



# ALCTS

## Association for Library Collections & Technical Services

a division of the American Library Association

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### Association for Library Collections & Technical Services Annual Report 2007-2008

2007-2008 has been a year of contrasts. The nostalgia and excitement of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the summer of 2007 was followed by period of tranquility throughout the fall and winter, finally culminating in renewed energy and enthusiasm in the spring of 2008.

#### Future of Bibliographic Control

Throughout 2007-2008 attention was focused on activities related to the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control (LCWG), particularly drafting testimony for the working group's public hearings and preparing a detailed response to the final report "On the Record" on behalf of ALA. In the spring of 2008, a task group appointed by the Board analyzed the recommendations in the Working Group's report and identified and prioritized those recommendations which ALCTS is best suited to address. See:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/newslinks/bibcontrol/ALCTSrecs.cfm> and

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/newslinks/bibcontrol/lcwgtop10.cfm>. A second task group will continue the work by overseeing the implementation of these recommendations in the coming year.

#### Non-English Access

A steering committee appointed to oversee the implementation of recommendations made by the Task Force On Non-English Access began its work in the summer of 2007. The work is complex and time-consuming and requires collaboration and consultation with numerous groups within ALCTS as well as in the information community at large. An implementation plan developed by the committee provides structure and focus and has helped clarify the committee's role within the community. A discussion list, [NonEnglish@ala.org](mailto:NonEnglish@ala.org), initially designed to facilitate discussion among steering committee members, is now open to the entire library community and has greatly enhanced the committee's visibility.

#### Organizational Effectiveness

"The role of libraries is certainly in a state of transformation ...[as is] the change in library user expectations." [Overview of the Next Steps Document Developed by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Sections (Acquisitions, Cataloging and Classification, Collection Management and Development, Preservation and Reformatting, and Serials) and the ALCTS Council of Regional Groups]

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alctscontent/pubsbucket/bibcontrol/nextsteps2007.pdf>

Recognizing the validity of this statement the ALCTS Board of Directors surveyed the membership using *The 7 Measures of Success: What Remarkable Associations Do That Others Don't* [ASAE, Washington DC, 2007]. Response was outstanding and revealed that the members consider ALCTS to be a remarkably successful organization. The survey pointed out, however, that improvements in the areas of communication, effective utilization of data, and organizational adaptability, are highly desirable.

To address the concerns that were voiced about communication, an electronic discussion forum ([alcts-eforum@ala.org](mailto:alcts-eforum@ala.org)) was launched to give members and non-members alike a vehicle where topics of immediate interest could be discussed for brief periods of time. The inaugural discussion, on communication, attracted 112 subscribers and indicated very clearly that perceptions about the suitability and effectiveness of the association's communication channels differ widely and there is a definite need for different forms of communication depending on the audience.

After a careful review of the association's organizational structure the Organization and Bylaws Committee submitted a ballot proposal to convert all discussion groups to interest groups. The proposal was approved by an

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overwhelming margin, a clear indication that ALCTS members are eager to support changes which create a more nimble organization where emerging issues and changing industry conditions can be addressed spontaneously.

#### Legislative Affairs

Throughout 2007-2008, ALCTS was invited to comment on a variety of matters of national significance ranging from the ALA Preservation Policy to increased funding for cataloging at the Library of Congress, and support for shared regional depositories. Opportunities such as these raise the association's profile and underscore the value of cooperation in the legislative arena.

#### Strategic Planning

In January 2008, the highly anticipated strategic planning website [http://www.ala.org/cfapps/alcts/planning/plan\\_home.cfm](http://www.ala.org/cfapps/alcts/planning/plan_home.cfm) was inaugurated. Designed so members and staff can easily track the scope and range of the association's work, the database facilitates collaboration among individuals and groups. Members are responsible for recording initiatives, relating them to the association's strategic plan, and tracking their progress. Action items are identified for planning, budgeting, and programmatic development and will be used to assess progress toward the goals outlined in the strategic plan.

#### Fiscal Planning

Although remarkably successful programmatically, from a budget, perspective fiscal year 2007, which ended August 31, 2007, was an anomaly. The combination of higher costs and lower than anticipated registration for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration resulted in a deficit at the end of the fiscal year. A combination of conservative budgeting, trimming expenses, and more accurate revenue forecasting have helped mitigate this situation in FY 2008 and made it possible to begin to rebuild the association's reserves. The dues increase for personal and institutional members implemented in the fall of 2007 was based on a detailed analysis of revenues and expenditures and in response to an anticipated increase of 3 percent in administrative costs over the next three years. The additional funds generated by the dues increase will help to offset inflation and support the association's administrative services as well as establish a solid foundation for new initiatives and project development.

#### Sections and Services

One of ALCTS' most significant characteristics is the diversity of its members. They are affiliated with libraries of all types and sizes and include library staff at all ranks. Mentoring members and offering them support, encouragement and opportunities to excel professionally are high priorities for ALCTS. This means reaching out to various constituencies, understanding their professional requirements and creating products and services that address those special needs. During 2007-2008 ALCTS focused particular attention on its public library members and made a concerted effort to engage them in association activities through both actual and virtual committee membership and by reflecting the public library perspective in program content when appropriate.

Throughout the year, the "Spotlight on Sections" column in the *ALCTS Newsletter Online* provided each section an opportunity to highlight its activities. The Serials Section responded to the changing serials landscape by changing its name to Continuing Resources Section (CRS). The Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS), at the request of ALA, updated the ALA preservation policy and drafted definitions for digital preservation. The Council of Regional Groups (CRG) established a wiki making it easier for affiliated regional and state organizations to maintain ties with the national organization. The Cataloging and Classification Section (CCS) took the lead, on behalf of ALCTS and ALA, in preparing comments for the LCWG and subsequently in analyzing the group's recommendations.

Programs, preconferences, symposia, and fora continue to attract enthusiastic audiences at conferences. In addition, developing continuing education using a variety of platforms and delivery mechanisms, particularly those that deliver content locally and on demand is being emphasized. Two new web courses, Fundamentals of Electronic Resources Acquisitions and Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management were developed this year and will be offered for the first time in August 2008. The online Fundamentals of Acquisitions course, a staple of ALCTS continuing education offerings, continues to be offered and is routinely sold out. New online courses that focus on cataloging, including FRBR and RDA are in the planning stages. A collaboration with NISO (National

Information Standards Organization) led to the development of “Demystifying Library Standards” a webinar that is the first of a series of web based mini-programs to examine the industry standards used in technical services.

A robust publishing program including both traditional and online publications continues to attract attention and accounts for a significant portion of the association’s revenue. *Library Resources & Technical Services (LRTS)*, the official journal of the association, also celebrated 50 years of publication in 2007. The entire backfile of *LRTS* has been digitized, however only 2000-2006 are presently accessible online. The bimonthly *ALCTS Newsletter Online (ANO)* provides members with association news, conference reports and announcements. The *LRTS* Editorial Board and the ALCTS Publications Committee continue to grapple with questions about open access, licensing, and copyright, as well as electronic publishing. A manuscript submission software program acquired by ALA during 2007-2008 will expedite acceptance of manuscripts and facilitate the peer review and revision process.

Two new awards were established in 2007-2008. The Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) honored the memory of George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg, early leaders in cooperative preservation programming and strong advocates for collaboration in the field of conservation, with the LBI George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Award. The award, sponsored by the Library Binding Institute, acknowledges and supports cooperative preservation projects and/or rewards individuals or groups that foster collaboration for preservation goals.

The Coutts Award for Innovation in Electronic Resources Management, generously supported by Coutts Information Services, is presented by the Collection Management and Development Section (CMDS) to a librarian who has demonstrated innovation and excellence in the practice of electronic collection management and development.

#### Summary

2007-2008 will be remembered as the year when ALCTS responded to the controversies over bibliographic control and also focused attention on organizational renewal by developing new member services, by reaching out to all constituencies, by expanding the channels of communication, by collaborating with colleagues, and by exercising its leadership role in the library and information community.

Respectfully Submitted



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