

AFAS Newsletter

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J A M B O from the C H A I R

Karibu (Welcome) to **AFAS**, the ACRL section for Afro American Studies and Librarianship. It is all about studying, collecting, preserving, and providing access to information concerning African American culture and life. **AFAS** was inspired by the deeds of several who blazed trails for blacks in librarianship. Those who have gone before us are remembered by their sparkle and the spirit that celebrate our moments in library history, linking us to the long, proud traditions of all persons in the struggle. While the endeavors alone are noteworthy, the legacy is all the more astonishing because it developed in an environment more conducive to strife and struggle than to unchallenged success. This issue of the *AFAS Newsletter* gives Sifa (Praise) to our leaders of yesterday and to our leaders of today.

It was the sharing of expertise that was of greatest concern to the founders of **AFAS**. The ability to consult with colleagues on difficult issues concerning Black Librarianship has always been of great value. Nothing has changed. *AFAS-L*, the sections e-conference, allows us to do that on a daily basis. **JOIN THE DISCUSSION!** It is very important.

As we continue to celebrate African American culture, let us also celebrate the African American experience in librarianship by being a participant. **AFASers** who are candidates for ALA offices are **Wanda Brown (Cason)** for ALA Treasurer; **Rochelle Ballard, Kathleen Bethel, Stanton Biddle, and Sylvia Curtis** for ALA Council. One way to participate is to exercise your right to vote in the ALA elections. It is important that we make the most of our participation now. We should vote for candidates for ALA leadership who support the issues that are meaningful to our mission. Another way to participate is to seek leadership roles, be a candidate for any ALA affiliated office. We should strive to provide the best leadership there can be, for when it is all done, it will be said that history was not only made, but that our leaders made a difference.

One last comment, books have always played a big part in our mission (and always will), but electronic formats are a major factor in the way information is provided today and will continue to be in the future. For **AFAS**, I think it is really important that we take a proactive role in shaping access to information (controlled vocabulary), lobbying for equal access, and WEB instruction. Our medals in life will be the people we have touched with our knowledge and expertise in African American Studies and Librarianship.

Hotep,
Gladys Smiley Bell, Kent State Univ., AFAS Chair

Executive Committee:

Gladys Smiley Bell, Chair
Kent State Univ.

Rochelle Ballard, Chair-Elect
Univ. of Central Florida

Sylvia Curtis, Secretary
Univ. of California, Santa Barbara

Michael Walker, Past-Chair
Virginia Commonwealth Univ.

Gloria Mims, Member-at-Large
Auburn Avenue Research Library

In this issue.....

Message from the Chair.....	p. 1
Committee Reports.....	p. 2
Conference Reports.....	p. 3
AFASers in the News.....	p. 5
AFAS-SIFA.....	p. 6
AFAS-FYI.....	p. 9
Library Conferences and Dates.....	p.15

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Indexing Project *Marie Turner Wright, Chair*

The core list of journals in print dealing with African Americans in *Magazines for Libraries* by Katz, recently updated and annotated by **Kathleen Bethel**, Northwestern Univ., will be used to check against other indexes for complete or incomplete indexing.--MTW

Membership *Dorothy Ann Washington, Chair*

As of March 1996 membership statistics reflect: 251 personal; 26 organizational; and 6 drops. Total AFAS membership is 277. AFAS is trying to determine ways information may be shared with its members in a more timely fashion. If you have an e-mail address, please forward it to Membership Chair at dwashing@vm.temple.edu or 1300 W. Cecil B. Moore Ave., Apt. 13, Philadelphia, PA 19122--DAW

Nominating *E. Gail Reese, Chair*

The official ballot for AFAS is: Vice-Chair/Chair Elect: **Sylvia Curtis**, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara and **Itibari Zulu**, Univ. of California, Los Angeles. Secretary: **Carol Ritzen Kem**, Univ. of Florida and **Alice Reviere Smith**, Cleveland State Univ. Member-at-large (one-year term): **Heather Martin**, Wright State Univ. and **Mary WRIGHTEN**, Bowling Green Univ. Member-at-large (two-year term): **Stanton Biddle**, Baruch College, CUNY and **Mark McManus**, West Georgia College.--EGR

ALA 1996 Annual Conference, NYC

On Monday, July 8, 9-11 a.m.: AFAS, Women's Studies Section (WSS and chaired by **AFASer Grace Jackson-Brown**, Indiana Univ.), the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship, and the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Task Force will co-sponsor a program entitled "Leadership and Collaboration: Librarians Develop Women's Studies Electronic Resources": Three panelists will discuss the development and use of Women's Studies electronic resources. *Reported by Gladys Smiley Bell* On Tuesday, July 9, 2-6 p.m.: Memorial tributes to **Doris Hargrett Clack** and **Dorothy Porter Wesley** will be held at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black History. There will also be a tour of the Schomburg's library, museum, and art gallery,

including demonstrations of the Schomburg Center Home WEB site and CD-ROM and other electronic databases. A reception hosted by the Schomburg Center will follow. The event is co-sponsored by AFAS, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) and the New York Black Librarians Caucus. Directions will be available at the BCALA booth in the ALA Exhibits area, distributed at the BCALA meeting on Sunday, and at the AFAS Executive and Business meetings. *Reported by Stanton Biddle*

Other Committees of AFAS:

Constitution and By-Laws

Michael Walker, Chair

Policy and Research

Itibari Zulu, Chair

Publications

Gladys Smiley Bell, Chair

If anyone is interested in participating on AFAS committees, please do not hesitate to contact:

Rochelle Ballard, Chair Elect of AFAS

Univ. of Central Florida
P. O. Box 25000
Orlando, Florida 32816-0666
407-823-5049 (voice)
407-823-5865 (fax)
E-MAIL: ballard@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu

Please note: In order to serve on ACRL section committees, appointees must be members of ACRL and the section. No member of ALA may serve simultaneously on more than three committees, including division and section committees, unless membership is ex officio. ALA members of committees are to attend the meetings of the committee during the Midwinter meetings and Annual Conferences. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings or groups of meetings (defined as all meetings of a committee that take place at one Midwinter or Annual Conference) without an explanation acceptable to the committee chair constitutes grounds for removal upon request by the chair and approval of the appropriate appointing official or governing board. The association does not provide funds for committee members to attend Midwinter meetings nor Annual Conferences. The usual term of appointment is two years, beginning at the end of Annual Conference with a possibility of reappointment for another two years.

**ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGE
& RESEARCH
LIBRARIES**

A Division of the
American Library
Association.

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CONFERENCE REPORTS

AFAS in Chicago

"Africa at the Field Museum: Perspectives on the Permanent Africa Exhibit"

This program, organized by the African, Asian, and Middle Eastern Section and co-sponsored by the Afro-American Librarians Section and the International Relations Committee, consisted of two parts: 1) talks by two Field Museum staff persons closely associated with the new exhibit, and 2) an opportunity to view the exhibit. In November 1993 the Field Museum of Natural History opened its new permanent Africa exhibit. The exhibit has drawn international attention because of its new approaches to presenting Africa as a continent of great variety and dynamic populations. The opening was preceded by five years of planning which included community involvement. The first speaker, Carolyn Blackman, head of the museum's Education Department, gave a brief history of the Field Museum, which was established in 1893 and recently has embarked on the redesign of many exhibits to combine both the human and environmental elements. She then spoke primarily about the goal of the exhibit to reflect what the community wanted to know and needed to learn about Africa. Over ten public forums were held in the Chicago area to give the community a chance to express its opinions. The second speaker was Maureen Ransom, a member of Africa Exhibit's Development Team. She described the different components of the exhibit and talked about the outreach program that links the exhibit to the community through public libraries and schools. In preparation for this exhibit many African people were asked their opinion of how items and displays should be presented to best recreate a feel for Africa. Many Americans, both of African and non-African descent, were asked questions to uncover stereotypes which his exhibit could eliminate. She also described building of the Africa Resource Center, a small library of African studies materials at the end of the exhibit that allows viewers to pause on their way out to follow up on questions raised as a result of viewing the exhibit. This exhibit is colorful and interactive. It stimulates all of the senses in its teaching efforts, including the sense of taste, which is addressed by the distribution of an African recipe to be sampled at another time. *Reported by Cynthia Coccaro, Univ. of Akron and David Easterbrook, Northwestern Univ., reprinted from C&RL News*

AFAS in San Antonio

KEY ACTIONS OF THE AFAS BOARD

DIRECTED a committee to organize a "Doris Hargrett Clack" tribute during the 1996 ALA annual conference in New York.

DIRECTED the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review Bylaws in reference to the Member-at-Large term of office.

DIRECTED the Publications Committee to identify publication ideas and propose a method for establishing a clearinghouse for publications and resources within the fields of interest to African American Studies.

APPROVED the idea to develop an AFAS WEB page.

INVESTIGATE the possibility of ACRL providing the WEB server.

INSTRUCTED the Policy and Research Committee to finalize the AFAS manual.

DIRECTED the New York City Planning Committee to proceed with it's plans for the 1996 Annual ALA Conference.

DIRECTED the AFAS Nashville Program Planning Committee to proceed with it's plans to develop and submit a program for the 1997 ACRL conference.

APPROVED the Membership Committee's suggestion to design an AFAS public relations brochure.

APPROVED the Constitutions and Bylaws Committees action to appoint an AFAS archivist and identify a site for AFAS archives.

INVESTIGATE the possibility of changing the name of AFAS.

Send AFAS your News: c/o Gladys Smiley Bell, Kent State University, Room 161, Library Building, Kent, Ohio 44242
or E-mail: GBELL@KENTVM.KENT.EDU

CONFERENCE REPORTS

AFAS in New York

AFAS Annual 1996 Meeting Schedule:

Executive Board

Sat., July, 6, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Membership Meeting

Sat., July, 6, 2-5:50 p.m.

During this meeting, there will be a ceremony to remember our leaders of yesterday.

Indexing Project

Sat., July, 6, 8-11 a.m.

Membership Committee

Sat., July, 6, 8-9 a.m.

Nominating (Elections) Committee

Sat., July, 6, 8-9 a.m.

Publication Committee

Sat., July, 6, 8-9 a.m.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Sat., July, 6, 8-9 a.m.

Policy & Research Committee

Sat., July, 6, 8-9 a.m.

Program Planning-Nashville Committee

Sat., July, 6, 8-9 a.m.

Program Planning-San Francisco Committee

Sat., July, 6, 8-9 a.m.

(These Committees are planned to meet in the same room, same time.)

Membership Program

Mon., July, 6, 9:00-11 a.m.

"Leadership and Collaboration: Librarians Develop Women's Studies Electronic Resource" co-sponsored program with WSS and others.)

Membership Program

Tues., July 7, 2:00-6 p.m.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black History tour and memorial tributes to **Doris Hargrett Clack** and Dorothy Porter Wesley.

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AFAS in Nashville

Call for Participation

Association of College & Research Libraries

8th National Conference

"Choosing Our Futures"

April 11-14, 1997, Nashville, Tennessee

ACRL is seeking quality presentations for its 8th National Conference. The conference will explore the theme "Choosing Our Futures" and its five subthemes:

- o partnerships and competition
- o changing work, roles, and organizations
- o funding
- o learning
- o social responsibility, equity, and diversity

Proposals for research papers, panel programs, poster sessions, preconferences, and roundtable discussion topics are sought.

Deadlines:

- o Contributed papers&panel sessions-July 1, 1996
- o Poster sessions--November 1, 1996
- o Roundtable sessions--January 6, 1997

To keep research timely, decisions to accept papers will be made based on the review of the abstract and completed proposal form.

The full text of the Call for Participation may be found:

- o as an insert in the Jan.'96 issue of C&RL News
- o at <http://www.ala.org/acrl.html>
- o <http://library.tufts.edu/www/mcdonald/acrlhome.html>
- o at gopher://gopher.ala.org

Questions? Contact Mary Ellen Davis, Conference Manager, at the address and e-mail below.

Mary Ellen K. Davis,
Senior Associate Executive Director
ACRL/ALA address:

50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
medavis@ala.org
312-280-2511; fax: 312-280-2520

(Nashville cont. page 5)

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Continued:

(Nashville cont. from page 4)

The AFAS Nashville planning committee will submit a proposal for consideration to ACRL. The committee will suggest a co-sponsorship with the ACRL Art Section on a program about the partnerships formed between scholars, librarians and repositories of original art and manuscripts produced by artists of color. Through a panel, consisting of an art museum or gallery director, an art historian, an art critic, and an art librarian, the papers will promote the contributions of African American artists during the Harlem Renaissance or the New Negro Art Movement.

Reported by *Gladys Smiley Bell*, Kent State Univ. and *Mimi Hernandez*, University of Arizona

AFASers in the News

Gerald Holmes, Univ. of Cincinnati, published "Celebrating Annual African American Events," *C&RL News*, February 1996, 93-96 and was featured in *C&RL News*, April 1996, p. 199, on why he appreciated ACRL. AFAS that's why!

Joseph Atkinson and **Gloria Rhodes** are now librarians at California State Univ., San Marcos.

Gladys Smiley Bell, Kent State Univ., will present "Black Women Online" at the ACRL/Women's Studies Section program, co-sponsored with AFAS, and others, at the ALA Annual Conference in New York City.

Kathleen Bethel, Northwestern Univ. is a Spring 1996 ALA/USIS Fellow in South Africa at the University of Durban, Westville Library.

Cynthia Coccaro, Univ. of Akron and **Joseph Straw** presented a paper entitled "Reference and electronic document delivery: a marriage made in heaven or hell?" at a conference sponsored by the Harvard College Library on March 30, 1996. The conference had as its theme "Finding common ground: creating a library of the future without diminishing the library of the past." Both librarians will also be presenting a poster session entitled "Managing and Disseminating UMI's Full-Text Information at The University of Akron" at the 1996 ALA annual conference in New York. The presentation is number 14, part of poster session IV to be held on Sunday, July 7, 1996.

Teresa Neely is on leave of absence from Colorado State Univ. and working on a doctorate at the Univ. of Pittsburgh. She and **Khafre Abif** edited *In Our Own Voices: The Changing Face of Librarianship*, 1996. It is a collection of essays by twenty-six new librarians of color.

Marcellus Turner is now Adult Services Librarian, Atlantic City Free Public Library, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Dorothy Ann Washington is now a full-time student working on a Masters in African American Studies at Temple Univ. She was formally Head Cataloger, Schomburg Center for Black Culture, New York Public Library.

Mary Wrihten was granted tenure at Bowling Green State Univ.

Stanton Biddle, Baruch College, CUNY edited *Culture Keepers II: Unity through Diversity. Proceeding of the Second National Conference of African American Librarians*, 1995. Papers by AFASers include **Roland Barksdale-Hall**, Pennsylvania State Univ., Shenango Campus, **Joyce Wright**, Univ. of Illinois, **Paula Murphy**, Loyola Univ., **Yvonne Bennett**, Medgar Evers College, **Theodosia Shields**, Dillard Univ., **Robert Miller**, Chicago Public Library, **V. Tessa Perry Evans**, Rutgers Univ., **Gladys Smiley Bell**, Kent State Univ., **Itibari Zulu**, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, **Doris Hargrett Clack**, **Marcellus Turner**, Atlantic City Free Public Library, **Gerald Holmes**, Univ. of Cincinnati, **Sylvia Curtis**, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, and **Dorothy Ann Washington**, Temple Univ.

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SIFA (Praise)

SIFA

May we always remember those who have gone before Us:

May we be inspired by their vision and valor:

May their lives continuously remind Us...

that service is more important than success;

that people are more important than possessions;

that principle is more important than power.

May whatever we do be shaped and molded by honesty, competence, and commitment.

May our children and our children's children carry forth with pride, the nobility of our history and traditions.

To the creator of off of Us, we dedicate our lives to make this world better and more beautiful.

Mtmushi St. Julien, 1989

Dr. Doris Hargrett Clack

Doris Hargrett Clack, founding member and past chair AFAS, died Wednesday morning on November 22, 1995. She was also a very active member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA).

Dr. Clack was a wonderful person. Regal in statue, proud in character, she was an educator, mentor, and friend. She was Professor Emerita at the Florida State University School of Library and Information Studies, where she taught catalog in and classification.

Born and raised in an African American village in Wakulla, Florida, she attended Wakulla County public school founded for African American youth by her father. **Dr. Clack** received her bachelor's degree from Florida A. & M. University, the A.M.L.S. from the University of Michigan, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She was an honored professor at the Florida State University where she taught for 23 years. In addition, she taught at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Iowa, the University of Missouri, and the University of Maidiguri in Nigeria. She also worked as a senior cataloger at the Library of Congress. In addition to the above mentioned professional organizations, she was also active in the ALCTS Cataloging and Classification Section, and she was currently on the Editorial Board of *The Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*.

I met **Dr. Clack** when I first became involved with AFAS. I found her already heavily involved in the activities of the young Section. She was instrumental in helping to advance the organization from a discussion group to a full section of ACRL. When **Dr. Clack** became Chair of the Section, she called on me to share my

expertise in computer technology with the membership to bring them up to skill in using computers, to facilitate the work of the Section, and to improve communication between and among members. Through her involvement and leadership, the Section is now one of the most technologically advanced of all ACRL Sections.

Dr. Clack also contributed significantly to the published literature, especially on the topic of subject headings and classification.

She was a recognized and respected leader in the movement for more accuracy and more sensitivity in providing access to information on Africans and others of African descent.

This included access through both cataloging and indexing. The following text comes from AFAS member, **Sylvia Curtis** introduction at the Second National Conference of African American Librarians in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in August of 1994, and from AFAS member, **Dorothy Ann Washington's** paper on bibliographic access to African American material given at the same conference:

"The problem with access to Black literature resources has been well documented in the literature by **Dr. Doris H. Clack**, noted authority on cataloging (**Clack**, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1989, and 1994). Her doctoral dissertation, entitled "An Investigation into the Adequacy of Library of Congress Headings," (**Clack**, 1973, 57) brought about changes in subject access to African American studies resources at the national level. In his widely used text, *Introduction to Cataloging and Classification*, Bohdan S. Wynar wrote, "**Doris Clack's** 1975 analysis of Black literature resources

(Clack cont. page 7)

(Clack cont. from page 6)

starts from a critique of LC subject analysis." She reminds us that: "Inadequate subject analysis is not just a problem with Black literature--though admittedly there the level of adequacy is critically low--nor has it only in recent years been brought to the attention of the Library world (Wynar, 1980, 500)."

The Library of Congress took into consideration some of Clack's recommendations and made some changes in its policies and procedures for providing access to African use of the subject heading NEGROES and created two new headings, AFRO-AMERICANS for people of African descent in the United States and BLACKS for those outside the United States."

A selected list of her publications follows:

Clack, Doris Hargrett. "Adequacy of Library of Congress Subject Headings for Black Literature Resources," *Library Resources & Technical Services* 22 (Spring 1978): 137-44.

_____. *Black Literature Resources: Analysis and Organization*. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1975.

_____. "The Cataloging of Afro-American Literature: Subject Headings and Classifications," in *Bibliographical Control of Afro-American Literature*. Edited by Herman L. Totten. Eugene, OR: School of Librarianship, University of Oregon, 1976.

_____. "Collection Access Through Subject Headings," in *Social Responsibility in Librarianship: Essays on Equality*. Edited by Donnarae MacCann. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1989, 53-80.

_____. "An Investigation into the Adequacy of Library of Congress Subject Headings for Resources for Black Studies," Ph.D. diss., University of Pittsburgh, 1973.

_____. "Subject Access to African American Resources in online Catalogs: Issues and Answers," *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 19 (1994): 2.

_____, and Jessica L. Milstead Harris, "Treatment of People and Peoples in Subject Analysis," *Library Resources & Technical Services* 23 (Fall 1979): 374-90.

To read about her:

"Doris Hargrett Clack: Not Subject to Classification," *American Libraries*, (September 1978), 467.

She is survived by her husband, two sons, two granddaughters, three sisters, and numerous other relatives and friends.

There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Doris Hargrett Clack was a very valuable Black Librarian and she will be always be remembered (as others who have gone before us). *Reported by Gladys Smiley Bell, Kent State Univ.*



Dr. Dorothy Burnett Porter Wesley

Dorothy Burnett Porter Wesley, founding curator of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, died Sunday, December 17, 1995 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She was a 1990 recipient of the Trailblazer award in 1990 during the BCALA 20th Anniversary celebration. In 1994 she received the Charles Frankel Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which was presented at the White House by President Clinton.

Her achievements in African American and African History and Culture guided, directed and influenced the whole spectrum of African American Studies. She was said to have been the standard of dedication and perfection by which generations of African American librarians and historians have measured themselves.

The following excerpt's are from an article written by Dr. Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, reprinted from *Black Issues in Higher Education*, January 25, 1995. I have his permission.

"The extraordinary career of Dorothy Porter Wesley spanned sixty-five years, from her appointment in 1930 as librarian at Howard University's nascent Moorland Foundation, a Library of Negro Life, until her death. Throughout this period she remained the quintessential librarian--collector and dispenser of knowledge. She was an elder in the community of scholars who had experienced the continuum that is history and was a vast reservoir of wisdom, which she imparted to successive generations of students of Black history and culture.

Dorothy Louise Burnett Porter Wesley was born in Warrenton, Virginia, on May 25, 1905, and grew up in Montclair, New Jersey, where her father was a physician. She completed her early education there before enrolling in the Miner Normal School and Howard University in Washington, D. C., from which she was graduated in 1928. In 1932 she received a master's degree in library science from Columbia University, the first African American to do so. She received honorary degrees from Syracuse University, Radcliffe College and Susquehanna University.

She was the embodiment of the scholar-librarian. She knew the great bibliophiles like Dr. Jesse E. Moorland, Arthur B. Spingarn, C. Glenn Carrington, Arthur A. Schomburg, Henry P.

Slaughter, Clarence Holte, and Charles Blockson. She knew and assisted the many important scholars, writers, historians and everywhere who shared an interest in Black history or would contribute to the corpus of our history.

She was a prolific author and bibliographer who published numerous books and scores of articles, reviews and other pieces. In addition to her master's thesis, "Afro-American Writings Published Before 1835," Dr. Porter Wesley also wrote *Afro-Braziliana*, *North American Negro poets*, and on such disparate subjects as *The Negro in the Brazilian Abolition Movement*, David Ruggles, Howard University, Maria Louise Baldwin, Sarah Parker Redmond, and *The Negro in American Cities*, Negro literary societies, archival preservation, *Negro protest pamphlets*, and Africa. She was author of a landmark 1936 publication for the Government Printing Office, *A Selected List of Books by and About the Negro*. Other major works include *The Negro in the United States* (1970) and *Early Negro Writing, 1760-1837*, republished by Black Classic Press in 1995.

Dorothy Porter Wesley stands among those giants of historical inquiry who have helped to focus an understanding of the contributions people of African descent have made to world society. She embodied the spirit of our people and inspired all of those who love our people's history. She has left her mark, and it is truly indelible."

She was married to two notable black scholars, James Amos Porter, artist and once head of Howard University's fine arts department. He died in 1970. In 1973, she married Charles Harris Wesley, once professor and dean of Howard University graduate school and former president of Wilberforce and co-founder and former president of Central State University. He died in 1987. She is survived by her daughter, Constance Burnett Porter Uzelac of Fort Lauderdale.

She was my friend, mentor and teacher. She told me so many things...like how she lobbied/fought with the Library of Congress to classify materials by and about African Americans to NOT be classified under Sociology as a "social problem," but be "classified" as the other Americas...she lived a rich and full life, and I wish she were here still. *Reported by Gladys Smiley Bell, Kent State Univ.*

AFAS-L: E-Conference on African American Studies and Librarianship

AFAS-L USER MEMO - May 1996

Contents:

1. What is AFAS-L?
2. How to Send Messages to AFAS-L
3. When You Receive Mail from AFAS-L@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU
4. Editorial Policy
5. Netiquette
6. Appropriate Topics
7. Subscriber Option Commands
8. How to retrieve files sent to you by the LISTSERV
9. Archives
10. The Moderators

1. What is AFAS-L?

AFAS-L is a roundtable discussion among librarians and other interested people on topics relating to African American Studies and Librarianship. It is owned and moderated by members of the ALA/ACRL/AFAS. The objectives of AFAS are to study librarianship and collection development as it progresses and relates to the Afro-American Studies collection; to conduct an on-going evaluation and discussion of research in the areas of Afro-American Studies collections; to focus on areas such as resource sharing, archival materials, bibliographic control, retrospective collecting/purchasing, mechanized information, retrieval selection policies and procedures, oral history, and others as they relate to collection development and Librarianship of Afro-American Studies. While it is not necessary to be a member of AFAS to subscribe to AFAS-L, it is highly recommended.

Topics of discussion on AFAS-L can include peripheral issues such as race relations and multicultural diversity. AFAS-L uses LISTSERV software at Kent State University.

LISTSERV@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU is the address of the LISTSERV. Messages sent to the LISTSERV are read as commands by the program. If they make no sense, the program rejects them. When you subscribed to AFAS-L,

you sent a command to the LISTSERV.

AFAS-L@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU is the address of the discussion list. All mail sent to either AFAS-L@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU is directed to the moderator who then reviews messages for forwarding to all subscribers to the list. Not all messages sent to AFAS-L will be forwarded by the moderator--see Section 4: Editorial Policy.

2. How to Send Messages to AFAS-L:

Send an e-mail note addressed to AFAS-L@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU exactly as you would send an e-mail note to a person. The LISTSERV will "read" AFAS-L's mail and pass it on to the moderator for possible distribution to everyone who is a subscriber to the list.

Please include a descriptive phrase for your message in the subject line.

At times, you may send a question to the list that you can anticipate will generate many responses. If you expect that the responses will be brief and/or you will get many of the same or similar answers, ask subscribers to respond to you directly instead of the list. You are encouraged to then summarize the responses you received and post the summary to the list.

3. When You Receive Mail from AFAS-L@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU

Feel free to answer people's questions or to provide clarification or comments directly to the list.

Often, a subscriber will post a question expecting a short, factual answer. Replies to these questions should be sent privately to the person submitting the question, rather than being sent to the list. This prevents repetitious answers on the list. See Section 4: Editorial Policy for further information.

Subscribers may provide clarification of another's message and correct errors of fact for postings on the list. However, a copy of a portion of the text being clarified or corrected should be included in the response, to avoid confusion. Be certain to remove the original headers before sending the message to AFAS-L.

(AFAS-L cont. page 10)

(AFAS-L cont. from page 9)

Use the e-mail "REPLY" function ONLY if you wish your reply to be read by everyone who subscribes to the list.

If you want to start a personal correspondence with the writer of a note from the list, look in the header of the note to find the "FROM:" field where you will see that person's e-mail address. Or, check at the end of the note for the possible listing of the individual's address. Then send your note directly to that person.

4. Editorial Policy

The purpose of *AFAS-L* is to facilitate discussion of African American Studies and Librarianship. Messages on this list should relate directly to this issue. Topics can include related issues such as the impact of electronic dissemination of information on minorities.

The *AFAS-L* moderators reserve the right to reject any posting that we decide is inappropriate or irrelevant for *AFAS-L*.

When the moderators decide not to post a message, they will send an explanation to the sender. The sender may be given the option of altering the message so that it can be posted to the list by the moderators.

Personal messages, including those that offer criticism of a person instead of a person's statement, should not be sent to the list and will be rejected.

While the purpose of the list is to facilitate discussion of African American studies and librarianship, there may be times when professional librarians need to draw upon the expertise of *AFAS-L* subscribers to answer reference questions. Reference questions may be posted to the list only by subscribers and only when other resources have been exhausted. Responses to reference questions should be sent to the person who asked the question. The person who asked the question is strongly encouraged to inform the list of the results of their query.

The moderators will handle all questions about the functions of *LISTSERV* as it pertains to *AFAS-L*, as well as any mailing errors.

Any comments on the operation of the list should be sent the moderators for their

consideration, rather than to the list itself.

5. Netiquette

The moderators urge all subscribers to be courteous. The moderators reserve the right to reject any posting that they consider to be discourteous.

Try to keep messages under 200 lines and less than 80 characters wide. Messages that are too long or too wide cause technical problems at various sites. If your message is more than 200 lines, break it into parts, i.e. pt. 1, pt. 2, etc.

Cross-posting is a normal procedure on discussion lists. If you are forwarding a message from another list, include a note "from <original list >" subject line and in the first line of the body of the message. When the message appears in the subject line, it will be easier for people subscribed to several lists to delete duplicate messages from their readers. For those systems that delete or have "cryptic" headers, they will be able to see that the message was forwarded from another list.

Shutting down: *AFAS-L* will shut down during the Christmas/New Year holiday/intercession. This means that any messages sent to *AFAS-L* during this period will not get posted until after the Christmas/New Year holiday/intercession.

Surveys: Anyone interested in surveying *AFAS-L* should get permission from the moderators. Questionnaires, surveys, assessment tools should be reviewed by an institutions Human Resource board or the like.

Editing: With permission from the sender, moderators may edit messages. If a message contains what the moderators consider irrelevant or inappropriate, i.e. cost/price information, this would be an occasion for editing.

Position Announcements: Position announcements will be posted to *AFAS-L*, but not personal ads for positions.

Bounced messages: This means that messages posted to *AFAS-L* are returned to the list in error. There are hundreds of bounced *AFAS-L* mail per week. The e-mail address will automatically be deleted from the list. There are

(*AFAS-L* Memo cont., page 11)

(AFAS-L Cont. from page 10)

reasons why your e-mail bounces. 1. A subscribers userid@node is no longer valid. 2. A subscribers mailbox is full and will not receive any more e-mail. There may be other reasons, but these are the most prevalent. Contact the list moderators if you have questions or problems with your subscription at afasmods@listserv.kent.edu

Indicate the nature of your message in the "subject" line of the header. When responding to a question or discussion, it is also a good idea to summarize the question or discussion in the first line or two of your message; even if you include a description in the "subject" line of the header. Sometimes comments are a bit mystifying!

Signing: At the end of your message include your name, institutional affiliation (if any), and "snail mail" address (called signing). The data provided in the header is often too cryptic, and this fuller information helps to personalize the list and is more friendly.

Use upper and lower case text, because **MESSAGES IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS HAVE THE EFFECT OF SHOUTING.**

To signal humorous intent, use the "sideways smile" or "smiley face" :-) or 8-) for those of us who wear glasses. ;-) wink; 8=>) mustache and glasses; :-} sorry; 8-(sadface.

How do I underline a word in e-mail? You don't, you sort of put lines before and after the word you want underscored.

Sometimes initials are used to shortcut writing it out: IMHO, In My Humble Opinion or IMO, In my Opinion; BTW, By the Way; BFN, Bye for Now; OTOH, On the Other Hand; FWIW, For What its Worth; HTH, Hope this Helps.

6. Appropriate topics for this list include, but are not limited to:

- * the impact of an Afrocentric curriculum on ...i.e. reference service
- * information literacy
- * recruitment, retention and advancement of minorities
- * Pan African resources and core collections

* Indexing/controlled vocabulary

7. Subscriber Option Commands:

SEND COMMANDS TO LISTSERV, NOT TO AFAS-L. Send commands as the text of an e-mail message. Do not include a subject line and do not add any other information except for the command in the text of the e-mail message.

The command: **SET AFAS-L NOMAIL** - will stop the distribution of mail to your sign-on without unsubscribing you to the list. This is useful when you go on vacation, etc. Send the command **SET AFAS-L MAIL** when you are ready to receive mail again.

The command: **SET AFAS-L DIGEST** - will set your subscription so that you will receive one daily posting that contains all individual postings sent to *AFAS-L* for the day. The composite posting will contain a table of contents.

The command: **SET AFAS-L CONCEAL** - will hide your name on the list. The Listserv can still read your name, but other subscribers won't be able to see it when they use the **REVIEW** command. This is similar to having an unlisted phone number.

The command: **REVIEW AFAS-L** - requests the **LISTSERV** program to send you a copy of the file which identifies *AFAS-L* as a unique discussion list. The file includes some of the parameters which control operation of the list, the names of the listowners, and the names and e-mail addresses of everyone who is subscribed to the list, except those who have chosen to be concealed. You cannot alter any of the parameters unless you are the listowner.

The command: **INDEX AFAS-L** - retrieves a list of the items available on *AFAS-L's* fileservers (archives, etc.).

The command: **GET <filename filetype>** (e.g., **GET LISTSERV INFO**) - retrieves the indicated file.

8. How to retrieve files sent to you by the **LISTSERV**: consult with your local computer system operator.

9. Archives: to be announced.

(AFAS-L, cont., page 12)

(AFAS-L cont. from page 11)

10. Owners and Moderators

The Moderators of *AFAS-L* are members of ACRL and the AFAS section:

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EJBLACK: Electronic Journal of Black Librarianship

++++CALL FOR PARTICIPATION++++

If you are serious about reading *EJBLACK*, you should also contribute, please do.

ISSN: 1075-1750

Volume 1, No. 1

EJBLACK is peer-reviewed electronic journal with an editorial board of library and information science scholars. *EJBLACK* is about Black librarianship, what it is, means and the implications concerning information science.

EJBLACK will debut when there is sufficient submission to plan regular distribution. There have been a lot of promises. When warranted by the volume and flow of scholarship, special and/or supplementary issues on emergent themes will be distributed. In October, a special issue will focus on "Black Librarianship and the MMM." The guest editor is Itibari Zulu, Librarian, UCLA Center for African American Studies. For more information on that particular issue, contact him at idh7lib@mvs.oac.ucla.edu

EJBLACK is accepting articles. *EJBLACK* has four sections, one of which is refereed:

1. Refereed Section (peer-reviewed)
2. Essays and Opinions Section
3. Reviews Section
4. Bibliographies Section

Articles may be submitted for inclusion in any of the four categories.

Articles submitted for the refereed section will be blind reviewed by at least two qualified referees.

Submissions are acceptable by electronic mail or diskette via mail. Submissions may be made to blacked@listserv.kent.edu or to Gladys Smiley Bell, gbell@kentvm.kent.edu or gbell@phoenix.kent.edu

Submissions will usually be acknowledged within 24 hours of receipt. Reviews will be made within 45 days of receipt.

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) in Chicago

THE BCALA GALA CELEBRATION

The Silver Anniversary of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) was befittingly held in the Winter Garden of the beautiful Harold Washington Library Center. Many elegantly attired guests passed through the library's beautiful gold trimmed doors, clearly reflecting a spirit of pride, diversity and accomplishment.

In the program, a historical narration of BCALA's 25 years of struggle by Gregory Reese and Chyrstal Carr Jeter took the guests on a journey that began with one man's vision that has evolved into an organization recognized and complimented for ideals of understanding and mutual respect by the President of the United States. The room was filled with glamour and excitement in recognition of the seed planted by Dr. Josey in 1970, which grew into a sizeable membership of librarians with shared goals and commitments generating scholarships, awards of recognition, newsletters, first national BCALA conference as well as a professional network that mentors and encourages young blacks to enter the field of library science.

When he rose to address the crowd, Dr. Josey compassionately reflected on the triumphs of the past, while stressing survival incentives for the future in our present climate of political indifference and contractual regression.

After saluting twenty five years of BCALA leadership and the bestowing of awards and scholarships, the audience was entertained with the mellow and poetic talent of pianist Ramsey Lewis. It was ALA Chicago, BCALA Silver Anniversary, Harold Washington Library Center, and librarians from across the country listening, celebrating, reflecting and planning - a good time was had by all. *Reported by Gloria Roberson, Adelphi University*

BCALA in NYC

July 6-July 8

Hospitality Suite at the BCALA Headquarters Hotel, The New York Sheraton

July 6-July 8

BCALA Bites for lunch and dinner at area ethnic restaurants

July 7, 2 - 4 p.m.

"Libraries in Post-Apartheid South Africa: An Eyewitness Report"

Mary F. Lenox, dean, SLIS, Univ. of Missouri and Alfred Kagan, African Studies bibliographer, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will share their views about their experience in post-Apartheid South Africa. They will examine the Africanization of library systems as well as professional associations in the country.

July 7,

Business/membership meeting

July 7, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Cocktail Party and Reception honoring BCALA President, **Stanton Biddle**

July 8, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

"What About the Side Streets?" Reaching Underserved Populations"

Features a compare/contrast panel that will discuss marketing outreach programs to various underserved library patron populations. Speakers will represent programs aimed at Spanish speaking communities, black youth and lesbian patrons (Toni Bissesar; Khafre Abif; and Polly Thistlethwaite).

July 8 and 9

Tours of the African Burial Ground and the Louis Armstrong Archives

July 9

Tour and reception, co-sponsored with AFAS, at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black history

The BCALA booth will have more information about all events.

(BCALA cont. page 14)

BCALA in Winston-Salem

Culture Keepers III: Making Global Connections

The 3rd National Conference of African American Librarians will be held July 31 - August 3, 1997 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Culture Keepers III, providing a continuum of the previous national conferences, focuses on the roles and presence of the library and information professionals throughout the world with emphasis on diverse communities. Broad issues of identifying, organizing and assuring equitable access to information will be the focus of programs. Other events planned include nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers and authors, award presentations, artistic performances, exhibits and an opportunity to make new connections and renew old ones.

Winston-Salem is a great place to be in August. In addition to the conference, among the city's cultural events is the National Black Theatre Festival, August 4 -9. As an added incentive for conferees to stay for the festival, the Radisson Marquee Hotel will honor the same room rates.

Call for Programs

All librarians and other interested people are invited to send program proposals for this conference. Some topics and categories for consideration are:

Making Global Connections

- and the Information Superhighway
- in Library & Information Science Education
- in Public Library Services
- in Academic Library Services
- in Law Librarianship
- in Library Media Services Programs
- in Youth Services
- in Recruitment & Professional Development
- in Collection Development
- with Authors & Publishers

Please mark your calendars for July 31 - August 3, 1997 and watch for more information about the 3rd National African American Librarian's Conference in upcoming issues of this newsletter.



THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

July 31 - August 3, 1997

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

MAMBO: Library Conferences & Dates

ALA Annual Conference

New York City
San Francisco, CA
Washington, DC
New Orleans, LA
Chicago, IL

July 4-10, 1996
June 26-July 3, 1997
June 25-July 2, 1998
June 24-July 1, 1999
June 14-21, 2000

ALA Midwinter Meeting

Washington, DC
New Orleans, LA
Philadelphia, PA
San Antonio, TX

February 14-20, 1997
January 9-15, 1998
January 22-28, 1999
January 14-20, 2000

Zimbabwe Book Fair

July 26-August 3, 1996

IFLA Annual Conference

Beijing, China
Copenhagen, Denmark

August 25-30, 1996
August 31-September 5, 1997

LITA/LAMA National Conference

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Oct 13-16, 1996

ACRL National Conference

Nashville, TN

April 11-14, 1997

BCALA, 3rd Annual Conference

Winston-Salem, NC

July 31-August 3, 1997

CHOOSING
OUR
FUTURES



ACRL

8th National Conference • April 11-14, 1997 • Nashville

Program Proposal Form

3rd National Conference of African American Librarians

CULTURE KEEPERS III: MAKING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Radisson Marque Hotel
and
M.C. Benton Convention Center

Winston-Salem, NC
July 31 - August 3, 1997

Deadline for Submission: August 2, 1996

Submit Three Copies of the Program Proposal to:

Phyllis Green Mack
Regional Librarian, NYPL
Countee Cullen Regional Branch
104 West 136th Street
New York, NY 10030

Tel: 212 491-2072, Fax: 212 491-6541, e-mail: pmack@nypl.org

PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Contact Person: _____

Position: _____

Library/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Day: _____ Evening: _____

FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

Suggested Title: _____

Abstract (25 - 50 words):

Objectives and Content (50 - 100 words):

Format: ___ Panel discussion
 ___ Lecture
 ___ Poster session
 ___ Contributed paper
 ___ Other (describe)

Please contact Ms. Phyllis Mack, Conference Program Chair, if you have any questions.