

# Biblio-Notes

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(Photograph provided by Faye Christenberry)

Greetings LES Members:

As the new academic year begins and I am  
frantically arranging instruction sessions,

Shadowing program. This program provides an opportunity for potential librarians to learn more about the field of librarianship and the day-to-

combined discussion group option worked well, so we will discuss the option of making this change permanent.

Saturday's meeting of the New Members Discussion Group (Harriett Green and Mary Thill, Co-chairs) featured a lively discussion of outreach to faculty, partnering with faculty on research projects, various issues relating to collection management, and other topics of interest to literature librarians.

In other news, Sarah Wenzel reported on activities completed during her term as the first liaison from LES and WESS to MLA, including sessions she attended at the MLA Convention in Los Angeles. For more information on Sarah's activities, see her article in this issue of

. Also, Liorah Golomb reported that LES is co-sponsoring a 2012 ALA Emerging Leader with WESS. Four jurors (2 each from LES and WESS) have reviewed applications and recently submitted their selection to ACRL. An announcement on the person chosen to fill this important position will be forthcoming.

By Sarah Wenzel

As the first official liaison to the MLA from ACRL, I wasn't quite sure what to expect at the 126 MLA Annual Convention in Los Angeles this past January. With a warm reception from the MLA International Bibliography staff, and Jim Kelly having prepared the way with a great program to kick off the newly formed Libraries and Research in Languages and Literatures Discussion Group, the omens were good.

In keeping with my liaison role, I chose to attend sessions that seemed to be particularly relevant to librarians or ACRL. You may perceive a persistent theme in their titles:

"The Brave New World of Scholarly Publishing"

"E-Books as Bibliographical Objects"

"Scholarly Publishing in an Age of Translingual and Transcultural Competence"

"The History and Future of the Digital Humanities"

"Textual Scholarship and New Media"

"Will Publications Perish? The Paradigm Shift in Scholarly Communication"

"Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) and the Scholarly Edition : Bringing Architectures of the Book into the Digital Age"

The program put together by our esteemed Jim Kelly, "Literary Research in/and Digital Humanities," fit nicely into the overall themes of "whither scholarship?", "whither publishing?", and "whither the digital humanities?" At the same time, it celebrated the possibilities open to literary research thanks to the digital.

The inaugural business meeting of the Discussion Group was off to a good start with Jim at the helm. The challenge was to organize an Executive Committee, handicapped by the fact that almost none of those present had previously done this within the MLA structure (many thanks go to Bill Thompson). The end result, following some changes post-Convention, was a Committee formed of Christina Czajkoski, Bob Kieft, David Oberhelman, Dawn Childress, and Bill Thompson, with the ACRL-MLA liaison as

All in all, as regards the sessions, what I primarily learned is that there's a lack of understanding about how libraries and scholars and presses fit together in the scholarly publishing relationship. I also found that while libraries are sometimes expected to fulfill the role of data and project archiving, there often isn't a realization of the costs involved and the choices that need to be made. Finally, there is some confusion over archiving organiza 0 1 484.ing obuv12( T)-3

CIC had thought that LES and WESS members are found only at large research universities and thus wouldn

resources and free online tools. I'd be curious to hear about your experiences with leisure reading outreach at some point; it's a small but enjoyable part of my job, and I've wound up doing more of it than I ever expected.

Cheers,  
JG

Hi John,

Here's my experience: A few years ago our library's Staff Development Committee put out a call for programming suggestions. I suggested that we (and "we" meaning "me") should do a workshop called "What Should I Read Next?"

When I held the workshop I had all sorts of activities planned, and a list of web resources

very often I'm making recommendations to non-humanities students who just want something to read. Students from the English department seem to make a beeline to the stacks on their own hook. Have you noticed anything similar about who comes to you for recommendations?

I tend to think about all of this as "leisure reading outreach," and this program or that blog, or the like, but I've had the same experience as you with book recommendations. Students, staff, and faculty stop by my office or e-mail just to see if I have a book to recommend, or they'll ask me if I can suggest a title they might like in a given genre. So, while I think programmatically, very often it's people wanting what amounts to hand-crafted recommendations — much like what I've heard from independent booksellers. Richmond has a reasonable number of book groups, as well as multiple library systems with reciprocal borrowing privileges.

JG

Hi John,

I think, despite institutional differences, we have had similar experiences — there's something about the "English Librarian" that makes people assume that we are a font of reading suggestions. Or that we've read every book, or that we have opinions about every book — or at least that we'

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Julianne Buchsbaum's third book of poems,  
, was chosen by Lucie  
Brock-Broido as a National Poetry Series winner  
this year. The book will be published by Penguin

Have you seen our  
new video?  
"Literature  
Librarians and  
Faculty Partnering  
for Academic  
Success Video"

features professors from four different  
institutions talking about the value they see in  
working with literature librarians. You can send  
this video to faculty, administrators, and  
students to demonstrate the value of working  
with literature librarians. The video was made  
possible through the efforts of the Promotional  
Video Task Force, including Co-chairs Laura  
Braunstein and Mildred Jackson, George  
Germek, Liorah Golomb, Heather Martin, David  
Oberhelman, Rebecca Oling, editor Christina  
Cortland, and many others. The video is  
available on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icxmYxHyDxw>.



