

College & Research Libraries

No. 8, September 1970

NEWS

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ACRL Membership Meeting Favors Federation

To the ACRL Membership:

Those who were at Detroit are now well aware of the contents of the final report of the ALA Committee on New Directions, and of the differing and seemingly irreconcilable views on those recommendations. If you were not at the ALA Conference, you should make a point of reading the ACONDA report, which will be made available in the near future. You should also follow, in the library periodicals, the accounts of the membership meetings in order to get some indication of the frustrations, bitterness and divisions amongst the members at Detroit. It was a deeply disturbing experience.

ACRL's Planning Committee and Board of Directors recommended support of the democratization proposals in the ACONDA report, and implementation, as soon as possible, of the first long range ACONDA recommendation, namely for federation. The Committee and Board also favored a type of library, rather than a type of activity, form of organization. They felt that no formal recommendation on reorganization could be made until after the preparation of position papers which would propose a possible organizational structure; identify the goals, directions, and responsibilities of ACRL as a federated component of ALA; and determine the financial implications.

This report was presented to the ACRL membership meeting for open discussion. The sense

of the meeting supported the views of the Planning Committee and the Board of Directors. The ACRL Executive Committee, therefore, will be working on a statement for presentation to the new committee to which ACONDA is now to report back. We will also be appointing a committee to develop the suggested position papers.

However, we recognize that only a small proportion of the total membership of either ALA or ACRL attends the annual conferences. Before we speak for ACRL membership we would like opinions from as wide a representation as possible and for this reason are including in this issue of *CRL News* the pertinent documents. We ask, therefore, that you send your views to any of us listed below. No final commitment to reorganization on the part of ACRL will be made without a mail vote of the membership.

Anne C. Edmonds, President
Philip McNiff, Past President
Joseph Reason, President-Elect
J. Donald Thomas, Executive Secretary

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REORGANIZATION

Academic libraries, as well as other types of libraries, are institutions having a configuration of problems which make them unique institutions in terms of priorities, personnel, and pro-

fessional aims. Failure to recognize this principle and gear the reorganization of ALA to respond to this particular set of requirements would produce general mediocrity throughout the work of the association.

It is therefore recommended that:

- I. ALA become a federation of library associations with a strong central headquarter's secretariat.
- II. Each of the federated associations determine policy in all matters concerning its areas of interest.
- III. ACRL as a federated association be headed by an executive director appointed by the Association of College and Research Libraries. The executive director is responsible to the membership of the association and is responsible for executing policies and programs initiated by the membership, providing staff and setting salaries.
- IV. Membership in ACRL be open to individuals holding a library degree or individuals who by their professional appointment may be designated as having rank equivalent to one holding such a degree.
- V. Membership dues be collected by ACRL with not more than 20 percent allocated to support the ALA secretariat.
- VI. The officers of the federated associations form an executive committee to the ALA secretariat staff. Meetings of this executive committee should be frequent, and task forces (with terminal dates) should be appointed by this advisory body to study interdivisional problems.
- VII. Among the responsibilities of the ALA secretariat be the maintenance of central offices offering various professional and administrative services to the federated association. The advisory group to each office should be composed of representatives appointed by each of the federated associations and should have the responsibility of reporting back to the parent association.

Submitted by: ACRL Planning Committee
29 June 1970

Passed by: ACRL Membership and ACRL
Board of Directors
June 1970

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ACRL Membership	
July 31, 1970	11,588
July 31, 1969	13,171
July 31, 1968	12,604

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NEWS

News Editor, Michael Herbison, Casper College, Casper, Wyoming 82601.

Editor, Richard M. Dougherty, School of Library Science, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13210.

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