

CLS Newsletter

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New CLS chair highlights year ahead

Dear Friends,

Greetings, and welcome to another busy year for CLS! A few highlights for your consideration:

- Conference planning for the San Francisco Annual Conference is well under way. CLS is a joint sponsor of the ACRL President's Program. There is a call for participation by college librarians later in this newsletter.
- I urge CLS members to take an active role in both CLS and ACRL. You can find a committee volunteer form in the October issue of *C&RL News*.
- The ACRL Board of Directors established a Standards Task Force. Will Bridegam (Amherst College) agreed to serve as the CLS representative.
- The CLS *Newsletter* Committee was renamed the Communications Committee, acknowledging the fact that CLS communication has moved beyond the print medium.

In closing, a warm thank you to all committee chairs and members, committee liaisons, discussion group chairs, and members of the Executive Board - past, present and future.

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Participants in San Francisco President's Program sought

The Program Committee of the College Libraries Section invites college librarians to submit proposals for presentations to be included in the 1997 ACRL President's Program's Showcase of Ideas, Monday, June 30, 1997, 2:00 p.m., at the San Francisco ALA Annual Conference. As a co-sponsor of the program, "Imagining the Learning Library," we would like to see strong representation from the College Libraries Section in the showcase. Among the featured speakers at the program will be members of the Disney Imagineering Team.

The Showcase of Ideas promises to be an integral and exciting part of the President's Program. It is envisioned as a forum in which librarians from all types of college, university, and research libraries can present some of the forward-thinking and innovative ways they are communicating the teaching mission of the library and creating learning environments in their institutions. Areas that may be of high interest to the ACRL community include

- Collaborative learning initiatives and teaching projects
- Integrated learning environments, either virtual or physical
- Innovative tutorials or services, electronic, web-based, or other
- Marketing or public relations activities
- Distance learning or reference services

Proposals that describe other ways of expressing the teaching and learning mission of the library are also welcome.

The Showcase of Ideas will consist of informal presentations that can take the shape of poster sessions or demonstrated papers. Presenters should be prepared to repeat the presentation several times. Each presentation should last about ten minutes, including time for questions. We believe that these interactive sessions will be a spectacular conclusion to the President's Program. To submit a proposal, send a 250-word abstract with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address by December 31, 1996. If you would like to include photographs or other visual materials to support your proposal, feel free to do so. (Please indicate if your presentation will require access to electricity.) Proposals will be accepted by mail, e-mail, or fax. The review panel will consist of representatives from each of the sponsoring sections.

Other sponsoring sections are the ACRL Instruction Section, the Community and Junior College Libraries Section, the Extended Campus Library Services Section, the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section, and the Asian, African, and Middle East Studies Section.

Send proposals to

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College librarians explore electronic journals

With static or shrinking budgets, how can college libraries close the resource gap with larger university libraries? And how can college librarians become leaders in the technological revolution? New technologies, especially electronic journals, may provide the means, according to a panel of librarians and a foundation executive. "The Electronic Horizon for the College Library: Electronic Journals and Other New Technologies" (the College Libraries Section program at the ALA Annual Conference in New York City last summer) featured three projects funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Moderator Neil McElroy (Lafayette College) introduced Rick Eckman (Mellon Foundation), who described his foundation's interest in promoting these pilot projects in order to help college libraries stretch their dollars further. Eckman explained that JSTOR, a cooperative effort launched by Mellon, has stored electronically the pre-1990 issues of ten core journals in economics and history, linking a search engine developed at the University of Michigan to bit-mapped text. It thereby reduces the cost of storage, and improves both preservation and access. The project, which is not attractive to commercial publishers alone, may be expanded through collaboration among publishers, learned societies, and librarians.

Connie Dowell (Connecticut College) and Willis Bridegam (Amherst College) told how they had negotiated a group discount for some 60 members of the Oberlin Group, a consortium of college libraries, to become charter subscribers to Project Muse, another Mellon-funded project. Muse provides Web access to the journals published by the Johns Hopkins University Press using non-proprietary client-server software (Mosaic) and the Internet infrastructure. Project Muse is a collaborative effort by Johns Hopkins University Press and libraries designed as a model for the publication of electronic journals. The full text, including illustrations, of over forty journals is searchable by author, title, subject, and keyword. The future will include sound, video, and interactivity - features not possible in print.

Richard Meyer (Trinity University, Texas) discussed development of the third Mellon-sponsored effort, the Palladian Alliance. The Palladian Alliance provides to the member colleges of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest subscription access to all the FirstSearch databases, including the UMI indexes and full text of journal articles in ASCII format. The savings realized by canceling subscriptions to print journals and electronic or print indexes available on FirstSearch will more than pay for the cost of the project even after Mellon Funding ceases. (See following story.)

The Mellon Foundation sees all three projects as ways of reducing the cost to college libraries of journal subscriptions by using electronics to lower their production, distribution, and storage costs. All the speakers emphasized the importance of consortial cooperation in creating and providing lower-cost electronic access.

In his response to the presentations, Paul Gherman (Vanderbilt University) raised a series of questions. Will electronic publication increase or decrease the monopoly power of journal publishers? Will it be there in the future? Will each publisher have a different front end? How will past subscriptions be tracked for archiving? Who will pay for refreshing electronically-stored information? Will all journals be available under the most recent software? How will copyright be tracked? How will we access information we have not bought? And how will archives be coordinated?

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Palladian Alliance contains library costs

Electronic resources on the Internet and in a variety of other formats can have a terrific impact on any library patron's success finding information when it is needed. The librarians of the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) are well aware of this and have worked to develop state of the art access to electronic information for their respective students and faculty. The ACS includes Birmingham Southern, Centenary, Centre, Furman, Hendrix, Millsaps, Morehouse, Rhodes, Richmond, Rollins, Sewanee, Southwestern, and Trinity. (The ACS web pages can be accessed at <<http://www.colleges.org>>.)

The Palladian Alliance emerged out of meetings of the library directors with the ACS president starting at an ALA Annual Conference in 1992. These meetings were characterized by discussions exploring opportunities for joint initiatives. It became apparent in these conversations that every one of the libraries had a significant need to provide improved, modern information access. A sub-committee formed in 1994 shaped these conversations into a proposal for a joint project that was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation late in 1995 (see previous story).

The Associated Colleges of the South received a grant of \$1,200,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a cooperative electronic library project. The grant underwrites a three-year effort featuring joint access to electronic indexes and periodicals. It includes funds to upgrade the computer and document-delivery hardware in each library. The program also involves cooperative efforts to train library personnel and patrons in the use of various kinds of technology. And, it supports an analysis of the pricing of scholarly journals. The grant covers all the costs for electronic resources the first year, two-thirds the second, and one-third the last.

After that, the libraries will use savings to continue joint resource access.

The planning leading to the grant proposal was made possible by an earlier grant given by the Mellon Foundation in April 1995. Mellon Foundation funds enabled library directors from all thirteen ACS institutions to meet, identify problems and issues to be resolved, and develop joint strategies for strengthening their libraries. The ACS librarians were also able to draw on consulting assistance from experienced library directors, attorneys conversant with copyright law, experts on the latest technology, and economists, who assisted in developing an econometric model for the project.

Goals of the Palladian Alliance project reflect those of three entities: the ACS college administrators, the library directors and the research concerns of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Specifically, the ACS librarians wanted to improve the quality of access to current information for their users and to make the most efficient use of their financial resources. As indexes and other traditional print resources have shifted to delivery in electronic forms, libraries have struggled to add not only those products but also the hardware needed to deliver them. This struggle also reflects the longstanding trend of inflation in scholarly publications that exceeds the consumer price index. At the same time and reflecting serious inflation in other areas, the ACS academic administrators have sought means to reduce institutional expenditures or at least to provide some cost containment.

These institutional goals happened to coincide with the research agenda of the Mellon Foundation. Aware of the economic pressure from periodical price inflation with which universities and colleges have struggled, the foundation instituted a major program of grants designed to analyze the factors behind inflation. Mellon staff have become particularly intrigued by the possibility that rapidly emerging technology such as the Internet might provide an opportunity to overcome the problem of inflation of scholarly communication costs. The foundation is interested in evaluating the impact of electronic access on publisher pricing practices and on the financial position of libraries.

The Palladian Alliance effort to meet these goals has produced a three-year project with several objectives that directly affect information resources provided to users. Those objectives are

- Improve the hardware within the libraries for electronic access;
- Provide online access to important undergraduate periodical indexes;
- Provide online access to core undergraduate periodicals with full text of articles;
- Provide campus-wide access through readily available search tools; such as Netscape;
- Determine the financial impact on the ACS libraries; and
- Test the pricing practices of publishers and their monopoly power.

The Palladian Alliance is designed to meet these objectives by providing online access through the Internet to a general-purpose index associated with full-text of the journals indexed. The concept underlying the project is to substitute online access to as many electronic periodicals as possible for the counterpart print subscriptions held by the libraries. Cancellation of print subscriptions across the thirteen institutions presumably will eventually release enough funds to pay for online access, as the grant funding diminishes.

Since no single electronic product matched the ACS print subscription holdings exactly, several were evaluated. The evaluation resulted in establishing an online subscription through OCLC to Periodical Abstracts and ABI/Inform, which are products of University Microfilms,

Incorporated. These indexes together cover more than 2,500 periodicals. Full text of all the articles from 1,000 of these periodicals comes with the subscriptions. Not only are the libraries now able to save dollars by canceling individually-held print subscriptions, but users will benefit from online access to some titles not formerly held in their print versions. Most of the ACS libraries have added thereby several hundred new subscriptions for their patrons. Savings to the combined libraries amount to well over \$100,000 per year.

The Palladian Alliance also includes an economic outcomes assessment. This project is designed to study questions to which no one of us yet have answers. Because of the advent of the global Internet, scholarly communication appears to be in a transformation. Numerous scholars have predicted that periodicals in print will be replaced by online, electronic periodicals. Those periodicals may emerge in one or both of two ways. Either new titles or files will appear on the World Wide Web that have been created by scholars themselves, or older existing print journals will shift and provide electronic counterparts.

As this transformation in information takes place, many libraries will construct access projects similar to the Palladian Alliance. Those efforts will have an impact on the expenditures of libraries. They will also impact users and the quality of information they find. By example, Trinity alone will achieve substantial cost savings and added benefits from this project. Potential savings in the Library budget amount to more than \$100,000 in the first three years. In addition, there are nearly 600 periodicals covered by the project, to which Trinity has not subscribed in the past. This means that our collection will expand by almost 600 new titles. Similar savings and bonus affects accrue to all the ACS libraries from their involvement in this project.

In the meantime, this project will evaluate some interesting hypotheses: Which kinds of journal publications will be sold by the title and which by the article? Will electronic publishing lower barriers to entry of new periodicals to drive out some traditional print journals? Will traditional print publishers improve their economic position or loose control? While we explore those questions, our students and faculty will be provided with some exciting, improved methods of searching indexes and accessing journal articles. We hope that this project marks only the beginning of a new era of resources for our patrons.

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New journal for college libraries not just another "bran serial": review article

College & Undergraduate Libraries. Biannual. 1994 - . ISSN: 1069-1316. Alice Harrison Bahr, editor. Haworth Press.

The arrival of another journal on librarianship is sure to elicit some groans. Alice Harrison Bahr, director of the library at Spring Hill College and editor of *College & Undergraduate Libraries* (CUL) anticipated this skeptical response before Haworth Press published the first issue in 1994. Haworth Press is known among librarians for its publication of about two dozen serials aimed at various niche markets in librarianship. In "One More Bran Cereal: Comments from the Editor's Breakfast Table,"

Bahr relates responses, both negative and positive, to listserv postings that called for papers to be published in the forthcoming journal. One negative response equated the publication of a new journal with the production of a new bran cereal. The naysayer stated there were already enough on the market, questioned the nutritional value of the new cereal, and worried that the young in the household would demand it. Bahr seized upon the bran

cereal metaphor in her plea for this new journal, saying, "...if other brans haven't always done the job, open the box. Formulated to meet the particular needs of a carefully targeted customer base, it's priced right and is sure to prove a moving experience." (CUL, Volume 1, Number 1, 1994, p.2 - 3.)

True to her promise, CUL is a "moving experience." An examination of the two 1994 issues shows an eclectic journal with a range of articles that is bound to find an audience among librarians serving undergraduates. Authors in these issues included academic librarians, college teaching faculty, and members of the private sector. Varying in length from two to 25 pages, the articles covered topics such as library instruction, collection development, public policies, staff development, automation, and publicity.

As a first-year college library director, I found that some of these articles caused me to think about issues that I had never considered. Some of these articles will come up for discussion in my library, and I will track down materials cited in these articles. My library will subscribe to this journal, as it is a tasty and moving publication.

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Newsletter Committee becomes Communications Committee

At the end of the 1997 ALA Annual Conference, the *CLS Newsletter* Committee will be replaced by the new CLS Communications Committee. The change represents the increasing importance to college libraries of electronic communication. In addition to the newsletter, the section has a very successful listserv, COLLIB-L, maintained on behalf of the section by Larry Oberg at Willamette University. A site for a new CLS World Wide Web server is being sought as well. The new Web site will be linked to ALA's and ACRL's, but will be maintained by its own "webmaster."

All three organs of communication - newsletter, listserv, and Web site - will operate under the oversight of the new committee. The individual responsible for each will be a member *ex officio*, but none will chair the committee. Regular committee members and the newsletter editor will be appointed for fixed terms, but those responsible for the listserv and the Web site will not.

Several years ago an ACRL task force looked at the issue of section communications and urged sections to explore new avenues. The College Libraries Section has found that a mix of media provide for optimal communications:

- printed newsletter goes to every member of the section twice a year.
- listserv forwards messages to subscribers, many of whom are not section members, and promotes impromptu discussion and sharing not appropriate for the newsletter.
- Web site will be available to anyone with Web access and will provide electronic access to the current and archived section newsletters and other sources of information about the section.
- URL for the new Web site will be announced in a future issue of the newsletter and on COLLIB-L. To subscribe to COLLIB-L, send the following message:

<subscribe collib-l your name>

via e-mail to LISTPROC@willamette.edu. Leave the "Subject" line of your message blank.

The section is currently seeking a new editor for the newsletter and a chair for the new Communications Committee, both of whom will begin their work following the 1997 ALA Annual Conference. Those who are interested in either position should contact Larry Oberg, CLS

vice chair/chair-elect (LOBERG@willamette.edu), for further information.

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CE Committee looking for a few good members

The CLS Continuing Education Committee is looking for a few new members who are ready to put some time and energy into projects. This is the committee that is working to bring national programming to the local level, such as by videotaping CLS programs. Its next effort will be another videotape project - a collection of experts addressing hot topics for college library directors. Join a group of people dedicated to your professional development. Send e-mail to TFULTON@bucknell.edu or PSNELSON@drew.edu if you are interested in serving on the committee.

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Performance measures in electronic libraries to be discussed at Midwinter

The Medium-Sized Academic Libraries Discussion Group will consider "Performance Measures in the Electronic Library: Continuity and Change in Assessment" at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington. Charles Townley, dean of libraries at New Mexico State University, will be lead a discussion on performance measures in an electronic environment. How does one measure access? What qualitative measures exist for library services in an electronic library? How does one measure accessed information in an electronic environment? What are the key factors: number of hits? speed? cost? quality of information? Come and share your experience and your thoughts.

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Minnesota-Morris librarians work with computing staff to educate faculty

This is the second academic year in which three librarians from the Briggs Library and two Computing Services staff members have collaborated to provide hour-and-a-half-long sessions to faculty by department. Each session is held in a computer lab so that the faculty have hands-on experience learning how to access newsgroups, the library's catalog, an appropriate FirstSearch database, Infotrac, and one or two Web sites useful for their discipline. Presenters provide handouts with instructions on how to access these resources, as well as a bibliography of appropriate listservs, newsgroups, and key Web sites. Web sites that are likely to be kept up to date and that include many links to other sites in that discipline are emphasized. There is an optional half-hour at the end in which faculty can "play around" while a librarian and a Computing Services staff member are available to answer questions and to provide help.

Sessions have been provided to roughly a third of the teaching departments on campus, and are very well received. The major problem is finding times when several members of a department can come. Most have been held late on weekday afternoons.

The faculty were grateful for the handouts, which saved them from having to write furiously in order to copy down Web addresses. The bibliographies of Web resources are mounted on the Briggs Library Web page. The goal is to have a bibliography for every major offered by UMM by the end of this academic year.

For three years the Briggs Library staff have also offered one-on-one sessions to faculty in their offices. These sessions included handouts on how to access library-related computer resources, such as the catalog, FirstSearch, and Infotrac. Since faculty computer equipment varies from what is in the computer labs, the faculty appreciated the opportunity to get the instructions to work on their own equipment. Librarians kept Computing Services staff informed of when the office visits were scheduled so that they could call for troubleshooting when technical problems arose. The Computing Services staff also alerted the librarians in advance to possible problems with a specific faculty member's computer. All current faculty who wanted individual sessions have had them. This year the library sent out a letter to new faculty and have had several well-received individual sessions with them.

Briggs Library's Web home page may be found at <<http://www.mrs.umn.edu/library/>>. Click on "Subject Guides" to see the bibliographies.

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College Libraries Discussion Group welcomes participants

The College Libraries Discussion Group Forum is a terrific opportunity to get together with colleagues from other institutions to discuss the latest projects, issues, or concerns in the college library environment. Topics discussed at the Annual ALA meeting in New York City included collection development in the electronic information age, library and teaching faculty relationships, and collaboration between the library and computing center.

Send any suggestions for topics or issues you would like to see discussed at the ALA Midwinter Meeting to Jennifer Ross or Charlotte Slocum.

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New England Library Support Staff Association founded

The Executive Board of the New England Library Association (NELA) voted unanimously on Friday, March 15th, to admit a new section, known as the New England Library Support Staff Association, or NELSSA. Although founded by support staff, participation in the section is open to any NELA member in good standing who has an interest in library support staff issues and wants to encourage professional development and growth among New England library support staff.

As the Paraprofessional/Support Staff Interest Group, founded in 1993, library staff members from every New England state worked to serve their constituency and to found a strong and viable section. Several programs were presented at the 1994 and 1995 NELA Annual Conferences (with two additional programs planned for the 1996 conference), surveys were distributed to discover the interest in and need for such an organization, and by-laws based on the survey results were written and submitted to NELA for approval.

These NELSSA by-laws specify that the purpose of the section is four fold: to support the purpose of NELA, that is, to promote library service to the people of New England; to provide a forum within NELA dedicated to the interaction and professional development of library support staff throughout New England; to identify support staff as integral components of the library profession; and to support the interaction of support staff organizations throughout New England and the country.

Anyone interested in joining NELSSA should contact the office for a NELA membership packet, and selecting "Paraprofessional" or "NELSSA" as your section. Write to

The New England Library Association
Countryside Offices
707 Turnpike Street
North Andover, MA 01845
or
NELA@world.std.com

For further information on NELSSA, or for NELSSA flyers for distribution to interested staff members, contact the section chair, Susan Ravdin, at:

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or
Special Collections
Bowdoin College Library
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Reprinted from the COLLIB-L listserv

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Iowa libraries form SILO

After five years of intensive work on the part of academic librarians, 1989-1994, Iowa finally achieved a cooperative structure supported by the State Library. The results include SILO, State of Iowa Libraries Online. SILO's project was access to local online catalogs using ANSI standard Z39.50. The State Library received a United States Department of Education grant for \$300,000, under HEA Title II B. (The grant was a 50/50 match.) The state is working to connect all libraries to the Internet but there are other projects as well. This year's is a contract with OCLC for FirstSearch. As before, libraries have financial obligations, but the package is very attractive and most academic libraries and many public libraries with access to the Internet participate.

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Librarian Milestones

Carolyn A. Sheehy, Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services, delivered the Opening Convocation address at North Central College on September 17, 1996. She spoke on "Gates, Gutenberg, and the Agile Librarian."

In August Louise S. Sherby began as the new chief librarian at Hunter College of the City University of New York. Prior to that, I was the Assistant Director for Public Services at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Libraries.

Ru Story-Huffman, Public Services Librarian at Cumberland College, Williamsburg, KY, has written *Nursery Rhyme Time*, a resource guide for librarians, teachers, day care workers, parents, grandparents, etc. Written by . Published in January 1996 by Highsmith Press, the book features twenty-eight traditional nursery rhymes with telling patterns, literature activities, original fingerplays, activities, crafts, and themes for each. It is intended for use with preschool through second grade children. Information about the book can be obtained through the Highsmith homepage at <<http://www.highsmith.com/>>.

Jane Kemp, Luther College, recently chaired the Marguerite Wildenhain Centenary Committee, which organized and presented the college's tribute to this ceramics artist on the occasion of the centenary of her birth. As part of the celebration, she prepared a checklist for the tribute, which also served as a catalog for the exhibit in the library entitled, "Marguerite Wildenhain: Her Life and Works." The tribute celebrations climaxed at Homecoming with an oral history session and reception in the library. Preus Library was the major sponsor for this event. Information about the event can be found on the net, <<http://www.luther.edu>>.

Joycelyn H. Claer is the new director of libraries at the University of Dallas. Clear was formerly library director at Laredo College in Texas.

Tentative Schedule of CLS Meetings at Midwinter

Saturday, February 15

8:00 - 9:00 am	Medium-Sized Academic Libraries Steering Committee
9:30 - 11:00 am	Executive Board
	Notes Committee
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Standards Committee
	1997 Conference Program Committee
	1998 Conference Program Committee

2:00 - 4:00 pm	Communications (Newsletter) Committee
<i>Sunday, February 16</i>	
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Research Committee
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	College Libraries Discussion Group
2:00 - 4:00 pm	College Library Directors' Discussion Group
<i>Monday, February 17</i>	
8:00 - 9:00 am	College Library Leadership Committee
9:30 - 11:00 am	Standards Committee
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Continuing Education Committee
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Medium-Sized Academic Libraries Discussion Group
<i>Tuesday, February 18</i>	
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Executive Board

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