). The types of formats and projects that can find a home in an IR were discussed in detail. Examples of possible IR content include: Graduate student run E-journals; Faculty Web sites linking selected works; Proceedings, working papers, lecture series, and other “non-traditional” scholarly work.

Panelists emphasized that the more logistical help that can be provided to “would be” content providers, the more likelihood that they will ultimately contribute. All panelists explored the partnerships that an IR can initiate and nurture between libraries and the academy. One panelist in particular

believed that technologically informed and creative librarians are well positioned to win the trust of faculty. It was clear that a variety of skills -- embodied in one or more individuals -- are required to build an IR rich in diversity. An IR can be far more than a home of article pre- and post-prints. One major issue/concern that stood out was the copyright factor and the misconceptions faculty have regarding their authors' rights. In response to the expressed interest in the potential capabilities of IRs as well as open-access publishing opportunities, UB Libraries' scholarly communication committee is developing practical workshops on these and other topics for faculty and librarians.

A podcast of the panel presentations, complemented by the supporting visuals are available on the UB Libraries' Scholarly Communication Web site
<http://library.buffalo.edu/scholarly/panel/index.php>.

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Professional Development



ACRL 2011
Philadelphia
March 30 – April 2, 2011

ACRL 2011: A Declaration of Interdependence

In today's fast paced and changing world, keeping current is more essential than ever. Access cutting-edge information, discover

new ideas, and engage in conversations with academic and research librarians from around the world at ACRL 2011. You can't afford to miss it!

Program

ACRL 2011 will feature more than 300 peer-reviewed programs addressing hot topics such as assessment, digital initiatives, information literacy, scholarly communication, and emerging technologies.

Registration

Registration begins May 18, 2010 at www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference. Register by February 4, 2011, to take advantage of discounted early-bird registration fees and save more than 20%! Group discounts are available for institutions that register ten or more employees. Save up to an additional 20% off conference registration fees.

Scholarships

ACRL is offering over 80 scholarships worth over \$40,000 for librarians, support staff and students to participate in the ACRL 2011 conference. Apply at www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference by November 9, 2010. Connect with ACRL 2011 Online www.acrl.org/acrl/nationalconference Twitter: #acrl2011

Incoming Newsletter Editor



(Photograph provided by Carrie Wajda)

I'm so pleased and excited to be joining the Literature in English section as the new *Biblio-Notes* newsletter editor. I am a reference and instruction librarian at Berkeley College in New York City, and I look forward to my small role in connecting literature librarians around the world. Many thanks to Laura Taddeo - she leaves big shoes to fill!

I received my MLS from Long Island University in 2006 and a subject master's degree in British and American Literature from Hunter College in 2010. I will be attending ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. this summer, so please introduce yourself. I anticipate a wonderful experience working with the Literature in English section committee members.

Carrie Wajda
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Newsletter contributions welcome. The editor especially encourages essays on "My Life as a Humanities Librarian," "My Favorite Reference Tool," "Tech Tips," and "Personal and Institutional News." Deadlines for copy are roughly the end of September and the end of March of each year. Please contact the editor for the exact deadlines of specific issues.

Biblio-Notes (ISSN 1076-8947) is published twice a year by the Literatures in English Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of The American Library Association; 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; (800) 545-2433 ext. 2523; www.acrl.org. Copies are free to members.
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