



# PRISM

Fall, 1999  
volume 7, issue 3  
ISSN 1066-7873

published by the Office for Accreditation at the American Library Association

## COA announces accreditation actions

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Recommendations	2
Congress on Professional Education	3
COA Open Session	4
Resources	4
COA Committee 1999-00	5

At the 1999 American Library Association Annual Conference, the Committee on Accreditation reviewed seven graduate programs leading to the first professional degree in library and information studies. The Committee continued accreditation for the following programs: Master of Library and Information Studies, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta; Master of Library and Information Studies, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia; Master of Library Science, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland; Master of Arts, School of Information and Learning Technologies, University of Missouri-Columbia; Master of Library and Information Science, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh; and Master of Library and Information Science, School of Library and Information Science, University of Washington.

The COA did not grant initial accreditation

to the program leading to the Master of Library and Information Services degree from the Library and Information Services Department in the University College at the University of Denver. The ALA has received the University of Denver's appeal of COA's decision.

Graduate programs leading to the first professional degree in library and information studies at the following universities will be reviewed in academic year 1999-2000: Emporia State University, University of Hawaii, Indiana University, Long Island University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of Oklahoma, University of Rhode Island, San Jose State University, and University of Texas at Austin.

Individuals wishing further information about a particular program should contact the school. A complete list of programs and degrees accredited by COA can be found at [www.ala.org/alaorg/oa/lisdir.html](http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oa/lisdir.html). ▲

## COA membership changes

Two members of the Committee on Accreditation completed their terms of office at the close of the 1999 Annual Conference. Two new members were appointed and Susan Kennedy agreed to serve a second term as a public member.

James Baughman, director of the Educational Media Programs in the Graduate

School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, and Richard W. Budd, vice president for Information and Distance Learning and dean of the Library and Media Systems at Regent University, completed their terms. COA recognized Jim and Dick for the leadership and service they exemplified during their terms.

*continued on page 5*

## Recommendations assigned to COA

Beverly P. Lynch

The Steering Committee on the Congress for Professional Education adopted 40 recommendations which it forwarded to the Executive Board of the American Library Association in June, 1999. The Executive Board then assigned seven of these recommendations to the Committee on Accreditation. These are:

- 2.3. examine the process for accreditation as applied to other professions to determine and apply "best practice";
- 2.4. clarify and strengthen the process for the cyclical review of the *Standards for Accreditation*;
- 2.6. promote knowledge and understanding of the accreditation process, specifically that it is outcome-based and is critical to the profession;
- 2.7. strengthen the mechanism(s) which exist for involvement of the profession in the accreditation process;
- 2.8. strengthen the rigor of the accreditation process including training for site visitors;
- 2.9. ensure that core competencies and *Standards* are met by each accredited program;
- 2.10. find ways to provide relevant consumer information about the review of programs to potential students, employers and other stakeholders.

The Congress made recommendations regarding core competencies which have implications for standards; COA was not assigned any role for these recommendations.

The review and revision process culminating in the 1992 *Standards* was a deliberative one beginning in 1988. The important issues at the time of revision were: action orientation; definition of the field; discrimination; distance education; diversity; excellence; future focus; globalization; innovation; interaction with other

fields of study and other campus units; management; multiple degree programs; ongoing evaluation processes; philosophy, principles and ethics; research; specialization; technology; and users. The importance of these issues to the 1992 *Standards* is evident in the *Standards* and in the continuing discussion of them.

The COA, aware of the extraordinary rate of change on-going through the profession, charged a Task Force in 1997 to review the *Standards* and the process, and assess the need for change. The Task Force observed that a major standards revision was not necessary at that time. The Task Force did observe that changes in process might be appropriate.

The COA, meeting with the deans of LIS programs and others, has continued the discussion on process. These discussions and the recommendations of the Congress will guide the Committee's considerations in the fall of 1999.

The six Standards (Mission, Goals, Objectives; Curriculum; Faculty; Students; Administration and Financial Support; Physical Resources and Facilities) continue to serve the field well. The first sentence in Standard I, "A school's mission and program goals are pursued, and its program objectives achieved, through implementation of a broad based planning process that involves the constituency that a program seeks to serve," links the program's planning with the practitioner community it seeks to serve.

This linkage of education and practice was a theme running through much of the discussion at the Congress and influenced many of the recommendations of the Congress' Steering Committee. Standards for professional education require such collaborative efforts. The COA continues to emphasize these linkages in its activities of implementing the *Standards for Accreditation*. The COA has before it the seven recommendations assigned to it. It seeks and welcomes comments from all interested parties and stakeholders on these specific recommendations and on any other aspect of accreditation of LIS programs. ▲



PRISM is published  
by the Office for  
Accreditation  
at the American  
Library Association  
50 E. Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Fax: (312) 280-2433

### OA Staff:

Ann O'Neill  
Director  
aoneill@ala.org  
800-545-2433 x2435

Mary Taylor  
Assistant Director and  
PRISM editor  
mtaylor@ala.org  
800-545-2433 x2436

Vivica Williams  
Administrative Assistant  
vivilliams@ala.org  
800-545-2433 x2432



printed on recycled paper  
with vegetable-based inks

## Congress on Professional Education prompts action

Ann L. O'Neill

The Congress on Professional Education generated very good discussions of issues important to our profession and to library and information studies education in particular. The final report and the recommendations from the Congress are available on the ALA Web site ([www.ala.org/congress](http://www.ala.org/congress)). Although the Congress itself is over, the work on issues related to accreditation is continuing.

In her column, Beverly Lynch discusses the Congress recommendations that COA will be addressing.

The Office will be working with a Task Force formed by the ALA Executive Board in response to a recommendation from the Congress. The Task Force will be chaired by Susan Martin of Georgetown University and is to "...investigate and develop a detailed recommendation for an independent accreditation body..." An interim report is due at Annual Conference 2000 and the recommendation is to be made at Annual Conference 2001.

Accrediting boards can be set up in a number of ways. In LIS, one professional association (ALA) subsidizes the accreditation process. Accreditation in some professions is similar to ours. Other professions, however, have accrediting bodies that are not financed by one professional association. They may be funded by the profession's associations (for example, ALA, SLA, MLA, etc.) or have representation from other professional associations. The Task Force will investigate the different models to determine which ones may be appropriate for our profession.

As director, I am working on the following recommendations: "to promote knowledge and understanding of the accreditation process,"

and to "strengthen the mechanism(s) which exist for involvement of the profession in the accreditation process." During my first year as director, I made presentations about accreditation to ALA division leaders and to the Black Caucus of ALA. One of my goals this year is to speak to more groups and individuals about the accreditation process and its value to the profession. I believe the process can only be enhanced as more members of our profession understand accreditation. Informed and interested participants can contribute as alumni, employers, or advisory board members in the development of their schools' program presentations. People who volunteer to serve as External Review Panelists can make stronger contributions to the review process when they have a more complete understanding of accreditation.

If you would like me to speak about accreditation or LIS education, I'll do my best to be there. In addition, I will be happy to share your comments about any of the above issues with either COA or the Task Force. ▲

### Committee on Accreditation American Library Association

## Upcoming Meetings

*All agenda items are due in the Office for Accreditation no later than one month prior to the Committee on Accreditation meetings. Currently scheduled meetings are as follows:*

#### **Fall Meeting**

Chicago  
November 12-14, 1999

#### **ALA 2000 Midwinter Meeting**

San Antonio  
January 14-17, 2000

#### **Spring Meeting/Canadian Library Association Annual Conference**

Ottawa  
April 7-9, 2000

#### **ALA Annual Conference**

Chicago  
July 7-10, 2000

---

# COA open session addressed policy issues

*James C. Baughman, Immediate Past Chair, COA*

In New Orleans the COA held its customary open session. In a spirit of openness, the COA and its constituents engaged in a rich dialogue while exchanging specific viewpoints on several issues.

Of special concern is the recent change in COA policy regarding the External Review Panel's (ERP) analysis and report to the COA and the practice of collegial advice. As a matter of policy, ERP reports no longer contain statements about whether or not a program meets either individual standards or the whole set of standards (*Prism*, Spring 1999, p2). ERPs no longer make formal collegial observations as part of the ERP report process (*Prism*, Fall 1998, p6). This does not preclude the chair on behalf of the ERP from offering collegial advice to a program head. It is now no longer part of the formal ERP process, that is, collegial advice statements are no longer filed with the Office of Accreditation.

These changes in policy were made in order to avoid potentially awkward situations that

could seriously compromise the integrity of the accreditation process—the bedrock on which the accreditation process rests.

At the request of the convenor of the Council of Deans, Directors and Program Chairs of ALISE, the COA also met with deans, directors, and chairs in an invitational seminar in New Orleans. Concern was expressed about the variance in the number of years between programs' accreditation reviews. From the cogent comments made at this session, it is apparent that further discussion is needed in this area.

The COA remains committed to future open meetings as it welcomes discussion on the accreditation process. Moreover, the COA is considering avenues through which its constituents can be better engaged in and informed of changes that are occurring in the accreditation process.

The COA appreciates your input so please plan on attending the open meeting at Midwinter on Saturday, January 15, 2000. ▲

---

## Resources

The following educational policy statements are available through the Office for Accreditation web site at [www.ala.org/accreditation.html](http://www.ala.org/accreditation.html) or from the association listed.

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)

*AALL Guidelines for Graduate Programs in Law Librarianship*

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

*Position Statement of Preparation of School Library Media Specialists*

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

*Competencies for Librarians Serving Children in Public Libraries*

Association for Teacher-Librarianship in Canada (ATLC)

*Students' Information Literacy Needs in the 21st*

*Century: Competencies for Teacher-Librarians*

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)

*Education for Professional Academic Librarianship*

Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)

*ALCTS Education Statements*

Medical Library Association (MLA)

*Platform for Change: The Educational Policy Statement of the Medical Library Association*

Society of American Archivists

*Archival Education*

Special Libraries Association (SLA)

*Competencies for Special Librarians of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*continued on page 6*

---

## American Library Association, 1999–00 Committee on Accreditation

**Beverly P. Lynch**,  
Professor  
Graduate School of Education  
and Information Studies  
University of California  
Los Angeles  
3045 Moore Hall Mailbox 951521  
Los Angeles, California 90095-1521  
Ph: (310)206-2494  
Fax: (310)206-6293  
E-mail: [bplynch@ucla.edu](mailto:bplynch@ucla.edu)  
*term expires 2002*

**Hiram L. Davis**,  
Dean of Library Services  
Robert E. Kennedy Library  
California Polytechnic State  
University  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
Ph: (805) 756-2344  
Fax: (805) 756-2346  
E-mail: [hldavis@library.calpoly.edu](mailto:hldavis@library.calpoly.edu)  
*term expires 2000*

**Rick B. Forsman**, Director  
Denison Memorial Library  
University of Colorado Health  
Sciences Center  
4200 E. Ninth Avenue  
Denver, CO 80262  
Ph: (303) 315-5127  
Fax: (303) 315-6255  
E-mail: [rick.forsman@uchsc.edu](mailto:rick.forsman@uchsc.edu)  
*term expires 2001*

**Martha L. Hale**, Professor  
School of Library & Information  
Management  
Emporia State University  
Box 4025  
Emporia, KS 66801  
Ph: (316) 341-5203  
Fax: (316) 341-5233  
E-mail: [halemart@emporia.edu](mailto:halemart@emporia.edu)  
*term expires 2000*

**Susan Estabrook Kennedy**,  
Chair  
Department of History  
Virginia Commonwealth  
University  
P.O. Box 842001  
Richmond, VA 23294-2001  
Ph: (804)264-3946  
Fax: (804)264-1581  
E-mail: [sekenned@vcu.edu](mailto:sekenned@vcu.edu)  
*term expires 2001*

**Steve Matthews**, Librarian/Media  
Coordinator  
Audrey Bruce Currier Library  
Foxcroft School  
P.O. Box 5555  
Middleburg, VA 20118  
Ph: (540) 687-4422  
Fax: (540) 687-3675  
E-mail: [smatthews@foxcroft.org](mailto:smatthews@foxcroft.org)  
*term expires 2002*

**Vivienne Monty**,  
Senior Librarian  
York University, Glendon  
Campus  
Leslie Frost Library  
2275 Bayview Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M4N 3M6  
Ph: (416) 736-2100, #88268  
Fax: (707) 897-7305  
E-mail: [vmonty@yorku.ca](mailto:vmonty@yorku.ca)  
*term expires 2000*

**C. Allen Nichols**,  
Director  
Wadsworth Public Library  
132 Broad Street  
Wadsworth, OH 44281-1897  
Ph: (330) 335-1299  
Fax: (330)334-6605  
E-mail: [c.allen.nichols@wadsworth.lib.oh.us](mailto:c.allen.nichols@wadsworth.lib.oh.us)  
*term expires 2003*

**Lorna Peterson**,  
Associate Professor  
School of Information and  
Library Studies  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
534 Baldy Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260  
Ph: (716) 645-6473  
Fax: (716) 645-3775  
E-mail: [lpeterso@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:lpeterso@acsu.buffalo.edu)  
*term expires 2001*

**Jane Robbins**,  
Dean  
School of Information Studies  
Florida State University  
101 Louis Shores Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2100  
Ph: (850) 644-5775  
Fax: (850) 644-9763  
E-mail: [robbins@lis.fsu.edu](mailto:robbins@lis.fsu.edu)  
*term expires 2002*

**Caroline Stern**,  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Languages &  
Literature  
Ferris State University  
3040 ASC 820 Campus Drive  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Ph: (231) 591.2917  
Fax: (231) 796.4427  
E-mail: [sternc@ferris.edu](mailto:sternc@ferris.edu)  
*term expires 2000*

**Charles T. Townley**,  
Professor  
New Mexico State University  
MSC 3475, P.O. Box 30006  
Las Cruces, NM 88005  
Ph: (505) 646-7121  
Fax: (505) 646-6940  
E-mail: [ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu)  
*term expires 2003*

---

## COA membership changes

*Continued from page 1*

C. Allen Nichols, director of the Wadsworth Public Library in Wadsworth, Ohio and Charles T. Townley, professor and former dean of the University Library at New Mexico State University are the two new members. Susan

Estabrook Kennedy, chair of the Department of History at Virginia Commonwealth University continues as a public member for a second term. ▲

---

## Resources *Continued from page 4*

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)  
*Young Adults Deserve the Best: Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth*

Sources of information about the Congress on Professional Education include the ALA Web site on the Congress ([www.ala.org/congress](http://www.ala.org/congress)) and the following articles:

Berry, John N., Lynn Blumenstein and Susan Smith DiMattia. "Move Accreditation Apart from ALA?" *Library Journal* 124, no 10 (June 1, 1999): 16, 20.

Kniffel, Leonard. "Practitioners, Educators Seek Library's Place in Professional Education." *American Libraries* 30, no 6 (June/July 1999): 12-13, 15.

Olson, Renee. "Whither the librarians?" *School Library Journal* 45, no 6 (June 1999): 14.

Prentice, Ann. "ALA Congress on Professional Education: April 30-May 1, 1999." *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science* 25, no 6 (August/September 1999): 10-12.

Reichel, Mary and Marion T. Reid. "Reports from the Congress on Professional Education." *College and Research Libraries News* 60, no 6 (June 1999): 473-4, 484.

Weingand, Darlene E. "The Congress on Professional Education." *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* 40, no 2 (Spring 1999): 112-13. ▲



---

Published by the ALA  
Office for Accreditation  
volume 7, issue 3

---

First Class Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1925  
Chicago, Illinois