

At the Crossroads: Assessing and responding to change

Highlights of ACRL programs at ALA's Annual Conference: Part II

Adjusting to change, making room for multiculturalism, and assuring continued progress, both technological and social were some of the issues covered by ACRL at ALA's 112th Annual Conference in New Orleans. Highlights of some ACRL programs are given below; part one appeared in September. (See the September issue for information on ordering audiotapes of selected programs.)

The role of libraries in conceptualizing American history

"Portraits of Louisiana: Empowering Communities through Diversity," a multi-media program presented by the Anthropology and Sociology Section, was set within the larger debate current in American society concerning who we are and how to conceptualize our history. Four speakers discussed the documentation of selected groups, the role of libraries and archives in that endeavor, and the importance of that role towards resolving the debate. Joint sponsors were ACRL Afro-American Studies Librarians Section, ACRL Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee and the Reference and Adult Services Division History Section.

Florence Borders (archivist, Center for African and African American Studies, Southern University at New Orleans) spoke eloquently of the historical accomplishments of Afro-Louisiana women and described her efforts to increase access to their documentation. As founder of the Chicory Society for Afro-Louisiana History and Culture and editor of the *Chicory Review*, she created her own vehicle for that purpose. Irvan Perez (a spokesperson for the St. Bernard Isleño community, Louisiana) described Isleño history and culture and his concerns with preserving it. He also sang three decimas, traditional Spanish songs that form an important part of the group's oral his-

tory. Ulysses Ricard (Senior Archivist, Amistad Research Center) spoke authoritatively of Louisiana's Creoles and others of African descent in early Louisiana. He referred to his ongoing collection and study of their historical documentation. He described the Amistad Research Center's mission and how such collections broaden our understanding of minorities' contributions. Finally, Marcia Gaudet (folklorist, University of Southwestern Louisiana) spoke of the history and multi-faceted culture of Cajuns, illustrating it with slides from the Cajun rural Mardi Gras. She emphasized the pivotal role libraries and archives play in providing accurate cultural documentation to counteract too often inaccurate images in the media or more popular writings.—*Maggie Dittmore, University of Pennsylvania*

EBSS celebrates 25 years

What does personality theory have to do with the American character, education reform, and AIDS prevention? Quite a lot, according to Dr. Frank Farley, 1993 president of the American Psychological Association and guest speaker at the 25th Anniversary program for the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section. Farley discussed his research on people with the Type-T personality—the highly creative, questing thrill-seekers and risk-takers who are responsible for both human progress and many of the world's most destructive forces. Farley feels Type T is fundamental to the human race; other species play by the rules, but we live in and for the unknown. The survival skill for the 21st century—something educators need to teach their students—will be the ability to deal with change. Education will consist of the four Rs: reading, writing, 'rithmetic, and risk-taking. Type-T kids must be channeled into positive, constructive risk-taking activities at an early age, or they will seek the "T-negative" thrills of delinquency, violence, and crime.

Farley characterized the United States as a Type-T nation, with a relatively high percentage of Type Ts. This may be a result of the

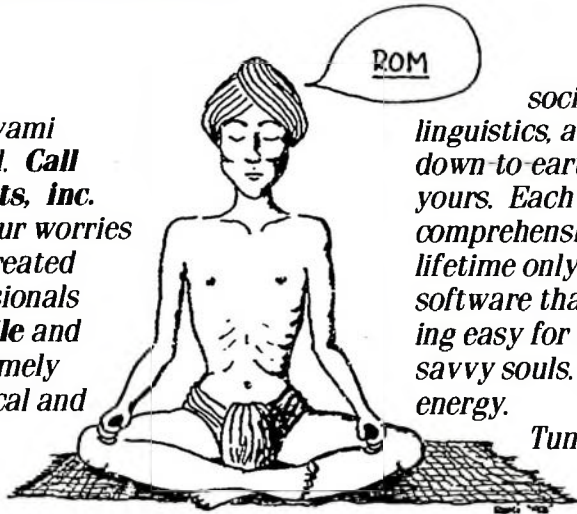
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genetics of our risk-taking immigrant forebears as well as the political and cultural environment they came here to create. The American character itself can be described using Type-T traits such as creativity, a sense of adventure, and a willingness to break the rules.

Type-T personality may be a risk factor for the spread of AIDS in the U.S., according to research Farley has conducted.

Librarians probably have the same percentage of Type Ts as the rest of the population, Farley said. The Type-T personality can facilitate positive change for any organization or profession, including libraries and librarianship.

EBSS recognized the leadership provided by past chairs, many of whom were present, and honored Ruth Bauner for having the longest continuous record of service to EBSS.—*Deborah Rollins, University of Maine*

Techniques & technology: Striving to connect with adult learners

Speakers Mem Catania, Gwendolyn Chandler, and Elizabeth Burge examined the factors that must be considered in preparing to support adult learners and the changes that technology has brought and will continue to bring to the continuing education experience during the Extended Campus Library Services' program.

Four characteristics were identified as being critical to the success of learning experiences for the adult learner: empowerment, relevance to adulthood, informed use of models, and connectedness. The differences between teacher-centered and learner-centered models of learning were presented. Six "Cs" in the program development process were reviewed: create a climate, connect learner to resources, change the agenda, confirm learning, correct misunderstanding, and challenge the individual to learn further. The need for connectedness, the evidence of relationships between one's own and others' knowledge, was explored. The importance of reliable, transparent, and appropriate learning technologies was underscored.—*Kenneth Marks, East Carolina University*

Three approaches to a Brave New World: SEES's special program

The three speakers on the Slavic and East European Section's program: "Brave New World: Slavic and East European Librarianship in the Post-Soviet Era," addressed three critical areas which have been dramatically affected by the recent upheavals in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: collection development, research, and preservation. Harold Leich (Library of Congress) described how traditional

means of centralized bibliographic control, publishing, and distribution in the former Soviet Union have collapsed, which has made acquisitions and collection development in the West more difficult. The critical means for coping with the current Russian book scene are flexibility, contact, communication, and travel. Such initiatives as the survey of the collecting of foreign research materials by the Association of Research Libraries and Library of Congress' library intern program for Russian librarians are helping to create a new world of cooperation.

While granting that scholarly access to library and archival material in Eurasia and Central and Eastern Europe is unprecedented, Carol Erickson (International Research and Exchange Board (IREX)), stated that "the research landscape is without controls or standard policies with regard to 'foreign' scholars." She described the many problems that are increasingly affecting access to materials: deteriorating facilities, staff shortages, preservation problems, lack of equipment such as photocopy machines, new and often exorbitant fees for access, usage, and photocopying. IREX is currently sponsoring many library and archival projects relating to

the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Hans Rütimann (Commission on Preservation and Access) focused on yet another crisis, one on an international scale—preservation of the human record. The world's libraries and archives "are losing, at an alarming rate, an enormous proportion of our collective memory." But there is a growing awareness of the problem, and in a new development richer countries are coming to the aid of less advantaged areas. He spoke of UNESCO's "Memory of the World" program and the European Register of Microform Masters (sponsored in part by the Commission) and other projects. Future success in preservation efforts will depend on continuing international cooperation. Dennis Kimmage (SUNY at Plattsburgh) served as the discussant in this well-attended program.—*Tatiana Barr, Stanford University*

Clear thinking and blunt prose

At the Women's Studies Section program, "Women's Popular Literature: Challenges for the Curriculum and Librarians," Dr. Emily Toth, Louisiana State University—Baton Rouge, addressed the impact of women's literature on

(Continued on page 526)

Mainstream or margins?—RBMS preconference

Exploring survival in an environment of reduced resources and technological innovation, those attending the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section's 34th Preconference heard observations and recommendations of several colleagues. University of Virginia president John Casteen placed special collections at the heart of a research library's "core business of preserving primary sources in their least edited or fictionalized form." For a generation of scholars trained primarily in theory, special collections "are a new and as yet incompletely known source of pleasure which we are eager to explore," stated anthropology professor Judith Goldstein of Vassar College. She cited her own research and that of colleagues as examples of "how the questions we ask point to new uses for old collections." Thriving in the electronic mainstream, asserted University of Washington Library director Betty Bengston, requires increased online accessibility to special collections. "Be prepared to deal with increased usage," added Emory University Library director Joan Gotwals.

UCLA assistant university librarian for technical services Brian Schottlaender advocated "balance between a shrinking pool of cataloging resources and expanding set of access needs" through negotiation of standards with the technical services department. To meet demands of efficiency and scholarship, William Jones, assistant university librarian for collections development and information services at the University of Illinois, Chicago, suggested "more discriminating review of which policies in special collections must be followed to the letter and which may be flexibly applied." Kansas City Public Library director Daniel Bradbury offered the option of de-accessioning in light of a library's overall mission. Summarizing the plenary sessions, UCLA head of special collections David Zeidberg listed ways for special collections to operate more effectively in the overall library context. "Do not let the mainstream control us," he warned. "Rather than being swept along, step out of the flood and review where we are being taken."—*Robert Parks, Pierpont Morgan Library* ■

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Tips for Recruiting New Members

1. Print your name on the "sponsor" line of the attached membership application. Make as many copies as you like.
2. Make a list of prospective members you know personally.
3. Send an application with a personal cover letter outlining the reasons you belong to ACRL to your list.
4. Put a note on your calendar to call each prospect in a week. What else could you do? Put a copy of this brochure in your library newsletter. Take copies of the brochure to local ACRL meetings and programs.

Prize List

- Recruit **one new member** and receive a **\$10** gift certificate.
- Recruit **two new members** and receive a **\$15** gift certificate.
- Recruit **three new members** and receive a **\$20** gift certificate. These certificates are good for any item at the ALA Store, for any item listed in the ALA Graphics Catalog, or for any ACRL publication. The certificates are good through August 31, 1994.
- Recruit **four or more new members** and receive **free membership** in ACRL for one year for yourself, **plus** your name will be placed in a drawing for one **free trip** (airfare and lodging) to the ACRL Seventh National Conference in Pittsburgh, March 29–April 1, 1995.

To be eligible for prizes, forms must be received in the ACRL office by January 29, 1994.

NOTE: This offer does not apply to dues renewal.

Members of the Membership Committee and ACRL staff not eligible for any of the prizes.

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(\$38 special rate for new ALA members and \$35 for ACRL membership)
- ALA members who want to join ACRL** **\$35**
ALA membership no. _____
- Non-salaried, inactive, or retired librarians** **\$61**
(\$26 for ALA, \$35 for ACRL)
- Foreign librarians** **\$80**
Non-U.S. citizens who are not employed in the U.S. or U.S. possessions (\$45 for ALA, \$35 for ACRL)
- Students** **\$54**
Students enrolled at least half-time in a library science program—limit 3 years (\$19 for ALA, \$35 for ACRL)

ACRL membership dues include three free section memberships. You may choose one type-of-library section and two type-of-activity sections. Additional section memberships are \$2 each.

Type-of-library sections (choose one free)

- College Libraries (CLS)
- Community and Junior College Libraries (CJCLS) (OVER)
- University Libraries (ULS)

Preservation video film series developed at IU

- "Basic Preservation Techniques for Libraries and Archives." Baltimore, MD: Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University, 1988. 70 min.
- "Caring for Your Microfilm Collection: The next step in preservation." Ann Arbor, MI: UMI Preservation Division. 13 min.
- "How to Operate a Book." NY: Book Arts Press, School of Library Service, Columbia University, 1986. 29 min.
- "Librarian's Video Primer: Establishing and maintaining your video collection." Chicago: ALA Video, 1988. 21 min.
- "Mark of the Maker: Twinrocker Handmade Paper." Chicago: McGowen Film and Video, 1991. 28 min. (This was nominated for an Academy Award.)
- "Murder in the Stacks." NY: Columbia University Libraries, Preservation Department, 1987. 15 min.
- "Providing a Future for the Past." Ann Arbor, MI: UMI Preservation Division. 13 min.
- "Slow Fires: On the Preservation of the Human Record." Santa Monica, CA: American Film Foundation, 1987. Two lengths available: 30 min. and 60 min.
- "A Tour of Heckman Bindery." North Manchester, IN: Heckman Bindery, Inc., 1991. (P.O. Box 89, North Manchester, IN 46962)

librarians, support staff and student assistants on all Indiana University campuses, teaching faculty and students systemwide (particularly those enrolled in the School of Library and Information Science), Monroe County residents and library donors."

The Preservation Committee, which included four staff and four librarians from a variety of departments and branches was chaired by Dee Mortensen, reference and collections assistant for African studies. "Hard work, good timing and bringing preservation out of the laboratory," made the project successful according to Mortensen.

Ed. note: The 1994 John Cotton Dana Contest deadline is February 8. Copies of the entry forms are available by writing The John Cotton Dana Library PR Awards Contest, The H. W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452. ■

(At the Crossroads *cont. from page 518*)

academics in English Departments. Using humorous anecdotes, she revealed that faculty colleagues and literary critics frequently devalue women's genres because such literature addresses nontraditional subject matter (in-depth discussion of personal relationships) and often contains clear thinking and blunt prose, in contrast to traditional obtuse academic verbiage. The next speaker, Carol Thurston, Austin, Texas, presented her perspective on women readers of popular fiction genres, including romances, mysteries, science fiction, and New Age variations, as well as trends in commercial publishing. She hypothesized that women's genre literature is influenced by gender bias, and thus has lower academic status than male genre fiction, i.e., westerns and mysteries. Kristin Ramsdell, California State University-Hayward, provided a brief history of popular romance fiction and current trends. She stressed that the romance genre is very diverse, and this creates difficulties for collection development and reference service. She then discussed ways to justify purchase of romance literature in academic libraries, as well as specific sources, research collections, access tools, preservation issues, and predominant presses. Finally, Bonita Corliss, Seattle Public Library, presented an overview of lesbian popular literature, including the genres available and the role of women's presses in the last 20 years. She concluded by discussing unique collection development issues, including those related to access, book jobbers, and personal comfort zones for both library personnel and the general public. —*Mary M. Nofsinger, Washington State University* ■

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