Executive Director’s Report

Editor’s Note: This report summarizes remarks made by the ACRL Executive Director, Julie Carroll Virgo, to members at the annual membership meeting in Philadelphia.

The annual meeting is always a full and sometimes overwhelming experience, culminating the year’s activities for the Association. This has been another good year for ACRL. Some of the many activities engaged in by ACRL units are described briefly in the report that was made available to members in Philadelphia and which can also be obtained by writing the ACRL office. In this report I wish to highlight other Association activities and concerns.

Dues Increase

You may recall that shortly after last year’s conference there was a membership ballot proposing an increase in dues from $15 to $25 per member. That dues increase was adopted.

The Budget

In part as a result of that increase, but also because ACRL maintained its membership more than was projected in light of the dues increase and because of increased revenues in other ACRL projects and services, ACRL is in a sound financial position. I am projecting that we will not need to make use of the $30,000 operating reserve and that we will exceed projected revenues by an additional $40,000–$50,000. With two months still to go, ACRL was within $4,000 of its budgeted revenues and expenses are less than projected. The Choice operation, located in Middletown, Connecticut, is likewise in a controlled budgetary position.

Membership

The ACRL membership figures are holding better than originally projected. We estimated that we would lose approximately 1,500 of our 9,400 members, leaving a balance of 7,900. Instead, as of June 30 we already have 8,584 members and expect to pick up additional members before the end of August.

Other Activities

Several new activities may be of interest to you:
- The Bibliographic Instruction Liaison Project, now in its second year, has been working with nine subject discipline associations to promote the concept of bibliographic instruction. Sandy Whiteley has managed the project this year and a contract will be made for the final year of the project.
- The Bibliographic Instruction Section was awarded the J. Morris Jones and Bailey K. Howard World Book Encyclopedia Award of $5,000.
for a project called “Bringing Workshops to Members.”

• The continuing education program is gaining strength and moving towards full cost recovery. Eight courses were given in Philadelphia and four courses will be offered before the Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio in January. The courses are now available in your local areas and can be administered by ACRL chapters, library schools, or by any interested group.

• A committee has been appointed, chaired by Richard Johnson, to investigate the need and possible formats for a new edition of Books for College Libraries.

• A committee, chaired by Jacqueline Morris, has been appointed to revise specific areas of the Standards for College Libraries.

• ACRL’s very successful Second National Conference was held in Minneapolis. The proceedings of that conference are now available from JAI Press. Planning is underway for the third conference to be held in April, 1984, in Seattle. Gary Menges is chair of the Seattle conference.

• Of special interest to ACRL sections is the news that they can now apply for funds to help underwrite the cost of section newsletters. The ACRL Board believes that such newsletters will be helpful in strengthening communication among section memberships.

• An Activity Model for ACRL in 1990, developed by a committee chaired by David Kaser, has been adopted by the ACRL Board and referred to the Planning Committee for recommendations or implementation.

Richard Johnson Recognized

It gives me great pleasure to recognize a member who has served ACRL and the profession in many capacities and to whom I am deeply indebted. For the past six months Richard Johnson has served as acting editor of Choice, and I am sure the profession joins with me in thanking Richard for his excellent guidance.

The Future

An Association is what its members make it. In an organization as large as ACRL we must fight to avoid becoming so large and procedure-oriented that individual people or units feel they cannot have an impact on the activities or issues with which our profession must deal. We need structures in which to function effectively, but we must also strive to be flexible so that we can seize opportunities in a timely way when they arise.

Our conference program speakers have looked towards the future. ACRL’s future will be impressive and significant to the extent that you as individuals contribute to ACRL’s destiny.

Perhaps my challenge to you is best illustrated by a fairy tale that a wise friend once told me.

Once upon a time in the Middle Ages a princess lived in a castle perched high on the top of a mountain. She slept in a tower built high on the castle in a room with large, arched windows.

One night while she slept a handsome knight in shining armor wearing flowing capes and mounted on a white horse came sailing through the window.

“My goodness!” cried the princess. “What will happen to me?”

To which the prince replied: “I don’t know, princess. After all, it’s your dream.”

Foreign Standards

Business or law libraries concerned with international trade may now telephone the Department of Commerce’s National Bureau of Standards (NBS) for a recorded hotline message concerning recently proposed foreign mandatory standards and certification systems which might create technical barriers to international trade.

The GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) hotline is updated weekly by the NBS Office of Product Standards Policy and reports on standards-related notifications received through the GATT Secretariat in Geneva. The number is (301) 921-3200.

CLR Invites Applications for the 1983–84 Internship Program

The Council on Library Resources invites applications for the 1983–84 Academic Library Management Internship Program. A maximum of five librarians will be chosen to spend nine months working with directors and senior administrative staff at host libraries.

Each intern will be awarded a stipend equal to basic salary and benefits (up to $25,000) for the nine-month period, and some assistance with moving and other expenses.

Applicants must be citizens of the U.S. or Canada, or have permanent resident status in either country. Experience, education, references, and other factors will be considered in selecting interns. Nearly all interns have had at least five years of professional library experience prior to appointment.