Technologists and librarians working together

By Laverna M. Saunders

The 1992 CAUSE Conference

W hile attending the recent CAUSE conference in Dallas called "Grasping the Momentum of the Information Age," I experienced several surprises. The first, an hour-long power outage, happened while I was presenting a preconference on the virtual library. Since my partner and I had completed the computer-assisted portion of our workshop, we continued "in the dark" with oral presentations by several guest speakers and then moved on to small group discussions under dim emergency lighting. This event brought out with irony the fragility of the virtual library. Across the hall, however, George Brett, Joan Lippincott, and Peggy Seiden hot-wired their computers into the lighting system and continued with their workshop. The creativity and technical skill needed to do this also reflected on where we are in the evolution of electronic information transfer.

The second surprise was a comment made by one of our workshop participants, most of whom were administrators in computing centers at colleges and universities. During a discussion of the roles of technologists and librarians in creating the virtual library, the participant commented that it is hard to talk and work with librarians. We pursued this issue by exploring ways that the computer center and the library can collaborate to provide access to networked information. A few of these strategies included having group meetings, getting to know each other better, defining specific projects to work on together, reading the same literature, and identifying the right questions to ask in joint discussions. The group agreed that we need to redefine the roles on both sides, with computing center staff becoming more user oriented and library staff becoming more technologically informed.

Linking services

At one institution, the structure for working through these concerns was total quality management, though they didn't call it that. Recognizing that the library and computing services share the same users, the staff of the two organizations cooperated in determining what their users expect and identifying how and who would meet those needs.

At another institution, a reorganization which formally linked the library and computer center forced a dialog. In other places the need to reallocate resources created a demand to look for ways to work together rather than compete.

Another surprise came in the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) reporting session when a technologist asked that CNI develop a thesaurus of library jargon so he could understand what librarians were talking about. He wanted to work with the librarians at his university but felt that he lacked the right language. This concern and related ones were voiced again in the current issues session "Computing and Library Organizations: Impact of Integrating Technologies," which was conducted by Anne Woodsworth of the Palmer School.

Developing partnerships

The theme of developing partnerships between libraries and computer centers also came out in several other presentations. Carole Barone, a keynote speaker who is associate vice chancellor for information technology at the University of California-Davis, titled her talk "New Interpretations of Old Rules . . . or If the Ocean Is on the Right You Are Headed North." Because the rate of technological change is up-
Publications Now Available From ACRL

February 1993
Management

Recruiting the Academic Library Director: A Companion to the Search Committee Handbook
by Sharon Rogers and Ruth Person
$18.65; ACRL member $15.35
0-8389-7484-8, 1991

Measuring Academic Library Performance: A Practical Approach
by Nancy Van House, Beth Weil, and Charles McClure
$32.00, 140p. 0-8389-0529-3, 1990; $75.00 with self-running database, 0-8389-0542-0, 1991

Clip Notes

Practical ideas for managing your library’s programs and services are contained in ACRL’s College Library Information Packets (CLIP Notes). Each CLIP Note provides data and sample documents from college and small university libraries that will assist you in establishing or refining services and operations.

New! Interlibrary Loan in College Libraries
CLIP Note #16
Roxann Bustos, comp.
$34.50; ACRL member $28.75, 148p. 0-8389-7652-2, 1993

New! Database Searching in College Libraries
CLIP Note #15
Sarah Pederson, writer and comp.
$29.95; ACRL member $24.95, 123p. 0-8389-7651-4, 1993

Audiovisual Policies in College Libraries
CLIP Note #14
Kristine Brancolini, comp.
$21.95; ACRL member $18.65, 152p. 0-8389-7495-3, 1991

College Library Newsletters
CLIP Note #13
Patricia Smith Butcher and Susan McCarthy Campbell, comps.
$18.64; ACRL member $15.35, 154p. 0-8389-7445-7, 1990

Performance Appraisal in Academic Libraries
CLIP Note #12
Barbara Williams Jenkins, comp., with the assistance of Mary L. Smalls
$18.64; ACRL member $15.35, 128p. 0-8389-7444-9, 1990

Collection Development Policies For College Libraries
CLIP Note #11
Theresa Taborsky, comp.
$26.35; ACRL member $21.94, 175p. 0-8389-7295-0, 1989

Annual Reports for College Libraries
CLIP Note #10
Kenneth Oberembt, comp.
$21.95; ACRL member $18.75, 135p. 0-8389-7219-5, 1988
Special Collections

Thesauri for Use in Rare Book and Special Collections Cataloguing

These thesauri were developed for use in MARC field 655 and 755. Each thesaurus provides standardized vocabulary for retrieving items by form and genre or by various physical characteristics which are typically of interest to special collections librarians.

Genre Terms (2nd ed.)
$21.95; ACRL member $18.65, 90p. 0-8389-7516-X, 1991

Type Evidence
$8.95; ACRL member $7.50, 19p. 0-8389-7428-7, 1990

Binding Terms
$11.50; ACRL member $9.50, 37p. 0-8389-7210-1, 1988

Printing & Publishing Evidence
$8.95; ACRL member $7.50, 28p. 0-8389-7108-3, 1986

Provenance Evidence
$10.50; ACRL member $8.50, 24p. 0-8389-7239-X, 1988

Paper Terms
$8.95; ACRL member $7.50, 52p. 0-8389-7427-9, 1990

Friends of College Libraries
CLIP Note #9
Ronnelle Thompson, comp.
$18.75; ACRL member $15.50, 134p. 0-8389-7171-7, 1987

Mission Statements for College Libraries
CLIP Note #5
Jamie Webster Hastreiter, Larry Hardesty, David Henderson, comps.
$21.95; ACRL member $16.50, 107p. 0-8389-6944-5, 1985

Periodicals in College Libraries
CLIP Note #8
Jamie Webster Hastreiter, Larry Hardesty, David Henderson, comps.
$18.75; ACRL member $15.45, 116p. 0-8389-7143-1, 1987

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$8.95; ACRL member $7.50, 52p. 0-8389-7427-9, 1990
Collection Development

Women's Studies Collection Development Policies
WSS Collection Development and Bibliography Committee
This unique tool identifies issues and provides models of existing policies. Complete policy statements from 16 university libraries illustrate the range of issues and provide a variety of models. The RLG Conspectus; Women's Studies supplemental guideline, included as an appendix, identifies issues unique to Women's Studies and describes materials and sources.
$35.95; ACRL member $29.95, 122p. 0-8389-7596-8, 1992

Building Women's Studies Collections: A Resource Guide
Joan Ariel, editor
This is no. 8 in the Bibliographical Essay Series published by Choice. Order from Choice, 100 Riverview Center, Middletown, CT 06457. $12.00, 48p. 0914492071, 1987

English and American Literature: Sources and Strategies for Collection Development
Publications in Librarianship: No. 45
William McPheron, editor
$32.00, 272p. 0-8389-0476-9, 1987

Richard Garnett: The Scholar and Librarian
Publications in Librarianship: No. 46
Barbara McCrimmin
$30.00, 211p. 0-8389-0508-0, 1989

Books for College Libraries III
This set covers more than 50,000 titles chosen to represent a core collection of books for four-year college and university libraries. BCL3 is also available on machine-readable tape. Contact ACRL for details.
$600. 6v. set. $125 individual volume 0-8389-3353-X, 1988

Directory of Curriculum Materials Center, 1990
Donald Osier, Carol Wright, Janet Lawrence, Mary Ellen Collins, Beth Anderson, comps.
This directory includes 272 institutions and covers purpose, hours, staffing, budget, service, and holdings.
$39.54; ACRL member $32.94, 240p. 0-8389-7439-2, 1991

State Education Documents: A State-by-State Directory for Their Acquisition and Use
EBSS Education-Related Government Publications Subcommittee
This directory provides the means to access the large variety of state education documents available from government agencies.
$21.95; ACRL member $18.65, 54p. 0-8389-7327-2, 1989
Western European Studies: Current Research Trends & Library Resources
Eva Sartori, Ceres Birkhead, John Cullars, John Dillon, Thomas Kilton, editors

Eleven research papers offer thoughtful synthesis, personal insight and information useful for anyone dealing with recent scholarship in Western European studies.

$32.95; ACRL member $29.65, 120p. 0-8389-7461-9, 1990

Women’s Studies in Western Europe: A Resource Guide
Stephen Lehmann and Eva Sartori, editors

$19.85; ACRL member $16.50, 129p. 0-8389-7037-0, 1986

Bibliographic Instruction

New!
Learning to Teach: Workshops on Instruction

A practical guide for bibliographic instruction practitioners and program coordinators, this book is a useful training manual. Nine workshops cover the basics including clear, concise discussions of classroom techniques, new technologies, and instruction in a multicultural environment. This collection of workshops is designed to develop fundamental skills and addresses critical issues in bibliographic instruction.


The Evolving Educational Mission of the Library
Betsy Baker & Mary Ellen Litzinger, editors

This book identifies strategic issues which challenge the development of instructional programs in academic libraries and suggests roles for librarians in the educational processes of their parent institutions. Academic librarians, library school educators, and higher education faculty and administrators will want this book.

$29.95; ACRL member $19.95, 202p. 0-8389-7584-4, 1992

Read This First: An Owner’s Guide to the New Model Statement of Objectives for Academic Bibliographic Instruction
Carolyn Dusenbury, Monica Fusich, Kathleen Kenny, and Beth Woodard, editors

$19.75; ACRL member $16.45, 72p. 0-8389-7548-8, 1991
Statistics & Research

New!
Thomas Kirk, editor
This publication includes the complete text of provocative presentations by Julian Bond (leader for social change), W. David Penniman (president of the Council on Library Resources), Paul Saffo (technology consultant and futurist), and Catharine R. Stimpson (women's studies scholar and academic administrator). Practical examinations and solutions to current academic library problems are included in 36 program reports and 52 refereed contributed papers. Inspiring and informative, these proceedings reflect the vitality of the conference and the variety of issues explored.
$49.95; ACRL member $44.95, 522p.
0-8389-7622-0, 1992

ACRL/Historically Black Colleges & Universities Library Statistics, 1988-89
Robert E. Molyneux, comp.
$35.95; ACRL member $25.95, 101p.
0-8389-7547-X, 1991

ACRL University Library Statistics, 1988-89
Denise Bedford, comp.
$49.95; ACRL member $29.95, 79p.
0-8389-7446-5, 1990

Library Statistics of Colleges & Universities, 1985; National Summaries, State Summaries, Institutional Tables
Data on 3,000 academic libraries from the 1985 HEGIS study conducted by the Center for Education Statistics
$33.50; ACRL member $26.45, 140p.
0-8389-7147-4, 1987

Academic Libraries: Research Perspectives Publications in Librarianship: No. 47
Mary Jo Lynch and Arthur P. Young, editors
$27.50; 256p.
0-8389-0532-3, 1990

Building on the First Century: Proceedings of the Fifth National Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries
Jan Fennell, editor
$32.85; ACRL member $24.25, 320p.
0-8389-7289-6, 1989

ACRL University Library Statistics, 1990-91
Library Research Center, Graduate School of Library & Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, comp.
This edition provides data on over 100 participating libraries. The categories of library data collected include: collections, personnel, expenditures, and interlibrary loan. The institutional data elements reported include degrees offered, enrollment size, and faculty size.
$69.95; ACRL member $39.95, 80p.
0-8389-7587-9, 1992
News & Reviews

Choice
Book review journal of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Eleven issues per year (July/August combined). ISSN: 0009-4978. Available by subscription only, $155/year domestic rate; $170/year foreign rate; single issues $15.00. Also available as:

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Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship
A journal of theory and practice covering all aspects of special collections librarianship. Two issues/year. ISSN: 0884-450X. $30.00 U.S.; $35.00 for Canada and Mexico; and all other countries $40.00; single issues $15.00 each.

College and Research Libraries
Official journal of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Six bimonthly issues per year. Sent to ACRL members as perquisite of membership. Also available on subscription, $50.00 per year in the U.S.; Canada and Mexico $55.00 per year; and all other countries $60.00; single issues $14.00 each. ISSN: 0010-0870.

College and Research Libraries News
Official news magazine of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Eleven issues per year (July/August combined). Sent to ACRL members as perquisite of membership. Also available on subscription, $25.00 per year in the U.S.; $30.00 per year in Canada and other PUAS countries; $35.00 in other foreign countries; single issues $6.50 each. ISSN: 0099-0086.

$29.95; ACRL member $25.95, 180p. 0-8389-7487-2, 1991
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setting the equilibrium of organizations, Barone gave new rules to challenge technologists to change their perspective about management and organization behavior. She said that we need to address basic relationships and reprogram our thought patterns. We don’t know what is best for our clients and need to approach each with a fresh perspective, not just deliver a set slate of services. One of her recommendations to computing administrators was to align with the library on key joint projects and take advantage of the library’s traditionally strong support in the campus community.

The Dartmouth Campus Information System (DCIS) was promoted by Robert Brentrup, who spoke about a campus information culture, and by Apple Computer, which sponsored several hands-on demonstrations. About 20–30 conference participants sat at Macintosh stations and accessed DCIS through the Internet. The main features available were the library catalog, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and weather maps. Dartmouth has tried to provide “a port for every pillow” for student use and has begun upgrading to ethernet links for the more than 6,000 Macintosh computers in use. The campus philosophy followed the “library model” in which computing is considered a public utility, centrally funded, provided free, with services reaching everyone.

CAUSE is the professional association for managing and using information technology in higher education. It is associated with administrative computing, whereas EDUCOM focuses on academic computing. Its annual conferences offer an excellent venue for librarians to hear about the applications of information technology on campus. This year’s conference will be December 7–10 in San Diego. If you have ideas for a program proposal, contact the CAUSE office at 4840 Pearl East Circle, Suite 302E, Boulder, CO 80301. Librarians are welcome at CAUSE, and the conference provides a relaxed setting for getting new ideas.

Letters

Challenging organizational structures
To the Editor:

The “Model Statement for the Screening and Appointment of Academic Librarians Using a Search Committee” (November 1992) is well done with one exception. It takes as a given that this body should act in a “consultative” manner. I think it’s time that these efforts should be a partnership with the director or appropriate administrator. This partnership would require consensus of all parties or, perhaps even more radically, a simple unanimous vote of the search committee. I believe it’s time to challenge the top down organizational structures of our libraries (and colleges and universities) that offer the guise of democratic participation. Organizations should elect their leaders in the same way we elect our government leaders.—Terry Link, public policy librarian, Michigan State University, East Lansing

Offensive cover features Colorado
To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the cover of the December C&RL News. [University of Colorado at Denver, Auraria Campus] I found it highly offensive. As a longtime supporter of human rights back to the sixties, I have always prided myself in working for those who have been discriminated against. I also oppose all discrimination but unfortunately, you do not. In choosing to honor a state which denies a group of citizens its human rights, you are contributing to a climate of hatred and bigotry. I am very tired of people preaching how liberal ALA is when I see so many blatant examples of its sexist, racist, and homophobic nature. None of which someone like yourself with your education is immune to. I am at a loss as to why anyone should keep renewing ACRL membership if this is the intolerance its members receive. Barbra Streisand has led a fine example for the rest of the country by boycotting Colorado in any way. I suggest you examine your conscience (if you have any) and let your heart lead. Maybe your next cover should be of South African and the wonderful progress they’re making.—Joseph T. King, San Francisco

(C&RL News welcomes your signed, typed comment on recent content in our pages or on matters of interest to the academic or research library profession. Send to: The Editor, C&RL News, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611; fax: (312) 280-7663; bitnet: U38398@UICVM.bitnet)