

# PRISM

published by the Office for Accreditation  
at the American Library Association

## Fall/Winter 2000/2001 volume 9 number 1

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### COA announces accreditation action

The Committee on Accreditation (COA) of the American Library Association announces the accreditation actions taken at the 2000 ALA Annual Conference under the *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies*.

Accreditation continues for the following graduate programs leading to the first professional degree in library and information studies:

Master of Science in Library and Information Science  
Palmer School of Library and Information Science  
Long Island University, NY  
Master of Library and Information Studies  
School of Library and Information Studies  
University of Oklahoma  
Master of Library and Information Studies  
Graduate School of Library and Information Studies  
University of Rhode Island  
Master of Library and Information Science  
School of Library and Information Science  
San Jose State University, CA  
Master of Library and Information Science  
Graduate School of Library and Information Science  
University of Texas at Austin

Graduate programs leading to the first professional degree in library and information studies at the following institutions will be reviewed in academic year 2000-2001: University at Albany--State University of New York, Université de Montréal, University of Puerto Rico and University of Wisconsin--Madison. 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)

From the COA Chair: PERSPECTIVE

## COA Sets Strategic Priorities

*Rick Forsman*

Communication serves as a cornerstone for our profession, and the Committee on Accreditation remains committed to meaningful interchange with the many partners who participate and make the accreditation process viable. When the *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Science, 1992* were approved, the Committee embarked on a complete revision of the policies, procedures, and documents used in implementing the accreditation process. Immediately following the first year's experience with the revised process and documents, the COA invited external review panel chairs, panel members, and deans/directors from the programs accredited during that first year to give early feedback on the process and how it was working. Together with its Ad Hoc Advisory Panel to Revise the Accreditation Process, COA received this feedback and made necessary revisions to the process.

Over the past six years the Committee has cooperated with programs, external reviewers, and others in the careful and thoughtful review of almost all of the master's programs in the U.S. and Canada. Committee members voluntarily contribute a minimum of 16 full days a year for travel and committee business meetings, plus additional days to review the stacks of printed documentation or links to online information provided by each program and review team. They weigh the evidence, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of a given program, debate issues that affect the profession at large, reach a decision about the effectiveness with which the *Standards* are met, and attempt to provide helpful feedback to all programs. Given the many players involved in and affected by the accreditation process, however, communication can go awry or fail to satisfy everyone.

With that in mind, as the COA began planning its work for the current year, the Committee reaffirmed its intent and responsibility in conversing with stakeholders. In particular, the Committee looks to strengthen its dialogue with the deans/directors of programs, gathering deeper input about a variety of process issues and jointly exploring alternative ideas to improve the overall review experience and the value of accreditation to the institution. At its November meeting the COA will be developing a communication plan to enhance its interaction with multiple constituents. At the Midwinter meeting the Committee will hold a general open session and during the Association for Library and Information Science Education's conference the Committee will hold a special session.

While the American Library Association has designated the Committee on Accreditation "to be responsible for the execution of the accreditation program of the ALA and to

develop and formulate standards of education,” the Committee’s members understand full well that they have been entrusted to fulfill this role for the benefit of the general public and the profession. Accordingly, we value and look forward to revitalizing the exchange of thoughts and perspectives essential to assuring attainment of the goal of quality education.

From the Director: **OUTLOOK**

## New staff and expanded web site improves office services

*Ann O’Neill*

In my column last spring I told you about Vivica William's departure from the Office for Accreditation. Since that time other changes have occurred in the Office. We have hired two new staff members (1.5 FTE). It is my pleasure to welcome Karen O'Brien as the full-time Program Officer. Karen has been hired to work on communications, develop training materials, maintain policy and procedure documents, and help manage office files. Karen brings an excellent technical and higher education background to the position. I would also like to welcome, and unfortunately say good-bye to, Shelly Whittaker our half-time administrative assistant. Shelly will be leaving the American Library Association in December to complete her master's degree at DePaul University. We have been authorized to fill Shelly's position at a full-time level to support the daily work and correspondence of the Office. Most of you may not see the results of these staff changes, but I believe they will allow us to provide improved service to the programs, Committee on Accreditation, the library and information studies profession, and public who contact us.

Another area of change is in our communications. *Prism* is now an electronic publication, and will be available on our web site [www.ala.org/accreditation.html](http://www.ala.org/accreditation.html). This decision will allow the newsletter to reach more people and to create an easily accessible archive. The Office staff will also be redesigning the web site to make it friendlier, have fewer layers, and include information about library and information studies programs offered by distance education technologies. The web site also contains other important information for all those concerned with accreditation and education in library and information studies. For example, the *Standards*, supporting process documents, educational competency statements from other associations, and information for External Review Panel members are all available in electronic format. The *Directory* of ALA-accredited programs is available on the web and is updated regularly. A print version of the *Directory* is published annually in January. We also maintain a historical list of all programs that have been accredited by ALA since 1925. Please see the *Resources* on the web [resources.html](http://resources.html) for a complete index of our web site.

I am very excited about the changes in the Office and enhanced communications with our constituencies. Please let me know if you have other suggestions.

## CHEA recognition update

*Ann L. O'Neill*

I am pleased to announce that the American Library Association and Committee on Accreditation (COA) practices have been reviewed and approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). [CHEA](#) is the national body responsible for recognizing agencies that engage in professional, specialized, and regional accreditation.

Recognition by CHEA means that ALA and COA meet a set of requirements, best practices, and guidelines that ensure a high quality review of programs. Meeting these requirements is an indication that ALA's accreditation process respects and protects the rights of institutions, programs, students, and the profession and public-at-large.

The purpose and process of CHEA recognition is similar to our comprehensive reviews. The purpose is to ensure the continuous evaluation, assessment, and improvement of the accreditation policies and procedures used by COA and ALA. As part of the process, we developed an application document to demonstrate our compliance with the five areas in CHEA's recognition standards: advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages purposeful change and needed improvement, employs appropriate and fair procedures in decision-making, and continually reassesses accreditation practices. The application document was reviewed by a recognition committee. In March of 2001, Rick Forsman, Chair of COA, and I met with the recognition committee to answer questions about the document. During our meeting, the recognition committee expressed no reservations about the rigor or nature of ALA's accreditation process.

On May 7, 2001, ALA and COA received our recognition letter from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The letter states: "*At its meeting on May 1, 2001 the CHEA board of directors reviewed the recommendation of the CHEA committee on recognition regarding the recognition application submitted by the American Library Association. The board of directors accepted the committee recommendation and recognized the American Library Association.*" ([full text of letter](#)) We will submit an interim report in five years and our next review will be in ten years.

ALA and COA have been recognized since 1975 by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation, the recognition agencies that preceded CHEA. We are also a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors ([ASPA](#)) and follow its Code of Good Practice.

## LIS Directory newest edition available

The 2001 edition of the *Library & Information Studies Directory of Institutions Offering Accredited Master's Programs* is now available.

Each LIS program entry includes contact name, address, phone, fax, and email; degrees and certificates offered; and distance education opportunities. The entries are listed within states or provinces, and an institution name index is included for ease of access. The web version [lisdir.html](http://lisdir.html) includes indexes to the states and provinces, links to program web sites and contacts' email addresses. *The Guidelines for Choosing a Master's Degree Program in LIS* is included for prospective students.

The thirty-two-page print version is available for \$8.80. For order information, call 800-545-2433, press 8 (Fax-on-Demand) and enter Document Number 511 at the prompt.

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## Thank you fall panel members

The accreditation review process requires a substantial commitment of time and energy by External Review Panels on so many levels. The people who make this commitment to assuring the quality of the masters level programs in library and information studies deserve recognition and thanks.

On behalf of all the constituencies vested in LIS accreditation, appreciation is extended to

Céline Gendron who served as the Canadian Library Association observer,  
to the chairs of the panels

Mohammed Aman, Elizabeth Aversa, Edward Johnson,  
and to the following External Review Panel members who reviewed programs this fall:

Barbara Barstow  
James Benson  
Christian Boissonais  
Michele Cloonan  
Ann Curry  
Cheryl Dee  
Ken Haycock  
Joan Kaplowitz  
Kathy Latrobe  
June Lester  
Patricia Molholt  
Sylvia Piggott  
Marion Reid

Timothy Richards  
Betty Turock

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## COA membership changes

The Committee on Accreditation bid farewell to four members at the end of Annual Conference in July. COA recognized Hiram Davis, Marty Hale, Vivienne Monty, and Caroline Stern for the leadership and service they exemplified during their terms.

Four new members are participating in their first meeting this November: Jennifer Cargill, Dean of Libraries at Louisiana State University; Bertrum MacDonald, Director of the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University; Sharon McPherron, Executive Director of Craft Alliance in St. Louis (one of the public members); and Philip Turner, Dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of North Texas.

For a complete list of Committee on Accreditation members, please see the roster at <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oa/roster.html>

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## Committee on Accreditation and Office for Accreditation Staff Roster

### **Rick B. Forsman, Chair**

Director, Denison Memorial Library  
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
[rick.forsman@uchsc.edu](mailto:rick.forsman@uchsc.edu)  
Term expires 2001

### **Jennifer Cargill**

Dean of Libraries  
Louisiana State University  
Term expires 2004

### **Susan Kennedy**

Chair, Department of History  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Term expires 2001

**Beverly P. Lynch**

Professor, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Term expires 2002

**Bertrum H. MacDonald**

Director, School of Library and Information Studies  
Dalhousie University  
Term expires 2004

**Stephen Matthews**

Librarian/Media Coordinator, Audrey Bruce Currier Library  
Foxcroft School  
Term expires 2002

**Sharon M. McPherron**

Executive Director, Craft Alliance  
Term expires 2002

**C. Allen Nichols**

Director, Wadsworth Public Library  
Term expires 2003

**Lorna Peterson**

Associate Professor, School of Information and Library Studies  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
Term expires 2001

**Jane B. Robbins**

Dean, School of Information Studies  
Florida State University  
Term expires 2002

**Charles T. Townley**

Dean, University Library  
New Mexico State University, Las Cruces  
Term expires 2003

**Philip M. Turner**

Dean, School of Library and Information Sciences  
University of North Texas  
Term Expires 2004

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**Office for Accreditation Staff**

**Ann L. O'Neill**  
Director  
American Library Association  
[aoneill@ala.org](mailto:aoneill@ala.org)

**Mary C. Taylor**  
Assistant Director  
American Library Association  
[mtaylor@ala.org](mailto:mtaylor@ala.org)

**Karen L. O'Brien**  
Program Officer  
American Library Association  
[kobrien@ala.org](mailto:kobrien@ala.org)

**Ryan T. Brown**  
Administrative Assistant  
American Library Association  
[rbrown@ala.org](mailto:rbrown@ala.org)

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## Committee on Accreditation Upcoming Meetings

**Fall Meeting**  
Chicago  
November 17-19, 2000

**ALA 2000 Midwinter Meeting**  
Washington, DC  
January 13-15, 2001

**Spring Meeting/Canadian Library Association  
Annual Conference**  
Chicago  
April 20-22, 2001

**ALA Annual Conference**  
San Francisco  
June 16-18, 2001

All agenda items are due in the Office for Accreditation no later than one month prior to the Committee on Accreditation meetings.



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## Midwinter meetings in Washington, DC

During the Association for Library and Information Science Education meeting, Program Presentations from the past two academic years will be on display in the Capital Hilton Hotel on Wednesday, January 10 and Thursday, January 11.

On Friday, January 12 from 2:00 to 2:45, the Office for Accreditation staff will meet with deans, directors, and chairs who are new to the ALA accreditation process. From 3:00 to 3:45, the Office for Accreditation staff will meet with all deans, directors, and chairs. From 4:00 to 5:00, the Committee on Accreditation will meet with all deans, directors and chairs

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## Resources on the web

The following is a comprehensive list of the Office for Accreditation web site pages:

### [Office for Accreditation Homepage](#)

### [Directory of Accredited LIS Master's Programs](#)

[Introduction to Directory of Institutions Offering Accredited Master's Programs](#)

[Directory of Institutions Offering Accredited Master's Programs - Index](#)

[Directory of ALA Accredited LIS Programs that Provide Distance Education Opportunities](#)

[Accredited LIS Master's Programs \(U.S.A.\)](#)

[Accredited LIS Master's Programs \(Canada\)](#)

### [Guidelines for Choosing a Master's Program in LIS](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Considerations in Making a Decision](#)

[Gathering Basic Information](#)

[Sources of Further Information](#)

[Distance Learning Opportunities](#)

[Historical List of Accredited LIS Masters Programs from 1925 through Present](#)

[ALA Committee on Accreditation Roster 2000-2001](#)

[Accreditation Under the 1992 Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in LIS](#)

[An Overview](#)

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## Schedule of reviews

### **FALL 2000**

Universite de Montreal, State University of New York-Albany, University of Wisconsin-Madison

### **SPRING 2001**

University of Puerto Rico

### **FALL 2001**

Louisiana State University, Pratt Institute, Syracuse University

### **SPRING 2002**

Clark Atlanta University, University of Iowa, University of South Florida, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

### **FALL 2002**

University of Alabama, McGill University, North Carolina Central University, University of South Carolina, Wayne State University

### **SPRING 2003**

Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, University of Michigan, Southern Connecticut State University, University of Toronto

### **FALL 2003**

Simmons College, Texas Woman's University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**SPRING 2004**

University of Alberta, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Kentucky, Rutgers University, St. John's University, University of Western Ontario

**FALL 2004**

Dominican University, Emporia State University, University of Illinois, Indiana University, Kent State University, University of Missouri-Columbia, Queens College-City University of New York, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**SPRING 2005**

Catholic University of America, Dalhousie University, Florida State University, Long Island University

**FALL 2005**

State University of New York-Buffalo, University of North Texas

**SPRING 2006**

University of British Columbia, University of Maryland, University of Pittsburgh, University of Washington

**FALL 2006**

University of Hawaii, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**SPRING 2007**

University of Rhode Island, University of Oklahoma, San Jose State University, University of Texas-Austin