

Welcome to the March 2009 issue of *C&RL News*. It is hard to believe that the ACRL 14th National Conference is almost here. Held March 12–15 in Seattle, the conference offers a wide variety of sessions to help you keep up with the latest in issues, such as advocacy, assessment, collections, and digital initiatives. The virtual conference community provides an opportunity to learn virtually through podcasts, live Webcasts of conference sessions, and dynamic screen captures of every contributed paper and panel session. Visit [www.acrl.org/seattle](http://www.acrl.org/seattle) for complete details.

Assessment is sure to be a big topic of discussion in Seattle. In this issue, Peter Hernon and Robert E. Dugan discuss “Assessment and evaluation” and provide useful working definitions of the terms as they relate to measuring student outcomes.

Campus engagement is a necessary step along the road to assessment and evaluation. David Salinero and Cynthia Beardsley discuss

the concept as it relates to both students and faculty in their article “Enhancing the academic experience.”

Assessing workplace issues such as commitment to diversity can provide insights into building healthy library organizations that can better engage their campus communities. Martha Kyrillidou and M. Sue Baughman highlight the “ClimateQUAL” diversity assessment tool in this issue.

This issue also includes responses from the candidates for ALA president to a set of questions from the ACRL Board of Directors. A list of ACRL members running for ALA Council is also provided. We hope these resources will help you make an informed decision as you vote in the ALA election starting March 17.

As always, make sure to take a look at all of the other articles and columns in this month’s issue. Thanks for reading the *News!*

—David Free, editor-in-chief

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