

RBMS member survey results

ACRL's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) surveyed its membership in 1997. The survey provides a wealth of information for planning future section activities and identifies recruitment possibilities for the organization. Here's a brief profile of RBMS members:

Respondents are predominately female (64%), white (96%), and between 45–54 years of age (41%). Ninety percent have an MLS; of those with an MLS, 48% have a second master's and 15% have a Ph.D. Forty-one percent have worked 20 or more years in the field of librarianship, 17% have worked 20 or more years in the field of special collections. The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services leads the list of other ALA division memberships held with 26%, the University Libraries Section is first among other section memberships with 32%. The American Printing History Association leads membership in other professional organizations.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents have access to e-mail and the Internet at their workplace, half as many have electronic access at home. Fifty-seven percent

regularly read the Exlibris listserv. Sixty-five percent have never attended an ACRL conference, reason given: more active participation in other organizations.

Eighteen percent of respondents are special collections department heads, 86% work full time, 51% state that their position consists entirely of special collections work, 36% have worked four years or less in their current position, 39% work in a special collections department, 28% report to their library director, 55% work in a university library, 26% work in a library with a collection of one to three million volumes, and 16% work in a special collections department with over 300,000 volumes. Under "current salary," an optional question, 14% responded that they make between \$40,000 to \$45,000 per year.

Reading the *RBMS Newsletter* and *C&RL News* are the two main ways respondents get information about RBMS. Seventy-four percent of respondents prefer to read the *RBMS Newsletter* in paper format. Reasons given include the convenience, portability, and greater legibility of the paper version.—*Brad Ofstie, University of Minnesota; b-ofstie@maroon.tc.umn.edu*

Descriptions and Impressions, 1498–1898 by Willard G. Oxtoby and Richard Landon of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto.

The award for category three has been given to *The Great War 1914–1918: An Exhibition Drawn from the Joseph M. Bruccoli Collection at The University of Virginia Library and Other Collections* by Patrick Scott of the Thomas Cooper Library, the University of South Carolina.

The award recipients will be presented with a printed citation on behalf of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans on Sunday, June 27, 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the RBMS Business Meeting.



Southern Illinois University's library staff honored their student assistants during National Student Employment Week (April 4–10) through special buttons, displays, and a reception. Pictured here are Rey Rosales (front), Vern Cornell, Keiko Kawamura, Eric Hinkle, La Tray Jeffers, and Roberta Reeves.

ACRL/AAHE forum report available

A report of the discussion forum sponsored by ACRL for College and University provosts at the