

Biblio-Notes

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

#56 Fall 2010

ISSN 0768-947

Notes from the Chair

Photo Credit: Liorah Golomb

Dear LES Members,

I hope you all are enjoying a lovely autumn. In

Oklahoma, late September In eLP HÔ " @ Ó í á 4u H € Đ Á " " @ Đ V Á # " @ Đ À 0

Also this year, and also in cooperation with WESS, the LES 2010 Conference Program Planning Committee, chaired by Melissa Van Vuuren, presented an informative and enjoyable program, "European Fiction in Translation," at ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. In New Orleans this summer we will be co-sponsoring a program with ANSS called "Katrina and its Aftermath." LES will be providing a bibliography for this program. The 2011 Conference Planning Committee would appreciate receiving suggestions for the bibliography from the LES membership. Contact Blake Landor, the committee chair, with your recommendations (blaland@uflib.ufl.edu).

The D.C. program presented a scheduling conflict but Jaena Alabi (née Hollingsworth), chair of the Membership Committee, and Arianne Hartsell Gundy and Mary Thill, co-chairs of the New Members Discussion Group, gracefully agreed to combine their meetings. The combined meeting produced a lively exchange of ideas on keeping up with changes in literary scholarship.

Maintaining collections in tough economic times and the push for e-books were the topics at the Collections Discussion Group meeting in June,

There are too many to name here, but you can see who they are at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/les/lesofficerscommittee.cfm> And if you are interested in joining a committee, fill out a volunteer form, linked from the LES homepage (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/les/leshomepage.cfm>) and watch LES L for Calls for Participation from LES/icer Chair/Chair Elect Faye Christenberry.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work of Faye and the other officers of LES: Angela Courtney, Past Chair; Tim Hackman, Secretary and Melissa Van Vuuren, Member at Large. We will be serving on the LES Executive Board through Annual 2011.

Wishing you all good semesters and until San Diego

Liorah Golomb

Chair, ACRL LES 2010-11

LES Meetings at ALA Midwinter 2011 (tentative)

Here is the tentative schedule of meetings for LES in San Diego. Locations are all TBA.

Saturday, Jan. 8

- 8:00-10:00 Executive Committee
- 10:30-noon MLInt'l Bibliography Discussion Group*
- 1:30-3:30 General Membership Forum
- 4:00-5:30 New Members Discussion Group
- 5:30-? Social hour? (tentative)

Sunday, Jan. 9

- 8:00-10:00 Collections Discussion Group
- 10:30-noon Reference Discussion Group

Monday, Jan. 10

- 8:00-10:00 All Committees Meeting
- 10:30-noon Executive Committee

All LES meetings are open. The All Committees Meeting is when certain of the standing LES committees meet simultaneously: Conference Program Planning, Membership, Planning and Publications. Anyone interested in joining one of these committees is encouraged to attend – it's a great opportunity to see them in action.

*Not an LES meeting, but of interest to many members.

The Book Discussion Group is Alive and

In September 2009, the St. John's University Libraries, in partnership with the Honors Program, sponsored its first book discussion group. Using the Great Books Foundation's *The Seven Deadly Sins Sampler* as a guide, the group met monthly. Each meeting focused on one of the seven deadly sins as portrayed in a short story selection from the anthology. Students took turns volunteering to choose the reading selection and to lead the group's discussion.

Due to an overwhelmingly (and somewhat surprisingly) positive response to last year's Great Books Discussion Group, the University Libraries now sponsors four student book discussion groups: Great Books, Reading Memoirs, Graphic Novels, and the Read It/See It Series. In this last group, members first read a short literary work, and then come together to

University Libraries is working with the Honors Program and the Department of Student Life/Student Engagement to coordinate our book discussion groups. We hope to extend our reach even further next year.

At St. John's, the library purchases several copies of the selected materials. These are placed on "reserve" and are available for a limited borrowing period (anywhere from twenty four hours to one week, depending on the text). Finding a convenient time and place for the groups to meet could be tricky. You might consider meeting during your campus' "common hour" or "free hour," if you have one. Our meeting takes place at 4:30 PM. We have

"free

a very fertile ground for

Please email me at
aline.soules@csueastbay.edu with any
suggested additions.

Many thanks to those who have given me
names and helpful advice. LESs the best!

MLA Conference 2011: Literary Research
in/and Digital Humanities

By

asa set of skills or “way of doing” which allows us to make sense of our world.

It is significant that the MLA 2011 convention is focusing on the theme *The Academy in Hard Times*⁵. I heard John Unsworth report at Digital Humanities Summer Institute, at the University of Victoria⁶ in June 2010 that the 125th MLA conference was a somber event with the current state of humanities hiring casting a pall on attendees. He did say, however, that digital humanities continue to be a bright spot for PhD finding positions. He mused that it did sometimes appear that institutions knew they needed to hire in this area even if they were unsure what exactly that would look like or how they would support those projects.

Clearly, the future of the humanities lies in the digital world and there are exciting opportunities for exploration and learning. James Kelly and his committee are to be commended for recognizing the future directions of the humanities and also the role librarians can take in aiding researchers realizing digital projects.

As stewards of both information and technologies, librarians are natural collaborators on digital humanities projects but successful inclusion in these projects requires us to also reach out to scholars: “We librarians spend much of our time talking to each other (especially at our innumerable conferences and meetings) and goodly amounts of time talking to faculty and students at our own institutions, but precious little time (or so I

⁵MLA *The Academy in Hard Times*:
http://www.mla.org/academy_hardtimes

⁶Digital Humanities Summer Institute:
<http://www.dhsi.org/>

surmised) talking to faculty on their own turf at such large scale gatherings as the MLA annual conference or that of the American Historical Association.” James Kelly said, explaining why a presence at MLA is beneficial to the entire academy.

Like most projects, greater things are accomplished by a group than by a single individual, and Mr. Kelly credits his colleagues with making his idea a reality: “After running my idea by Barbara Chen at the MLA and eliciting an approving nod from her and her colleagues, it was only a matter of going through the paperwork, assembling the necessary cooperation from the library world (easily done with such avid supporters as I found in LES and WESS), and voila!, we have our discussion group. Now it's down to business in staging our first meeting and electing an executive committee to steer the group in the coming years!”

So, if you can imagine yourself in LA in January, be sure to add this practical and thought provoking topic to your selection of sessions to attend, and possibly get involved in shaping the future of the Libraries and Research in Language and Literatures discussion group.

Research Fellowship/Travel to Collections

The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library (SWC/SC) invites applications for the Formby Research Fellowships which support short term fellowships of 1-3 months. The fellowships, which carry a stipend of \$2,000 per month and must be taken between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012, are open to researchers residing outside the Lubbock area. Fellows are expected to be in residence and conduct research in the collections during the

assistance please contact Dr. Diane Warner
(diane.warner@ttu.edu), librarian for the
Sowell Collection.

Two LES Members Share Their Experiences in
the Emerging Leaders Program

Two LES members, Arianne Hartsell Gundy,
Humanities Librarian at Miami University, and
Amanda

learned a lot about working on a project long distance and gained a better understanding about how I work in teams.

I was sponsored by the ACRL Instruction Section, which means that they gave me funds to use towards conference attendance. This sponsorship helped to relieve some of the financial burden of conference travel for me.

Benefits of the Program

There are many benefits to taking part in this program, including increased involvement in ALA, opportunities to get to know other new librarians as well as those with more experience in the field, leadership training, valuable project development experience and the opportunity to serve on an ALA committee. Participation in ALA Emerging Leaders can help you feel more involved with ALA and to understand better how the organization works. In addition to learning about ALA structure, the Emerging Leaders program can help participants learn more about ACRL as well.

Program participants can apply for sponsorship from various ALA groups when submitting their application. Sponsorship can help defray the costs of conference attendance but is not required for participation in the program. Though LES does not sponsor an Emerging Leader, there are sponsorship opportunities available through the ACRL division and other ACRL sections. More information can be found on the Emerging Leaders application form.

We both found that participation in the program led to new opportunities within ALA, specifically ACRL. As a result of Amanda's participation on the ACRL 01 project, she has been appointed Vice Chair of ACRL's Membership Recruitment Committee. Arianne

has been appointed to be a member of the ACRL Information Literacy Professional Development Committee.

Applying

The Emerging Leaders program was a great opportunity for us both and we would recommend it to any librarian who is new to the profession and w3607 0 TD 0 Tc <00c2 71p53552.r4 10 1rs i