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# ALA candidates on ACRL

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*The four candidates for ALA president share their views on academic and research librarianship.*

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**R**ecently the ALA presidential candidates were asked to give some thought to ALA/ACRL relations and academic librarianship in general for this exclusive *C&RL News* feature. Their statements may aid you when you vote for ALA officers on this spring's ballot.

## **Charles Bunge:**

Greetings ACRL Colleagues,

I appreciate this opportunity to share my views with members of ALA's largest division. As the president of an ALA division and in many other association activities, I have learned that ALA can accomplish its mission only if it has strong divisions. Divisions can remain effective through cooperation and joint programming, so that their members are not pulled and tugged among divisions or blocked from helpful services by inter-divisional barriers and duplication of effort. As president of ALA, I would encourage efforts to strengthen divisions and cooperation among them.

I also have learned that divisions can be strong and effective only if ALA as a whole, including its centralized functions, is healthy and vested with enough authority to guarantee the overall viability of the association. As president, I would work hard toward optimizing the balance between central ALA functions and decentralized membership units, striving for a shared vision based on mutual trust. As your position paper for the upcoming

White House Conference says, academic libraries are a source of national strength. Academic librarians will continue to play fundamental roles in the evolution and health of a learning society. And yet, the challenges you face in carrying out these roles have reached the crisis level. The needs for resources and services are growing in quantity, intensity, and complexity, while the funds to meet these needs are increasingly scarce. ACRL's role must be to empower individual academic librarians to meet these challenges as creatively and effectively as possible. As ALA President, I would help ACRL in every appropriate way to continue to be a strong division that accomplishes its important mission and to be a division that uses its strength to provide leadership among the divisions and for ALA as a whole.



*Charles Bunge*

## **Marilyn L. Miller:**

I believe strongly in the diversity of ALA as expressed through its formal and affiliated units. ACRL, ALA's largest division, stands as a model of organization and contribution to the overall association. ACRL is well organized; it is productive and well supported by academic librarians throughout the country; and it has been forceful in helping to move ALA ahead on many fronts.

The nineties look neither less promising nor less grim for academic libraries than they do for other types of libraries. The effects of an economy that is keeping positions



*Marilyn L. Miller*

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frozen and budgets so low that books cannot be purchased will have a long-term impact on library development. High on my agenda will be support of efforts to find a solution to the escalating cost of periodicals, whether it be a return to a form of the once-discussed National Periodicals Center or another option. In spite of difficult times, the concern of academic librarians that they be part of the instructional team on their campuses should not abate. User education will become more of a critical challenge to academic librarians as their student populations continue to change, not only in multicultural characteristics but in learning styles and strategies as well. Relating technology to library users will also remain a critical challenge to academic librarians: student preference for learning resources other than books, increased computer literacy of students upon arrival on campus, individualized electronic packaging, scholarly workstations. No less challenging will be the continuing pressures for library collections that reflect multicultural and gender perspectives. As President of the American Library Association I will support ACRL's agenda for improved library service to academic library communities and I will speak wherever and whenever possible about the accomplishments and funding needs of academic libraries.

**Marvin H. Scilken:**

I have published *The U<sup>n</sup>A<sup>b</sup>A<sup>s</sup>H<sup>e</sup>D Librarian* since 1971. I have been a member of ACRL for many years (faithfully reading *College and Research Libraries* and *C&RL News*) and have been a public librarian for 30 years.

I have been a member of ALA Council seven years and have introduced two successful resolutions to make the library book dollar go further. In the 1960s I called to the attention of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly the price-fixing of library books. Subsequent hearings engendered over a thousand suits, enabling schools and libraries to recover some \$10,000,000 in overcharges. My letters are frequently published in the library press.

I view ACRL's role in ALA as akin to the role played by college and university librarians in my own local county library organization. It was a college librarian who pushed for borrowers to have reciprocal borrowing in the county. This is one



Marvin H. Scilken

example of cross fertilization and hybrid vigor which occurs when librarians from different types of libraries work together. ACRL is ALA's largest division and its active members help create ALA's culture.

Today many college and research libraries are suffering serious budgetary stresses. Contributing to these difficulties are the recession, rising serial costs, and declining enrollments. One answer is increased or at least stable library budgets. This can happen if "Libraries Receive the Credit They Deserve." The credit they deserve is to be recognized as the center of intellectual activity in the scholarly community. American college and research libraries are essential to the flowering and continuation of American culture. Scholars, faculty, and accrediting bodies understand this position. If the university is the womb of our culture, maybe libraries should be thought of as the placenta and umbilical cord, nurturing and carrying knowledge to students and faculty and ultimately to the world at large.

The recognition and visibility of the library must be increased on campus and with administration. I see this effort for visibility as part of an overall grass roots effort to increase libraries' visibility. As with public libraries, school libraries, and other libraries, library staff and administration must call the attention of local and national media to the central role of the library.

ALA's president has the opportunity to effect only one or two major initiatives. I will establish a nationwide campaign to encourage, reward, and honor librarians and libraries that are effective in getting credit for libraries in the local and national media.

My slogan is "Working to get libraries the credit they deserve."

**Herbert S. White:**

The library profession must always be seen by the outside world as a unified and unfragmented whole, but much of its internal energies as evidenced through research, conference presentations, and committee discussions will be channeled through its divisions. ALA must play a central role in such over-arching issues as governmental relations, professional image, and intellectual freedom, but it must never interfere with the growth and development of divisional programs, be-



Herbert S. White

cause that is where the vitality of the profession will continue to be concentrated. The present operating agreement is an excellent working tool, but it must continue to be discussed and modified to support what the members want to do. I expect to continue to see strong ACRL programs, and to participate in them.

My roots in ACRL are deep. I have been a member since I joined ALA, and ACRL represents my primary divisional affiliation. I have written three articles for *College and Research Libraries*, and I have spoken to more state ACRL chapters and on more college and university campuses than

I can remember. Much of my research and writing centers on issues faced by academic librarians of professional status, of funding, of technology—and of course these are all interrelated. Probably my most consistent message on behalf of academic librarians as president of ALA would be to try to show academic administrators that in times of funding scarcity, of network development, and of resource sharing opportunities, it is not the size of the collection but more importantly the quality and support of the librarians that determine the effectiveness of the library and its ability to serve its users. ■ ■

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## Candidates for ALA Council

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*These ACRL members need your vote.*

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**T**he following members of the Association of College and Research Libraries are either nominated or petition candidates for ALA councilor in the spring 1991 elections. ACRL members are encouraged to vote for these candidates to increase ACRL's voice in the affairs of the American Library Association.

**Ross Atkinson**, assistant university librarian for collection development and preservation, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York.

**Herbert Biblo**, director, Long Island Library Resources Council, Stony Brook, New York.

**Carol Chamberlain**, chief, Acquisitions Department, Penn State University Libraries, University Park.

**Luis Chaparro**, director, learning resources, El Paso (Texas) Community College.

**Myrtis Collins**, associate librarian, general reference service, University of California, Berkeley.

**Edith Fisher**, assistant department head/administrative services and ethnic studies consultant, Central University Library, University of California, San Diego/La Jolla.

**Charles Forrest**, director, instructional support services, Candler Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Michael Gorman**, dean of library services, California State University, Fresno.

**Gary Handman**, head, Media Resources Center, Moffitt Library, University of California, Berkeley.

**Charlotta Hensley**, assistant director for planning and development, University of Colorado, Boulder, Libraries.

**Robert Holley**, associate dean of libraries, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

**Julie V. Hunter**, managing administrative librarian, DeKalb County (Georgia) Public Library.

**Nancy John**, assistant university librarian, University of Illinois/Chicago.

**Bernice Jones-Trent**, director of library services, Sprague Library, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, New Jersey.

**Em Claire Knowles**, assistant dean, Simmons College SLIS, Boston, Massachusetts.

**Nancy Kranich**, director, public services, New York University Libraries, New York City.

**Carol Kuhlthau**, assistant professor, School of Communication Information and Library Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

**Wendy Lougee**, head, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.