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## ILA/ACRL Newsletter, vol. 19, no. 1, January-February 2009

Association of College and Research Libraries. Iowa Chapter

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# ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 19, no. 1, Jan/Feb 2009

This issue of the ILA/ACRL Newsletter is devoted to news from academic libraries across the state. Our first article, though, is from ILA/ACRL president, Brett Cloyd.

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

January 13, 2009

As I prepare to go on family leave at the start of my presidential term, I take advantage of one of the perks of this position - to write a column for the January newsletter. On several fronts, this is an interesting time to address the membership.

- A souring economy has everyone worried
- Libraries are seeing record activity as people become more cost-conscious
- A new President of the United States is sworn in on January 20
- Bono gets a regular column in the New York Times

I daresay leaders at every institution in Iowa are looking at budgets and making hard decisions about how to continue to meet their missions with fewer dollars. Librarians are anxious about presenting stories and facts that demonstrate the value they provide to their organizations and communities. Professional organizations face tough times, too, as members decide if they are getting good value from their annual membership fees.

My feeling is that your Iowa ACRL chapter plays an important role in the professional lives of academic and research libraries in Iowa. Included here are a few things the chapter is working on in 2009.

The spring conference is an important event each year and 2009 is no exception. Steven Bell (<http://stevenbell.info/>) from Temple University will join us for a talk on "Futureproofing your library." During the last few years Steven has been busy presenting and writing about libraries and I feel we are in for a real treat at our conference on Friday, April 17, at Hawkeye Community College. Look for the upcoming call for presentation proposals to see what new ideas you'd like to share with your colleagues and mark it on your calendar so when registration comes around you'll be free to join us.

This summer we hope to repeat the success of the Support Staff Conference that was initiated in 2008. Please keep your eyes peeled to the IA-ACRL list for news about this conference. Providing opportunities for support staff and front-line workers in our libraries is an important mission of the chapter.

My hope is that the chapter will move into the 21st century with electronic voting. Our chapter by-laws require a paper ballot, but with the help of the ILA By-laws committee I plan to suggest to members that we make the shift to electronic voting. In 2008, the paper ballots and postage cost the organization more than \$70. If all goes well, the board will seek a vote to change this at the Spring Conference.

And of course, this newsletter provides a forum and venue for sharing ideas.

Thank you for the trust placed in me as your chapter president. While I do not have the privilege of issuing an inaugural address and the problems our chapter face are less daunting than the country's, working with a professional organization to meet its purpose to "enhance library service, user education, and staff development in ... libraries" is an excellent opportunity. I believe we all have responsibilities to help one another, especially in difficult times. I hope each of you will consider what you can contribute and share in order to make the Iowa ACRL chapter a vital organization.

I mentioned Bono at the top of the article. He recently was hired on by the New York Times to write commentary. His first piece detailed his relationship and impressions of Frank Sinatra. If you'd like to read the article, it's available on the web as many things are (<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/11/opinion/11bono.html> ). I found the piece a little bit on the poetic and rambling side, but I'm a fan and read all the way through. What I wanted to leave you with was this sentence towards the end. I will leave it to you to provide the answer:

"This is our moment. What do we hear?"

I will be on family leave until Monday, February 16, but will look forward to working with you during the rest of 2009. Log-in to the web site and leave comments to this piece, if you like.

Best Regards,  
Brett Cloyd

## **Community College News**

### **Hawkeye Community College**

In June 2008, the pre-admission testing computers were relocated (due to remodeling of the administration building) to the library's classroom. The library's instructor's workstation and the 21 student workstations were moved down to the library's main floor and located in a study area just off the reference desk. This move presented numerous challenges. But, it also gave us opportunities to revamp some of our presentations. Nevertheless, we were thrilled to have all of

the computers back in our classroom (and operational) by the time classes began for Spring Semester!

During October-November, a graduate student from UNI's School Library Studies department spent four weeks at the HCC library as part of her student teaching requirement. It was nice having an extra staff person on board. And we are confident that our student teacher-librarian was able to have a wide range of librarian/teaching experiences while working with us and our students.

*Submitted by Judy Mitchell*

### **Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City Campus**

The Iowa City Campus Kirkwood Community College main building experienced severe water damage over the holiday break due to a burst sprinkler system pipe. It caused damage to 2 classrooms, the computer lab and the library. We are still assessing the damages, but around 2,000 books got wet, and may, or may not, all be losses.

On the positive side, we're covered by insurance, we got the carpet shampooed and the walls painted, and took the opportunity to rearrange some shelving to make room for more seating, which we definitely need!

*Submitted by Kate Hess*

### **North Iowa Area Community College**

NIACC Library hosted our third "annual" National History Day workshop on December 12. Approximately 20 students from two area high schools and their teachers attended the event, designed to help get them started on their projects for National History Day competition. The morning included an overview of National History Day and an introduction to historical research. After lunch, the students had the opportunity to spend time doing research in the NIACC Library.

*Submitted by Karen Dole*

### **Scott Community College**

Linda Nelson recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with her Masters in Library Science. In addition, other staff members, Karly Steele and Kelsey Buffington, are attending classes at the University of Wisconsin, for their MLS.

*Submitted by Linda Nelson*

## **Southeastern Community College**



The Fred Karre Memorial Library got a makeover this fall. There is new carpet as well as fresh paint and the stacks were rearranged to provide more room for seating. With the help of a mini-grant from the SCC Foundation the library was able to install two restaurant style booths. The booth seating has proved very popular with the students!

*Submitted by Betsy Gardner*

## **Private Academic Libraries**

### **Briar Cliff University**

Briar Cliff welcomes two new employees. Kathy Weber, our Circulation Supervisor, started her position at Briar Cliff University in July 2008. She previously worked in Institutional Advancement and she brings clerical, managerial, and organizational skills to our staff.

Charlotte Widomski, our Reference/Instruction Librarian, started in October. She comes to us from New York where she worked at Herkimer County Community College and the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute.

*Submitted by Rachel Crowley*

### **Clarke College**

The Nicholas J. Schrup Library here at Clarke College received a monetary gift from the Clarke Student Association. As requested by the Clarke Student Association, the money will be used to purchase DVD's for leisure viewing.

The Drama dept. at Clarke college is gearing up for the play "Two Rooms, a play by Lee Blessing." (Synopsis: The two rooms of the title are a windowless cubicle in Beirut where an American hostage is being held by Arab terrorists and a room in his home in the United States which his wife has stripped of furniture so that, at least symbolically, she can share his ordeal.) The Library is hosting a "Talk Back" session in February after the play. "Talk Back" sessions gives students in the play a chance to talk about their experience. In addition, issues the play addresses can be discussed as well.

*Submitted by Sue Liebold*

### **Maharishi University of Management**

In preparation for accreditation, Director Martin Schmidt and Reference Librarian Suzanne Vesely are deeply involved in strategic plans, Library board meetings, and rethinking priorities. The main effort this fall has been to reinstate new student orientations. We are working closely with the undergraduate and graduate deans and have had the entire circulation staff involved. Refreshments and a drawing of submitted exit quizzes for a gift certificate at the Maharishi University of Management Store ensure large student attendance. Shown is an image of one such event, attended by 80 students.



We have also begun to "green the Library" with a refinishing project for wooden furniture. We have also installed a filtered water fountain, and have tiled and repainted the east entrance. Students have created a new student gallery in the west hall. We have met with Mark Stimson, Director of Sustainable Living, to formulate an action plan for green renovations, including an environmentally friendly roof, to be finished by September.

Finally, we have acquired Elsevier's ScienceDirect® online health and life sciences journal collection (1995-2009), which includes top environmental and medical journals.

Some events that have been very well attended this year:

In April, Emo Baer, our Serials Manager, visited Israel and returned with a fascinating lecture, "Impressions of My Israel Trip." Our Circulation Librarian Rustin Larson, a distinguished poet, has organized several poetry events and is planning another. Our most successful event has been Dr. Ali Arsanjani's ever-popular Rumi series, which has attracted up to 80 people at a time. The picture is a view of Dale Divoky's class exhibit in the Library's Unity Gallery, "Art and Nature."



The Maharishi University of Management Library Newsletter has covered most of these stories, and we have some lively footage of the orientations at [myspace.com/mumilibrary](http://myspace.com/mumilibrary).

*Submitted by Suzanne Vesely*

### **Mount Mercy College**

The retirements of Connie Walther and Linda Scarth have prompted a number of staff changes at Mount Mercy College. New staff assignments include Vicky Maloy, Academic Technology Librarian; Kristy Raine, Reference Librarian and Archivist; Boyd Broughton, Access Services Librarian; and Martin Nord, part-time Serials and Reference Librarian.

*Submitted by Marilyn Murphy*

## **Simpson College**

Simpson College does LibQUAL+

The first-ever library satisfaction web survey ('27 questions and a box') was available for three weeks beginning October 27, 2008. When the survey closed, 490 students had participated along with 29 faculty. Comments were received by 185 individuals. The survey comments along with the graphic charts for all of the responses will be posted on a web site this spring. We were pleased with our campus participation and will be holding focus groups to get more specific information on desired resources. The Dunn Library staff has started making immediate changes to address concerns on hours, noise, and group study space.

*Submitted by Cynthia (Cyd) M. Dyer*

## **University of Dubuque**

Last summer, the Charles C. Myers Library at the University of Dubuque welcomed Becky Canovan, who began as Reference and Instruction Librarian in June. At that time, Anne Marie Gruber, who previously held Becky's position, was promoted to Assistant Director for Library Instruction and Public Services.

The Library added another new face: Jonathan Colyer as Evening Supervisor. Although we miss Paul Waelchli (now at St. Norbert's College Library) and Zhenchuan Liu (who graduated from UD Theological Seminary and moved west), we are grateful for Becky and Jon!

On November 3, Jon Helmke, Anne Marie Gruber, and Paul Waelchli presented "Leveling Up Your Librarians: Teaching with Videogame Strategies" at the American Library Association Techsource - Gaming, Learning, & Libraries Symposium on November 3 2008, Oak Brook, Illinois.

Mary Anne Knefel was on a panel presentation at the fall ILA conference in Dubuque: "What's New Pussycat? How Video Collections and Services are Developing."

*Submitted by Mary Anne Knefel*

## **Wartburg**

Vogel Library at Wartburg College is seeking candidates for the position of director of the library. Current Director, Dr. Jean Donham will leave the college at the end of May to take a position as Associate Professor in the College of Education at the University of Northern Iowa, where she will be teaching in the Library Science program.

Vogel Library has become a member of the Cedar Valley Library Consortium. As a member, the library will be adopting Innovative Interface for its ILS--hosted by Rod Library at UNI. The transition from Horizon to Innovative will begin during the Summer 2009. Vogel Library staff

are very excited about becoming consortium members and look forward to the affiliation with UNI. Other members of the consortium are Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public Libraries, Hawkeye Community College Library, and Allen College Library.

Vogel Library at Wartburg has just subscribed to Learning Express in cooperation with Pathways, the college's student success center. Learning Express offers our students access to a variety of practice tests for the PRAXIS tests, GRE, GMAT, LSAT, and MCAT, as well as a range of resources related to resume development, tutorials, and other resources to help students succeed. The addition to our resources has generated considerable interest among students, as we seek to expand students' perception of what the library can do for them.

*Submitted by Jean Donham*

## **Regents Universities Library News**

### **Iowa State University Library**

Maps, Media, Microforms & Reserve have merged

Over the summer, two previously separate collections in the Parks Library at ISU-Maps and Microforms-were merged with the existing Reserve & Media collections to form a unified "Media Center" with a single service desk. The Media Center is housed on the lower level of Parks Library, in space formerly occupied by Reserve & Media Services. The new Media Center offers expanded hours and improved public access to maps, microforms, audio-visual media (CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, etc.) and "hard-copy" course reserve material (books and other physical formats). The vast majority of course reserve material is available online. The small "hard copy" reserve collection maintained in the Media Center represents items (such as entire books, DVDs, etc.) that cannot be digitized.

Grant Awarded to ISU Library

The Iowa State University Library has been awarded approximately \$200,000 in grant funds from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to support the creation of an educational technology classroom. Featuring approximately 40 multimedia workstations for students and a flexible classroom learning environment for library instruction, the classroom will be located on the first floor, adjacent to the Parks Library's Learning Connections Center and the Library's new Instruction Department. The classroom will be of enormous benefit as the Library promotes and revisions student-centered active learning in its instruction program. It is hoped that the classroom will be ready for use as early as Fall 2009.

*Submitted by Kris Stacy-Bates*

## **University of Iowa**

### Iowa Aerial Photo Collection

When the Iowa Department of Transportation begins plans for a new roadway or expansion of a current one, they often review aerial photos to gain a historical perspective of the affected areas. Of course, sorting through thousands of photos to find the one that depicts the right area is a very time-consuming task. So photomosaic indices were developed and now the University of Iowa Libraries have added them to the Iowa Digital Library.

Iowa Aerial Photo Indices Digital Collection (<http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/api>) of over 2,000 aerial photomosaic index sheets, digitized by Historical Information Gatherers, represents a much larger collection of individual photos of Iowa counties in the University of Iowa Libraries Map Collection. Each "tile" in the mosaic corresponds to an individual photo usually 10" x10" that reveals much more detail about land usage.

These indices and the corresponding photos are often used by geologists and geographers, urban planners and genealogists, attorneys and civil engineers who are researching the previous uses of the land and planning future projects. On the photos themselves, researchers can discern historic building foundations; pre-mechanized farming methods; burial mounds; old road beds; prior usage of lots for commercial purposes such as gas stations; and stream and river channels that have shifted from either natural or human causes.

The University of Iowa Libraries Map Collection holds over 150,000 aerial photographs of Iowa's counties from the 1930s to the 1990s. Most of the photos are accompanied by photomosaic indices that allow researchers to determine specific photos needed for projects. Photomosaic indices, as well as individual Iowa aerial photographs, are available for public use in the Map Collection. Digital versions of some of Iowa's aerial photos, including photos taken as recently as 2000, can be found on Iowa State University's Iowa Geographic Map Server. Though the quality of some of the pre-1955 indexes is poor, we still felt it was an important collection to bring into the Iowa Digital Library, because it gives researchers a place to start their search for more information. Some of pre-1955 paper indexes were obtained from the National Archives (NARA) and are photoreductions of the originals.

*Submitted by Kristi Bontrager*