

ACRL candidates for 2011

A look at who's running for office



Thomas (Tom) Abbott



Steven J. Bell

Vice-president/president-elect

Thomas (Tom) Abbott is dean of libraries and distance learning at the University of Maine-Augusta (UMA), a position he has held since 2005. From 1986 to 2005, he was dean of libraries and instructional support/director of libraries at UMA.

His activities in ACRL included serving as a member of the Task Force on Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (2009–present), and as chair of the Task Force on Academic Librarians' Job Descriptions with CUPA (2006–09). He served on the ACRL Extended Campus Library Services Section, now the Distance Learning Section (DLS), Executive Committee as member-at-large (1993–95) and as chair (1996–97). He was chair of the DLS Nominating Committee (1999–2000), and he served as a member (2006–09). He was a member of the DLS Awards Committee (2003–04), and he served as chair (2004–06). He was a member of the ACRL Awards Task Force (2005–06).

His work with outside library organizations includes serving as chair of the University of Maine System Library Directors'

Council (2003–07), and he is a representative to the Gardiner (Maine) Public Library Board of Trustees (1989–present). Abbott was also responsible for importing the University of South Carolina's MLIS degree; now in its fourth cohort, having graduated almost 150 Maine students.

At UMA, Abbott serves as the NEASC accreditation liaison. He has been a NEASC evaluator for 20 years and regularly presents training workshops for the organization. He has served five years as campus dean for a UMA satellite campus with 500 students. He teaches the capstone course in UMA's Mental Health and Human Services Program online using Blackboard. From 1985 to 1987, Abbott served as UMA's acting CAO and today fills in as needed. In the community, he is finance chair and vice president for Health Reach Community Health Centers Board (HRCHC). HRCHC is an 11-community health center (Federally Qualified Health Organization) with a \$15 million budget.

Abbott received ACRL's Routledge Distance Learning Librarian Conference Sponsorship Award (2010) and the John N. Olsgaard Distinguished Service Award, University of South Carolina (2005). He was also the recipient of the Women Work and Community of the University of Maine System Service Award (2001) and was elected to Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit National Honor Society, Boston College Chapter (1989). His publications include chapter author, "Keeping on the Right (Correct) Side of Campus Politics," *Mistakes in Academic Library Management; Grievous Errors and How to Avoid Them* (ed., Fritts, The Scarecrow Press, Inc. UK, 2009); author, "Filling the Void: An Academic Library's Experience Developing

an Associate Degree in Library and Information Technology for Distance Education Students,” in *CE&RL News*, 1997: and chapter author, “Challenges for the Accreditation Process and Librarians,” *Challenge and Practice of Academic Accreditation, A Handbook for Information Professionals* (ed., Garten, 1994, Greenwood Publishing Group). Abbott received a certificate in W. Edwards Deming’s course “Quality, Productivity and Competitive Position (for Educators).

For more information, please see www.tomabbott.info.

Steven J. Bell is associate university librarian for research and instructional services at Temple University, a position he has held since 2006. From 1997 to 2006, he was library director at Philadelphia University. Prior to that, he held positions at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Library, where he was assistant director (1995–97) and head of access services (1989–94).

His activities in ACRL include serving as cochair of the 2011 President’s Program Planning Committee (2010–present), as cochair of the ACRL 2011 Conference Keynote Speaker Committee (2009–present), and as chair of the ACRL Appointments Committee (2008–09).

Bell was cochair of the ACRL 2007 Conference Innovations Committee (2005–07) and was on the ACRL College Libraries Section (CLS) Executive Committee (2006–09), where he served as chair (2007–08). Bell was also active as chair of the CLS Research Committee (2004–06) and served on the ACRL 2005 Conference Workshop Committee (2004–05). He was a member of the ACRL Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Committee (2000–04) and served a term on the ACRL Excellence in Academic Librarianship Award Nominating Committee (1999–2000).

Bell’s work with state and regional associations includes serving on the PALINET Board of Trustees (2002–05), and as president of the ACRL Delaware Valley Chapter (1998–2000).

His publications include author of “Fit Libraries Are Future-Proof,” *American Libraries*, vol. 41, no. 10, 2010,

americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/09212010/fit-libraries-are-future-proof; author of “Taming the Textbook Market,” *Inside Higher Ed*, June 11, 2010, www.insidehighered.com/views/2010/06/11/bell; and coauthor with John Shank, *Academic Librarianship by Design* (ALA Press, 2007).

Through projects such as the Keeping Up Website (2001), Kept-Up Academic Librarian (2003), the Blended Librarians Online Learning Community (2004), ACRLog (2005), Designing Better Libraries (2007), and his *Library Journal* column “From the Bell Tower” (2009), Bell demonstrates a consistent track record of thought leadership and opportunity creation for academic librarians seeking out new ideas to stimulate innovation in their libraries.

For more information, please see www.stevenbell.info.

ACRL Board of Directors

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