Dear Colleagues:

Once again the time has arrived when each of us reviews our participation in professional associations for the current year, evaluates the worth of that participation, and makes decisions on the commitment of our time, energy and money to professional memberships for the coming year.

My purpose in writing to you at this time is to express my conviction that sustained membership in the Association of College and Research Libraries is a particularly appropriate and important commitment for academic librarians, because ACRL serves as an invaluable focal point for our common experiences and efforts.

As academic librarians we all know the challenge and excitement of involvement in higher education. We all know, too, the endless complexities of delivering quality library services in support of higher education. ACRL provides a vital forum for the review and resolution of issues common to all of us. Moreover, as the nation's largest and most important association of librarians from the whole range of institutions of higher education, ACRL represents the interests of academic libraries and librarians to a variety of private and public, national and international groups.

A review of the past year's efforts and accomplishments by ACRL provides gratifying evidence of the Association's responsiveness to the program needs of academic librarians.

CONFERENCES: With the Council on Postsecondary Education, ACRL sponsored a June invitational conference on "Libraries and Accreditation in Institutes of Higher Education." The proceedings will be published in early 1981. In the meantime, planning continues for the Minneapolis ACRL conference, "Options for the '80's," to be held September 30 to October 3, 1981, and approval has been gained for a third national ACRL conference, to be held in Seattle in spring, 1984.

DATA COLLECTION: Statistics from ninety-eight non-
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ARL university libraries were compiled and published.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS: An ACRL JOBLINE—(312) 944-6795—was established for timely (updated weekly) job announcements. A Late Job Listing service was also initiated in College & Research Libraries News.

AWARDS: For the third year, ACRL has presented its Academic or Research Librarian of the Year Award, an honor that provides appropriate recognition for outstanding contributions to our profession.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Coordination and promotion of ACRL’s program of continuing education has been supported through the creation of a staff position. It is planned that continuing education activities will be available preceding the ALA and ACRL conferences in 1981, as well as at other times and locations across the country.


I hope that, after weighing carefully the options open to you for involvement in professional associations in 1981, you will choose to support your professional interests through sustained membership in the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Millicent D. Abell
President, ACRL

Late Job Listings

Looking for a faster way to advertise your job openings? College & Research Libraries News is now accepting orders for late job listings after the regular second-of-the-month deadline for classified ads. Thus, if you miss the regular deadline, you may now call the ACRL office to order a late job ad.

Late job listings will be accepted on a space-available basis after the fifth of the month (by telephone only). The rates are $7.00 per line for ACRL members, $8.50 per line for nonmembers.

To place an order, call ACRL, (312) 944-6780.