



# Biblio-Notes

Issued by the Literatures in Eng4( )6(d)-afyh.4( )6(b)-Sectio.4( )6n of th



significant enough or a new edition different enough to constitute a distinct version? Of many examples, take Richard Wright's Native Son. Arnold Rampersand edited the 1991 Library of America two-volume edition of Richard Wright, in which he presented the "restored" edition of Native Son. Wright himself revised--expurgated--his novel in proof in order to win Book-of-the-Month Club selection, and this authorially expurgated version was the text of the first trade as well as the BMOC and all subsequent editions. Several paperbacks' introductions and afterwords guided readers' responses, as did Wright's own essay, "How 'Bigger' Was Born." Wright collaborated on a dramatization and one film version, although a later film was more faithful to the novel. Since 1991 only the restored "original" has been available new, but the unwary can readily find a pre-1991 edition from any online bookseller. Nor can the cultural critic ignore the effect of translations in forming global views on race in America and Wright in American literature. As editors of the fluid text, textual scholars should try to display all the revisions and versions. Bryant offers an elaborate example of a fluid edition of Melville's Typee that displays on one computer page the manuscript revisions, first American and British editions, and second American and British editions (chapter 7). With the help of a "revision narrative" (157ff) he attempts to convey the "pleasures of the fluid text" and help readers understand the historical roles of author, editors/publishers, and readers.

As librarians, our response should be NOT to throw out our expurgated editions and replace them with the original, but rather we should try to find all significant versions—for Native Son that will be the 1940 trade and BMOC, the intervening paperbacks, play, and movies, the Library of America, and the subsequent Perennial paperbacks. We have an important role here. D. C. Greetham foresees that ". . . [ ]t is likely that the dual change in technology and the theory of reading will gradually construct a . . . view of the editor as a sort of New Historicist archivist of text, a cultural critic who becomes provisioner for the phenomenological voyage of perception to be undertaken by

the many and sundry travelers in text" [that is, readers] (224). I believe that librarians can be the new editors; it is we who identify, collect, and maintain the significant textual and physical versions of literary works; we are the "archivists of text."

#### Works Cited

Bryant, John. The Fluid Text: A Theory of Revision and Editing for Book and Screen. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002.

fan mail, would be invaluable to her student's understanding and appreciation of children's literature. Many authors and illustrators agreed and contributions soon followed, the first of these being manuscript materials, dummies and illustrations from the husband and wife

## **Strategic Plan for the Literatures in English Section of ACRL**

Revision approved by the LES Executive Committee January 25, 2003. Updated with the Section's new name December 2001. Adopted by the membership, July 1996

**MISSION:** to provide a forum in which academic and research librarians who support literatures in English programs may exchange ideas, exercise leadership, and contribute to the improvement of library service in the field.

**PROGRESS REPORT:** Within a month after the ALA Annual Conference the immediate Past Chair, along with the other members of the Planning Committee, will report to the membership on activities of the previous year, addressing specific points in the Strategic Plan.

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES** (see LES Bylaws, Art. II)

- 1) Represent and support academic and research librarians specializing in literatures in English.
  - a) Recruit and retain a diverse group of LES members.
  - b) Collaborate with other ALA units and relevant professional and scholarly organizations to promote mutual interests.
  - c) Advocate on professional issues.
- 2) Enhance the continuing professional development of LES members.
  - a) Develop programming.
  - b) Promote discussion among members.
  - c) Promote and publish relevant research and professional tools.
  - d) Track and share curricular and program developments in literatures in English programs around the world.
  - e) Develop and disseminate standards for the work of librarians supporting literatures in English programs.

- f) Provide continuing educational opportunities for literatures in English librarians.

- g) Provide opportunities for formal and informal mentoring.

- 3) Promote the development, improvement, and use of resources and services relating to literatures in English.

- a) Promote the development of new resources, both print and electronic, and the improvement of old ones.

- b) Promote effective collection development.

- c) Promote effective use of library resources.

### ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF GOALS

- 1a) Recruit and retain a diverse group of LES members.

- \* Publish *Biblio-Notes*.

- \* Update and disseminate a LES brochure regularly.

- \* Maintain and develop LES web site to support the professional needs of literatures in English librarians, including teaching materials, information on trends in departments, and reports on best practices.

- \* Undertake and maintain a LES membership drive aimed at a diverse range of potentially interested parties, especially those from four year undergraduate institutions.

- \* Encourage participation in mentoring programs in ACRL and LES.

- \* Explore virtual participation at meetings.

- \* Prepare welcome letter describing LES for new members.

- \* Provide opportunities for informal networking and socializing.

- 1b) Collaborate with other ALA units and relevant professional and scholarly organizations to promote mutual interests.

- \* Collaborate as appropriate with other ALA units and other professional and scholarly organizations when planning the annual LES program.

- \* Foster consultative and collaborative relations with the Modern Language Association (MLA).

- \* Develop a list of such organizations, target a reasonable number for outreach, and assign an LES member to serve as liaison to each targeted body.

- \* Confer with these organizations concerning strategies to promote equitable access to literary information, continued federal, state, and foundation humanities support, preservation and effective use of primary records, and adequate funding of literary library collections.

- \* Work with other groups of library subject specialists to develop collection management strategies appropriate for the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of the humanities.

- \* Promote networking at state and/or consortial levels.

2a) Develop programming.

- \* Identify key issues in the profession around which programming may be developed.

- \* Put on one program per year at the Annual conference (collaborating whenever possible with other ALA units).

- \* Develop programming for ACRL and other relevant conferences.

2b) Promote discussion among members.

- \* Maintain and advertise an electronic listserv.

- \* Sponsor informal membership discussions at both the Annual and Midwinter conferences.

- \* Maintain the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Materials Discussion Group.

- \* Maintain the Reference Discussion Group.

- \* Encourage participation in the Modern Language Association International Bibliography (MLAIB) Discussion Group.

- \* Encourage the formation of discussion groups that meet members' interests (e.g. a collection development and management discussion group and/or a college and medium-sized libraries discussion group).

- \* Keep members apprised of activities of discussion groups via reports to LES media outlets (listserv, newsletter, website)

- \* Use web site as arena for sharing ideas.

2c) Promote and publish relevant research and professional tools.

- \* Create, edit, and identify a publisher for a book on teaching literary research.

- \* Develop model collection development and management policies for literatures in English, and mount on the LES web site.

- \* Develop model library instructional units and handouts for literatures in English and mount them on the LES web site.

- \* Track and share observations about the needs and habits of literary scholars.

- \* Maintain the bibliography "Studies of Interest to English and American Literature Librarians."

2d) Track and share curricular and program developments in English departments around the world. Track and share curricular and program developments in literatures in English programs around the world.

- \* Foster consultative and collaborative relations with the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC).

2e) Develop and disseminate standards for the work of librarians supporting literatures in English programs.

- \* Form ad hoc committee to explore possible pre-conferences, workshops, institutes, or other activities.

2g) Provide opportunities for formal and informal mentoring.

- \* Encourage participation in mentoring programs in ACRL and j/JTJoLmctiv

- \* Maintain the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Materials Discussion Group.

- \* Encourage Section activities such as creating lists of new journals and publishing product and book reviews in Biblio-Notes.

- \* Encourage members to participate in cooperative and collaborative arrangements relating to literatures in English.

- \* Develop model collection development and management policies for literatures in English, and mount on the LES web site.

- \* Use web site as arena to share best practices and materials.

3c) Promote effective use of library resources.

**Biblio-Notes**

ACRL-American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
American Library  
Association

Vice Chair, 2001-2002: Steven Harris  
John C. Hodges Library  
1015 Volunteer Blvd.  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1000  
865 974-8693  
harris@aztec.lib.utk.edu

LES-L (section list)  
To subscribe, send message to :  
[listproc@ala1.org](mailto:listproc@ala1.org)  
In message field type:  
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LES web site: [www.ala.org/acrl/les](http://www.ala.org/acrl/les)

Studies of Interest to English and American  
Literature Librarians (LES Bibliography):  
[www.public.iastate.edu/~dcoffey/studies/htm](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~dcoffey/studies/htm)

MLA International Bibliography in Academic  
Libraries Discussion Group  
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