
The Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) held its thirteenth annual meeting at Columbus on October 15–16. ALAO has a well-defined purpose and organizational structure and exercises a needed leadership role for academic librarians in Ohio. ALAO emerged with its own identity in 1974 when it organized a preconference to the Ohio Library Association’s annual meeting. In the 1981 ALAO midwinter meeting, the Association of College and Research Libraries’ board approved ALAO’s request to be Ohio’s ACRL chapter. In recent years, ALAO has exercised a statewide influence on library instruction for high school and college students.

Librarians from thirty-six colleges and universities, including one retired librarian, and representatives from at least four major library associations gathered for this year’s conference, “1987: The Year of the Reader.” One of the conference’s speakers, Frederic G. Cassidy, also represented the Dictionary of American Regional English project.

October 15 served as an introduction to the main conference with an all day workshop conducted by Zena Zumeta, an attorney and owner/director of the Ann Arbor Mediation Center. The workshop’s theme was “Managing Workplace Conflict.” Its objective was to provide those who work in libraries with a set of skills and an ability to handle conflicts among personnel or departments. Registration was held to fifty.

The main program began early on October 16. While the remainder of the conference’s 150 participants registered, a concurrent information meeting was conducted for those librarians who act as liaison representatives between their own member libraries and ALAO. This supported an agreement by ALAO officers, board members and committee chairs in a leadership conference on July 6 and 7 in Dayton. Members decided that emphasis for this year would be on increasing membership and strengthening the role of library liaisons to ALAO.

Linda Landis, ALAO President (Columbus State Community College) offered a formal welcome to participants. This year’s program was intended to be less technically oriented than previous conferences. This was reflected in the tone set by the introductory speaker, David Kaser (distinguished professor at the School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University).

“A Reading Academic Librarian in the 21st Century” was the title of Kaser’s address. This was somewhat misleading because Kaser did not examine reading habits but rather the enduring problems of librarianship. He affirmed that people in society are perceived to succeed without using libraries, and these are quite often the so-called pillars of society. He has found the cost and rationale for libraries to be major concerns for a substantial part of his career. He recalled presenting a library budget to a board of trustees meeting at Cornell University twenty years ago. A wealthy member of the board challenged him to explain what the li-
The following ACRL programs have been approved for ALA Annual Conference in July. Program titles are tentative at this point, but should be generally accurate. Date and time will be given in the May 1988 C&RL News.

ACRL President's Program: "Fostering Creativity and Innovation."

Copyright Committee: "Copyright Is Still with Us: A Reawakening of the Issues Posed by New Technologies."

Legislation Committee: "Information Access: Issues and Action."

Anthropology and Sociology Section/Western European Specialists Section: "Strangers in New Worlds: Migration Studies in Europe and America."

Art Section: "Jazz in the Arts: Photography, Film, Dance and Music Collections."


Bibliographic Instruction Section: "Teaching CD-ROM."

College Libraries Section: "Collection Development Issues in the Mid-Sized and Smaller Academic Library."

Community and Junior College Libraries Section: "Optical Disk Technology and All That Jazz."

Education and Behavioral Science Section: "The Role of Libraries, Collections, and Education/Behavioral Sciences Librarians in Accreditation Review."

Law and Political Science Section: "Information Policies of International Organizations: Roadblocks to Access."

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section: "Government Documents As Rare Books," and "Insider Theft and Misappropriation by Trusted Employees in Libraries."

Science and Technology Section: "Integrated Information Systems and Libraries."

Slavic and East European Section: "New Technology for Slavic and East European Librarianship."

University Libraries Section: "Retention of Academic/Research Librarians: How and Why to keep the Staff You Have."

Women's Studies Section: "Women in Third World Countries: Research Trends and Collection Development Challenges."

English and American Literature Discussion Group: "The American and English Literature of the 21st Century."
ment of a statewide distribution system, monitoring of technology, and the establishment of an oversight committee. These and other recommendations with discussion can be found in the committee's report available through the Ohio Board of Regents.3

Following lunch and a business meeting, participants were treated to a presentation on the Dictionary of American Regional English project. Allyn Ehrhardt (Franklin University) formally introduced Frederic G. Cassidy (University of Wisconsin), chief editor of the project's first volume.4 Cassidy has helped guide the project as director-editor since 1965. His discussion highlighted the project's history in a most entertaining and occasionally anecdotal manner, although it did not substantially enhance the information already available to librarians in the first volume of the Dictionary.5

The second session of the Conference featured a particularly informative presentation on access to U.S. government information. Carol Singer (Kenyon College), Saragail Lynch (Ohio State University), and Mary Prophet (Denison University) led a session entitled, “The Tightening Noose: Decreasing Access to U.S. Government Information.” Their discussion centered on the concern many librarians are expressing with the decreased access to information available from the government within the last seven years. Libraries have seen the conversion to microfiche of many items formerly published in paper format along with the cessation of many other topics.6 However, a close look at the list points to the fact that certain types of much needed information are quietly being retired without discussion or input from the public.

The major concern at the moment is the privatization of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).7 This has not happened yet, but it is being seriously investigated. A substantial amount of technical information distributed by this department would cease to be available at a price that most libraries could afford if privatization should occur. All participants were urged to communicate their concerns to their Congressmen and other members of the government in an effort to effect some positive results.

The 1988 ALAO is scheduled for the first week in November in Columbus. ■ ■

3Ohio Board of Regents Library Study Committee, Academic Libraries in Ohio: Progress Through Collaboration, Storage and Technology (Columbus: Ohio Board of Regents, September 1987).
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