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ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 8, no. 2, Summer 1998

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

ILA/ACRL is now ready to face the 21st Century with a set of new, shiney clean bylaws. The amended bylaws passed the membership with a 119 to 1 majority. More than 60% of ILA/ACRL members voted. I very much appreciated this high response rate, particularly at a time of year when vacations are common and thoughts turn to things other than bylaws. Thanks again to all who helped make the Spring Conference a success. Drake University seems to have recovered from the presence of so many librarians and it was wonderful having you here. We all enjoyed becoming acquainted with our colleagues from Nebraska and hope that our contacts with them will continue. Next year's Spring conference will be a return to the traditional format, however, as we meet at the University of Northern Iowa on May 7.

I am sorry to note the departure of Robert Rose from the state of Iowa. Congratulations are in order for him, however, in his new position as Director of the library of the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Bob's tireless devotion to this organization, both as an officer and member, is well known and we will miss him. Perhaps an Iowa/Wisconsin conference is in order!

Mary Beveridge --- 1998 ILA/ACRL President

1998 SPRING CONFERENCE

May 7 & 8 - Drake University

The Spring Conference was a success on many fronts. It was well attended by both Iowa and Nebraska academic librarians and support staff. This Iowa-Nebraska joint meeting sets a fine example for future collaborative efforts. The involvement of support staff is important for the success of academic libraries and this organization. Comments of satisfaction were heard. The reports by the two Iowa scholarship winners, Toby Lyles and Michelle Tedrow, give the flavor of the meeting.

"Making Connections" - Toby Lyles

The annual conference in Des Moines was the second ILA/ACRL conference I have attended as a librarian. But this time I went to contribute to the conference and I felt it very important to have a strong grasp of what being part of such an association entailed.

The conference began on an up note as every one was looking forward to hearing Larry Oberg give the first day keynote address. Listening to him discuss the challenges libraries will face as support staff experience change helped me realize that our libraries will suffer if we don't take the time to become knowledgeable and play our part.

I also learned something about my own library while at the conference. I attended Sandra Ballasch's session, "Make New Friends: Keep the Old." I will never tire of hearing about a librarian's adventures and how time and circumstances may place us in situations we never would have expected at the beginning of a career.

The second day I attended the copyright session and learned a few things that will help me discuss copyright and fair use with faculty and students. The handouts were a plus as several people at the University of Iowa Libraries asked me for copies. I was grateful that I gave my first presentation as a part of the TWISTed Pairs Session on the second day of the conference. I felt that I was giving a presentation to the "home team." Keynote speaker Clifford Lynch spoke about "Networked Information and New Communities" as being less than ideal. I get the feeling that I was experiencing person-to-person networking as a result of these new communities.

I also had a chance to get reacquainted with a fellow Rutgers alumnus who is now a librarian in Nebraska! What a great benefit to a joint conference. Another benefit, of course, was the raffle for the gift baskets. So, not only did I meet librarians from Iowa and Nebraska, have dinner with someone from New Jersey -- who was just as interested in discussing the differences between the east coast and the mid-west as I was, and give my first professional presentation, but I won the Nebraska gift basket! The chocolate in Nebraska is very good and now that I have guides to help me find my way around, lists of places to see, and a friend to visit, I'll have to go there!

As a student in New Jersey, I was active in local chapters of several library associations. When I moved to Iowa, I was eager to join the Iowa Library Association. I am also a resident librarian within the three year Minority Research Librarian Residency Program at the University of Iowa Libraries. I had a feeling that attending the ILA/ACRL annual conference would be my best chance to learn about other libraries and meet other librarians in Iowa and that the entire experience would make me a better informed librarian. I was right.

My sincere thanks to ILA/ACRL and to the Scholarship Committee for your support of new librarians and for helping me make "new connections."

Toby Lyles, Reference Librarian, University of Iowa

"New Professional" - Michelle Tedrow

I can't think of any words better than "New Professional" to describe my status at the Spring ILA/ACRL conference. Although I was employed as a library paraprofessional for 7 years, my "professional" experience consisted of about 3 weeks as the Electronic Services Librarian at Briar Cliff College.

The Thursday sessions were especially interesting given this recent transition. It was automatic to think of the discussions from a paraprofessional point of view but then a bit more difficult to look at the same issue/point while looking at the bigger picture. The issues were further complicated by the reality that my experience is in smaller organizations where employee roles

are less apparent. The common theme for the day was that more collaboration will be the key ingredient in successful organizations.

I found Clifford Lynch to be an interesting speaker. Since I returned to work to a sometimes less than adequate network connection, I often think of his analogy of packets of information falling on the floor. In addition, his words were affirming given the fact that I am a systems librarian. With the changes he predicts, I will certainly have job security in the years to come!

Thank you for the opportunity to attend ILA/ACRL!

Michelle Tedrow, Electronic Services Librarian, Briar Cliff College

ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - ACRL SESSIONS

The ACRL featured speaker at the ILA Annual Conference to be held in Waterloo in October 1998 will be Barbara McFadden Allen, Assistant Director of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (Champaign, Illinois) and Director of the CIC Center for Library Initiatives. Ms. Allen will speak on the topic "Collaboration Out of Chaos: The Challenges and the Rewards" at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15th. She will address the many facets of interinstitutional cooperation.

At present, Ms. Allen coordinates library resource-sharing among the twelve member universities of the CIC. She has served as an automation and networking consultant for state libraries in Missouri, Virginia, and Illinois. In Illinois she coordinated both a cooperative collection management program among the state's academic libraries and a statewide interlibrary loan and resource-sharing project. Ms. Allen has consulted widely on regional and state resource-sharing projects.

Ms. Allen's presentation will be followed at 3:30 p.m. by a breakout session, "Interinstitutional Cooperation: Iowa Librarians Explore the Possibilities." This session will provide an opportunity to interact with colleagues to explore possible cooperative ventures or review existing projects. Librarians from a variety of academic libraries will facilitate small-group discussions. Ms. Allen also will participate in the session.

Kate Martin, University of Northern Iowa, Chair, Fall Program Committee

ILA/ACRL Home Page: The Creation and Development of an ACRL State Chapter Web Site

By Chris Neuhaus and Barbara Allen

I. Introduction

The Iowa chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ILA/ACRL), rooted both in the Iowa Library Association (ILA) and in ACRL, has a long tradition of active, forward-looking involvement of its members. The association organizes an annual conference in the

spring, sponsors sessions at ILA's fall conference, and publishes a newsletter three times a year as well as an annual directory of Iowa academic and research libraries.

In executive board and planning meetings in 1994 and 1995 the need for development of an electronic communications means was stated, but none came to fruition during that time span. In the meantime, the creation of Internet Web sites had become a tool used more and more frequently within the library world to serve communication and many other purposes. In January of 1996, Bob Rose - University of Northern Iowa, then president of ILA/ACRL, established the ILA/ACRL Ad Hoc Web Committee. This committee was composed of Barbara Allen (Chair) - University of Northern Iowa, Shaw Yu - University of Northern Iowa, and Sandra Ballasch - University of Iowa.

A site for the ILA/ACRL home page was created on the backbone of the University of Northern Iowa's computer system. The URL for this site is: <http://www.iowaacrl.org>. The site was quickly established by using readily available picture files (book and globe) and a "Welcome to the ILA/ACRL Home Page" headline. A sign "Under Construction" reminded the visitor that this site was still in its infancy.

In February of 1996 Barbara Allen, the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, recommended and the Executive Board approved that the newly created site include the following information and links:

- Iowa Academic and Research Libraries Directory
- News
- Current Announcements
- ILA/ACRL Newsletters
- ILA/ACRL Organization
- Bylaws
- Officers and Committees
- Membership Roster
- Organization Manual
- Conferences and Scholarships
- Upcoming Library Conferences, Meetings, Workshops, etc.
- Scholarship Announcements
- Internet Links
- American Library Association
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- Iowa Internet Links
- Iowa Research and Education Network
- State of Iowa Libraries Online

The chair of the ILA/ACRL Directory Committee, Jeff Dodd - University of Iowa, converted the Iowa Academic and Research Libraries Directory into HTML format and thereby made it

possible to load the Directory quickly onto the ILA/ACRL home page. The bylaws, list of officers and committees, and the membership roster, all part of the printed Directory, were placed in separate sections on the home page. The Newsletters, as they were published, were converted into HTML format and added to the Web site. In 1997 ILA/ACRL president, Mary McInroy - University of Iowa, charged the ILA/ACRL Ad Hoc Electronic Information Committee to continue the work of the ILA/ACRL Ad Hoc Web Committee. Specifically this new ad hoc committee was charged with establishing an effective Web site and creating an organizational listserv. The committee membership at that time was Barbara Allen (chair) - University of Northern Iowa, Sandra Ballasch - University of Iowa, Jeff Kushkowski - Iowa State University, Lissa Lord - University of Iowa, and Chris Neuhaus - University of Northern Iowa.

II. Current Status of the ILA/ACRL Home Page

The current ILA/ACRL logo and home page of the Web site were developed in the spring of 1997. The overall design and structure of the ILA/ACRL Web site is that of a basic menu. Yet this simple format is straightforward and serves its purpose.

The information currently found on the Web page includes all the resources and links first approved by the Executive Board and listed in section I above. Additional resources and links have been added and include: the ILA/ACRL strategic plan, a history of ILA/ACRL as well as of one of its committees, information on how to subscribe to the ILA/ACRL Listserv (see section V), the ILA/ACRL Volunteer form, photos from the most recent ILA/ACRL conference, links to the ILA Web site, and a list of electronic journals and newsletters in the field of library and information science. Up to this date, there have been no plans to post the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on the Web page, yet such an addition might merit consideration.

The Web page also lends itself to posting information of a more time sensitive nature, such as calls for contributed conference papers, scholarship announcements, and statements by librarians running for office. Once out of date, this type of information will of course have to be removed from the page promptly.

Originally, the function of the ILA/ACRL Web page was not viewed as archival. Only the most recent versions of ILA/ACRL documents were to be posted on the Web page (ILA/ACRL maintains a print archive of all its documents at the University of Iowa Main Library). During a recent Executive Board meeting it was decided to discontinue the printing of the association's newsletter and to distribute it in electronic form only (via the listserv and the home page). This decision raises the question of how many back issues of the newsletter should be made available on the Web page. Likewise, it might be useful to have previous editions of the Iowa Academic and Research Libraries Directory accessible in electronic format. Photos taken during conferences, though they are placed in the print archive, are never seen by the majority of ILA/ACRL members. Their availability on the Web site certainly greatly increases their accessibility and they are welcomed by the membership.

III. Home Page Use (Statistics)

A great deal of time and effort goes into creating and updating the ILA/ACRL Web site directories, newsletters, announcements, and links to other WWW resources. To determine whether these efforts are warranted, ILA/ACRL home page statistics have been monitored by Siteflow <http://www.siteflow.com/> since July 1997. For sites that receive less than 100 visits per day Siteflow will provide, free of charge, information on the number of visits to a page in the last twenty-five hours, the last eight days, and the last nine weeks. The time of access and domain name of the last 100 visitors is also recorded.

From July 26 1997 until December 11, 1997 the ILA/ACRL page received 280 visits. While eighty-two of these visits proved untraceable, enough domain names were identified to establish a pattern of use. Thirty-nine of these visits were the result of site maintenance. Forty-one visits to the site were from outside the state of Iowa. There were also ten visits to the ILA/ACRL home page made using commercial Internet providers traceable to within the state of Iowa that could not be attributed to a particular institution. The three large state supported universities of Iowa made regular use of this Web site. There were forty-eight visits from the University of Northern Iowa, thirty-one from the University of Iowa, and fourteen from Iowa State University. Use of this site by other Iowa colleges and universities during this time period was either minimal or simply non-traceable.

ILA/ACRL Site Visits by Institution

July 26, 1997 - December 11, 1997

Institution	Visits
University of Northern Iowa	48
University of Iowa	31
Iowa State University	14
Drake University	5
Grinnell College	3
Buena Vista University	2
Other Iowa Colleges and Universities	5
Iowa Commercial Internet Providers	10
Institutions etc. Outside Iowa	41
Site Maintenance	39
Non-Traceable Visits	82
Total Visits	280

Detailed site visitation statistics for the ILA/ACRL web site were again compiled from March 24 until May 7 to study the anticipated increase in traffic prior to the 1998 joint Spring Conference with Nebraska. During this brief period 487 visits were recorded. Twenty-six of these visits were the result of site maintenance and seventy-eight visits proved non-traceable. Twenty visits originated from outside the state with seventeen coming from Nebraska, the co-sponsor of the joint Spring Conference. The remaining 362 visits were from Iowa colleges and universities.

Since July 26, 1997 the ILA/ACRL home page has received 1163 visits (as of June 17, 1998). The cumulative statistics for the ILA/ACRL web site, <http://www.iowaacr.org/>, can be accessed at any time by clicking on the site counter at the bottom of this page.

ILA/ACRL Site Visits by Institution

March 24, 1998 - May 7, 1998

Institution	Visits
University of Northern Iowa	101
University of Iowa	81
Iowa State University	68
Drake University	46
Grinnell College	15
Buena Vista University	13
University of Nebraska at Omaha	13
Luther College	9
Simpson College	7
State Library of Iowa	4
Creighton Univeristy (Nebraska)	4
Grandview College	3
Iowa Central Community College	3
Morningside College	3
Mount Mercy College	3
Wartburg College	3
Divine Word College	1
Dordt College	1
St. Ambrose University	1
University of Dubuque	1
Outside of Iowa and Nebraska	3
Site Maintenance	26
Non-Traceable Visits	78
Total	487

IV. Web Site Maintenance

Maintaining a Web site requires designing pages, converting documents into HTML format, placing new documents on the site, weeding sources, and checking Internet links. ILA/ACRL decided to appoint an Ad Hoc committee to perform these tasks. While it might seem logical to simply add Web maintenance duties to a committee already charged with communication or directory responsibilities, this might in practice not be feasible, as those committee members may not possess the required skills. Adding Web maintenance as an additional task to be completed by, for example, a newsletter or directory committee may prove dispiriting to committee members and discouraging to prospective new volunteers. A distinct Web committee

can devote its energies solely to the design and improvement of the Web site. Establishing a separate committee also provides the benefit of creating additional leadership roles.

Though few ACRL state chapters will find it difficult to elicit volunteers to create and host a home page, establishing a commitment to the maintenance of this Web site may prove more challenging. Many routine tasks can quickly prove time consuming and inconvenient. It is essential that individuals assigned to Web maintenance be both knowledgeable and dedicated. If possible, members of a Web committee should be familiar with creating Web pages, converting documents to HTML, and utilizing basic Web server commands (e.g. UNIX, Windows NT). At least one member of the committee should come from the institution at which the Web site host server is located.

Inevitably, for a statewide organization, the members of a Web committee are likely to be geographically dispersed. This need not be an impediment to cooperative efforts. Work and communication can easily be transferred via e-mail or ftp. At least two or three individuals should have password access to the host server. To insure efficient maintenance the chair should serve as contact person for the committee, passing on assignments to the designated committee members, and generally coordinating workflow in a timely manner. Routinely used channels of communication should be established between the Web committee and all other persons in the organization responsible for the creation of directories, newsletters, and announcements. Committee members should serve staggered terms to insure continuity. As a safety precaution it would be wise to maintain back up and archival files at another institution.

V. Listserv

During the summer of 1997 University of Iowa librarians Lissa Lord, Paul Soderdahl, and Mary McInroy established an ILA/ACRL listserv as a complement to the ILA/ACRL Web site. Currently, 134 members have subscribed to the listserv. The listserv is particularly useful for circulating announcements. The listserv may provide the only access to chapter announcements for members who do not have access to the World Wide Web. The listserv also allows for two-way dialogue between the members of the organization (a good thing in moderation). On the other hand, the Web pages provide an ideal location for directory information, information in graphical format, and archival information. The Web site also has the potential to reach a broader, non-member audience and those members who "forgot" to subscribe to the listserv. If there are enough volunteers, operating both a listserv and a home page in concert, is an ideal way to disseminate organizational information electronically.

VI. Possible ILA/ACRL Home Page Applications for the Future

Under the guidance of Mary Beveridge, current president of ILA/ACRL, the Ad Hoc ILA/ACRL Electronic Information Committee, became the standing committee Electronic Communications Committee. This committee is charged with maintaining the ILA/ACRL home page, providing ready access to chapter information, and serving as a forum, via the listserv, for chapter-wide discussions. To save on printing and postage costs, the ILA/ACRL newsletter will be published in the future in electronic form only (see discussion in section II). The WWW version of the

ILA/ACRL directory has many attractive features though the effort expended in creating this service has been significant with Jeff Kushkowsky - Iowa State University, Barbara Allen - University of Northern Iowa, and Randy Roeder - Coe College, shouldering much of the work. There also has been debate as to the merits of publishing the ILA/ACRL directory on the Web site only. One advantage of an electronic directory is that the correction of inaccuracies and insertion of new material can be effected immediately rather than annually. Current directory information would then be available anywhere there is a WWW accessible station. However, many members have voiced a preference for maintaining the directory in print.

The ILA/ACRL Electronic Communications Committee faces a number of other challenges as well. Improved coordination and communication with other committees is essential. Coordinated efforts will result in a more timely release of information and distribution to a wider audience. Improved communication with other committees could also lead to an agreement on standardizing electronic formats. Establishing an electronic standard for all organizational documents would reduce time spent reformatting or, in extreme cases, retyping documents to be distributed in both print and electronic formats. The committee should also continue to advertise the Web site and listserv taking every opportunity to inform and remind the membership of these communication utilities.

The means and patterns of communication within ILA/ACRL are currently in transition. The move to primarily electronic communication is desirable for the reasons discussed above and inevitable due to budgetary constraints. In order to allow for a smooth transition, a dependable committee must be recruited, efficient workflow patterns established, channels of communication between committees improved, and both Web site and listserv heavily promoted. Chris Neuhaus and Barbara Allen are Reference Librarians and Bibliographers at the Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa. Their e-mail addresses are: chris.neuhaus@uni.edu and barbara.allen@uni.edu.

THE ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN'S CALENDAR

September 18-19 -- Nebraska Literature Festival, Wayne State College.

October 14-16 -- ILA Fall Conference - Waterloo Convention Center.

October 25 -- DEADLINE for November 1998 IA-ACRL Newsletter submissions.

January 29-February 3, 1999 -- ALA Midwinter Meetings, Philadelphia.

April 8-11, 1999 -- ACRL National Conference, Detroit.

June 24-July 1, 1999 -- ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans.

NEWS NOTES*

IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

* ILA now has a website at <http://www.iren.net/ila/web/>.^[L SEP]* The Fall Conference, October 14-16, will be organized around the theme "Vision 2000: Planning Library Service for the 21st Century." William Gordan, Executive Director of ALA will speak on October 15.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

* Claudia Thornton Frazer has been appointed Interlibrary Loan Associate at Drake University's Cowles Library. She was formerly Cataloging Associate at the Library. She has also been accepted into the master's program at the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science where she will be taking most of her courses over the ICN.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

* Iowa State University will host the IA-ACRL Spring Conference in the year 2000. The only issue about dates is to decide when in late April or early May.

MOUNT MERCY COLLEGE

* There are three new faces in the Busse Library and Computer Center.

Megan Wiley - coyote@mmc.mtmercy.edu - is the new InterLibrary Loan/Night Supervisor person. She is a recent graduate of MMC.

Kelly Nelson - knelson@mmc.mtmercy.edu - is now Software Specialist and Enduser Trainer for the campus. She was formerly at the University of Iowa.

James Meader - jmeader@mmc.mtmercy.edu, Database Specialist, is working with the new campus-wide administrative software system from Quodata. He comes to the campus from industry.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

* News

In April the Libraries received a \$73,000 Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library award to digitize the Chautauqua collection and add it to LC's American Memory project. This collection consists of 9,600 flyers and promotional pamphlets from the 20th-century Chautauqua circuit. RFPs have recently been sent as a step in the integrated library system migration.

*Retirement

Margaret Richardson, librarian in the Iowa Women's Archives, retires on July 31, 1998.

Margaret began her University of Iowa career at the University News Service, joining the Libraries staff in 1977. She ran the Browsing Room for most of her two decades in the library, combining this position with several others in succession: Reserved Book Room Librarian, Bookstacks Supervisor, and Coordinator of the Friends of the Libraries. In 1995 she brought her

knowledge, talents, and enthusiasm to the Iowa Women's Archives, enriching our staff as well as our holdings in her time with us. Margaret is already well into her next career: playing music for pleasure and profit!

Karen M. Mason, Iowa Women's Archives

***New Staff**

Jim Cheng is the new Chinese Studies Librarian, having joined the staff May 12. Jim previously worked in the East Asian Library at the University of Washington. Jim has a B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature from Fudan University, Shanghai, China; an M.A. in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington; and a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington.

Charmaine Henriques began work as Federal Documents Librarian in the Government Publications Department as part of the Minority Research Librarian Residency Program. Charmaine joined our staff on June 15, after filling an interim part-time position at Yale University. Charmaine has a B.A. from St. Joseph University, and is a recent Master of Library Science graduate of Southern Connecticut State University. Charmaine also has a Master's in International Studies from the same university.

Lamara Williams-Hackett began work May 13 as Reference Librarian in the Information, Research and Instructional Services Department as part of the Minority Research Librarian Residency Program. Lamara earned a B.A. in Journalism at Alcorn State University and came to us as a new graduate of the Louisiana State University's Master of Library Science program. During her course of study she worked as a graduate assistant in the Reference Department at the LSU Troy Middleton Library.

Janice Simmons-Welburn, Personnel and Diversity Programs

*Open Professional positions (from <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/lib/jobs.html>)

Collection Manager for Print and Electronic Resources, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences
Coordinator of Off-Campus Library Services

Head of the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences Head, Department of Special Collections
Assistant Archivist, Iowa Women's Archives

Ann Ford, Reference Librarian, University of Iowa Libraries

SOME USEFUL ILA/ACRL WEB SITES

THE HOME PAGE --- <http://www.iowaacrl.org/>

ILA/ACRL Volunteer/Nominations Form --- <http://www.iowaacrl.org/iacrldir/iacrldirvol.html>

THE DIRECTORY --- <http://www.iowaacrl.org/98libdir.html>

THE NEWSLETTERS --- <http://www.iowaacrl.org/iacrldir/News.html>

ILA/ACRL LIST SERV

TO SUBSCRIBE: Send message to: majordomo@list.uiowa.edu

Message content: subscribe ia-acrl

TO POST: Send message to: ia-acrl@list.uiowa.edu FURTHER QUESTIONS? Send e-mail to: mary-mcinroy@uiowa.edu

THE EDITORS

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Full addresses for Committee members may be found in the 1998 Iowa Academic and Research Libraries Directory.

EDITOR'S NOTE

My apologies for a somewhat late newsletter. It was basically done in mid-July and not only slipped to the bottom of my "to-do list" but also off into the ether somewhere. When Mary Beveridge gently reminded me of my obligation last week, I said I would proof it on Friday afternoon and send it to UNI on the weekend. Well, Friday afternoon found me in near tears because the newsletter file was nowhere to be found on my computer. People have chuckled about the sign on the Reference Desk this summer, which says: "Three things are certain: death, taxes and lost data. Guess which has occurred." I should not have put it there.

Fortunately the e-mail from contributors was not deleted so I reconstructed it today. I hope there are no obvious errors or omissions and ask forgiveness if there are. Please send articles to me for the last newsletter of the year.

This has been a bad week, technologically speaking. Our NT-Workstation at home crashed on Wednesday. The silver lining is that I now know how to retrieve files from the DOS prompt, before reinstalling the operating system. It was just a matter of convincing the machine to let us get there.

Wishing everyone a great semester. Remember a steep learning curve allows one to coast down the other side and part way up the next one. ---- LLS, 8/23/98