

# ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 17, no. 3, November 2007

## From the President...

by Jean Donham

As I write this, I am anticipating our leadership transition meeting coming up in December. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Iowa Chapter President this year. Our board has worked hard this year on maintaining long-standing activities and initiating several new programs to invigorate our chapter. I want to thank every member of the board for the work they have done and to highlight some particularly ambitious activities:



- **Newsletter.** Kate Hess and her committee have done outstanding work to create an electronic newsletter that has substance and good looks.
- **Electronic communication.** Ryan Gjerde has given us hours of time in transporting our website to a new host and updating the content in the process. We can boast a website with substance and good looks.
- **Awards.** Besides continuing our existing awards, Rebecca Stuhr and her committee have launched two new initiatives: The Advocacy Grant recently presented to the University of Dubuque and the Research Award to be presented for the first time in 2008.
- **Conference Planning.** The 2007 spring conference committee was led by Brett Cloyd. Our conference at Grinnell offered good substance and reaped a nice financial outcome as a result of very good management. The 2008 conference committee is already hard at work and promises to make good use of the outcomes from the 2007 conference to bring us an event worth attending at St. Ambrose in March 3. Mark your calendar! Keynoter will be nationally known Roberto Ibarra on the topic of advocating for your library, supported in part by a grant from ACRL.
- **Your Executive Board** has considered carefully what kinds of programming will best benefit our membership. These discussions have led to a new ad hoc task force on mentoring, as well as support for the ILAF Endowed Speaker Fund, ILA's Leadership Institute, programming for our support staff, and membership awareness of legislative issues and topics.

In closing, I urge you to watch for news about the 2008 ILA Leadership Institute. It will be held in late July. Iowa colleges and universities have many capable librarians whom we need as leaders in our profession and our association. I encourage you to apply for the Institute and/or encourage colleagues to apply. There is so much talent among us—and the need for leadership is great and growing!

Again, thank you for your confidence and support this year. I look forward to working with Mary Heinzman as she takes the gavel in December.

## **Important Announcements**

### **An Important Notice On Membership Renewals**

The Iowa Library Association membership year runs from January to December, and the ILA/ACRL membership year is the same. This means that everyone's membership will expire in December, regardless of when they renewed their membership. Why is this bit of information so important? The Iowa chapter of ACRL actually receives a dollar per member from the national ACRL. We received \$154.00 for 2007, but as of October 1 we had over 180 members. ACRL counts our chapter membership in the late spring before a number of people renew their membership. Please help support your local Iowa ACRL chapter by renewing your ILA/ACRL membership in January 2008. Thank you!

*Betsy Gardner, Membership Committee Chair*

### **Call for Proposals for the Iowa ACRL Spring Conference**

St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA, will host the Iowa ACRL Spring Conference on Monday (yes, Monday!) March 3, 2008. The conference theme is Activating Advocacy: the Many Roles of Academic Libraries, and the keynote speaker will be Roberto A. Ibarra, Ph.D., of the University of New Mexico. You can look forward to “a provocative speaker and leading researcher on diversity initiatives in higher education.” (ACRL web site)

Librarians, library support personnel, faculty, and collaborators from academic libraries are invited to submit presentation proposals on topics relevant to academic library advocacy, broadly interpreted. The deadline for submitting presentation proposals is November 28, 2007.

Instructions for submitting proposals, the proposal form and proposal criteria are available on the [ILA/ACRL web site](#). Registration information will be posted on the Iowa ACRL web site in January. Send questions to Jan Dellinger, Conference Planning Committee chair, [jdellinger@hawkeyecollege.edu](mailto:jdellinger@hawkeyecollege.edu).

*Jan Dellinger, Spring Conference Committee Chair*

## **Announcing the ILA-ACRL's Research Award!**

The Iowa ACRL Awards committee announces a \$500 grant to be awarded to an ILA/ACRL Chapter member for a presented or published scholarly work. Please consider submitting your own work, or nominating a colleague for this award! The following rules and qualifications apply:

- A qualifying presented paper must be text-based and have been delivered at a regional, national or international conference.
- A qualifying published paper is to have appeared in a scholarly journal.
- A qualifying book is to be scholarly in nature.
- The subject matter of the material submitted may be on any scholarly topic.
- The papers should have been delivered or published since October of 2005.
- Power point slides, video or audio submissions will not be considered.
- Entries may be self-submitted or nominated.
- Entries will be considered by the Awards Committee on the basis of a blind ranking process.
- If the committee finds that none of the entries are meritorious, it may decide not to make an award.
- The deadline for submissions is December 15. The results of this process should be announced by mid January.

Please send your submissions by mail to: Rebecca Stuhr, Awards Committee Chair, 1111 6th Ave, Burling Library, Grinnell, Iowa 50112; or as a word attachment by email: [stuhrr@grinnell.edu](mailto:stuhrr@grinnell.edu). Committee members are : Sheryl Taylor, Joyce Meldrem, Selina Lin, and Chris Neuhaus.

*Submitted by Rebecca Stuhr, Awards Committee Chair*

## Fall 2007 ILA Session: Planning and Growing the OhioLINK Consortium

**Julia Gammon, University of Akron, Chair of OhioLink Consortium**

Gammon, sponsored by the Iowa ACRL section, was invited to ILA to speak to a growing interest on the part of many academic librarians in exploring possible consortial arrangements in Iowa. She gave an overview of the history and functionality of OhioLINK, and later offered advice, cautioning that OhioLINK's system is only one of many possible approaches to creating consortia.



OhioLINK's philosophy is that everyone gets the same services, even the smaller institutions that are paying less according to the sliding scale. An important feature is multiple pickup places: one can borrow a book in one town and return it in another. Patrons also respond well to ordering online, with no librarian intermediary. They typically get the book in two days.

The main challenge in establishing OhioLINK was politics: fear of change, fear of loss of autonomy, and mistrust of partners and other ways of doing things. To minimize these problems, Gammon recommends keeping things low-key: keep everything voluntary, invite people to participate, be sure to have enthusiastic people on committees, and design a training and education plan. In Ohio, librarians proved to be better at selling the consortium than vendors, even those with library degrees.

Research continues to be important. In 2007, a collection assessment created by OhioLink and OCLC includes questions about usage: what subjects were being used or not used, who is using them, identifying duplication and determining circulation percentages. Gammon shared preliminary data, including the need for soft and hard caps on buying, predictability on what will be purchased and retained by looking at several years of data (for example, the increase in electronic book purchasing) and plans to create a centralized collection development unit—the most radical step so far.

Gammon suggested some ideas for Iowa, pointing out that a study group at the beginning is essential. Iowa's strengths are the school and state libraries; building on them would be wise. Be bold, she suggests, call it a Cooperative Consortia, not a buying group. This is bigger and more extensive than a buying club.

A vigorous question and answer session followed the talk. Some questions included:

Q: How does the delivery system work? How are lending institutions selected for a particular request?

A: OhioLINK uses random delivery requests to prevent overburdening any one (i.e. large) institution.

Q: Have any institutions joined OhioLINK, then later quit?

A: Only one in the history of OhioLINK has quit. Even Antioch, with its business problems, has been able to stay in the consortium.

Q: How do vendors determine costs?

A: There is a lot of variety in vendor systems.

OhioLink can be visited at <http://www.ohiolink.edu/>

*Submitted by Suzanne Araas Vesely, Newsletter Committee*

## **Fall 2007 ILA Session: Cultivating a Consortium for Iowa**

**A Panel Discussion with (L to R) Nancy Seamans of the University of Iowa, Jane Campagna of Scott Community College, Becky Mather of the AEA, Julia Gammon, and Mary Wegner of the State Library of Iowa**



Julie Gammon stayed for a second session, moderating a panel discussion on the current status and future potential for consortial agreements among Iowa Libraries. Each participant first shared their own involvement in a corsotium or cooperative agreement in Iowa.

Becky Mather described the many services provided to Iowa libraries by the [IEC](#), including deeply discounted prices on office and janitorial supplies, AV and computer equipment, and software and database subscriptions. Mather asserted that many schools would not be able to afford database subscriptions without the help of this consortium.

Jane Campagna gave the audience a brief history and overview of the consortial arrangements between libraries of all types in the Quad Cities area. [PALS](#) (formerly Quad-LINK) began in the 1980's as a way for area libraries to share resources. This group has a shared catalog, continuing education programs, book delivery arrangements among the member libraries, and group purchasing for office products. Campagna stated that although PALS has its issues to contend with -- among them the problem of academic libraries having less of a voice in the organization -- "students wouldn't be served as well without" the consortium.

Campagna also touched on the [ICCOC](#), which is a consortium of community colleges, not just their libraries. Among the services offered through the consortium are WebFeat federated search system and continuing education opportunities. This group is also not without its problems, but Campagna passed on one bit of advice regarding consortiums: "everybody needs to play fair"!

Nancy Seamans discussed some of the "cooperative arrangements" the regents universities have, and mentioned in particular the University of Iowa's focus on having a stronger relationship with the [Committee on Institutional Cooperation](#) (CIC). Seamans had obviously thought a lot of issues around consortiums and other possible cooperative arrangements among libraries, expressing many thoughtful and engaging comments and questions. She and other at the UI are interested in "expanding the possibilities of what a shared institutional resource might be". She suggested the next step might be an inventory of collaborations already taking place in libraries of all types all over Iowa.

Mary Wegner gave an excellent summary of all the State Library does to support our libraries, the main services being the SILO Locator union catalog, discounted FirstSearch and EBSCOhost databases, and support of resource sharing by providing partial reimbursement for ILL costs. In Wegner's view, the big hurdle in Iowa to having a statewide consortium is that Iowans are "big on local control", with very few libraries having even a shared catalog. She asserted that any consortium would be financially challenging for the state, but that we first need to clarify what the need is, and start having discussions about what is possible.

*Submitted by Kate Hess, Newsletter Committee*

## Fall 2007 ILA Session: Library Reorganization in the Face of Changing Realities

**Roxanne Sellberg, Northwestern University**

“I’ll never look at a reorganization in quite the same way again.”

This comment was representative of those heard at the close of Roxanne Sellberg’s presentation at the 2007 ILA annual conference. Sellberg, Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services at Northwestern University, took listeners on a whirlwind tour of the lifecycle of an organizational structure and referred to reorganization as one of the few tools available to management that has the power to bring profound change to the workplace.



Most reorganizations are triggered by external events—a new manager, a staff turnover, a major change in workflow or a crisis. As a result, disadvantages inherent in the current structure that have been ignored become more obvious. Seeing opportunity, administrators tend to capitalize on the event and issue a call for change—one that, likely as not, is long overdue. Primary concepts are identified, a new vision is developed, plans are made and the restructuring is implemented. After the initial difficulties are overcome, the staff adjusts, the reorganization becomes the norm, the new structure begins to age and the seeds of its obsolescence are sown.

According to Sellberg, reorganizing a library’s Technical Services Department brings with it an interesting set of challenges and opportunities. The nature of the work and the individuals drawn to it make for an organizational structure that leans toward stability and control to the detriment of vitality and risk-taking. Conversely, Technical Services staff tends to care about organizational charts and is committed to the operation—characteristics that make reinventing the organizational chart an ideal way to change direction and influence behavior.

The presentation came complete with caveats for the would-be organizer. Sellberg’s experiences have led her to conclude most successful reorganizations are those solidly grounded in the work to be accomplished while those imposed to keep up with the latest management trends are less likely achieve the desired result. The speaker also cautioned against overuse of the reorganization tool. Profound change, if ongoing, is disruptive, can damage productivity and destabilize the operation.

Roxanne Sellberg closed with a thought for staff and managers alike. “Reorganization brings positive change—embrace it.” Her presentation was sponsored by the RTSD and LAMA forums.

*Submitted by Randy Roeder, Newsletter Committee*



## **ILA Conference Scholarship Award Winners**

The following letter of thanks was submitted by ILA Scholarship Award winner, Dan Gall, Coordinator of Library Instruction for Distance Education at the University of Iowa:

*The conversations all went something like this...*

*Me: "I've only been in Iowa for about 10 weeks..."*

*ILA member: "Great! Welcome to Iowa!!"*

*Iowa has a reputation for friendly people and friendly ILA members were certainly the highlight of my day at the conference. From the new members' breakfast through the evening reception, I was pleased, though not surprised, at the genuine warmth people showed me. And not just me – throughout the day I took time to notice what was going on around me and found busy librarians taking time to greet old friends, introduce new friends and make connections. Even during the afternoon hours spent volunteering at the registration desk – time when few were registering and anyone coming to the registration table was there because of a problem – people were consistently friendly. This was especially noteworthy to me because, being a new guy, I could only rarely help them with their problems.*

*I was also impressed with the breadth of the sessions, even though I was forced to make some hard choices. As a distance education librarian, do I focus on the sessions targeted to academic librarians or do I attend the sessions focused on the public libraries many of my distance education students are probably using? Do I focus on the new technology sessions that interest me or on sessions that might give me more background on libraries in Iowa? Tough choices - but a wonderful problem to have.*

*Regardless of the sessions, though, the ILA conference for me was a wonderful opportunity to meet my new colleagues in Iowa. Having talked with public and academic librarians and learned a bit more about Iowa, I'm happy to join you.*

*I give my thanks to the ILA/ACRL for the conference scholarship. I enjoyed meeting some of you at and after the business meeting on Thursday and hope to meet more of you over time.*

### **Scholarship Provides Professional Experience for New Librarian**

The following letter comes from scholarship recipient Sarah Frye of Vogel Library, Wartburg College

*As a recipient of an ILA/ACRL scholarship, I had the opportunity to attend this year's ILA Fall Conference [...] my first experience attending a professional conference. I was somewhat unsure of what to expect from the event; at the Opening General Session, I was pleased to find myself engrossed by Chris Crutcher's vivid storytelling [...] I enjoyed Crutcher's opening session so*



*much that I hurried to find a seat at his concurrent session. Crutcher's sessions helped me recognize that, as someone who has worked primarily within an academic setting, I have dealt with issues surrounding intellectual freedom much less frequently than my colleagues in school and public libraries. This reinforced my appreciation for academia and for writers who risk criticism and censorship in order to tell their stories.*

*After lunch, I attended Dr. James Elmborg's session on "The Future of Library Education" and Sharman Bridges Smith's session "Observations from Ground Zero: Lessons Learned from Katrina." Elmborg's message made me think about how new librarians and established librarians have much to learn from each other's insight and experiences in the field[...]*

*At the ACRL Subdivision Business Meeting and later at the Banquet, I had the opportunity to meet many new colleagues from across the state. This diverse network of practicing librarians is perhaps the most valuable resource available to me as I am new to the profession and new to Iowa. Amongst all the unfamiliar faces, I have to say that I was surprised to bump into several classmates from Indiana University. (Go Hoosiers)!*

*On Friday, I attended both of Stephen Abram's sessions: "Social Libraries: The 2.0 Phenomenon" and "Baby Busters, Gen X, and Born Digital Babies." Abram, like Elmborg, addressed the importance of staying in touch with current trends within the field. I thought that Abram's message was particularly powerful because I plan to work directly with college-aged students throughout my career. I can't imagine the amount of change I will encounter between now and the time that I retire, but I realize that I will always have something new to learn!*

*Overall, I was pleased with the variety of topics covered in sessions at the conference. More importantly, I was pleased to meet so many librarians with the desire to continue learning within the profession. I think it is easy to allow yourself to explore new ideas and to stay well-informed of current library trends as a graduate student. It becomes more difficult, however, once you begin a career. Good librarians recognize this and commit themselves to the goal of professional development[...] I had a wonderful experience at the conference and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.*

## **News from Iowa Academic Libraries**

### **Charles C. Myers Library, University of Dubuque**

Paul Waelchli, Assistant Director for Library Instruction and Public Services, was included in The Chronicle of Higher Education's "The Wired Campus" on July 12. Waelchli posted a curriculum map of fantasy football based on ACRL information literacy standards on his blog Research Quest ([researchquest.blogspot.com](http://researchquest.blogspot.com)). Research Quest has had over 9,000 page views since January. Paul Waelchli is also profiled on the ACRL members web site.

Anne Marie Gruber, Reference and Instruction Librarian, and Paul Waelchli presented a paper at the Third Annual Des Moines Area Community College Information Literacy Forum titled "Students: 171, Instruction Sessions: 32, Success: Priceless."

Jonathan Helmke, Assistant Director for Library Systems and Technical Services, and Susan Reiter, Cataloging and Interlibrary Loan Assistant, presented a paper at the Midwest Interlibrary Loan Conference at Loras College last spring titled "Docline & ILLiad Working Together: It's All in the Macros".

Jonathan Helmke and Meryem Ouahbi, Acquisitions Assistant, presented a paper at the Midwest Sirsi/Dynix annual meeting at Loras College titled "JTACQ: A Collection Development Purchasing Agent."

Jonathan Helmke is Vice-Chair of the Iowa OCLC Users Group's Digital Initiatives Section and serves on the IOUG Executive Board.

The University of Dubuque hosted Mary Swander, Iowa poet and Distinguished Professor of English at Iowa State, as part of their Arts Celebration Week in April. Mary Anne Knefel, University Librarian, chaired that Committee.

We have been busy with information literacy. Last year, the librarians taught 384 information literacy sessions.

*Submitted by Mary Anne Knefel, University Librarian*

### **Hawkeye Community College Library**

The Grand Opening of the new [WPL@HCC](#) Fiction Collection took place on September 6, 2007. The festivities included a ribbon cutting ceremony and special remarks by HCC Vice President Galen Howsare and Waterloo Mayor Tim Hurley. This partnership between the Hawkeye Community College and Waterloo Public Libraries is beneficial for both libraries. The HCC library is able to provide current, popular fiction to our students, and the WPL has a remote presence on the campus located on the south edge of the city. The books in this collection are purchased, cataloged, and processed by WPL, but housed in the HCC Library. WPL library cards are required to check out the items, but HCC library staff are able to issue WPL cards, if needed.

*Submitted by Judy Mitchell, Reference Librarian*

### **Vogel Library, Wartburg College**

Sarah Frye, a new information literacy librarian and recent library school graduate, was an ILA/ACRL scholarship recipient for the recent ILA Conference.

Karen Shostrom Lehmann is serving as Interim College Librarian for the 2007-2008 school year at Wartburg College's Vogel Library. She has been an Information Literacy Librarian at the college since 2000 and prior to that she was the media specialist at Hampton-Dumont High School.

Alan Mask is our new Systems Librarian. Alan has also been a librarian at Central College and Des Moines University.

Vogel Library has been recognized as "Best of Show" winner in its division of the American Library Association's Annual Conference contest, Swap n' Shop 2007: Best of Show competition in Calendars of Events/Newsletters for their collaboration with Pathways to create an Academic Calendar for first-year students. This calendar provided first-year students with important dates, tips, and information about the services that the library and Pathways provided. The calendar was created by information literacy librarian Kimberly Babcock Mashek. The judges received 420+ entries for the competition from across the U.S. and Canada. The award was presented on June 24, at the LAMA Public Relations Swap and Shop at the ALA Annual conference this year in Washington, DC. This is the second "Best of Show" award for the Vogel Library. Last year the library was awarded a "Best of Show" award for their [website](#), which is also designed and updated by Kim Mashek.

*Submitted by Karen S. Lehmann, Interim College Librarian & Information Literacy Librarian*

### **Loras College**

The Loras College Library celebrated its 5th Birthday on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 during Wednesday "Common Time". We put up a tent out on the lawn where students could get refreshments and prizes; staff could learn about our DVD, popular reading and books on tape/CD collections; and faculty could pick up brochures for their Division that included a picture of their liaison and contact information, a prioritized list of databases for their Division, their acquisitions budget for this year, and the amount their Division spent last year. We had cookies and punch for all, and it was a very successful event.

The Library staff participated in Homecoming this year by creating displays for the honored years of alumni, by giving tours of the Library, and by giving away koozies and sports bottles at the tailgate. While it's a lot of work, the alumni are very appreciative!

The Library has been doing "Thursdays at the Library" where we serve free coffee for 1 ½ hours in the morning. In the afternoons we serve free lemonade and iced tea in the warmer months and hot chocolate and spiced cider in the colder months. We've been doing this for five semesters and it continues to grow in popularity.

This past summer, the Library staff worked on reorganizing the space in the library. After having students use the building for 5 years, we felt we needed to reorganize a bit to move from being a formal living room on campus, to being the family room of campus. We've done some simple things like change around the furniture, and created more comfortable "group study" areas in the middle of the stacks. Over the next year, we'll remove some periodicals shelves and some reference shelves to create more gathering spaces.

*Submitted by Joyce Meldrem, Loras College Library Director*

### **Dunn Library, Simpson College**

We survived our ceiling renovation. [See our website](#) for before, during and after photos. When we reopened August 20, we offered a new study room, large screen TV area, more lighted study tables and more soft seating.

*Submitted by Cynthia (Cyd) M. Dyer, College Librarian/Archivist/Professor.*

### **University of Iowa Libraries**

Retirements:

Becky Johnson, former head of the Reference and Library Instruction Department, retired effective September 19, 2007. Johnson accepted a position at the University of Iowa Libraries after graduating from the School of Library Science of the University of Washington in 1970. She served in the various incarnations of the of the Libraries' Reference Department for 37 years.

Appointments:

Jeremy Brett joined the Special Collections Department as Project Librarian effective October 1, 2007. Brett received his Masters degrees in Library Science and History from the University of Maryland at College Park and has most recently served as Assistant University Archivist for Records at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Gabriel Duque was appointed Residency Program Reference Librarian for the Reference & Library Instruction Department effective July 23, 2007. Duque has an MS in Information Science from SUNY at Albany.

Daniel Gall has been appointed Coordinator of Library Services for Distance Education for the Reference and Library Instruction Department effective July 30, 2007. Gall has an MLIS from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has most recently served as Reference Librarian for Off-Campus Library Services at Central Michigan University.

Von Yeager joined the Reference & Instruction Department as Reference Librarian on August 6, 2007. Yeager earned his MLS at the University of Pittsburgh.

Exhibits:

In celebration of Halloween, the University of Iowa Libraries unlocked the archives to expose artifacts on grave-robbing, demon conjuring, local hauntings, and other spooky subjects covered in the University's collection of rare books, manuscripts, and ephemeral publications. Librarians from Special Collections, University Archives, and the Hardin Library for Health Sciences' John Martin Rare Book Room discussed highlights from their collections at a presentation titled "Ghosts From the Stacks" on October 31st. A corresponding online exhibit of artifacts, including the early 20th century Halloween cartoons of Pulitzer-prize-winning Iowa cartoonist Ding Darling and ghostly cover art from the teen sleuth novels of UI alumna Mildred Wirt Benson, is currently featured on the [Iowa Digital Library website](#).

*Submitted by Randy Roeder, Newsletter Committee*