Hayden to chair COA

Carla D. Hayden, Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore has accepted appointment as Chair of COA for 1994-95. Appointed by ALA President Arthur C. Curley, Dr. Hayden holds a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in library and information science. She has taught at the School of Library and Information Science, and was formerly Assistant Director at Chicago Public Library.

Brooke Sheldon, Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, University of Texas-Austin, was appointed to a four year term to COA. Dr. Sheldon holds a Ph.D. in library and information studies from the University of Pittsburgh. She is also a former ALA President. Lotsee Patterson, Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma, was also appointed to a four year term. Dr. Patterson holds a Ph.D. in Educational Technology from the University of Oklahoma. One more appointment will be made.

Teleconference plans move ahead

Nearly five hundred individuals have registered for the accreditation teleconference scheduled for September 8, 1994. A training session for site facilitators was held in Miami on Friday afternoon, June 24 at ALA's annual conference. Approximately sixty people attended the training which consisted of a "dry run" of the teleconference and information on how to facilitate an interactive teleseminar. Participants engaged in lively discussion and provided excellent feedback to the presenters.

The teleconference will feature Ann Prentice and Philip Turner as key presenters and participants will have the opportunity to call in questions and comments as they work through the learning exercises designed for the seminar. The curriculum features COA's new accreditation materials presented in an attractive forest green folder which will be mailed to all participants in late August.

COA actions

The Committee on Accreditation met on June 25, 1994, in Miami Beach. Among the agenda items discussed were the accreditation teleconference, selection and training of
As my term ends

Herman L. Totten

During the past year as Chair of the American Library Association (ALA) Committee on Accreditation (COA) I have seen many changes in accreditation as a result of efforts to sustain a state of excellence in library and information studies education. These changes have come in the form of major modifications to the process of accreditation under the new 1992 Standards.

The primary objective of the new process is to open the lines of communication and encourage a new spirit of collegiality and cooperation between COA and schools of library and information studies. Several steps have been taken to foster this same spirit among schools, and between external review panels and schools.

Some of the problems associated with the new Standards and review process are those inherent to any major changes. Unfamiliarity, uncertainty, resistance to change, and an inclination to follow the same old processes and procedures must be dealt with and overcome. COA has worked to alleviate these problems by sponsoring seminars, workshops, and a teleconference. In an effort to help the first schools who must undergo accreditation under the new Standards, the COA conducted conferences about the new process, explaining how outcomes assessment can be utilized, and how to prepare the Program Plan and Program Presentation. The September 8, 1994 teleconference on accreditation is the next major step in preparation of library schools and future members of external review panels to work within the new process. The COA has also created a documentation packet which includes resource guidelines, and which is available to each library and information studies program.

In the spirit of collegiality and openness, the first eight schools to undergo accreditation under the new Standards agreed to share Program Plans and Program Presentations with each other and with those schools who will undergo evaluation in subsequent cycles. As further evidence of the new atmosphere of cooperation, the COA has been working with other library and information studies professional associations to encourage their members to participate in the external review panels. Future panels, having members who participated in the above mentioned teleconferences and workshops, and including information professionals from a broad range of backgrounds, are certain to bring a diverse, yet cooperative and collegial atmosphere to the review process.

As I pass the gavel to the next Chair, I predict that the COA will continue to be a catalyst in promoting excellence in library and information studies education. The precedent has been set to emphasize open dialogue and sharing of information among all parties interested in the accreditation process. There will continue to be difficulties, for accreditation is a difficult process. But, a foundation of openness, dialogue, and collegiality, will facilitate the identification and solution of these difficulties and ensure the continued success of the COA.

Correction

This issue is the 3rd issue for volume 2, 1994 and is numbered volume 2, issue 3.1. The previous issue, the second of volume 2, was mistakenly numbered.

From the Director: OUTLOOK

DOE takes action on accreditation

Prudence W. Dalrymple

As I have discussed in this column previously, the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act resulted in a number of legislative changes, some of which bear directly on accrediting practices of both specialized and institutional (regional) agencies. Late last spring, ALA was informed of the Department's intent to withdraw recognition of 14 agencies which have previously been recognized by the Secretary as reliable sources to indicate the quality of postsecondary education and training. The Department stated that withdrawal of recognition in no way reflected on the quality of the accrediting procedures of those agencies, but simply resulted from a change in the scope of the Secretary's authority. Each of the 14 agencies was invited to appear at the hearing of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity in Arlington, Virginia on June 28-30, 1994.

In responding to this invitation, ALA was represented by Herman Totten, Chair of the Committee on Accreditation; John Gray, public member of the Committee on Accreditation; Prudence Dalrymple, Director of the Office for Accreditation, and Jefferson Glassie, attorney with Jenner & Block, ALA's legal counsel. These individuals attended the Thursday morning meeting (June 30, 1994) and made a presentation to the Committee and Department staff, after which the Committee discussed and voted to support the staff's recommendation that recognition be withdrawn. The vote on ALA was followed by individual consideration of each of the other thirteen agencies.

The Committee voted to recommend to the Secretary that the recognition of all of the specialized agencies be withdrawn. Among the other specialized agencies are American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, American Society of Landscape Architects, American Council for Construction Education, Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, Council on Social Work Education, National Association of Industrial Technology, and the Society of American Foresters. Recognition of the other agencies was recommended to be withdrawn also, except one, which was deferred.

Following the meeting, ALA submitted a letter of intent to appeal, thus leaving the way open for further action. ALA is also considering other options. The next meeting of the National Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for early December 1994.

Committee on Accreditation
American Library Association

Upcoming Meetings

Please join us for meetings of the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association. They are scheduled as follows:

FALL
• COA Fall Meeting* – Chicago, Illinois
   November 18 – 20, 1994

WINTER
• ALA 1995 Midwinter Meeting
   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
   February 4 – 6, 1995
   February 3, 1995  3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Deans/Directors meeting)
   February 4, 1995  8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
   February 4, 1995*  2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
   February 5, 1995  8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
   February 5, 1995  2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
   February 5, 1995  8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
   February 6, 1995  8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
   February 6, 1995  2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

SPRING
• COA Spring Meeting* – Chicago, Illinois
   (dates to be determined)

*Closed meetings
Accredited list on ALA Gopher

ALA is pleased to announce its Gopher, now under construction in conjunction with the University of Illinois at Chicago. One of the first publications to be mounted on the Gopher is the list of accredited master's programs which was posted in late July.

To see the list, follow these instructions, modifying them if necessary to accommodate your local conditions. Point your Gopher client to Gopher.uic.edu port 70. Select the menu option "The Library" on the first screen of the UIC Gopher. From that menu, choose "American Library Association" under "The Library" menu. From the "American Library Association" menu, select menu IV, "Publications (Electronic and other). The accredited list appears as "Library and Information Studies Accredited Master's Programs."

Please note that the schedule of revisions will continue on a twice yearly basis (fall and spring) until further notice.

COA (cont. fr page 1)

external review panel members, method of appointment to COA and strategic planning. Chair Herman L. Totten appointed working groups to address these concerns: evaluation of the accreditation process, review and selection of new applicants to serve on external review panels, liaison with ALISE, statistical reporting, strategic planning, and cost-benefit analysis. The Committee also acknowledged the achievements of the outgoing chair, among them, completion of business in one day.
LIS told to align with other professions

Margaret Myers

All universities are continuing to face declining resources, increased demands and calls for accountability, according to Donald Henderson, provost and senior vice chancellor emeritus from the University of Pittsburgh, at an ALA conference program sponsored by the Standing Committee on Library Education and the Committee on Accreditation. Consequently, university programs are undergoing close scrutiny and evaluative and bottom line considerations.

How are graduate professional programs, including library and information studies education, likely to fare in these "rightsizing" efforts? Professional graduate schools are at a greater risk than the colleges of arts and science, according to Henderson, because they are expensive enterprises, often require cutting edge technologies to support the curriculum, have smaller enrollments and thus higher costs per credit hour production.

Within professional schools, law, medicine, business and engineering schools are less likely to be targeted for reduction or elimination than other programs because they usually have larger alumni gift contributions, bring in more research and service contracts, and play the "political game" more effectively. The vulnerability of other professional school programs varies from institution to institution. Although the quality of programs is considered, along with societal demands for their graduates, the bottom line of income vs. expenses is increasingly important, Henderson said.

Although there is no magic key to surviving and thriving in this environment, Henderson suggested that library and information studies programs should address political, fiscal and academic concerns to remain viable. Involvement of representation in the overall university strategic long-range planning process is essential. Henderson suggested that a coalition of politically astute professional school representatives could work in defense of common interests and position their programs to survive in the overall institutional planning process. Formation of political alliances among professional schools could assist each of the participants in such areas as recruitment and fundraising.

Professional schools are well suited to assist the university in its three-fold mission of teaching, research and services. Because of close ties to professional practice, clinical or field-based student training provides a service to society as well as helps students learn how to practice a profession. Applied research by faculty can help people who practice resolve "real-world" problems. Professional schools are also in a position to do interdisciplinary research. Schools need to think boldly and creatively how they can position themselves within the overall institutional strategic plans.

Marcia Bates, UCLA Graduate School of Library and Information Science and Martha Hale, Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management, added perspectives from their library and information studies programs. They stressed understanding of and participating in local campus polities, while keeping the intellectual program content and quality of the faculty high and contributing to cutting-edge research. Echoing Henderson, Hale agreed that to thrive in the higher education context, LIS programs had to be fiscally successful, politically skilled and academically excellent.

A full tape of the entire session is available by calling Teach 'em at 800/225-3775 and asking for ALA cassette 453. The price is $24.00 for two tapes plus shipping and 8.75% tax for Illinois residents only.
Schedule of evaluation reviews

FALL 1994
Arizona
Louisiana

SPRING 1995
Clark-Atlanta
Iowa
Pratt
South Florida
Southern Mississippi
Tennessee

FALL 1996
Florida State
Missouri-Columbia
N.C. Greensboro
Rosary
Rutgers
WI-Milwaukee

SPRING 1997
California-Berkeley
California-Los Angeles
Kentucky
Puerto Rico
St. John's
Western Ontario

FALL 1998
NY-Buffalo
North Texas
Simmons
Washington

SPRING 1999
Alberta
British Columbia
Maryland
Pittsburgh

FALL 1999
Alabama
Hawaii
McGill
N.C. Central
S. Carolina
Wayne State

SPRING 1999
Clarion
Rhode Island
Rutgers
S. Connecticut
Texas Woman's
Toronto

FALL 1997
Dalhousie
Illinois
Kent State
NY-Albany
Queens
Syracuse

SPRING 1998
Catholic
Drexel
Michigan

FALL 1997
Emporia
Indiana
Montreal
NC-Chapel Hill
Texas-Austin
WI-Madison

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Oklahoma
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