

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 1993

Volume 4, No. 1

## RESOLUTION HONORING CLARENCE CHISHOLM

(Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association, Jan. 27, 1993)

WHEREAS, Mr. Clarence Chisholm graduated from Johnson C. Smith College, and received a Master's Degree in Library Service from Atlanta University, and a Master's Degree in African American Studies from North Carolina A&T University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chisholm began his professional career in 1978 at the Columbus-Franklin County Library System, Columbus, Ohio, and within a year, became Branch Head; and

WHEREAS, Other appointments included Head of Reference, Wilberforce University; Head of Reference, North Carolina A&T University; Assistant Professor of Social Science and Humanities, Eastern Michigan State University; Director of the Library at Voorhees College, Denmark, South Carolina; Director

of Library, Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia; Assistant Director of Libraries, Ohio University of Athens; and Chief of Access Services, Pennsylvania State University Libraries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chisholm was an energetic, enthusiastic, and dynamic leader in a wide range of library organizations, including the American Library Association throughout his professional life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chisholm's ALA contributions included chairing the Minority Recruitment Committee of the Junior Members Round Table, serving on its Executive Board, and serving on the ALA Minority Concerns Committee; and

WHEREAS, His service on the ACRL Appointments and Nominations Committee led to the wider involvement of people of color on committee; he was instrumental in  
(cont'd on p. 6)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editorial	2
Conference Program	2
Message from the Chair	3
Committee Reports	3
Electronic Journal Proposal	4
New Reference Books	5

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Afro-American Studies Librarians Section of ACRL presented its annual program, "Afro-American Information Resources: Assessing Three Decades of Progress, 1960-1990", in co-sponsorship with Anthropology and Sociology, and Asian and African Studies Sections. Keynote speaker, Dr. Bennie Reeves, Acting President and Professor of History at Florida Memorial College in Miami, began by stating that early scholarship on blacks had been complex, racist and presumptuous: perpetuating the negative image that society projected. It was only when Black scholars, such as John H. Franklin, Benjamin Quarles and John Henrik Clarke began publishing did historical literature focused on Blacks begin to take a more positive and honest stance. Citing several titles, Dr. Reeves cogently argued that the proliferation of materials on Blacks was closely connected to the political and social movements of the time. He maintained that the Civil Rights era and the Black Power Movement ushered in a new focus that examined Black roles in the 1960's and 1970's bringing with it not only

(cont'd on p. 4)

## EDITORIAL

In New Orleans, at ALA Council Meeting II, the Council rescinded its guideline requiring that salary ranges be included for all job recruitment advertisements published in American Libraries. The reason for this was that many "of the highest paid, most prestigious positions available in librarianship are never advertised in American Libraries because of the salary range requirement."

With this the burden of determining salary shifts away from our major professional organization to the individual. Obviously, some individuals are more skilled and/or successful at negotiating salaries than others. This highlights the reason why the guideline was upheld by ALA in the first place--to ensure fairness.

So, who gains an advantage by excluding salary ranges from job announcements? Two beneficiaries are employers and American Libraries Career LEADS. The former benefits because they have more flexibility in making salary offers. The latter stand ready to cash in on additional paid advertisements.

Who loses? Without stating an explicit salary range, an institution's offer to prospective employees may vary. Of course we'd like to think these decisions are made fairly, but the profession still grapples with recurrent problems of gender based pay inequity, underrecruitment and retention of racial minorities.

T. Weissinger

## RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY

This winter's issue of The Reference Librarian (v.41) is devoted to racial and ethnic diversity in academic libraries. Co-editors Susan Blandy, Deborah Curry, and Lynne Martin took particular diligence to provide readers with as much diversity in thought as the theme would provide. E.J. Josey's lead article discusses "The State of Diversity" in the profession. The volume concludes with an afterword by Deborah Curry that explores the effects racism, prejudice and discrimination have

(cont'd. on p. 7)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Afro-American Studies Librarians' Section is reaching an important milestone. AFAS is now in its fifth year as a section in ACRL.

Twelve years ago, a group of librarians sat around a table together at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., to discuss the possibility of creating a forum for discussing African American Studies within the academic and research sector of the American Library Association. The formation of the Black Studies Librarians' Discussion Group was in keeping with the continuum of "culture keeping," or maintaining and providing access to the primary record, scholarship, and creative activity of African Americans in the web of libraries and research centers throughout the United States and beyond.

Over the years, we listened to the personal accounts of Bill VandeBurg, Robert Hill, Sam Dennison, Mamie Clayton, Michael Winston, Bennie Rivers, Florence Borders, Brenda Mitchell-Powell, Casper Jordan, and Howard Dodson. The Amistad Center and Library Company of Philadelphia have shared resources with us during our meetings in their cities. We have come to know a range of colleagues through meetings, informal contact in the halls of ALA and BCALA meetings, and on the "net," African American Studies and Librarianship or AFAS-L.

My goal for AFAS over the year is to strengthen Black Studies as the focus of our work together. We must seek to increase active participation by working Black Studies librarians and information professionals within our section. Our programming ought to reflect the need to strengthen the links between schol-

arship and community.

This can be accomplished within the confines of AFAS and in partnership with ACRL's sections along with others organizing in a way that further supports our agenda. Your active participation is essential in shaping our future.

William Welburn,  
Chair, AFAS

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Indexing Project Committee met at midwinter and agreed that each member would do a sample run on the index of choice covering the years 1980-1992 in both print and electronic formats. The committee will write a grant proposal for the project. The current chair is committed to the project for two years.

Membership Committee will continue its work on public relations. A priority of incoming officers is to produce a brochure about the section for use in recruitment.

Nominating Committee announced 1993 election results: Michael Walker, Chair Elect; and Gladys Smiley Bell, Secretary. In 1994 there will be an election for Chair Elect, Secretary, and Member-at-Large.

Policy & Research Committee's timeframe for updating ACRL AFAS handbook is to have 2nd draft at LA Midwinter and have the final document to present to membership at Miami annual.

(cont'd on p. 7)

## **E-JOURNAL, E-NEWSLETTER--WHAT'S THAT?**

by Gladys Smiley Bell

During the annual meeting of AFAS in New Orleans, I proposed that our membership support electronic newsletter and electronic journal endeavors. This article will hopefully provide more information and an explanation.

An electronic newsletter is a page or a few pages containing news or information of current interest to or bearing upon the interests of a special group where, in application, the writing, editing, transfer and publishing of information is in electronic form.

Currently ACRL publishes the AFAS newsletter, and more than likely, electronically via desktop publishing (a term often used synonymous with electronic publishing). A hardcopy is mailed to all AFAS members. This proposal simply requests that the electronic version be made available on Bitnet and the Internet, and automatically be distributed via the section's electronic discussion list AFAS-L.

An electronic journal is a periodical publication dealing with matters of current interest, often used officially by special groups where, in application, the writing, editing, transfer and publishing of information is in electronic form. This proposal idea involves creating a periodical (electronic) on  
(cont'd. on page 5)

### **CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

(cont'd from p. 2)

new literature, but the birth of third world publishing companies sensitive to the needs of a black

population. Dr. Reeves concluded by challenging black librarians to create special collaborative projects to document and preserve black history, and encouraging scholars to use repositories such as the Amistad Research Center, the Moorland-Spingarn Collection at Howard University and the Schomburg Library in New York.

Reacting to these comments were Florence Borders of Southern University, New Orleans; Brenda Mitchell-Powell, editor of Multicultural Review; and Casper Jordan of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library (retired).

Ms. Mitchell-Powell was particularly impassioned about the lack of control African Americans have historically had over material published relating to them. She asserted that African Americans have been "victims of the commodification of culture". She implored black librarians and scholars to "wrest back control of our literature" and reminded the audience of the plight of our literature if we failed in this mission. She stated that several seminal works have never been revised or have gone quickly out-of-print. Too often original publishers have not republished works that may have been controversial in nature, such as works by J.A. Rogers, Chancellor Williams, and Ivan Van Sertima. Ms. Mitchell-Powell concluded by asking that African American librarians be especially diligent in challenging the publishing companies to provide timely revisions of reference sources to keep pace with scholarship, and to reconsider works that are destined for out-of-print status.

D. Curry

**NEW REFERENCE BOOKS**

Murphy, Larry, J. Gordon Melton, and Gary L. Ward, eds. Encyclopedia of African American Religions. New York: Garland, 1993.

Twentieth-Century Caribbean and Black African Writers. First Series, 1992; Second Series, 1993.

Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History. 5 vols. Macmillan, 1994.

Williams, Michael W. The African American Encyclopedia. 6 vols. New York: Cavendish, 1993.

Jordan, Casper LeRoy. A Bibliographical Guide to African-American Women Writers. Westport: Greenwood, 1993.

Hine, Darlene Clark, ed. Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia. 2 vols. Brooklyn: Carlson, 1993.

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. The Amistad Chronology of African-American History, 1445-1990. New York: Amistad, 1993.

Hornsby, Alton. Milestones in 20th-Century African-American History. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 1993.

Holland, Ted. This Day in African-American Music. San Francisco: Pomegranate Artbooks, 1993.

Salem, Dorothy C. African American Women: A Biographical Dictionary. New York: Garland, 1993.

Ingham, John N., and Lynne B. Feldman. African-American Business Leaders: A Biographical Dictionary. Westport: Greenwood, 1993.

Foner, Eric. Freedom's Lawmakers: A

Directory of Black Officeholders during Reconstruction. New York: Oxford UP, 1993.

Livingston, Ivor Lensworth, ed. Handbook of Black American Health. Westport: Greenwood, 1994.

Potter, Vilma Raskin. A Reference Guide to Afro-American Publications and Editors. Ames: Iowa State UP, 1993.

Holloway, Joseph E., and Winifred K. Vass. The African Heritage of American English. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1993.

Higgins, Ruby D., ed. The Black Student's Guide to College Success. Westport: Greenwood, 1993.

\*\*\*\*\*

**E-JOURNAL--WHAT'S THAT**

(cont'd. from page 4)

"Black Librarianship," and invites collaboration with the BCALA. The electronic format for journals is becoming more widely accepted as an avenue for publishing articles to satisfy personal or tenure requirements. The journal will have an editor who chooses a referee to read submissions and attest to its scholarly worthiness.

The electronic newsletter and electronic journal would subsequently be maintained or archived and back issues would be kept on a file list (an electronic log of reserved files) where network users may retrieve them. This means that the newsletter and journal could be retrievable via listserv@kentvm or via anonymous FTP.

We need an electronic publication to keep us current and knowledgeable about networking and technol-

ogy. And, WHY NOT? Despite rapid and significant networking efforts at national, regional, campus, public, and office levels, we know that ubiquity is not yet a reality. Bitnet and the Internet remain non-entities for many who would both contribute and benefit from its communication and publication capabilities. However, capabilities are developing quickly and WE DO WANT TO BE READY.

Electronic networking demolishes geographical barriers and redefines our concept of time and distance. Being "interconnected" will provide access and the ability to communicate with members of the networked community. Ideas, data, proposals, research projects flow freely on the network to the benefit of the community. Electronic journals and newsletters are an important part of this information stream. WE SHOULD WANT TO BECOME PART OF THE NETWORKED COMMUNITY AND LOBBY FOR IT FOR ALL.

The experience of publishing an electronic newsletter is definitely worth the effort and can be a lot of fun. The work will create a sense of preparedness in an electronic environment. There is a growing number of library-related electronic journals and newsletters available on Bitnet and the Internet. My wish is that AFAS and the BCALA grow with the Information Age by becoming electronic publishers.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **CHISHOLM RESOLUTION**

(cont'd from p. 1)

he was instrumental in the establishment of the Afro-American Studies Librarians' Section of ACRL, served as Chair of AFAS and member of the ACRL Executive Board, was one of the original Co-chairs of the

1991-1992 President's Task Force on the Recruitment of the Underrepresented, and served on the Planning Committee for the 1992 ACRL Sixth National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chisholm was also very active in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, serving most recently as Chair of the Membership Committee, 1990-1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chisholm touched the lives of many new library professionals, encouraged their participation in state, regional and national library organizations, and was a respected friend and colleague; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clarence Chisholm died on July 16, 1992; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association takes this opportunity to formally recognize Mr. Clarence Chisholm's numerous contributions to the American Library Association, and to his colleagues in the library profession and that this recognition be communicated to Mr. Chisholm's family.

#### **PERSONAL BRIEFS**

The UCLA Center for Afro-American Studies Library, headed by **Itibari M. Zulu**, sponsored a visit by author Bebe Moore Campbell (Your Blues Ain't Like Mine) to its monthly African American Book Forum on October 20th.

**Lisa Parker** was appointed as African-American Studies Bibliographer Intern at Duke University. As an intern, she will be a "bibliographer understudy," gradually taking on responsibility for

all aspects of collection development in this area in support of Duke's new African-American Studies Program.

**William Welburn** is now Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies at the University of Iowa.

**THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP:  
ACRL Member-Get-A-Member Campaign,  
Oct. 1993-Jan. 1994**

Invite your colleagues to enjoy the many benefits of ACRL membership: opportunities to share expertise and to gain expertise in all areas of academic librarianship; free subscriptions to College & Research Libraries and Research Libraries News; discounts on hundreds of products, services and programs designed to meet their special needs; and more.

Prizes will be awarded during the Presidential Candidates Forum at Midwinter in Los Angeles on Saturday, February 5, from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. For more info. call Member-Get-A-Member Campaign headquarters at 800-545-2433, ext. 2515.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(cont'd from p. 3)

Publication Committee reported AFAS listserv has 300 subscribers including 7 countries outside the U.S. AFAS-L moderators met at ALA annual; and a section sponsored electronic newsletter and journal was proposed. See Bell's article, p. 4.

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee, in its recent review of the Section's bylaws document, found no items to be in conflict with either

the Association of College and Research Libraries' or the American Library Association's bylaws. The committee makes periodic checks of the document in an effort to keep current with the changes in the parent organization's governing documents. The committee requests your assistance in doing this by asking you to review the bylaws periodically and to notify the committee of any changes that might be made. Suggestions for changes can be sent to Michael Walker.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Doris Clack called the meeting to order and made introductions. Minutes of the Executive Board were read by Joyce Jelks, Secretary. No action item from the board was presented. Gladys Smiley Bell asked the membership about the creation of an electronic journal. The membership approved the creation of an electronic journal. The business was adjourned.

A very moving Tribute to Clarence Chisholm was moderated by Michael Walker.

Alma Dawson presided over the annual program, attended by a near-capacity audience. Audio cassettes of the program are available from ALA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DIVERSITY**

(cont'd from p. 2)

on academic libraries. Other articles explore issues faced in academic libraries including training, mentoring and supervising, working with racially and ethnically diverse student populations, building diverse collections, and providing access to diversity materials.

Afro-American Studies Section Newsletter  
 Association of College & Research Libraries  
 Published Fall & Spring

Asst. Editor: Deborah A. Curry, E-mail: Harobed@Albnyvms.bitnet  
 Editor: Thomas Weissinger  
 Tel: 607/255-5229; Fax: 607/255-0784  
 E-mail: TW14@Crux2.cit.cornell.edu

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Nominating Committee - Mark McManus

Membership Committee - Diana Brice  
 312/747-6922

Program Committee - Itibari M. Zulu  
 209/278-7673

Constitution & Bylaws - Michael  
 Walker  
 804/367-1103

Publication Committee - Thomas  
 Weissinger  
 607/255-5229

Policy & Research Committee -  
 Rodney Lee  
 516/378-0222

**AFAS NEWSLETTER**  
 C/O ACRL  
 50 E. Huron St.  
 Chicago, IL 60611-2795

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 American Library  
 Association