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Association of College and Research Libraries. Iowa Chapter

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ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 22, no. 1, February 2012

President's Piece

On behalf of the ILA/ACRL Executive Board, I thank you for your membership in ILA/ACRL, and welcome you to 2012. As we move into a new year, we look forward to providing exciting opportunities not only for growth but also for a dialogue within the membership, in hopes of identifying how our organization can better meet the needs of you, our members! In addition, we will continue the work begun in 2010 and 2011 in creating a partnership with K-12 librarians in Iowa.

In 2011, an ad hoc committee was formed to begin a more formal process of investigating the possibility of partnership opportunities between ILA/ACRL and the Iowa Association of School Librarians. [Pam Rees](#) is chair of the committee and has begun outreach to the K-12 community. There has been strong interest among both ILA/ACRL members and K-12 librarians to create partnership initiatives related to information literacy and advocacy.

Our annual Spring Conference will be a bit different this year. The conference will be in late spring, May 25, 2012, and will be held on the beautiful campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Michael Porter, aka Libraryman, will be our keynote speaker. If you aren't familiar with Michael's work, please check out [his website](#). The theme this year is "Building On Our Strengths :: Design For Our Future." The conference will be a wonderful opportunity for professional growth, networking and fun. A big thank you to Jennifer Sterling and the Spring Conference Committee for all their hard work! Please read more about the conference in this issue of the newsletter.

Do you know that our chapter offers a \$500 Research Award? This is a grant awarded to an ILA/ACRL Chapter member for a presented or published scholarly work. The deadline for submission is March 12, 2012. Please visit [our page on this award](#) for more information. In the coming months, our Nominating Committee will be working hard to solicit volunteers and nominees for chapter officer and committee positions for 2013. Please consider how you might serve this chapter to continue our mission of education and advocacy. The Executive Board is very interested in what our members have to say about the direction and action of our chapter. My hope is that we will have a formal opportunity this year to gather input from our membership about better meeting your needs and expectations as a professional organization. Until that time, please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, questions, or suggestions how we can better accomplish our mission.

Have a wonderful spring term and I look forward to seeing you in May in Decorah!

Warm regards,
[Rebecca Funke](#)

ILA/ACRL Spring Conference

Please mark your calendars to attend the ILA/ACRL Spring Conference on May 25 at Luther College in beautiful Decorah. This year's conference theme is "Build on Our Strengths :: Design for Our Future." The keynote speaker will be Michael Porter, the CEO of Library Renewal and 2009 Library Journal "Mover and Shaker." Michael has also served on the ALA Council and Executive Board. The Planning Committee is developing an exciting social event on the evening of May 24. Also, please consider [submitting a proposal](#) for a presentation or participating in one of the new lightning round sessions. We know lots of great things are happening in our college and academic libraries and this is your chance to let us know about your strengths. Be on the lookout for registration in March. We look forward to seeing you in Decorah!

Jennifer Sterling

Chair, Spring Conference Planning Committee

ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Scholarship

The awards committee is pleased to announce the availability of two awards this spring.

The ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Scholarship is available to:

Any ILA/ACRL member, working full time in an academic or research library, and is planning to attend the spring conference for the first time, or has worked in the state fewer than three years.

Library science students, or support staff working in an academic or research library. Recipients in this category do not need to be members of ILA/ACRL.

The scholarship covers conference registration, along with up to \$100 in travel, food, and lodging expenses. Application details are found [here](#).

ILA Conference Scholarship Award Winner

From Samantha Bouwers, graduate student at the University of Iowa and recipient of the ILA-ACRL scholarship to the 2011 ILA Conference:

As a current graduate student in library and information science, I jump at any chance to attend professional-development events. This allows me to see firsthand what is new in the field and gives me the opportunity to interact with professionals. The Iowa Library Association Conference in October was no exception. From the first keynote speaker to the last session, I was rewarded with insightful ideas, thoughts, and comments from leaders in libraries across our state and country. The sessions I attended were both informative (I attended several sessions on

information literacy initiatives from various libraries state-wide) and entertaining (in one session I learned about the public works of art on the Iowa State University campus).

As a student, one can never take networking opportunities seriously enough, and conferences are great excuses to talk to leaders in libraries of all types all over the state. You can get a good idea of the job market and what employers are looking for. Being at meals especially increased the time spent interacting with professionals and learning about their libraries. I enjoyed talking over lunch with my table before the business meeting.

Of course, I shouldn't have been surprised at the caliber of people I met or presentations I saw at the conference. As a life-long Iowan, I know how seriously we take our libraries. It was great to see a group of people passionate about what they do working together to make a good thing even better. I know the amazing libraries in our state would not be what they are without the support of the ILA and the annual conference.

I send my heartfelt thanks to everyone at the Iowa Library Association and the Association for College and Research Libraries that made this scholarship possible. As I begin a career of librarianship in the state, I can only hope I will be able to enjoy many more conferences with you in the years to come.

ILA/ACRL Research Award

The ILA/ACRL Research Award is a \$500 grant awarded to an ILA/ACRL member in recognition of meritorious presented or published scholarly work. This award recognizes work presented or published between October 2009 and 2011. The deadline for receiving nominations is March 1, 2012, with the winner to be announced at the ILA/ACRL Spring Conference. More information on the award and application process can be found [here](#).

Special Libraries & Library Education News

ACT Information Resource Center, Iowa City

Jacqueline Snider of the ACT Information Resource Center in Iowa City is also the editor of Education Libraries, the peer-reviewed journal of the Special Libraries Association's Education Division. [The most recent issue](#) is a special issue on information literacy in the workplace.

Iowa Department for the Blind, Des Moines

Over the past year we have collected more than 60 personal histories from blind Iowans and others connected with the blind community in Iowa. These histories and other related historical documents are now available to the public on the history website, [History of Blindness in Iowa](#). If you are able, please take a moment to peruse the website! You can find out more about the project, and listen to some oral history excerpts to get an idea of what we have collected.

Recently, we launched a traveling exhibit that highlights the oral history project. This exhibit will travel to public libraries across Iowa through 2012, and a schedule is available [here](#). In addition to what we have available now, we are working on constructing two permanent exhibits here at the Department. We plan to have these complete by the upcoming spring. Also in the spring, we will host a public forum at the Department, which will focus on the history project and exhibits.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids

June 13 will mark the fourth anniversary of the Flood of 2008 that damaged so much of Cedar Rapids. The NCSML's museum and library took on nearly eight feet of water, ruining its exhibits and contents. The library was hit especially hard. Of 10,536 cataloged items, 4,688 were removed before the flood. A total of 3,905 books were salvaged immediately after the flood; an additional 1,943 were discarded due to being damaged beyond repair. Also, more than 5,000 phonograph records were damaged. Fortunately, the University of Iowa Libraries' Conservation Lab has been cleaning and repairing both the books and phono records. Flood recovery is, and will be, an ongoing effort.

Immediately after the flood the NCSML was awarded a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to conduct oral history interviews with Czechs and Slovaks who left Cold-War era Czechoslovakia and settled in the United States. This project has been so successful that the NCSML received a second round of funding to continue the project. (The project website can be viewed [here](#).) Also, the NCSML recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for post-flood collections care. The project has enabled the NCSML to hire a full-time cataloger and a part-time collections manager who will ensure that the library collections in temporary storage are physically and intellectually accessible once they are moved to the new museum and library, which is scheduled to open to the public on July 14.

School Library Studies Program, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls

Do you have a prospective student for us? Academic libraries provide a wonderful opportunity for undergraduate students to get an inside look at the profession of librarianship. Perhaps among your student workers is someone who is also majoring in Education with intentions to become a teacher. Might that student be enticed to consider school librarianship? Our UNI program remains robust with a current graduate enrollment of approximately 60 students studying to become teacher librarians in K-12. Admission applications are currently being accepted for a new cohort to begin fall 2012. Students may enroll as full-time graduate students in our program—or, as many do, they enroll as part-time students in order to work professionally as teachers or in other educational roles. We work hard to make such part-time enrollment feasible. In Iowa, the job prospects in school librarianship remain strong as we experience a “wave” of retirements, as well as a need to fill positions in districts still seeking to meet the state guidelines for employing qualified school librarians. Admission requires an Iowa teaching license, an undergraduate GPA of 3.0, and successful completion of an admissions writing sample. Details about the program and admissions are available [here](#).

Community College Library News

Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo

Seven Nook e-readers (three tablets, three colors, and one e-ink model) have been purchased for students, faculty, and staff to borrow for one week. Loaning the Nooks allows users to download Ebrary books to the device and also provides users the opportunity to try out the e-readers before purchasing one.

The library has also implemented a new BookScan Station scanning system that will be used for interlibrary loan and digitizing materials from the college's archives collection.

Private Academic Library News

Briar Cliff University, Sioux City

Briar Cliff University welcomed Julius Fleschner as a Reference and Instruction Librarian in August of 2011. Julius hit the ground running. The first order of business was to propose and develop a one-credit research and citations course. Julius is teaching this course in our first J-term session as BCU has shifted to a semester system from the previous trimester system. Next up was redesigning the library web site. Using LibGuides, he is building an entire new site for us. This project is providing us an opportunity to evaluate all of our online services to be sure everything we have is current and easy to locate. We plan to have the fresh new site ready to debut in fall 2012.

As part of a professional development day activity for the Sioux City Public Schools, a discussion was held at Briar Cliff in January with language arts instructors, teacher-librarians, writing professors, and librarians from the public school district, Morningside College, Western Iowa Technical Community College, and Briar Cliff. This discussion was designed to create awareness among 9-16 educators for language arts, writing, and research concerning the expectations for each level of learner and what goals each curriculum level is designed to reach. As we worked to design an event to bring all of these instructors together, in order to help all of our students succeed, the theme for this event became "Common Ground" which we believe was achieved. The only question left is, "Where do we go from here?"

Clarke University, Dubuque

Clarke University is finishing about 7,000 square feet of the Schrup Library's basement for the purpose of providing enhanced technology classrooms and an information commons. Construction will begin this summer with an expected opening slated for the Fall 2012 semester.

Cornell College, Mount Vernon



National Gaming Day @ Your Library

Cole Library at Cornell College participated in this year's National Gaming Day @ Your Library. The library re-opened after hours on the evening for Friday, Nov. 11, 2011, to admit more than 90 students over the next few hours. The library worked with several campus student groups interested in all sorts of games, and BattleZone Games of Cedar Rapids brought in a variety of board games for students to play and had staff members on hand to answer questions and teach students how to play some of the less familiar games. The library's second floor was set up with video games, and several tournaments were held. On the third floor was a game of giant Twister, along with board, card, and miniatures games. Snacks and drinks were provided, and a raffle midway through the night allowed students to choose between gift certificates to BattleZone Games or Amazon. Another game night is planned for March. Cole Library also serves as the public library for the city of Mt. Vernon and hosted a family gaming day the next morning. Families were able to test their video game skills on a Nintendo Wii and many were excited to learn new board and card games.

Cornell Yearbooks Online

[Cornell College's Royal Purple Yearbooks](#) were launched at Homecoming of 2011. This is the culmination of an Archive initiative (under Mary Iber) to digitize the 111 yearbooks and have them freely available online. The 2.5-year project primarily utilized Matt Zhorne & his AV student workers (scanning & labeling), librarian Roxy Running (Cornell class of 2006, uploading, organizing images, creating online exhibits, assigning metadata), weekend librarian March Sutton (quality checking, image adjustments, adding metadata and organizing), plus consultations and assistance with the Omeka open source software from our IT department and librarian Brooke Bergantzel (Cornell class of 2008). As the yearbooks have been going online, the Archives have received an increasing number of positive comments and questions from alums reviving memories, faculty tracing their younger selves, and relatives seeing photos of their ancestors for the first time. Cornell's rich history is coming alive. One researcher discovered a rare illustration of her topic via a photo from the 1909 yearbook.

Literary Society Posters online

Erika Binegar, a summer practicum student from the University of Wisconsin, created [an online exhibit of over 100 original posters from Cornell College Literary Societies](#), covering 1890 to 1910. Each poster is unique, and they offer a glimpse into the topics and social events of that era.

Drake University, Des Moines

Cowles Library at Drake University began [a new newsletter](#) last fall, which is already in its third edition.

Cowles also has [a new website in beta release](#), the result of months of work by a library-wide group, including usability study of Drake students. Thanks in advance for any input!

Loras College, Dubuque

Job Reorganization

After a recent resignation, the Loras College Library implemented a major reorganization of its personnel in June 2011, which was planned by the staff and tweaked by the Library Director. The former positions of Acquisitions Coordinator, Circulation/ILL Coordinator, Serials Coordinator, Circulation/Reserves Coordinator, and Library Administrative Assistant were adjusted to these: Check Out Desk Supervisor/Marketing Coordinator, Acquisitions Coordinator/Administrative Assistant, ILL/Reserves Coordinator, Serials Coordinator, and Night Check Out Desk Supervisor. The staff also rearranged their contract terms—some for shorter contracts and some for more or fewer work hours per week.

Special Collections

During the fall of 2011, the Special Collections room displayed a collection of titles that were originally included in an exhibit entitled “Printing and the Mind of Man.” The original exhibit, held in London in 1963, was unlike most book exhibits that focus on the beauty of the printed word and bound book and instead included the books that had most influenced Western thought and civilization since the invention of the printing press. As part of our display, we asked faculty to recommend books that had been printed since the original exhibit that they felt should be included if the exhibit were to happen today. We received an overwhelming number of excellent recommendations and invited eight faculty members to participate in a roundtable discussion about their books and printing in general. More information on the original exhibit and the Loras event can be found [here](#).

Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport

2011 was a year filled with challenges. And with challenges come opportunities. After two long-serving librarians retired and a third resigned to accept a job offer elsewhere, we spent a good portion of the year prioritizing essential services. Access Services/Systems Librarian Tim Salm, appointed the first of December, has enthusiastically embraced a project to retool our library web site. We are also currently interviewing for the position of Special Services Librarian and have

begun screening candidates for a Cataloging Librarian. We hope to be at full complement by late spring or early summer. While this will require a period of training and acclimation for new personnel, it also presents opportunities for new ideas and suggestions for procedures.

The library is reviewing several vendors for current for subscriptions to health sciences e-books, e-journals, and databases. The focus of our collection development the past three years has been clinical evidence-based practice electronic resources.

Three years ago Palmer College of Chiropractic received an R25 federal grant to train faculty in evidence-based health care principles for incorporation into their course syllabus and classroom presentations. The library has from the start of the grant project been actively involved with this initiative. The library's first-term information literacy course and invited departmental workshops focus on literature-search training and the principles of how to evaluate the evidence found in the literature.

Wartburg College, Waverly

Vogel Library at Wartburg College made two significant changes during the summer of 2011. The first was to upgrade its curriculum classroom to create an open-classroom concept. By relocating the curriculum library, the space now accommodates up to 40 students in a technologically-advanced setting conducive to group work. The classroom primarily serves the education department but is available to other disciplines.

Second, the library now oversees the [Archives of Iowa Broadcasting](#), which has been housed with the Wartburg College archives since the library opened in 1999. Christine Schafer, College Librarian, assumed the Archives Administrator position in July 2011. The AIB is accepting documents, records, program guides, promotional materials, photographs, recordings, audiotape, videotape, film, anniversary programs, and the like. Although it is not the primary emphasis, AIB is also assembling a representative hardware collection: microphones, cameras, recorders, studio and transmitter equipment, and early radio and TV receivers. The AIB's mission is "to establish and maintain a permanent collection of materials relating to the history, development and contribution of radio and television in Iowa."

Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque

Susan Ebertz, Director and Assistant Professor of Reu Memorial Library, is currently on sabbatical. Christina Spurgeon is the temporary staff member. She is helping with interlibrary loan, reserves, and reference. The Library did some activities in October to celebrate Theological Libraries Month, sponsored by the American Theological Libraries Association (ATLA), including lunch for faculty with a discussion about the library and its services, a used book sale, cookies in the library (normally food is not allowed), a reception for alumni during a reunion, and an exhibit of a few rare books. The event was funded by a grant from ATLA.

The Library tries to have one fun activity each year that will encourage students to tour the entire library. This year the Library hosted a mini-golf tournament with a course designed by students.

Regents Universities Library News

University of Iowa, Iowa City

The Art Library returned to Art Building West in December 2011. You may remember that the Art Library was temporarily relocated to the Main Library after the flood of 2008. The Art Library staff are glad to be home again, although the building itself did not open until the first day of classes in January.

The inaugural children's literature festival, [One Book, Two Book](#), was held the weekend of the January 14, 2012.

In anticipation of the construction and re-modeling of the first floor of the Main Library, almost every book is being moved or shifted. Book stacks are being cleared on the fifth floor to make way for staff currently on the first floor. The Learning Commons construction could start as early as May 2012 with an anticipated completion date of summer 2013. We very much look forward to the new space for our users, but will be dealing with a lot of construction first!

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls

Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa is pleased to announce Wei-Chih Tung's recent appointment to the Instructional Design position in the library's Reference and Instructional Services Department. Wei joins us from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He began his appointment on January 30, 2012. Welcome Wei!