



# Biblio-Notes

Issued by the Literatures in English Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association

#55 Spring 2010

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## Notes from the Chair



(Photograph provided by Angela Courtney)

Greetings,

Welcome to spring, finally!

I want to thank those of you who were able to attend the mid-winter meetings in Boston. I know it was not the easiest conference to get to, with budgets and weather being uncooperative. Weather was really more of a problem when it came time to go home, and I also owe a debt of gratitude to the counter agent who took pity and moved me to a completely different airline to get me home on time.

As usual, we had a productive conference. We have now established a group of interested members that is looking into how we can incorporate virtual meetings into our practices. Interest in virtual participation is very strong, and I am confident that LES will quickly be one of the leaders in this emerging practice.

Happily our MLA endeavors represent a great leap forward. We held fast to our goal this year to create liaison relationships between the Modern Language Association and LES. Our proposal to create a discussion group within the MLA was approved this fall by the MLA Executive Council. This group is called the **Libraries and Research in Language and Literature Discussion Group**. This group will be able to sponsor a session at the 2011 MLA convention. A call for papers has been issued. Our more difficult endeavor, with our colleagues in the Western European Studies Section of ACRL, is to establish a formal liaison with the MLA. Because ACRL is re-evaluating the Council of Liaisons, we cannot have an official liaison now. ACRL did, however, agree to fund our efforts in developing a stronger affiliation with the MLA for the next two years. We will devote considerable attention to this good news at our summer meetings.

Also on the plate for this summer's conference in Washington D.C. is our always interesting and engaging program. This year, LES worked with WESS to bring together an excellent line-up of speakers who will discuss contemporary European literature in translation. Our program planning chair, Melissa Van Vuuren, and her committee have devoted much time and energy to the presentation, and it promises to be instructive and enlightening. I encourage you to attend.

Remember that we have many ways for our members to keep up with current happenings, issues, questions, and events.

Our email discussion list (LES-L) is one of the best ways to get immediate, high-quality, and friendly help with reference questions that have you stumped. Our area is broad, and luckily our membership is diverse. Help is usually an email away. Our blog (<http://www.acrl.ala.org/lesblog/>) and wiki (<http://literaturesinenglish.pbworks.com/>) are also great places to go for information about the section and its members. Our mentoring program is active and rewarding for mentees and their mentors.

Traditionally, we always need mentors and appreciate willing volunteers! Our 2<sup>nd</sup> tier (former

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scale data collections in a range of institutional settings.

I am excited by the potential uses digital libraries offer scholars, such as more open access to resources, facilitating scholarly communications, meeting needs not met by current sources, and advanced forms of teaching and research. I believe future digital libraries for the humanities will create new research portals that will add immense value to the research process. My current career goal is to become a Digital Humanities Librarian. I am interested in working in an academic library, such as the one I currently work in (University of Kansas), and I am interested in working in the disciplines of English Literature, Classics, and Philosophy. I am particularly interested in Digital Poetics and in setting up a digital library or archive of the Modern American Poetry resources we currently have in the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. As a poet and writer, and also as a librarian, I realize that many of these important resources remain undiscovered and unused by the community because of the difficulty of accessing them. First, I would like to become familiar with digital collections services and the tools available for building digital collections. Then I would like to propose to digitize the materials held in the Spencer Research Library relating to Modern American Poetry, ranging from broadsides to rare, out-of-print, first-edition books and journals.

I would also like to explore how digital technology has impacted the field of experimental poetics. This includes the uses of digital technology to expand the techniques that poets use--whether this be in multimedia, interactivity, algorithmic processes, and digital typefaces--as well as how the web can serve as an alternative distribution source for texts both of poetry

and criticism. I am interested in finding, preserving, and making public a period of literary history that is non-print-oriented. The act of rescuing e-literature from the obsolescence of digital formats seems particularly important to me. I would like to make this archive out of cinemoems (poetry on film), videopoems (poetry on video), live events (both performance and discussion), works on audio tape, or audio/sound poems, and all combinations thereof. Ultimately, I am interested in forging new modes of poetic expression through digital media. I am personally interested in promoting and pioneering radical approaches to writing and reading, combining hypertext, programmable media, Web design, video, film, and net culture. I believe the cross-pollination of computational poetics with traditional literary traditions is where the future lies in terms of creative and scholarly work in the humanities.

I recently published the article: "Academic Libraries and the Remaking of the Canon: Implications for Collection Development Librarians," in *Library Philosophy and Practice*, May 2009. In addition, look for my article: "Presenting the Unrepresentable: Edmund Burke, Jean-Francois Lyotard, and the Postmodern Sublime in Contemporary Poetry," forthcoming in *Fulcrum: An Annual of Poetry and Aesthetics*, Issue 7, 2010.

Julianne Buchsbaum, PhD, MLIS, MFA  
Humanities Librarian for English,  
Philosophy, and Classics  
Watson Library  
University of Kansas Libraries  
[jbuchs@ku.edu](mailto:jbuchs@ku.edu)

## Awards/Honors

Jim Harner's electronic *Literary Research Guide: An Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies* (<http://www.mlalrg.org>) won a 2009



believed that technologically informed and creative librarians are well positioned to win the trust of faculty. It was clear that a variety of skills -- embodied in one or more individuals -- are required to build an IR rich in diversity. An IR can be far more than a home of article pre- and post-prints. One major issue/concern that stood out was the copyright factor and the misconceptions faculty have regarding their authors' rights. In response to the expressed interest in the potential capabilities of IRs as well as open-access publishing opportunities, UB Libraries' scholarly communication

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## Incoming Newsletter Editor

(Photograph provided by Carrie Wajda)

I'm so pleased and excited to be joining the Literature in English section as the new *Biblio-Notes* newsletter editor. I am a reference and instruction librarian at Berkeley College in New York City, and I look forward to my small role in connecting literature librarians around the world. Many thanks to Laura Taddeo - she leaves big shoes to fill!

I received my MLS from Long Island University in 2006 and a subject master's degree in British and American Literature from Hunter College in 2010. I will be attending ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. this summer, so please introduce yourself. I anticipate a wonderful experience working with the Literature in English section committee members.

Carrie Wajda  
[cnw@Berkeleycollege.edu](mailto:cnw@Berkeleycollege.edu)

Newsletter contributions welcome The editor especially encourages essays on "My Life as a Humanities Librarian," "My Favorite Reference Tool," "Tech Tips," and "Personal and Institutional News."

Deadlines for copy are roughly the end of September and the end of March of each year. Please contact the editor for the exact deadlines of specific issues.

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Editor, 2006-2010: Laura Taddeo  
University at Buffalo  
[ltaddeo@buffalo.edu](mailto:ltaddeo@buffalo.edu)

Incoming Editor, June 2010: Carrie Wajda  
Berkeley College  
[cnw@Berkeleycollege.edu](mailto:cnw@Berkeleycollege.edu)

Chair, 2009-2010: Angela Courtney  
Indiana University  
[ancourtn@indiana.edu](mailto:ancourtn@indiana.edu)

Vice Chair/Chair Elect, 2009-2010:  
Liorah Golomb, Wichita State University  
[liorah.golomb@wichita.edu](mailto:liorah.golomb@wichita.edu)

LES Web site: [www.ala.org/acrl/les](http://www.ala.org/acrl/les)