ACRL endorses SPARC program

ACRL has endorsed, become an affiliate, and contributed $5,000 to the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), an initiative of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) that aims to reduce the cost of scholarly journals by supporting the introduction of high-quality, lower-cost alternatives to existing high-price titles.

Althea H. Jenkins, ACRL's executive director, said, "ACRL agrees that the challenge of access to scholarly research primarily in the fields of science, technology, and medicine, is a compelling issue of concern to research libraries. ACRL enthusiastically endorses the SPARC initiative and intends to work closely with ARL to advance the goals and projects of SPARC among academic libraries."

SPARC seeks to help scholarly publishers—including learned societies, university presses, start-up ventures, and others—enter markets where prices are high and competition is needed. It expects to reduce the risks of market entry for its publisher-partners and to provide faculty with prestigious and responsive alternatives to current publishing vehicles. SPARC will solicit or encourage the introduction of new titles by providing a ready subscription base and by generating support for SPARC projects from faculty. Membership in SPARC is open to academic institutions, research libraries, and organizations that share SPARC goals and values.

The American Chemical Society (ACS), which publishes 26 peer-reviewed research journals, is SPARC's first partner. The agreement calls for ACS and SPARC to collaborate in creating at least one new ACS scientific journal each year for the next three years. The new journals will be priced at one-quarter to one-third the price of competing titles.

SPARC has also been endorsed by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, the Association of American Universities, the Association of American University Presses, the Big 12 Provosts, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

Siena College begins building new library

Siena College has broken ground on a $13.5 million new library in the heart of the college campus in Loudonville, New York. The building was designed by the distinguished Boston architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. Jay Lucker, librarian emeritus from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, served as the building consultant for the project.

With a capacity for 400,000 volumes, 700 seats, and 500 network connections, the new 71,000 square foot, three-story facility will double the space in the current library, which opened in 1954. The first floor will serve as the hub for library services, housing circulation and reference centers, a new book area, a newspaper and current periodicals lounge, offices, the main web workstation cluster, and a 24-hour general purpose computer lab.

An architect's rendering of Siena College's planned library building, which will be able to house 400,000 volumes, 700 seats, and 500 network connections.

With heavy emphasis on materials and study space, the second floor will house most of the book collection, special collections, faculty rooms, and a student lounge. The audiovisual/reserve center will be located on the lower level.

The front of the library will provide a panoramic view of the main campus quad, flanked by the science building, the main classroom build-

ing, and the old library, which will become a campus center. Students studying in the east reading rooms on all three floors in the back of the building will enjoy a view of trees and mountains. Siena College is a Franciscan college with an enrollment of 2,700 full-time and 600 part-time students.

ACRL seeks proposals for poster sessions

November 1 is the deadline for poster session proposals for ACRL's 9th National Conference, "Racing Toward Tomorrow," which will be held April 8–11, 1999, in Detroit.

Poster sessions are informal presentations featuring successful solutions to problems and unique and innovative library-based projects with important lessons for the academic and research library community. Proposals should address one or more of the conference themes: changing environment, alternate resources, new kinds of learners, multiple roles for librarians, partnerships and competition, and an expanding knowledge base.

Details for preparing a proposal and an application form may be found on the Web at http://www.ala.org/acrl/call4prt.html. Send proposals and direct questions to Glenda S. Neeley, University of Louisville, e-mail: glenda.neely@louisville.edu.

Oct. 15 deadline for ACRL scholarships

Don't miss the October 15, 1998, deadline for applying for an ACRL National Conference Scholarship. Fifty scholarships consisting of complimentary registration (a $255 value) and $250 for travel expenses will be awarded.

The scholarships will provide entry-level librarians (with a special focus on underrepresented minorities) with a professional development experience and expand participation in ACRL's National Conference (April 8-11, 1999 in Detroit). Details about the scholarships and an application form may be found at http://www.ala.org/acrl/confschl.html.

Indiana University named to run Internet2 network

Indiana University has been chosen to run Abilene, a super-fast, fiber-optic data network connecting members of Internet2. Some parts of the network are expected to be up and running as early as November.

The network, named for the storied frontier-era terminus in Abilene, Kansas, is expected to serve more than 130 major research universities with more sophisticated and faster networking capabilities for scholars, researchers, and students (see ALAWON v7, n42, April 20, 1998).

In April, Vice President Gore announced that three large communication and technology companies will contribute more than $500 million in equipment and services to build a faster Internet network. Officials said that improvements in networking may soon lead experts to measure speeds in "LOCs"—the number of times the contents of the Library of Congress could be transmitted per second. Abilene is a project of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development. For more information, go to http://www.ucaid.edu/abilene. (**Ed. note:** *This report was taken from ALAWON, the ALA Washington Office Newsline.)*

Oct. 16 deadline for contest to name *Choice* Web service

ACRL's *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* is holding a contest to come up

ACRL launches new data collection effort

It has been said that there are lies, damn lies, and statistics. Yet for the efficient management of complex institutions such as academic libraries, statistical data are essential. A number of agencies presently collect data on academic library operations; however, many of these efforts are confined to relatively small subsets of the entire academic library universe, or they are years out of date by the time they appear. For large segments of the library community, there are no reliable, timely data readily available.

ACRL has been producing one of those subset publications, a compilation of university library statistics with a relatively small sample size every other year. Beginning in the fall of 1998, however, and continuing thereafter on an annual basis, ACRL will expand the scope of its publication and request data from all academic libraries in the U.S. and Canada.

"I have long considered the restricted universe of the ACRL survey, and the fact that it did not come out every year, as major limiting factors to its usefulness," said William Miller, former president of ACRL and chair of the advisory committee to the project. "This new, annual publication will give us much greater access, especially with its accessibility on the Web."

The information gathered, based on the Association of Research Libraries annual questionnaire, will cover collections, expenditures, staffing, interlibrary loan, and the use of electronic formats.

ACRL will be sending out letters by the end of September requesting your participation in this project. The data collection process will be largely accomplished via the Web, although alternatives will be available for those who do not have access to the Web. Most participants will access the survey instrument on a Web site, complete the form, and submit information electronically; the results will then be compiled and made available both on the Web and in print.

The data will be published each April or May. For easier usability, the data will be reported in four major Carnegie Classifications: doctorate-granting universities, master's degree colleges and universities, baccalaureate colleges, and associate of arts colleges. These data sets will be produced in four print volumes, as well as made available on the Web.

This project is intended to assist anyone wishing to compare management and collection data of comparable institutions in North America. However, the usefulness of the data will depend on the degree to which institutions respond to the request for information.

Please respond!

ACRL urges you to look for the request to participate in this survey, either by filling out the form promptly if you are the person in your organization responsible for doing so, or by forwarding the request to whomever is responsible for completing surveys at your institution. With widespread participation, this project has the potential to produce a comprehensive database that will be invaluable to all segments of the academic library community.

with a short but descriptive name for its new Web-based review service. Known as *Choice Online* during the beta test phase, the new service will include *Choice* reviews from 1988 to present, customized notification of new reviews, special list functions, and more. The projected launch date is January 1999.

The winner may elect to recieve either a New England Clambake, ready to pop on the stovetop and amaze your friends, or $100. Four runners-up will each receive a copy of the new (August 1998) *Choice Web Review Supplement*, which contains reviews of nearly 500 Web sites (a $24 value).

The deadline for entries is October 16. For entry details, visit "News from CHOICE" at http://www.ala.org/acrl/choice/news.html. ■

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