

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

#59 Spring 2012 ISSN 1076-8947

for providing such wonderful guidance and



(Photograph provided by Faye Christenberry)

### Greetings LESMembers:

Spring has finally arrived, although it's difficult to believe, given Seattle's persistently winter-like weather. Fortunately, ALA Annual is around the corner, which means we can all enjoy the sunshine and warm temperatures of southern California! Before we meet in Anaheim, I'd like to share some updates on the section's first all-virtual Midwinter meeting.

First of all, I'm happy to report that the meetings went smoothly. Most of the committees took advantage of our subscription to WebEx to conduct their business. Many thanks to David Oberhelman and the other members of the Virtual Participation Committee

### Sunday, June 24

10:30-12:00 p.m.

DIS-Disneyland Grand Ballroom North

4:00-5:30 pm

DIS-North Exhibit Hall Room BC

Monday, June 25

8:00-10:00 a.m.

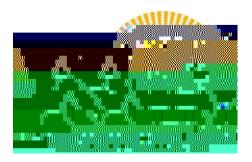
DIS-Castle A & B

10:30-12:00 p.m.

DIS-Monorail B & C

This past year has gone quickly! Sadly, ALA Annual means my term as Chair of LES will be officially over. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers, committee members, and everyone in the section for their support and dedication to LES I've really enjoyed working with such a wonderful group of people and highly recommend everyone find a way to become more involved in section activities. I look forward to seeing you all in Anaheim.

Faye Christenberry LESChair, 2011-2012



Find updated program details and speaker information on the ACRL at Annual Conference Web page. Go to <a href="www.acrl.org">www.acrl.org</a>, select "Conferences & Continuing Education," and dick on "ACRL @ ALA Annual Conference 2012" for the latest!

Locations for programs and meetings will be available on the ALA Web site approximately one month prior to the beginning of Annual Conference; look for the "Event Planner" link on the ALA Annual Conference Web site at <a href="https://www.ala.org/annual">www.ala.org/annual</a>. Fully registered attendees can create a personalized agenda and search for meeting, program, and event times and locations.

by Sarah Wenzel

If I had to make a list of items on their way off of the list of fads and those coming into the limelight, out would go the "Digital Humanities" and in would come "Bectronic Literature" and "New Media." Not that there still isn't a strong focus on the digital humanities, but it seemed more mainstream, and although for the most part projects using digital humanities methodolog

doing?' session.) What was most interesting to me regarding the digital humanities as such was an ongoing discussion of methodology not as it relates to computers or 'the digital,' but as it relates to the 'old school' textual analysis that it both requires and celebrates. A type of methodology that has been suspect for the last 30 years or so as theoretical approaches have reigned supreme (and may have driven more than one budding scholar into the welcoming arms of librarianship) may be re-emerging. Perhaps this change in scholarly values may also underlie the difficulty that digital humanities scholars are having in seeking tenure and articulating the importance of their work?

A common theme in several sessions about the digital humanities and in Alan Rauch's paper on "The Cost of Knowledge for Scholarly Editors: A Polemic" is that editing, textual analysis, the scholarly edition, etc. are exactly the type of work that makes up Digital Humanities writ large. I cannot help but wonder how this swing towards the physical, practical and computational will affect librarians and our interact

Discussion Group, which continues to draw together librarians and faculty members to discuss issues of interest to both professions. Bob Kieft, after successfully coordinating two programs, one shared with the Council of Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ), has handed over the leadership to the most able & efficient David Oberhelman.

Our program was "Preservation Is (Not) Just Another Word for Nothing Left to Lose," with speakers John Kiplinger, JSTOR; Laura C. Mandell, Texas A&M Univ., College Station; Jeff Wilensky, ProQuest; John Wilkin, HathiTrust Digital Library; and respondent Joan Lippincott, Coalition for Networked Information. One key point I walked away with, thinking of the many times I've not preserved a physical object because it's available online, are real concerns about retention of variant editions and texts and my library school professor's dictum about the 'duplicity of duplicates.' This will be the topic of our program, which has been approved, for 2013.

The program coordinated with the CELJwas entitled "Learned Journals and Libraries: Knowledge Economies and Economics of Knowledge." Alan Rauch's paper dealt with the cost of and to scholarly editors for the work they do, which he sees as rarely counted when it comes to tenure and promotion decisions. "Collaborative Economies: Tools and Strategies for Scholars and Libraries" was presented by Harriett Green, based on a study at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. I was particularly drawn to Bill Thompson's exposition of the symbolic value of libraries in "Chaos and Cohesion: Digital Fragmentation and the Learned Journal in the Library of Now." Bob Kieft responded eloquently in evoking the many roles that form the scholarly economy.

This fall, the discussion group elected Patricia M. Hswe to a five-year term on the executive committee. We have two nominees for the open position next year.

For the 2013 Convention we will be copresenting with the Computers Discussion Group on joint degree programs, in addition to the aforementioned program about how to preserve our print legacy.

As a liaison I continue to build and support relationships between the MLA and ACRL; much of that networking happens at the MLA Convention. Indirectly related to my liaison role, I would like librarians to find ways to encourage, foster awareness of, catalog and consider the archiving of digital humanities and new media projects. I would also like to see literature explicitly engaged in conversations with new media and game studies, at least in the library world.

Association of Internet Researchers, an academic association dedicated to the advancement of the cross-disciplinary field of Internet studies. (www.aoir.org)

TypeWright, a tool for correcting the textversion of a document made up of page images. The Nominating Committee seeks the active involvement of everyone in the section to help us identify leaders for the Literatures in English Section.

We invite you to send us an email if you are interested in the position of Vice-Chair/Chair-Bect, Secretary, or Member-at-Large. We would also be interested in receiving the names of people you think would be strong candidates for these positions. The Nominating Committee will be developing a slate of candidates over the next few months. Our contact information is:

Liorah Golomb (Chair), <u>Igolomb@ou.edu</u> Laura Braunstein, <u>Irb@dartmouth.edu</u> Rob Melton, <u>rmelton@ucsd.edu</u>

The Secretary and Member-at-Large serve for one year, while the Vice-Chair/Chair-Bect serves three: one as Vice-Chair, one as Chair, and one as Immediate Past Chair. Below are basic job descriptions of the Vice Chair/Chair-Bect and the Secretary, from the LES Covernance Procedures. The Member-at-Large has no specific job duties.

F3. Duties of Officers.

F3a. Chair. The chair shall be the chief executive of the Section, the chair of the Executive Committee, and one of the Section's representatives to the ACRL Leadership Council and the ACRL Sections Council [note: ACRL has eliminated Sections Council but may hold online meetings instead]. The chair is responsible for section projects pursued during his or her term, administration of requests for budget allocations and reimbursement of expenses, and submission of reports on all Section activities to the ACRL Board. The chair is also responsible for

scheduling Section programs, meetings, and events at the Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Conference.

F3b. Vice-Chair/Chair-Flect. The vice-chair/chairelect shall plan and coordinate all programs and projects to be pursued during his or her term as chair, and shall make appointments of all standing committee members and chairs whose terms will begin during his or her term as chair. The vice-chair/chair elect shall be responsible for submitting budget requests for his or her term as chair, participating in ACRL budget orientation, and responding to inquiries relating to the Section. The vice-chair/chair-elect serves on the Executive Committee and the ACRL Conference Program Planning Committee. He or she serves as a substitute on the ACRL Leadership Council and the ACRL Sections Council when either the chair or the immediate past-chair is unable to attend.

F3c. Immediate Past-Chair. The immediate pastchair serves on the Executive Committee and is ex-officio on the Planning Committee. He or she also serves on the ACRL Leadership Council and the ACRL Sections Council.

F3d. Secretary. The secretary shall be responsible for maintenance of all Section records and for recording the minutes of all Section and Executive Committee business

## by Liorah Golomb

Thinking back to library school, how did your concept of academic librarianship match up with your current reality? Your day might involve consulting with a student on a research project, teaching a class, acquiring or weeding materials, working at a reference desk, dealing with a frustrated faculty member, attending a meeting, working on your own research project, or evaluating your collection. It is probably not quite what you pictured in school.

Many library school students would like to share our busy work lives for a day to get a real-world sense of what we do. To that end, in 2010 LES established a pilot program to match hosts with job shadowers considering a career in academic humanities librarianship. Arianne Hartsell-Gundy designed the program, applied for and was granted a modest sum of money from ACRL Friends for advertising and host-shadow lunches, and administered it during and after her term as LES Member-at-Large. I took it over from Arianne, and in January I contacted library schools to promote the program.

The response has been truly overwhelming. There are many more shadow applicants than hosts, and we need LES members all over the U.S and Canada to host these students. The commitment is only for a day, or whatever arrangement you make with your shadow.

. Several LES

members have already hosted, including myself, and it has been by and large an enjoyable

suggested I share the wealth with my colleagues.

Anna Barker taught me the previously unknown expression "lone arranger" to describe archiving positions where the librarian/archivist works in a solo environment. While her work at the Smithsonian sounded fascinating, she finds her job rather isolated and hopes to find a more collegial environment to practice her considerable skills. A visit to the Prints and Photographs Division (www.loc.gov/rr/print/) is always a treat for me, so I was glad to accompany Anna on a tour where she learned about the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (<u>www.loc.gov/pictures/</u>), the pilot project loading some of the collections on Rickr, and the variety of patrons that division serves.

While Keeley is also just starting her program at Catholic University, she had a great deal of archival experience in Michigan libraries and at the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian. A visit to the Manuscript Division was arranged, and I suggested that material from the Margaret Mead papers be included. Keeley and I were thrilled to handle Mead's field notebooks from Samoa and learn that she had special pockets designed to hold the unusually-sized notebooks. Keeley also had the opportunity to attend the Reference Forum, a monthly program that brings reference staff from throughout the Library together. The February program featured a presentation by Dr. Jeremy Adamson, Director of Collections and Services, about his vision for the reading rooms and reference services. She also had the opportunity to attend training for those of us participating in the Library's ⊟ection 2012 Web Archive project

(<u>lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/lcwa/html/lcwa-home.html</u></u>). Needless to say, Keeley got little time on the reference desk or learning about

other aspects of my daily duties. Some days are just packed with meetings and programs!

We have had many retirements from the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, but few new hires in recent years. It is always rewarding to have an opportunity to speak with people just entering our field and to feel their enthusiasm for libraries and, of course, the Library of Congress. It keeps us from getting jaded and reminds us that we have great jobs not that I need reminding as I walk into the glory of the Main Reading Room (www.loc.gov/rr/main/) each day. While the deadline for the Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program (www.loc.gov/hr/jrfellows/) at the Library of Congress had just conduded, I made certain to tell all of my shadows about this possibility for future years. Many divisions in the Library offer intern or practicum opportunities for library sch

# by Ammie Harrison

"I had no idea you existed!"

As the Arts and Humanities Librarian at my university, I hear this frequently from students. So do my colleagues who provide reference to other departments. Most students do not know that I exist until after they have reached the "point of need," or I dazzle them when their professor has dragged them into the library for a session on how to research.

"You mean I could have been coming to you for the last two years when I was frustrated? Why wasn



ACRL 2013: Imagine, Innovate, Inspire April 10-13, 2013 Indianapolis

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### Registration opens May 2012

Watch the <u>conference Website</u> for registration materials. Register by the early-bird deadline of February 22, 2013, and save more than 20 percent on conference registration. Special group registration prices, reduced airfares, hotel discounts, and scholarships are also available.

Celebrated line-up of keynote speakers

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The host of NPR's and

has informed millions of Americans with her social and economic justice reporting. Join us for her keynote address,

Henry Rollins

Singer/Actor/Poet/Activist/Raconteur and one of the most thought provoking individuals of our time joins ACRL for a unique and engaging evening of spoken word.