

### Mary Ellen K. Davis named ACRL executive director

ALA is pleased to announce that, effective August 1, Mary Ellen K. Davis is the executive director of the ACRL. A veteran of the largest ALA division, Davis replaces Althea H. Jenkins, who will join the Florida State University staff as director of the University Libraries.



Mary Ellen K. Davis

Employed with ACRL since 1985, Davis has served as senior associate executive director of the division since 1993.

In this position, she has managed all aspects of ACRL's last four biennial National Conferences, adding programming at each conference, and setting new attendance and exhibitor records at the 2001 conference.

Davis also has been responsible for all professional development programs and ACRL's monthly news magazine, *College & Research Libraries News*. Under her direction, *CRNL News* underwent a major redesign, increased advertising revenue, and became the first ALA magazine on the Internet in 1993.

"Mary Ellen K. Davis has proven that she has outstanding abilities as an association leader. Mary Ellen's extensive knowledge and her breadth of experience will serve the ACRL extremely well," said ACRL President Mary L. Reichel.

"Best of all, I have watched Mary Ellen work with members and staff in ACRL and ALA and have admired her genuine ability to get along well with others and to move forward priorities and goals. ACRL is indeed fortunate to have Mary Ellen Davis as its new executive director."

Davis also has served as the director of communications and systems and the publications program officer during her tenure with ACRL. She joined ALA in 1984 as the assistant director of "Let's Talk About," a national \$1.5 million reading and discussion program sponsored by ALA and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Davis came to ALA from Central Michigan University, where she worked as a reference librarian and bibliographer. She received her MLS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her master's in education from Central Michigan University. Her honors include Beta Phi Mu, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Girl Scouts Outstanding Volunteer Award. She is a member of various professional organizations, including the Professional Convention and Meeting Planners Association, the Society of Scholarly Publishing, and the American Society of Association Executives.

Reflecting on the search process, ACRL immediate past president Betsy Wilson said, "ACRL enjoyed the superlative leadership of Althea H. Jenkins as its executive director for



the past ten years. When Althea announced her resignation to become the director of libraries at Florida State University, the ACRL Board launched a process to find a worthy successor and leader.

"We were delighted, but not surprised, to identify an outstanding candidate in Mary Ellen K. Davis. With Mary Ellen's extraordinary talents, in-depth knowledge of ACRL member needs, record of program innovation and effectiveness, and leadership and management capacity, ACRL will continue its momentum as the premier association of academic librarians into the 21st century," Wilson concluded.

### **ACRL to offer two Immersion Programs in 2002**

Whether your institution is just beginning to think about implementing an information literacy component or whether you have a program well underway, ACRL's Institute for Information Literacy Immer-

sion Program provides instruction librarians with the intellectual tools and practical techniques needed to build or enhance instruction programs.

ACRL will offer two Immersion Programs in 2002 (dates and locations will be announced shortly). The Immersion '02 programs will be four-and-one-half days of intensive training and education for instruction librarians and will offer two tracks—Track I: Librarian as Teacher and Track II: Librarian as Program Manager. Attendance will be limited to 90 at each program to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. Watch [www.ala.org/acrl/nili/immersion.html](http://www.ala.org/acrl/nili/immersion.html) for complete details and application materials.

### **Applications sought for editor of Publications in Librarianship series**

*ACRL Publications in Librarianship*, which began in 1952 as *ACRL Monographs*, is a series of monographic and edited volumes that reports research and scholarly thinking in academic and research librarianship.

Together with a four-to-seven-member editorial board, the editor is charged with encouraging research and writing that is appropriate for the series, identifying topics and authors for new books, refereeing submissions, and editing manuscripts for publication. The current editorial board is developing a number of promising proposals, and the new editor will oversee some of these to publication and develop others.

ACRL membership is required. Candidates should have experience in research and writing, the ability to evaluate submissions and edit manuscripts, skills in working with authors, and an understanding of publishing. The editor is expected to chair two editorial board meetings a year at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference.

The new editor will serve on a volunteer basis and succeed John Budd, whose term ends in July 2003. Interviews of candidates will take place at the 2002 Midwinter Meeting. Following approval by the ACRL Publications Committee and ACRL Board, the person selected will serve as associate editor from July 2002 to July 2003 before assuming the editorship.

### **ACRL Webcasts offer convenient learning**

Take advantage of ACRL's newest professional development opportunity: Webcasts of key presentations at the ACRL Tenth National Conference in March 2001.

"Digital Reference: The Future of Academic Reference?" is the first of a series that will cover important topics for academic librarians. Presented by R. David Lankes—with contributions by Paul Constantine, Steve Coffman, Pennie Finnie, and Linda White—access to the video presentation can be purchased by individuals for unlimited viewing for a period of two weeks.

Institutions can purchase a four-week period of unlimited viewing, providing a superb opportunity for staff training at very low cost. The videos are supplemented with a PowerPoint slide presentation, which appears simultaneously on screen with the video. A bibliography and discussion questions are also provided.

For this latest professional development opportunity from ACRL, go to <http://acrl.telusys.net/webcast/index.html>.

Persons who would like to be considered for the five-year term of editor should communicate their interest by submitting a résumé, a statement of qualifications, and names of three references by December 1, 2001, to: Hugh Thompson, ACRL Director of Publications, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 280-2517, e-mail: hthompson@ala.org.

Additional information about the *Publications in Librarianship* series is available from John Budd, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Information Science and Learning Technologies, 221M Townsend Hall, Columbia, MO 65211, (573) 882-3258, e-mail: BuddJ@missouri.edu.

### **NCES library reports released**

NCES has just released a library report entitled "Academic Libraries: 1998," based on information from the 1998 IPEDS Academic Libraries Survey.

The tables in this publication summarize library services, library staff, library collections, and library expenditures for libraries in degree-granting, postsecondary in-

stitutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

This report can be downloaded, viewed, and printed as a pdf file by visiting <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001341>.

### **Robert Martin confirmed as IMLS director**

The appointment of Robert S. Martin as director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has been confirmed by the Senate.

Directorship of the IMLS is alternately held by leaders from the museum and library communities. Martin will be the first director of IMLS who comes from the library world. He is currently interim director of the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University in Denton.

### **Reed Elsevier successfully completes Harcourt tender offer**

Reed Elsevier Inc. announced today the successful completion of its tender offer for Harcourt General, Inc.

## **ACRL to offer collaboration workshop**

Explore and enhance your ability to build successful collaborative relationships with faculty on your campus by participating in the workshop, "Experience the Power of Collaboration: Five Steps to Creating Relationships with Faculty." This one-day session will be held in New Orleans prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting on Friday, January 18, 2002.

Collaboration experts Dane Ward (University Libraries, Central Michigan University) and Dick Rapsa (Interdisciplinary Studies Program, Wayne State University) will help you transform your collaboration dreams into an institutional reality.

This workshop, which grows out of the bestselling ACRL book *The Collaborative Imperative: Librarians and Faculty Working Together in the Information Universe*, will expand your knowledge of the range of collaborative projects. Learn about and practice

the essential components of collaboration as you are guided through the "Five P's of Collaboration": passion, playfulness, persistence, (having a) project, and promotion.

Additional learning outcomes for this workshop include:

- distinguishing between different personal styles of collaboration,
- identifying your professional passions as librarian,
- generating strategies for persisting in collaborative endeavors,
- examining the role of playfulness and creativity in working with faculty, and
- devising plans for building collaborative environments at your institution

Complete details, including registration information, will be available on the ACRL Web site ([www.ala.org/acrl/confhp.html](http://www.ala.org/acrl/confhp.html)). Questions? Call (800) 545-2433, ext. 2519; e-mail: [acrl@ala.org](mailto:acrl@ala.org).

Crispin Davis, chief executive officer of Reed Elsevier, said: "We are delighted to welcome to Reed Elsevier the management and staff of Harcourt and we will be working closely together to combine our businesses."

### **ACRL National Invitational Conference on Information Literacy Best Practices**

The ACRL Institute for Information Literacy's Best Practices Project will hold an invitational conference June 11–13, 2002, prior to ALA's Annual Conference in Atlanta.

Teams from eight-to-ten institutions and members of the Best Practices Project Team and Advisory Council will gather to refine the characteristics of best practices of information

literacy programs by closely examining existing information literacy programs. The result will be in-depth descriptions of model programs.

Invited participants must agree to attend the conference and read other participants' program descriptions prior to the conference. Each team of three-to-five people invited will receive up to \$2,500 for allowable travel expenses.

Applications must be received by November 16, 2001; decisions will be made by the Best Practices Project Team in January 2002, and applicants will be notified in early February.

Questions may be addressed to Terese Heidenwolf, [heidenwt@lafayette.edu](mailto:heidenwt@lafayette.edu); Margit

## **ACRL Legislative Agenda 2001–2002**

ACRL is committed to representing academic libraries' needs and interests in the legislative arena. In order to accomplish this, the ACRL Government Relations Committee monitors legislative efforts and issues of interest to academic libraries and higher education. Since the legislative landscape is constantly evolving, the Government Relations Committee recommends to the Board each year a legislative agenda that lists the issues ACRL will focus on during the upcoming year. Here is the ACRL Legislative Agenda 2001–2001, approved by the ACRL Board at the 2001 Annual Conference. (For information about the current status of these issues, please visit ACRL's Washington Watch Web site at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/legalis.html>.)

### **1. Intellectual Property and Technology**

- **Anticircumvention.** The Librarian of Congress allowed only two exceptions in the fair use proceeding involving the 1201 anticircumvention provision for the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Recommendations were adopted to provide exemptions only for malfunctions and to determine which sites are blocked by filtering software.

- **Database Protection.** Database Protection Legislation poses a threat to the free flow of information and the public domain. For several years, Congress has tried to pass legislation that would provide what they believe is needed protection to databases. The

ALA Washington Office has been a participant in meetings with two House committees to discuss possible legislation in this area.

- **Distance Education.** As instructed in the DMCA, the Copyright Office released the "Report on Copyright and Digital Distance Education" on May 25, 1999. The report recommended updating the current copyright law exemptions for distance education. Bills have been introduced in the House and the Senate to extend copyright exemption for the classroom.

- **First Sale.** The DMCA directed the Copyright Office and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to undertake a study of the effect of the changes in the copyright law and the development of e-commerce on sections 109 and 117 of the Copyright Act. A critical element of these sections is the "First Sale" doctrine.

First Sale is a historical user protection in copyright law. The doctrine basically says that purchasers of tangible products containing copyrighted information may dispose of those works in any way they wish. It is of great concern if new technology coupled with protections contained in the DMCA and trends in licensing lead to a regime in which all access to information is tightly gated.

- **Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA).** UCITA is a proposed state contract law developed to regulate

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### **Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium adopts new name**

The Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium (<http://www.big12plus.org>) has announced that it will change its name to Greater Western Library Alliance, effective October 1, 2001. Founded more than a decade ago, the not-for-profit organization now consists of 29 research libraries in 15 states stretching from Illinois to the Pacific coast, and from the Great Plains to the Gulf coast of Texas.

Organized originally around the universities of the old Big Eight Athletic Conference in the central plains, it became the

Big 12 Plus (BTP) in 1996 after the Big Eight Conference expanded to become the Big 12. Since 1998, the library consortium has grown from 17 members to its current strength.

"As we continued our expansion to the west over the past couple of years, it became apparent to the board of directors that the name 'Big 12 Plus' no longer described who we were as a member-driven organization," said James F. Williams II, dean of libraries at the University of Colorado at Boulder and current chair of the consortium's board of directors.

"We needed a name that reflected the fact that we have become a large consortium with members in many states west of the Mississippi Valley." ■

transactions in intangible goods, such as computer software, online databases, and other information products. ALA is opposed to UCITA because it replaces the public law of copyright with the private law of contract.

#### **2. Government Information**

- National Technical and Information Service (NTIS). The Commerce Department made a proposal to close the NTIS. This proposal has serious implications regarding the public's access to government scientific and technical information. The ALA Council passed a "Resolution on Transferring the Function of the NTIS to the GPO."

- Electronic Government Information. The "Electronic Dissemination of Government Publications" study report was published on March 30 by the Government Accounting Office (GAO). The congressionally mandated study examines the impact of providing documents solely in electronic format and assesses the feasibility of transferring the FDLP to the Library of Congress. A bill has been introduced in the Senate regarding electronic access to government information.

#### **3. Appropriations**

- Government Printing Office/Federal Depository Library Program
- Library of Congress
- National Agricultural Library

- National Commission on Libraries & Information Science

- National Library of Medicine

#### **4. Reauthorization**

- The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The current LSTA authorization ends in 2002. A proposal developed by a broad coalition of library groups, including ACRL, would increase the funding level, adjusting the base amount formula to help small states without adversely affecting large states. In order to do this, additional overall funds will be required.

#### **5. Telecommunications**

- Advanced Services and Broadband. The Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services are conducting an inquiry into the deployment of advanced telecommunications. ALA advocates a new legal, policy, and regulatory framework that outlines broadband as the new standard for Internet access.

#### **6. Intellectual Freedom**

- Internet Filtering. Federal filtering mandates call for withholding federal funds for the purchase of computers or to pay costs associated with Internet access from all libraries that do not install technology to block or filter access to material that is obscene or harmful to minors. ALA has filed suit against federal filtering mandates. ■

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