

# Focus on the Invited Papers program

## Exciting programs to attend at National Conference

by Betty Blackman with the assistance of Margot Sutton



**Ed note:** Check out the conference homepage for registration and additional information about the conference at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/prendex.html>.

Under the direction of the chair of ACRL's National Conference Executive Committee Charles Beard (director, University Libraries at State University of West Georgia), a very exciting and informative program has been planned for ACRL's 9th National Conference to be held April 8–11, 1999, in Detroit, Michigan.

We are particularly excited about the Invited Papers Program. Various subcommittees have been working diligently with the Executive Committee to attract an outstanding group of information specialists, library school educators, and college and university presidents to help us focus on critical issues and challenges we face and therefore must address as we enter the new millennium.

Selecting the motor city of Detroit as the conference site has led to reflection about our rapidly changing environment, forcing us to move swiftly as we prepare for the 21st century. The giant automotive industry has had to constantly shift gears to provide viable products for consumers; and, libraries—information givers, providers and producers—are also rapidly shifting gears, embracing new technology, and adapting to change as we race toward the new millennium.

Thus, the conference theme, "Racing Towards Tomorrow," was chosen to focus on the challenges we face and the historic significance of where we will meet to discuss, debate, and learn about issues that will effect community college, college, university and research libraries now and into the future.

The distinguished invited speakers will address various aspects of the six conference sub-themes, namely: 1) environment in flux; 2) alternate resources; 3) a new kind of learner; 4) multiple roles; 5) different players; and 6) expanding knowledge base. As you read the following information about their backgrounds and their approach to the sub-themes, we are sure that you will want to



Judith Hunt shares information about ACRL's 9th National Conference as a visitor completes a raffle entry.

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### About the authors

Betty Blackman co-chairs with Shirley Leung the Invited Papers Subcommittee and is dean of the university library at California State University, Dominguez Hills, e-mail: [bblackman@research.csudh.edu](mailto:bblackman@research.csudh.edu); Margo Sutton is ACRL's professional development assistant, e-mail: [msutton@ala.org](mailto:msutton@ala.org)

hear their full presentations at ACRL's National Conference.

Are you concerned about the tools we will need to more fully equip yourselves and your libraries for the new millennium? If so, we invite you to hear the following speakers: Leigh S. Estabrook, Malcolm Getz, Clifford Lynch, Gail McMillan, Manuel T. Pacheco, and Blenda Wilson.

### Distance education

"New Forms of Distance Education: Opportunities for Students, Threats to Institutions" will be presented by Leigh Estabrook on Saturday, April 10,



Leigh Estabrook

1999, from 4:00–5:30 p.m. Estabrook, dean and professor at University of Illinois (UI), will discuss how the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the UI used a program called LEEP3 to offer

master's degrees over the Internet.

Estabrook's presentation will outline the way LEEP3 was designed to allow students in remote areas to obtain a high quality library and information science education and will discuss its implications for colleges and universities. Additionally, Estabrook will pose numerous questions for academic and research librarians as they consider the implementation of distance education programs.

Estabrook has been a dean and professor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the UI since 1986 and is currently researching the perception of community officials and librarians and of library effectiveness (funded by the Council on Library Resources and the Illinois State Library).

### Academic publishing

Malcolm Getz, professor, Department of Economics and Business Administration at Vanderbilt University, will present a paper on "Academic Publishing: Networks and Prices" on Saturday, April 10, 1999, from 9:15–10:45 a.m.

Throughout his discussion, Getz will explore a network's potential of allowing services remote from campus to play important roles at institutions and how the use of network delivery for educational and informational services will change as higher education expands. Getz feels that "putting prices in the hands of readers will invite them to vote with their pennies for services they value most." Getz will discuss how prices will empower readers, will make the demand for information services more price elastic and thus, will probably lower prices.

Getz has been a member of Vanderbilt's Economics department since 1973 and was the director of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library from 1984–1994. His recent writing focuses on economic issues in higher education, including libraries, computing in instruction, information storage, and electronic publishing. Getz, who has published more than 40 essays on library subjects, also advises libraries and others who are contemplating publishing electronically on the Internet.



Malcolm Getz

### Scholarly communication

"The New Genres of Scholarly Communication and the Role



Clifford Lynch

of the Research Library" will be the focus of a presentation by Clifford Lynch, executive director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI). Lynch will present his paper on

Friday, April 9, 1999, from 1:30–3:00 p.m. During his presentation, Lynch will discuss the new genres of scholarly communication for academic and research librarians.

These genres include the Web, electronic

publications, digital video, and other high performance networks, such as Internet 2 and Next Generation Internet. He will trace the development of these new genres, describe their components, and explore issues related to the role of the research library in managing and providing access to them.

Lynch has been the director of CNI since 1997. CNI, jointly sponsored by the ARL and EDUCAUSE includes about 200 member organizations concerned with the use of information and technology and networked information to enhance scholarship and intellectual productivity.

Lynch, who received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley, is an adjunct professor at Berkeley's School of Information Management and Systems.

### Digital libraries

Gail McMillan, director of the Scholarly Communication Project (SCP) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Libraries, will explore the relationship of digital and traditional libraries during her presentation "(Digital) Libraries Support (Distributed) Education." McMillan will present her paper from 4:00–5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 1999. She will discuss why a digital library should be a "seamless extension of the library that provides faculty and students with access to information in any format that has been evaluated, organized, archived, and preserved." In order to maximize their services, McMillan will stress, digital and traditional libraries should work cohesively in order to best serve the user community. McMillan has been head of the Special Collections Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University since June 1995 and director of the university; SCP since January 1994.

### Higher education

In his presentation, "The Changing Nature of Higher Education," Manuel Pacheco will discuss how changes in higher education reflect broad national and international changes. These changes include globalization of the marketplace, rapidly evolving information technologies, the shift from manufacturing-based to information-based societies, the need for individuals to learn and change throughout their lives, and the need for individuals and societies alike to understand dif-

ferent cultures and to welcome diversity. Pacheco will illustrate how libraries—"international free trade zones of information"—are one of the best-equipped social institutions to promote such changes.



Manuel Pacheco

Pacheco will present his paper on Friday, April 9, 1999, from 10:30–12:30 p.m. Pacheco has been the president of the four campus University of Missouri System since 1997. Prior to this position, he served as the president of the University of Arizona and received national recognition for enacting programs designed to improve the academic experience at the university.

Pacheco has received other accolades, including the Distinguished Alumnus of the Ohio State University, Outstanding Hispanic Family of the Year, and a Fulbright Fellowship.

### A president's view

Blenda J. Wilson, president of California State University (CSU), Northridge, will present her paper "Shifting Gears: A University President's View" on Saturday, April 10, 1999, from 12:45–3:00 p.m. during an all-conference luncheon. Wilson will discuss the many changes



Blenda J. Wilson

universities face today: the nature of the student body, distance learning, alternate funding, public expectations, and the impact of technology. Wilson will recommend how librarians and libraries can plan for these changes—changes that, from a university president's perspective, are necessary for the new millennium. She will also explore the role of libraries in campus life and their positive impact on student achievement and retention. Lastly, Wilson will present the op-

portunity for discussion on what makes a "great library" from a university president's view.

Wilson, who began her service as president of CSU in 1992, has initiated a major strategic planning effort to revitalize the university and to redefine its mission in response to the numerous challenges facing higher education. Described by *Change* magazine as "a visible national spokesperson for academic issues," she also serves on several governing boards, including the board of trustees of the Commonwealth Fund and the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Wilson also chairs the CSU 22-campus system's Commission on Learning Resources and Instructional Technology. She is past chair of the American Association of Higher Education and a member of the California Business-Higher Education Forum.

### Hear how librarians respond to these issues

In addition to the presentations by the above invited speakers, there will be a three-person reactor panel for each speaker. The invited papers subcommittee has assembled an impressive group of practitioners who will also seek to stimulate and provoke audience participation prior to the question and answer periods for each session. Some of the identified reactors include: Elaine Albright, University of Maine; Camila Alire, University of Colorado; Betsy Baker, Northwestern University; Nancy Baker, Washington State University; Gladys Bell, Kent State University; Bernard Fradkin, College of Du Page; W. Lee Hisle, Austin Community College; Maryhelen Jones, Central Michigan University; David Lewis, Purdue University; Wendy Lougee, University of Michigan; Deborah Masters, San Francisco State University; Ryoko Toyama, Rutgers University; and Robert Wedgeworth, University of Illinois.

Finally, we must ask ourselves the crucial questions: Are we ready to provide access to information resources to our users in the new millennium? What have we done to prepare for the delivery of effective services in the 21st century? Are we ready for evolving changes now and in the future? What do we need to do to get ready? What must change? What must remain? What roles will we play in the future and with whom? Please join us in Detroit in 1999 as we collectively seek answers that will determine our future. ■

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