



GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear AFAS Members:

Finally, after much arduous labor, let us celebrate our harvest! Please plan to attend ACRL AFAS' 3-hour program on researching the African American experience at the annual conference this summer in Chicago.

The program title and theme is "Black Studies and Information Technology." It will be held Sunday, July 12th, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. The program is divided into two parts: a panel session beginning at 8:00 a.m. and a keynote presentation beginning at 9:45 a.m. Come to either or both! The panelists are Sarah Brechner (Senior Product Manager, ProQuest), Stephanie Garrett (Editor, History and Black Studies, Alexander Street Press), and Elaine Westbrook (Associate Dean, University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln) who will moderate. Panelists will discuss marketing and business considerations for creating their products, demonstrate features of various Black Studies databases, and respond to questions from the moderator and audience.

The keynote address will be about community informatics and Black Studies and will be given by Dr. Abdul Alkalimat (Professor, School of Information & Library Science; and Professor, Department of African American Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

Thanks to the members of the 2009 Conference Program Planning Committee: Kathleen Bethel, Tammy Hampton, Gabrielle Toth, Angela Williams, and Sylvia Nyana. Special thanks to Sylvia who agreed to co-chair this committee with me.

Here is some information about our keynote speaker, Dr. Abdul Alkalimat.



- Alkalimat moderates the largest African-American studies discussion list, *H-Afro-Am* and edits the Web site *eBlack Studies.org*.

- He is a member of the editorial boards of several journals: *Information, Communication and Society*; *cyRev: A Journal of Cybernetic Revolution, Sustainable Socialism and Radical Democracy*, *African World Review* (England); and the *Black Scholar*.
- His distinctions also include co-founding the following organizations:
 - Institute of the Black World
 - National Association of Afro-American Educators
 - Organization of Black American Culture
 - African Liberation Support Committee
 - Peoples College
 - Timbuktu and Twenty First Century Books
 - Cooperative Research Network in Black Studies
 - Illinois Council for Black Studies
 - Black Radical Congress

Dr. Alkalimat's research interests include digital inequality, community informatics and African-American intellectual history. He has published 10 book length manuscripts, many articles, and lectured throughout the world.

Among the writings particularly relevant to our conference program are "Malcolm X in Cyberspace," in Robert L. Jenkins & Mfanya Donald Tryman's *The Malcolm X Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press, 2002); "A Census of Public Computing in Toledo, Ohio," in Douglas Schuler & Peter Day's *Shaping the Network Society: The New Role of Civil Society in Cyberspace* (MIT Press, 2004); and Alkalimat's book *The African American Experience in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide to the Best Websites on Black Culture and History* (Pluto, 2004).



For those who have not had the pleasure of hearing this dynamic scholar speak, a podcast of a lecture given recently at the Moraine Valley Community College is available. The talk was given on September 20, 2007 as part of the Library's "One Book, One College" program on the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*." <http://www2.morainevalley.edu/default.asp?SiteID=10&PageId=2241>.

Please join me in thanking *Alexander Street Press* and *ProQuest* for sponsoring the morning panel of our program. And please join us in Chicago July 12th!

Thomas Weissinger
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COMMITTEE REPORTS: NOMINATING AND PUBLICATIONS

AFAS NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE 2009 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Vice Chair:

Allison Sutton

Joyce K. Thornton

Member at Large

Carol Ritzen Kem

Sylvia A. Nyana

Secretary

Isabel Espinal

As noted in our previous year, AFAS continues to build on a strong foundation of devoted and qualified leadership. This year's slate of candidates illustrates that AFAS is stronger and more focused on its mission of service to scholars in the field of African American studies. As we thrive, the membership has to volunteer for committee work, be willing to serve in leadership positions, and support its leaders. We have a slate of qualified individuals running for office. Now it is our turn as a membership to elect a Board of devoted and qualified leaders. The ALA election is open through April 24, 2009, 11:59 PM Central time.

Do your part and vote!

AFAS Publications Committee Request:

Dear AFAS Members:

I am currently looking for volunteers and a chair for the 2010 Publications Committee. I hope that some of you would consider a re-appointment to serve on this very important committee. This committee, as you know, is the heart of communications for the AFAS section. If you are unable to commit to working on this committee, perhaps, you may be interested on serving on another AFAS committee. If you know of other members who you think would be good candidates to serve on any AFAS committees, please forward their information to me.

Should you decide to serve on any AFAS committees, please fill out and submit the volunteer form agreement at <http://www.acrl.org/volunteer>. As many of know this is a very important part of the process for ACRL reports and appointment letters. Thanks you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you in 2010.

Sincerely,

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About AFAS

Established as a section within the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association, AFAS is the outgrowth of a discussion group consisting of dynamic librarians with interest in and concern for African American Studies and librarianship. Its circle of founding leaders include Clarence Chisholm, Stanton Biddle, Doris H. Clack, William Welburn, and others.

Mission Statement

The mission of the African American Studies Librarians Section is to study librarianship and collection development as it progresses and relates to African American Studies collections; to conduct ongoing evaluation and discussion of research in African American Studies; to focus on 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 African American Studies.

ALA/AFAS CONFERENCE JULY 9-15, 2009 & WEB NEWS



AFAS Annual Conference program in
Chicago, Sunday, July 12, 2009,
8 am-12 pm.

The program includes a panel session and a keynote presentation.

NEW AFAS DISCUSSION LIST



acrl-afas-l@ala.org

This is the official discussion list of the ACRL African American Studies Librarians Section.

Go to <http://lists.ala.org/sympa/info/acrl-afas-l> and click subscribe

AFAS is on FACEBOOK

Have a facebook account. If so, look for AFAS on Facebook. AFAS has joined ACRL, the Instruction Section, and other ACRL Sections on the social networking site.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22843361484>

Get Involved!

What do members of the African American Studies Librarians Section do?

- Participate in AFAS committees whose objectives are promoting, supporting and fostering information services in the field.
- Plan programs of interest to members and their constituents.
- Network with librarians with similar interests. Maintain an online list of core resources in African American Studies.
- Promote librarianship among African American Studies organizations.



ALA/ACRL NEWS

DAWN MUELLER-PRODUCTION MANAGER/ALA

ACRL Programs at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference

ACRL will offer 24 "must see" programs at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago! Hot topics include advocacy, research, open access, digital innovations, political engagement and more beginning Saturday, July 11 at 8:00 a.m. through Monday, July 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Complete program information is now available on the ACRL Web site, www.acrl.org, under 'Events & Conferences.' Direct questions to Megan Griffin at mgriffin@ala.org or (312) 280-2514.

ACRL Preconferences @ ALA Annual Conference

ACRL is offering three preconferences in conjunction with the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago on July 10, 2009.

- *Discovering Digitization: Defining Your Path to Digital Access* - Friday, July 10, 2009 Understand the components of successful digitization project planning by discussing specific examples. Topics include project planning, digitization and image processing, and cataloging and metadata. *Presenters: James Bradley, Head of Metadata & Digital Initiatives, Ball State University; Jonathan Brinley, Metadata & Digital Initiatives Developer, Ball State University; Amanda Hurford, Digital Initiatives Multimedia Developer, Ball State University*

- *Instructional Design for Librarians: The What, Why, and How of ID*

Friday, July 10, 2009 Gain an understanding of instructional design principles. These principles can help

you design effective and high-impact teaching environments from semester long courses to one-shot library instruction classes to the effective use of signage and website design.

Presenters: Lauren Pressley, Instructional Design Librarian, Wake Forest University; Kaeley McMahan, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Arts, Wake Forest University

- *The Not-So-Distant Librarian: Online Library Instruction to Engage Students and Faculty* - Friday, July 10, 2009 Learn about practical tips and tools for designing and implementing online library instruction that addresses a variety of learning styles and engages students through active learning exercises, and fosters faculty buy-in. *Presenters: Barbara Mann, Assistant Director for Public Services, Information and Library Services, University of Maryland; Megan Davis, Regional Services Librarian, University of Maryland University College; Joe Rawson, 24 x 7 Services Coordinator, University of Maryland University College*

Complete details are available online at <http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/annual09.cfm>. May 22, 2009 is the advance registration deadline. Questions? Contact Margot Conahan at 312-280-2522 or e-mail mconahan@ala.org.

Scholarly Communication 101: Starting with the Basic

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is taking scholarly communication on the road in 2009 with "Scholarly Communication 101: Starting with the Basics." Recognizing that scholarly communication issues are central to the work of all academic librarians and all types of institutions, ACRL is pleased

to offer this free three-hour workshop to libraries across the country. Complete details on "Scholarly Communication 101: Starting with the Basics" are available on the ACRL Web site at <http://acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/scholarlycomm/roadshow.cfm>.

Institutions interested in hosting "Scholarly Communication 101" should apply by Monday, April 13. Hosts must partner with, and invite staff from, at least one other institution. The ACRL Scholarly Communication Committee will review applications and select several locations for the workshop, based on the number of requests and capacity. The committee will aim for geographic diversity and notify applicants of their status by Friday, April 24. The application form and complete details, including additional qualifications and hosting responsibilities, are available on the ACRL Web site at <http://acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/scholarlycomm/roadshow.cfm>.

ACRL 2009 Virtual Conference Registration Still Available

Didn't make it to ACRL 2009 in Seattle? Register for the ACRL 2009 Virtual Conference and access more than 80 sessions offered at the face-to-face ACRL 14th National Conference in Seattle. Registration materials are online at www.acrl.org/seattle (click "Virtual Conference").

Registration for the ACRL 2009 Virtual Conference is available through May 1, 2009. Registration materials are online at www.acrl.org/seattle (click "Virtual Conference"). Registration includes unlimited access to the online conference community for one year after the event. Questions concerning the ACRL 2009 Virtual Conference should be directed to Margot Conahan at 312-280-2522; mconahan@ala.org.

News of Interest

Rare Jazz Photographs Donated to Oberlin Conservatory of Music

Frank Kuchirchuk, 84, a retired photographer who took live performance photographs of some of the greatest jazz artists during the height of their careers, has donated his entire collection of jazz images to the [Oberlin Conservatory of Music](#). The Frank Kuchirchuk Collection of Jazz Photography contains some 200 images, most of which are negatives that have never been seen by the public. The collection will be cataloged and archived within Oberlin's Phyllis Litoff Building, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open later this year. A selection of the photographs will be displayed within the building, which will house Oberlin's [Jazz Studies Department](#) and its academic programs in music history and music theory.

The images provide a fascinating glimpse into the performance styles of numerous jazz legends, among them Dizzy Gillespie, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Art Tatum, Stan Getz, Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, and Anita O'Day. Kuchirchuk's photographs are unique precisely because they capture the energy of a live performance; they are not portraiture, publicity stills, or session shots. And one other important factor sets them apart: most of them have never been printed or published. (Source: Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio; www.oberlin.edu.)

New Orleans Slave Records

Records of more than 30,000 slaves shipped to New Orleans, copies of more than 20,000 letters to and from Abraham Lincoln, and records of 4.2 million Civil War soldiers are going online for the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Most will be available only to [Ancestry.com's](#) 925,000 paying subscribers, but the Lincoln letters and speeches, provided by the [Library of Congress](#), will be free.

An index of the slave manifests also will be free and are extremely valuable to historians as well as people interested in their family history, said Christopher Harter, director of library and reference services at the [Amistad Research Center](#), Tulane University's African-American history archive.

The manifests, from 1810 through 1860, "document the movement of slaves from the mid-Atlantic states to the Deep South because of the cotton gin and the need for millions of slaves to work the

cotton fields," said Lisa Arnold, Ancestry.com's expert in African-American genealogy. (Source: The Associated Press, Janet McConnaughey.)

Hidden Civil Rights Collection

Emory's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Libraries (MARBL) will share a \$900,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources with three other institutions to open to the public several "hidden" civil rights collections held in Atlanta and New Orleans archives.

The grant, awarded on Dec. 15, jointly provides Emory and the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History with \$400,000. The Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center and the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University each received \$250,000 for their projects. Funds for the grant came from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The grant will support a project called "Working for Freedom: Documenting Civil Rights Organizations," which will "make hidden collections accessible," Naomi Nelson, assistant director of MARBL, said. (Source: emorywheel.com, Emory University's.)

CLIR Awards \$400,000 to Process Civil Rights Collections

The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History (AARL) is a recipient of the 2008 Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Hidden Collections 3-year grant. *Archives from Atlanta, Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement: The Papers of Andrew Young, SCLC and the NAACP-Atlanta Chapter* is a collaborative archival processing project with Emory University Robert W. Woodruff Library. The grant will allow AARL/Emory to hire staff to preserve, process and make available three major Civil Rights collections: the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), (housed at AARL, the personal papers of Andrew Young (housed at AARL) and the organizational records of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) housed at Emory University. The collections encompass materials

NEWS OF INTEREST CONTD.

related to some of the most transformational moments and movements of the era, including the Citizenship Schools, voter education, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the fight against Jim Crow laws, and desegregation.

AARL and Emory will also work with two other CLIR funded institutions, the Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center and the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans. The four-institution coalition will ultimately process and make available thirteen unique Civil Rights collections.

Second Annual e-Black Studies Workshop

The Second Annual e-Black Studies Workshop is scheduled for Savannah State University on Wednesday, July 29 through August 2, 2009. The Africana Studies program and the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences host the workshop on the campus in Savannah, Georgia and at the Southeast Georgia Afro-American Museum. Look the call for papers on the AFAS and Savannah State University homepages after April 15. For additional details, contact Dr. Ronald W. Bailey: bailey@savstate.edu

The Black Scholar Conference

The BLACK SCHOLAR will celebrate 40 years of continuous publishing with a two-day conference on November 19 -20, 2009 in Oakland, California. The conference features Dr. Johnetta B. Cole, the recently appointed Director of the Smithsonian Institute of African Art; Dr. Charles P. Henry, Chair of the Department of African American Studies at UC Berkeley; Dr. Ernest Allen, Jr., Professor of African American History at the W.E. B. Du Bois Department of African American Studies at UMass Amherst; Dr. Melba J. Boyd, Chair African Studies, Wayne State University; Dr. Sundiata Keit Cha-Jua, Director of the Afro-American Studies and Research Program at the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana; and actor/filmmaker Danny Glover. Visit www.theblackscholar.org (<http://www.theblackscholar.org/>) to reserve your space today.

Ebony, Jet Archives Digitized

Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Company said Wednesday it has partnered with Google to digitize the archives of Ebony and Jet magazines, making them searchable on the technology giant's growing database of

books.

The conversion of Johnson's extensive archives into digital form has already started, and issues of Ebony, Jet and Black World published after 1960 are currently available at Google's Book Search (books.google.com). The database stores full issues of the magazines and makes them readable in full color, like browsing a digital version of the original magazine. The content is also searchable.

Johnson said older issues of its magazines, as well as its first publication, Negro Digest, will be added to Google in the coming months. Google announced Tuesday on its official blog that it's partnering with magazine publishers on its book initiative. Popular Science and New York Magazine are also participating in the project. (Source: Chicago Tribune, Wailin Wong.)

Freedmen's Bureau Records Digitized

The Freedmen's Bureau records have been microfilmed and are now being digitized by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU). The digitization project is still in the early stages, however, some records can be accessed through www.familysearch.org (<http://www.familysearch.org/>)

The fragile records of the Freedmen's Bureau and related Civil War era documents are being preserved through the Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act of 2000 signed by President Clinton on November 6, 2000.

Civil Rights Digital Library

The Civil Rights Digital Library is organized by the University of Georgia. The most complete web site dedicated to the Civil Rights movement, it is intended to educate Americans and others from around the world about racial reforms made during the 1950s and 1960s in the United States.

It offers a digital video archive of more than 30 hours of historic news film and additional original documentation of the period, including oral histories, letters, diaries, FBI files, and photographs from 75 libraries, museums, and archives. Documents can be accessed on the Civil Rights Digital Library at <http://crdl.usg.edu> or on Carnegie Museum of Art's web site, <http://www.cmoa.org/teenieinfo.asp>. Collections. (Source: South Pittsburgh Reporter)

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The AFAS Newsletter

welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editor, preferably in electronic format.

The *AFAS Newsletter* is sent to all AFAS members at no additional cost. Claims and address changes should be sent to the ALA address, Attention: Membership.

AFAS WEBSITE:

www.afasection.org

AFAS WIKI

To directly access the AFAS Wiki use the following URL: <http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/AFAS>. You can also access our Wiki from the ACRL Wiki main page: http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main_Page.

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