ACRL President's report

By Joseph A. Boissé
ACRL's 50th President

ACRL's past year in perspective.

The ACRL year was dominated by the Fifth National Conference. Held in April in Cincinnati, the conference celebrated the Association's past and looked to the future. The celebrations included the 100th anniversary of the establishment by ALA of a College Library Section which was the forerunner of ACRL; the establishment of the division itself; the launching of College & Research Libraries fifty years ago; and finally, the 25th anniversary of Choice.

Joseph A. Boissé

As part of this celebration of the past, the Association conferred Distinguished Career Citations on ten academic librarians whose retirement precluded their being considered for the Academic or Research Librarian of the Year Award. The individuals who received the citations collectively represented more than 350 years of dedicated service to academic libraries. The honorees were: Page Ackerman, Gertrude Annan, Jack Dalton, Herman Fussler, Guy Lyle, A.P. Marshall, Lawrence Powell, Joseph Reason, Eileen Thornton, James O. Wallace. A large number of past presidents and past executive directors of the Association attended a special luncheon which was held to honor them.

Although much energy and effort was devoted to planning the conference, ACRL members and officers did not neglect other Association objectives during the year.

In the area of standards, the Board approved the revised "ACRL Standards for University Libraries." These standards, which represent a departure from past approaches, were the result of an enormous amount of work by the Standards and Accreditation Committee. This spring, the ARL Executive Board endorsed the standards as developed by ACRL.

Chapter activity continued throughout the country. The state or regional organizations hosted a number of visits by board members. It is clear that the effort that ACRL puts into chapter activities is one of the major contributions that the Association makes to the advancement of academic librarianship. With the establishment of a chapter in Arkansas, there are now 40 ACRL chapters nationwide.

The awards conferred by ACRL serve to recognize the achievements and the dedication of members. This year, the Community and Junior College Libraries Section, with the approval of the Executive Board, established two new awards. These are to be called the Community College Learning Resources Achievement Awards. The awards will be given annually to recognize significant achievement in the areas of: 1) program development, and 2) leadership or community service.

When I was elected Vice-President of ACRL, I asked the membership of the organization to write to me about their concerns for the profession and for our libraries. From the many suggestions which I received, three issues in particular seemed to be of
Ten librarians awarded for distinguished careers at ACRL's Fifth National Conference

Ten librarians, all of whom made major contributions to the profession before the establishment of the Academic or Research Librarian of the Year Award and whose careers exemplify the ideals which that award was established to recognize, were presented with a Distinguished Career Citation and a plaque at ACRL's Fifth National Conference in Cincinnati, April 5-8.

The librarians selected were: Page Ackerman, Gertrude Annan, Jack Dalton, Herman Fussier, Guy Lyle, A.P. Marshall, Lawrence Powell, Joseph Reason, Eileen Thornton, and James O. Wallace.

Page Ackerman served as university librarian at UCLA until her retirement in 1977. She was one of the first to establish a library planning office and to involve her staff in an organized way in the library's forward planning. Ackerman now resides in Santa Monica, California.

Gertrude Annan retired from the New York Academy of Medicine in 1970, after 14 years as its chief librarian. She combined a commitment to scholarship with a commitment to service and was a leader in developing the concept of cooperative planning and networking long before it was fashionable to do so. Annan now resides in Hightstown, New Jersey.

Jack Dalton retired from his position as dean of the School of Library Service at Columbia University in 1970. While at Columbia he was especially noted for reestablishing Columbia's reputation as one of the country's great library schools, and providing a model for the relationship between a library school faculty and the administration of the university library. Dalton currently resides in New York City.

Herman Fussier directed the University of Chicago Library for more than a quarter of a century and was responsible for the planning, design, and building of the Regenstein Library. Fussier simultaneously pursued a career of research and teaching in the University's Graduate Library School, a career that continued after he left the directorship, and conducted the classic investigation, Patterns in the Use of Books in Large Research Libraries. Fussier now resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Guy Lyle's professional career began in 1929 when he was appointed librarian of Antioch College. He then served successively as director of the library at Women's College of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, at Louisiana State University, and until his retirement in 1972 at Emory University. His book, Administration of the...
ACRL executive summary

At the Dallas Conference, we hope, the Operating Agreement issue will have been settled for a while. The manifold revisions have been distilled into something division leaders and staff and the COPES can live with. The negotiations have been alternately hot and cold, but in the end we have arrived at a document that is acceptable to all. Neither ALA nor the divisions are “winners,” yet in coming to agreement, we all win. ALA will recoup most of its indirect costs than in the past, but will still have major overhead expenses that are not recovered. Divisions will pay much more in overhead to ALA, but will have some phase-in time to plan for implementation. A delicate balance has been achieved as we go to Dallas; we are all hoping for the best at the Conference.

Professional development

Once again, CJCLS will be holding a teleconference. This one, scheduled for November 15, 1989, will address CD-ROM technology but will be at a more advanced level than the previous session, which attracted an audience of about 11,000. ACRL began preparation for next year’s RBMS Preconference, “Issues Facing Special Collections in the ’90s.”

We received an additional contribution from Katharine K. and Daniel J. Leab for their American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Awards. We also received additional support from K. G. Saur to allow multiple authors each to receive $500 when there is more than one author of the winning...