

TECH NOTES

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elaine Franco

Greetings to our members. The ACTSS Board of Directors has been busy planning programs and workshops that we think will prove interesting and educational for you. Plans for the November 1999 CLA Annual Conference include a preconference institute on cataloging rare serials, a conference program on the technical services issues involved in the San Jose combined academic/public library, and a talk table on how catalogers' skills can aid at the reference desk. The section is also planning a regional workshop on MFHD (MARC format for holdings data). Our Cataloging Interest Group plans a conference program on how electronic resources are changing catalogers' definitions of serials and monographs, as well as a regional workshop on cataloging manuscripts. More details will be forthcoming.

ACTSS maintained a high profile during the 1998 CLA conference in Oakland. The section co-sponsored two programs on outsourcing. We were responsible for presenting a program on weeding and a program on purchasing electronic resources. We also facilitated a talk table on the changing role of paraprofessionals in technical services. The Cataloging Interest Group presented a program on AACR in transition. The second ACTSS Award of Achievement was presented to Celia Bakke of San Jose State University. Our newly revised recruitment flyers were in evidence at our programs and other meetings, as well as at the CLA membership booth, which a number of our members volunteered to staff during the conference.

Our 1998 continuing education workshops were very successful. An ACTSS workshop on LC and Dewey classification was registered to capacity for northern and southern sessions. The Cataloging Interest Group workshop on cataloging internet resources quickly sold out, and a third session was added.

Last year we set a goal of increasing our membership to 150. We almost made it. At last count,

we had 145 members. If we can retain lapsed members and recruit a few more, we can reach our goal this year. The Board of Directors and I welcome your comments and suggestions on how the section can better serve its membership. If you have ideas, please contact us.

A nomination form for the 1999 ACTSS Achievement Award is included in this issue of Tech Notes. The deadline for nominations is June 15, 1999. Lloyd Jansen chairs the Award Committee. The award will be presented at the ACTSS business meeting during the CLA annual conference in November.

By the end of June you should receive your CLA election ballots for next year's officers. Our Nominating Committee, chaired by Libby Flynn, will be busy preparing a slate of candidates for the ACTSS offices of Vice-President/President-Elect and Secretary. That slate is due to CLA by April 15.

We anticipate another busy and rewarding year for ACTSS. I hope that many of you will be able to attend our regional workshops and our programs at the CLA conference in Palm Springs in November.

MANUSCRIPT CATALOGING WORKSHOPS

Yolanda Blue

The Cataloging Interest Group is planning to host 2 workshops on manuscript cataloging. The speaker is Bradley D. Westbrook, Manuscripts Librarian/University Archivist at the University of California, San Diego.

Announcements about registration as well as dates and locations of the workshops will be forthcoming.

For more information, contact the Cataloging Interest Group Chair, Yolanda Blue, at UCSB: blue@library.ucsb.edu or 805-893-3062.

**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 3rd ANNUAL
ACTSS AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT***Lloyd Jansen*

The Access, Collections and Technical Services Section invites the California library community to acknowledge superior achievement by an individual in the area of access, collections and technical services. As libraries continue to change and adapt to new technologies, this area of the profession has been challenged significantly. Unfortunately, people who are making a real impact in these areas do not always receive the acknowledgement or thanks they deserve. The ACTSS Award is an opportunity to recognize these contributions.

ACTSS has tried to make the nominations process easy. It only requires someone like you to submit the name(s), current title and address and description (maximum 350 words) of the achievement(s) to CLA. The name of the nominator(s) is optional.

The section wants to encourage library directors to submit nominations, but the process is open to any level of the staff, as well as the public or vendors. You may even nominate yourself! The deadline for submission is June 18, 1999. The award will be presented at the November annual conference in Palm Springs during the ACTSS business meeting. Send nominations to:

Access, Collections and Technical Services
Section Award
California Library Association,
717 K Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814-3477.

You do not need to limit nominations to librarians, but do include only persons who have worked in a California library in a paid position for a portion of the past year. Nominees must be members of CLA and ACTSS. The ACTSS award is one more great benefit of CLA membership.

There are many who deserve this award, but their work has been unheralded because their accomplishment is unknown outside of their library, library system or campus. This is your chance to help put their achievements in the spotlight.

Previous recipients of the ACTSS Award:

1998 -- Celia Bakke, San Jose State University

1997 -- Pat Thomas, Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library

**METADATA AND THE DIGITAL LIBRARY
:
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN THE
21ST CENTURY
-- A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL
PROCESSES GROUP***Cheryl Kugler*

Reserve Thursday, April 22, 1999 for an exploration into the new world of metadata, the Dublin Core, digital libraries, and knowledge management. Learn what metadata is and how it is being used to describe and deliver information about archival collections, images, and library collections.

Speakers include:

Murtha Baca, Project Manager, Standards Initiatives,
The Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and
the Humanities;

Karyn German, knowledge management consultant;

Bill Landis, Manuscripts Cataloger, Department of
Special Collections, University of California, Irvine;

Mary Woodley, Cataloger, The Getty Research Institute
for the History of Art and the Humanities.

Consult the SCTPG website for more details:
<http://www.lasierra.edu/library/SCTPG>

THE "O" WORD, PART 2 : AN UPDATE ON OUTSOURCING IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND THE PALOS VERDES LIBRARY DISTRICT

Lloyd Jansen

Peg Tarbox, Central Library Manager for the Palos Verdes Library District, talked about PVLDD's contracts with Brodart for cataloging and processing, LSSI for automated service management, and Morehead and Associates for accounting services.

She emphasized that she sees outsourcing as a management tool and has no intention of ignoring workers' rights or philosophical issues. PVLDD needed a new approach after enduring reduced property tax revenues starting in 1995 while at the same time providing expanded facilities.

Ms. Tarbox stated that new books are now getting on the shelf in a more timely manner than before and that error rates in the outsourced cataloging and processing are at 5%. The contract with LSSI provides full automation support and emergency services and staff has been trained to troubleshoot minor hardware and software problems they were not allowed to handle before.

Benefits she cited include: better communication among staff, staff learning new skills such as electronic ordering, and the development of organized procedures for handling new materials.

Gary Christmas, Riverside County Librarian, gave an update on how his county's ongoing contract with LSSI to provide all library services is working. LSSI was unanimously chosen by the selection committee because they brought with them fewer political issues than a government body, experience in running library operations, strong staff, and financial backing by the Follett Corporation. LSSI was also committed to hiring all existing staff with no cut in pay, though Mr. Christmas explained that their benefit package was cut as they could no longer be a part of the PERS retirement program.

Benefits for the library include an increase in the number of MLS holding staff, volunteers performing fewer tasks more appropriately done by paid staff, and open hours, book purchasing, and circulation have all increased.

Some of the things Riverside County has learned from their outsourcing experience include the fact that staff are just as committed to good library service whether Riverside County or LSSI sign their paychecks, local governments can work with a private company and remain in control, and private companies are more adaptable than a government body when problems or issues arise.

Problems they encountered include a need to be diligent in monitoring the contract and working through the growing pains of the LSSI organization. Mr. Christmas concluded by citing the CLA Outsourcing and Subcontracting Library Services Policy and explained how he thinks the Riverside County experience has favorably lived up to each of the guidelines listed in the policy.

After the formal presentation the two speakers were challenged by some emotional comments from the audience. Former CLA President Ursula Meyer stated that while the efficiencies of these efforts are commendable, the results are libraries that seem "humorless and totally without a soul." A former Riverside City/County Library staff member claimed that her former branch's materials budget earlier in the '90s was more than the entire county materials budget is today and felt that claims of increased services are misleading considering the level of service the system offered earlier in the decade.

TO WEED OR NOT TO WEED? THAT IS THE QUESTION

Elaine Franco

Barbara Leonard (San Jose State University), Craig Hawbaker (University of the Pacific), and Angellyn King (University of Redlands) presented a practical and thought provoking program on weeding library collections. The speakers recommended that libraries develop deselection policies that are closely aligned with their collection development policies, as well as clearly defined, practical weeding guidelines. They encouraged librarians to approach weeding as a positive, rewarding process by which outdated, worn, or unused materials are replaced on a systematic basis, resulting in a more current, relevant collection. During the question and answer period the audience exchanged suggestions for positive alternatives to the dumpster when disposing of deselected items.