

# ACRL Board actions, January 1993

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## *Highlights of the ACRL Board of Directors' Midwinter meetings*

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**T**he Board of Directors of the Association of College and Research Libraries met twice during the Midwinter Meeting in Denver—on January 24 and January 26, 1993. Prior to these meetings they also held a priority planning session with invited leaders of ACRL. A report of this meeting will appear in a future issue of *C&RL News*. Highlights of their Board meetings are as follows:

**Set dates for ACRL's 8th National Conference.** The Board voted to hold ACRL's 8th National Conference in 1997, changing the cycle for the 1997 conference to every two years from every three years. A number of sites are being considered. The 7th National Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, March 29–April 1, 1995.

**Approved two 1993 preconferences.** ACRL's Board added two preconferences to its offerings prior to the 1993 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. A half-day workshop, "Creat-

ing the Virtual Library: or Re-engineering the Academic Library," organized by Laverna Saunders, University of Nevada, and sponsored by ACRL's Education and Behavioral Sciences Section, will provide an overview of the virtual library, administrative concerns, and staff training issues.

ACRL will sponsor a full-day preconference, "Navigating and Navigators: Research and Development in Navigational Tools and Services for the Internet," developed by the Coalition for Networked Information, discussing research and development in navigational tools and services for the Internet. The session will include a panel of experts which will feature the developers of such tools as Archie, WAIS, Gopher, and Z39.50. Both of these preconferences will be held Friday, June 25.

ACRL will also be offering three other preconferences in New Orleans: "Special Collections in the 21st Century: How Others See Us and How We See Ourselves," sponsored by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section; "Leadership and Technological Change: A Call for Vision, a Call to Action," sponsored by ACRL, LAMA, and LITA; and "Science Reference Service: An Introduction for the General Reference Librarian," sponsored by the Science and Technology Section. (*Ed. note: details about these preconferences may be found on pages 000 in this issue.*)

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## **Guideline on collective bargaining**

The policy of the Association of College and Research Libraries is that academic librarians shall be included on the same basis as their faculty colleagues in units for collective bargaining. Such units shall be guided by the standards and guidelines pertaining to faculty and academic status of the Association of College and Research Libraries.—*Developed by the ACRL Academic Status Committee; approved by the ACRL Board of Directors and the ALA Standards Committee at the 1993 Midwinter Meeting.*

**Established discussion group on Electronic Text Centers.** This group will cover any topic related to electronic texts and libraries, including collection policies, selection of materials cataloging, reference services, instruction, computer facilities, and lending policies. Marianne Gaunt of Rutgers University will chair this group.

**Approved a policy statement on social issues.** The policy statement prepared by a task force headed by Cerise Oberman delineates three criteria which should be met when the ACRL Board of Directors takes action on social, political, and economic issues. See the

accompanying sidebar for the full text of the statement.

**Suspended ACRL's statement on election campaigning.** This statement, approved by the ACRL Board at its meeting during the 1992 ALA Annual Conference, attempts to limit the politicization of ACRL elections. ALA's Policy Monitoring Committee, chaired by Norman Horrocks, has questioned the statement, stating that it seeks to restrict the freedom of expression of candidates and their supporters. In a correspondence to the ALA Executive Board Administrative Subcommittee, Horrocks cited ALA Policies 53.1.13, 54.16, and ALA's Priority Areas and Goals Policy 1.3 Area C as specifically conflicting with the statement. The ACRL

Executive Committee will review the statement and make a recommendation to the full ACRL Board at the 1993 Annual Conference.

**Approved Standards for Ethical Conduct.** "Standards for Ethical Conduct for Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Librarians, with Guidelines for Institutional Practice in Support of the Standards," 2nd ed., 1992, was approved by both the ACRL Board and the ALA Standards Committee. The full text of the standards will be printed in *C&RL News* this spring.

**Approved "Guidelines on Collective Bargaining."** See the accompanying sidebar for the full text of this statement prepared by ACRL's Academic Status Committee.

## ACRL policy statement on social issues

Academic and research libraries, and their parent institutions, are inextricably linked to the social, political, and economic fabric in which they exist. They are, therefore, sometimes drawn into debate, action, and resolution of many important issues affecting those institutions. ACRL is the national organization of the academic and research library profession. Its mission, as stated, is ". . . to foster the profession of academic and research librarianship and to enhance the ability of academic and research libraries to serve effectively the library and information needs of current and potential library users."

As the elected leadership of ACRL, the ACRL Board of Directors has a responsibility to formulate policy on issues which directly impact ACRL's ability to carry out its mission and is entrusted with the task of determining which social, political, or economic issues merit action from ACRL. The ACRL Board of Directors is responsible to the membership and recognizes and values the diversity of opinions of individual members.

The ACRL Board of Directors should make policy decisions, plan conferences, and structure association activities so as to adhere to the organization's established mission and goals while offering opportunities for expression and education of ACRL's diverse membership.

Therefore, the ACRL Board of Directors, in deliberating social, political, and economic issues, should take action only when those issues meet the following criteria:

- 1) Issues are of fundamental importance to the profession of academic librarianship;
- 2) Issues are directly and clearly identified as consistent with the mission and goals of ACRL and ACRL's Strategic Plan; and
- 3) Issues are ones for which ACRL is recognized as an authoritative and knowledgeable source by both its membership and the national community (such as issues having to do with intellectual freedom and access to information).

The ACRL Board of Directors, drawing from the knowledge base of the discipline of library and information science, its research and practice, and from the principles and ethics of librarianship, should determine and prioritize appropriate actions in response to issues meeting these criteria. Actions may include, but are not limited to, policy statements, legislative initiatives, economic sanctions, and educational programming. Actions should have clearly stated and defined objectives, and should provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness as well as the fiscal implications of the decision. All actions should be in full accordance with both the letter and the spirit of the policies of ACRL and ALA.



Mary Sue Ferrel, Lori Arp, and David Walch discuss strategies during the ACRL priority planning session at the Midwinter Meeting.

**Accepted the recommendations of the Publications Task Force.** Seven recommendations on how ACRL could proceed to meet members' needs for information were included in the task force report presented by chair Michael Kathman. The ACRL Executive Committee will explore means of implementing the recommendations at its spring meeting.

**Approved a revised section newsletter policy.** This new policy, developed by the ACRL Publications Committee, in consultation

with ACRL section and newsletter editors, separates policy from procedures and will be distributed to section newsletter editors, section chairs, and vice-chairs, as well as added to the ACRL *Guide to Policies and Procedures*.

**Approved three 1994 pre-conferences.** The Board approved plans for RBMS to hold its 35th preconference, June 21–24, 1994, in Miami. The topic is "From Collector to Donor: Development Issues in Rare Books and Special Collections." The Bibliographic Instruction Section also gained approval for a one-day preconference, July 24, 1994, tentatively titled "Integrating Active Learning into Library Instruction: Practical Information for Immediate Use."

The Science and Technology Section received permission to cosponsor, with the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), a one-day preconference in Miami on the bibliographic control of conference proceedings.

**Established a task force on electronic communication.** The task force's charge is: "to gather and disseminate information on how academic librarians and libraries can access the

## New fiscal policies approved

The ACRL Board of Directors approved two new fiscal policies. The first deals with administrative fees for awards. The text of the policy is:

All proposals for new awards must clearly indicate that the award will have financial support either from a vendor or from the establishment of an endowment. Recurring funding for an award must include an amount to cover the costs of the award's administration. This administrative funding will be used for such purposes as publicity and reimbursement of ACRL staff time. The amount of administrative funding needed for an award should be determined in consultation with ACRL staff prior to the establishment of the award. After establishment of the award, staff will annually adjust the administrative fee in consultation with the award vendor.

The second policy delineates categories of expenses not eligible for ACRL funding:

Chapters may not use ACRL basic services funding for the following activities: coffee, meal, or reception expenses; travel expenses for chapter members; speaker expenses (travel, honoraria, etc.) for members and librarians living in the meeting region; flowers for conference programs; computer software or hardware; film or film development; audiovisual production; or purchase of capital equipment.

Sections may not use ACRL basic services funding for: coffee, meal, or reception expenses; speaker expenses; travel expenses; flowers for conference programs; audiovisual productions; film or film development; computer software or hardware.

Internet and to recommend to the ACRL Board of Directors an operational and financial plan for the use of electronic communications to enhance and replace printed publications as appropriate. The task force (which has not been appointed as of this writing) will turn in a preliminary report at the 1994 Midwinter Meeting and a final report at the 1994 Annual Conference.

**Approved several recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee.** Among the recommendations approved were:

- 1) make \$12,367 available from the ACRL fund balance to finance specific ACRL projects in FY 1993;
- 2) request approval from the ALA Executive Board to transfer \$10,000 from the ACRL fund balance into the ACRL endowment;
- 3) provide funding in the FY 1994 budget for two eight-page section newsletters for those sections currently producing newsletters;
- 4) allocate \$100,000 during FY 1993 and

FY 1994 for planning the Seventh ACRL National Conference in 1995 in Pittsburgh.

*(Ed. note: The 1994 budget will undergo another review; final approval will be made at the Tuesday afternoon meeting of the ACRL Board of Directors at the 1993 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.)*

The Board also approved two fiscal policies recommended by Budget and Finance. One deals with nonfundable activities and the other with administrative fees for awards. These policies are presented in an accompanying sidebar and will be incorporated into the next edition of the *ACRL Guide to Policy and Procedures*.

**Approved the Membership Committee's request to conduct a survey in FY 1994.**

The Board approved the recommendation from Membership Committee Chair Andrea Hoffman to conduct a membership survey in FY 1994 and charged the Executive Committee with considering how it could be implemented in a cost-effective manner. ■

## University Libraries Section—Midwinter report

As usual, Midwinter in Denver was a busy working session for the University Libraries Section of ACRL.

The Communications Committee submitted a detailed job description of the liaison to *CE&RL News* to the Organization and Bylaws Committee. This description was approved as read by that committee and the Executive Committee.

The Policy and Planning Committee presented an updated analysis of the ULS Conference Programs. The programs seemed to have shifted in emphasis from management and personnel issues to a broader outlook including library service, an appreciation for international issues, and deeper examination of the environment of higher education.

Speakers have also been more representative of the section as a whole. More innovation in the formats for the programs is still seen as an area for improvement.

The Current Topics Discussion Group presented "Applying TQM in Academic Libraries: Lessons Learned Along the Way," with featured speakers Mary Reichel of Appalachian State University, Rao Aluri of Parkway Pub-

lishers, Karyle Butcher of Oregon State University, and Jane Conrow of Arizona State University. The discussion group considered the successes and problems of applying Total Quality Management (TQM) in a nonprofit setting, and all speakers emphasized the necessity of commitment from top management in the college or university setting if the projects are to succeed. Several of the speakers presented analysis of the results of the experiment in TQM on their campuses. Some of the lessons learned included understanding the total TQM process, decision-making commitment, commitment to training throughout the process, understanding that the process takes time, being prepared to deal with conflict, making the little changes that can be made easily first, and overcoming fear of change and fear of the negative.

Plans for the future were an important part of the work at Midwinter. Look for conference programs at ALA Annual from several of the discussion groups and a great slate of nominations for section officers. More later from your *CE&RL News* liaison—*Mary Munroe, Georgia State University*