

*ACRL/NEC Annual Report to ACRL National
2006-2007
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Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

Goal Area: Learning

Strategic Objective: ACRL expands adoption, use and development of information literacy standards.

The New England Library Instruction Group (NELIG), one of eight ACRL/New England Chapter (ACRL/NEC) special interest groups, sponsored a program on December 8th, 2006 about converting for-credit information literacy courses to online platforms. Based at Rensselaer at Hartford, Susan Slaga and Emily Chasse from Central Connecticut State University discussed how they converted an in-classroom course that addressed the range of information literacy skills to a WebCT-based course. In addition Libby Knapik of Sacred Heart University talked about developing an online information literacy course in response to New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation standards for information literacy. The presentation was simulcast to additional attendees at Providence College, Bowdoin College, Springfield College, Keene State College and other individual sites. In total 69 people participated in this program.

Strategic Objective: ACRL increases members' ability to teach and assess lifelong learning skills.

Several ACRL/NEC programs over the past year addressed teaching lifelong learning skills, and they will be presented in other sections of this report as they fit equally under different objectives. Of particular note in this section, the New England Library Instruction Group (NELIG), is devoting its annual program to assessment of information literacy instruction. On June 8th, 2007 at Assumption College, Dr. Megan Oakleaf, faculty at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, will keynote the meeting entitled "Demystifying Assessment: Evaluating Student Learning". NELIG's annual programs generally draw about 100 participants from around New England.

Strategic Objective: ACRL increases member abilities to create and manage physical and virtual spaces and services as environments for discovery.

ACRL/NEC's annual conference "Space: the Final Frontier" fits squarely within this objective. This year the annual conference will be held on June 1st, 2007 at Brandeis University. Speakers include:

- Paul Gherman, University Librarian at Vanderbilt University
- Brian F. Lavoie, Consulting Research Scientist at OCLC
- Anne Sauer, Director of Digital Collections and Archives at Tufts University

These authorities and others will address the challenges and possibilities of sustaining core values and traditional resources and services while also building new digital collections, all

within limited physical spaces. The Chapter's annual conference generally attracts about 200 attendees.

The Information Technology Interest Group (ITIG) sponsored a program, "The Learning Commons at UMass and Beyond" at the University of Massachusetts Amherst on September 29th, 2006. Anne C. Moore, Associate Director for User Services at UMass Amherst spoke about the genesis, conception, development and management of the Learning Commons within the W.E.B. DuBois Library. Kathy Boyd, Library Director at Salve Regina University, reported on her survey of libraries as learning spaces and her tour of six newly redesigned library spaces in New England. About 30 people attended this program.

Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

Goal Area: Scholarship

Strategic Objective: Continue to play a leadership role in promoting research and publication in academic and research librarianship thereby creating and disseminating tools and a body of knowledge for the field.

The Awards & Scholarships Working Group, consisting of about 6 current and past Chapter Board members, continued to meet and formalize an awards and scholarships program. One of the awards finalized and approved by the Board is for a Best Paper Award to be granted annually to an ACRL/NEC member who writes the best scholarly library/information science paper which has been published or accepted for publication within the previous year. This and the other awards and scholarships will be announced and launched at the Chapter's Annual Conference on June 1st, 2007. In addition, the 2006 and 2007 annual conferences have offered a venue for New England librarians to present their research in a "poster session" format. These are two specific ways the New England Chapter is promoting research and publication; sponsoring forums and inviting librarian experts to speak about their research, experience and expertise at interest group programs is another fundamental way the Chapter supports and promotes research.

Strategic Objective: Strengthen ACRL's emphasis on evolving knowledge management systems including, but not limited to, the creation, collection, preservation, access, and exchange of information.

Several interest group programs have supported this objective this year. The Women's Studies Interest Group (WSIG) met on December 1st, 2006 at Brown University to hear about the Women Writers Project (WWP). Julia Flanders, director of the Project, spoke of its history, mission and current work to build an electronic text base for pre-Victorian women's writings. Twenty-five librarians and professors attended this program. And on May 14th WSIG will meet at Wheaton College for a tour of the Library and Marion B. Gebbie Archives and to hear Professor Kathryn Tomasek talk about her research using women's diaries from the collection.

The Collection Development Interest Group (CDIG) sponsored a program "Collaborative Collection Development: What it is and who is doing it?" on November 16th, 2006 at the

University of New Hampshire. Amy Lewontin, Collection Development Librarian at Northeastern University, spoke about her library's use of the OCLC collection analysis tool. Judy Montgomery, Associate Librarian, Bowdoin College, John Harrison, Associate College Librarian, Bates College, Alisia Wygant, Periodicals and Electronic Resources Assistant, Colby College, presented how their libraries have worked together to analyze their holdings to further cooperative efforts for collection development, preservation and resource sharing. Sandy Brooke, Head of Acquisitions and Collection Development, Williams College; Darwin Scott, Music Librarian, Brandeis University, and Peter Allison, Principal Bibliographer, University of Connecticut spoke about a project among six libraries from the Boston Library Consortium.

Finally, the Librarians for Online Course Information (LOCI) and Access Services interest groups will co-sponsor a program on June 7th, 2007 at Holy Cross College, "Copyright in the Digital Era – Voices of Experience." Presenters include:

-- Linda K. Enghagen, Professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for the keynote, "Copyright Compliance Made Simple: Six Rules for Course Design";

-- James Capobianco, Coordinator of Web Development and Reference Librarian at Emerson College, "Making a Statement: Developing an Institutional Copyright Policy";

-- Linda Collins, Head of Access Services at Lamont Library of Harvard University and Lauren Esser, Electronic Reserves Librarian of the Harvard College Libraries will talk about helping libraries and faculty make the best use of licensed online resources for courses;

-- Tim Bowen and Dru Zuretti from the Copyright Clearance Center will demonstrate the new version of the Copyright Permissions Building Block.

Strategic Objective: Strengthen ACRL's relationship with learned societies.

The New England Chapter supported this objective by working on several fronts with other regional and national library organizations. The Chapter purchased an exhibitor table at the American Jewish Libraries 2006 Convention in Boston, Massachusetts. A Board member represented the Chapter and offered ACRL literature and membership forms. The Chapter co-sponsored four academic programs at the New England Library Association (NELA) conference in Burlington, Vermont in October, 2006. One of the two Chapter Members-At-Large worked to develop these programs with the academic section planners of NELA, and a Board member attended these programs and distributed ACRL brochures. The Member at Large is now working on program planning for the 2007 NELA conference. The Massachusetts Library Association annual conference planners also requested assistance, which the Board gladly provided, to identify program topics of academic interest and potential speakers on those topics.

Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

Goal Area: Advocacy

Strategic Objective: Increase ACRL's influence in Public Policy affecting higher education

The Chapter's ACRL Legislative Network Representative consistently and reliably passed on to the Chapter's mailing list legislative updates and calls to action, including the announcement from the ACRL Government Relations Committee to recruit Legislative Advocates. In addition, NEC's Legislative Network Representative initiated an effort to organize library advocates to New England state legislatures who appeal for attention to academic library concerns locally.

Strategic Area: The Profession

Goal Area: Continuous Learning

Strategic Objective: Align programs and other learning opportunities with member needs and strategic priorities.

The Chapter's Continuing Education Committee (CEC) finished its final report on the 2005-2006 Needs Assessment Survey it conducted in March 2006. Based on responses from 226 respondents, the CEC presented 6 recommendations to the Board at its January meeting:

- sponsor programs at state and regional library association meetings and increase communication/interaction with them;
- appoint formal liaisons to state library associations to facilitate communication, promote our organization, and better coordinate library continuing education offerings throughout New England;
- move the most popular SIG programs to locations outside the Greater Boston area, or repeat them at more than 1 location;
- extend the Chapter's annual conference to two days;
- promote teleconferencing of SIG programs at multiple sites throughout New England as a means to fulfill the educational, proximity and social networking needs of academic library personnel through New England; and
- maintain a searchable regional continuing education calendar for the Chapter and other regional library events.

ACRL New England Chapter has made a significant effort to learn and understand what the needs of regional academic librarians – members and non-members alike. It has begun to adjust its programming and activities accordingly, as evidenced by activities noted throughout this report.

The Chapter collects additional information about member needs and programming interests through Annual Conference evaluation distributed every year. Furthermore, interest group and program planning committee membership represents a wide variety of academic librarian interests and perspectives.

Strategic Objective: Increase professional development opportunities focused on assisting librarians in advocating the value of the library.

NELIG sponsored two meetings in direct support of this objective. On September 15th, 2006 at Salem State University the program was "Teaching Information Technologies to Faculty at Salem State University". Nancy Dennis and Nancy George, both librarians at Salem State, gave specific examples of how they participate in programs with faculty in which their -- and by extension librarians' -- critical skills contribute to teaching and learning at their university. On March 13th, 2007 at Wentworth Institute of Technology for "Collaboration @ Your Library: Getting Your Message Heard Outside the Library World". The subject was exactly the kind of professional development opportunity addressed by this objective. The speakers were:

-- Marilyn Steinberg, Librarian, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Kari Mofford, Librarian, Wentworth Institute of Technology, spoke about how they got an article published in the Teaching Professor newsletter as well as invited to speak at their 2007 conference;

-- Carolyn White, Librarian, and Professor of English, Dr. Susanne Paterson, University of New Hampshire at Manchester, discussed reaching outside the library world to let other educational stakeholders know about information literacy and library initiatives to enhance student research, critical thinking skills, and lifelong learning;

-- Susan Herzog, Librarian, and Kim Silcox, University Judicial Officer, Eastern Connecticut State University, talked about their collaboration with a professor and the Assistant Director of Institutional Research on student awareness of academic integrity policies and practice; and

-- Susan Herzog, Librarian, and Professor of English, Dr. Meredith James, Eastern Connecticut State University, addressed their collaboration with another librarian and the Assistant Director of Institutional Research on student awareness of the consequences of their Facebook/MySpace online profiles.

In addition, NEC's President attended the ACRL pre-conference, *Campus Advocacy: Involving All Library Staff in Influencing Campus Dynamics* at the National Conference in Baltimore with the explicit purpose of preparing to participate in the University Libraries Section program to fund Chapter programming on this topic in the coming year. NEC intends to submit an application for this initiative.

Strategic Objective: Increase learning opportunities in information technology, including practice, theory, and policy, ensuring appropriate integrations throughout ACRL programming.

The New England Chapter is advancing this objective in two ways. It has employed a wiki to support the operations of its Board, thus providing a practical and functional training ground for participating librarians to learn and use this technology. Second, the CEC is paying the group rate for the ACRL Webcast "The Classroom Will Now Be Podcast: Podcasting in Higher Education and Implications for Academic Libraries" and inviting Chapter membership to gather at Holy Cross College to view and discuss this program.

Strategic Objective: Increase accessibility of learning opportunities and enhance incentives and recognition for member participation.

The Chapter makes the learning opportunities it offers accessible in numerous ways:

- through very low or no-cost programming, especially in comparison with other library professional programming;
- through a Chapter membership annual rate of \$15 for regular members and \$5 for students;
- through locating programs at colleges and universities across New England, enabling face-to-face participation by academic library staff throughout the region.

Member participation is encouraged and recognized by formal letters of acknowledgement and thanks to those who present at Chapter programs. The new Awards & Scholarships program will further enhance incentives. In addition to the Best Paper award, the NEC will give 6 student scholarships to cover costs for its Annual Conference; 6 librarian/library staff scholarships to first time attendees to cover costs for its Annual Conference; 1 scholarship to a first time attendee to ACRL's national conference; and an annual continuing education scholarship. The Board has voted to approve and fund this program beginning in FY2008.

Strategic Objective: Increase agility in providing cutting-edge content and delivery formats for learning programs and publications.

One of the Continuing Education Committee's (CEC) five final recommendations from its 2005-2006 Needs Assessment Survey was to make greater use of teleconferencing technologies for Chapter programming. On December 8th, 2006 the Library Instruction Group was the first Chapter interest group to employ teleconferencing technology. It used the Elluminate virtual conferencing software to deliver a program to attendees at 8 locations. The test was deemed a success by program sponsors and participants.

Strategic Area: The Profession

Goal Area: Leadership

Strategic Objective: Empower members to communicate the value of their contribution to learning and scholarship.

The Chapter does this in so many ways by sponsoring speaking opportunities at interest group and conference programs.

Strategic Objective: Increase recognition of the value of libraries and librarians by leaders in higher education, information technology, funding agencies, and campus decision-making.

This year the state universities in each of the New England states – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont – are celebrating centennials as members of the federal depository program. At its March meeting, the Board voted to recognize this achievement with the following motion:

Six academic libraries in New England are celebrating their centennial anniversaries as federal depository libraries. As part of land-grant institutions, they were designated federal depositories in 1907:

- Homer Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut

- Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine, Orono
- W.E.B. DuBois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Dimond Library, University of New Hampshire
- University Library, University of Rhode Island
- Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont

The ACRL/NEC Board recognizes and applauds the commitment and work of these libraries over the past one hundred years in providing no-fee access to the wide range of documents, databases, and information published by all branches of the U.S. government. All participants in the Federal Depository Library Program play a vital role in sustaining the informed citizenry that is necessary for a vigorous democracy, economy, and culture. The ACRL/NEC Board wishes these libraries all the best as they move into their second century of service as federal depository libraries.

The Chapter President sent letters of recognition and appreciation to the directors and government documents librarians at each of these six libraries.

Strategic Objective: Increase ACRL's efforts to support recruitment of new and diverse talent to academic and research librarianship.

As it has done consistently for the past several years (at least), the Chapter will again this year sponsor four students enrolled in graduate programs for library and information science to attend the Chapter annual conference at no cost. Through this gesture it endeavors to encourage new and diverse talent to pursue academic and research librarianship.

Strategic Objective: Increase activities in support of succession planning and leadership development at every level in academic and research libraries.

The New England Chapter actively recruits members to participate and take leadership positions in committees and interest groups. The President writes letters acknowledging the appointments of interest group and committee chairs and letters of thanks acknowledging their service. The Nominations Committee has a formal and extensive process to recruit and fill the annual ballot for the Chapter's officer positions. Through these local level efforts the Chapter seeks to develop academic and research library leaders.

Strategic Area: The Profession

Goal Area: Information Technology

Strategic Objective: Support the development and recognition of academic and research librarians as leaders and experts in information technology applications in libraries.

ITIG and LOCI have both produced programs this year which support this objective. On March 9th, 2007 LOCI sponsored "A Day in the Life of an Off-Campus Services Librarian" at Tufts University. Ed Daniels, Off-Campus Services Librarian at Southern New Hampshire University and April Levy, Reference Coordinator and Instruction Librarian at Lesley University, spoke

about using the course management system, Blackboard, as a platform for offering reference services, instruction tutorials, and learning community support.

On March 14th at Holy Cross College, ITIG produced the program "Content Management Systems: The good, the bad and the ugly." Speakers were:

-- David Wisniewski, Senior Web Architect, Web and Library Application Services (WaLAS) Library and Technology Services, Brandeis University

-- Patty Patria, Manager, Technology Deployment and Integration, Bentley College, and

-- Jason Black, Director of Administrative & Web Services, Salve Regina University

They spoke about various aspects of evaluating, selecting and implementing a content management system at different levels in a library and university setting.

On April 27th, 2007 ITIG and LOCI co-sponsored the program "Library-Faculty collaboration: Bryant University's experience with Blackboard" at Bryant University. Colleen Anderson, Instructional and E-Resources Librarian, Janet Morahan-Martin, Professor of Applied Psychology, and Enoch Park, Instructional Technologist, all at Bryant University, addressed how they have worked together to incorporate appropriate library resources and services within particular course modules in Blackboard.

Strategic Area: The Association

Goal Area: Membership

Strategic Objective: Expand the appeal of ACRL membership among current members.

The most tangible way the Chapter has supported this objective was by advocating, through the Chapter President's participation in Chapters Council, for a change to ALA's communications preferences on its membership forms. Thanks to the persistence and advocacy of ACRL's Executive Director, a new option was added that enables members to choose to receive communications from ALA affiliates and Chapters. This change will give members a choice between receiving ALA communications exclusively or all communications, including commercial appeals. The Chapter hopes this will keep it in better contact with its membership.

Strategic Objective: Increase the number of academic and research librarian members.

New England Chapter Board members have done considerable work this year to highlight the benefits of membership, to appeal to new members, and to retain existing members. ACRL membership brochures were made available for all attendees at Chapter programs, as well as New England Library Association and American Jewish Libraries conferences (see above). The results in terms of "conversions to memberships" of these appeals cannot be realistically measured. In addition, the Membership Coordinator updated the Chapter's membership database and sent renewal invitations to members with expiring memberships; 3 local members switched to national memberships. AND she sent invitations to over 250 people in the Chapter's database with lapsed memberships and encouraged them to *rejoin*. This was the most personally proactive membership campaign the Chapter has undertaken. Results of these efforts cannot be known until the Chapter receives its next membership list from National.

Strategic Area: The Association

Goal Area: Sustainability

Strategic Objective: Increase and improve ACRL's organizational use of information technology.

This year the Communications Committee reviewed the myriad and distributed information technology tools which support Chapter communications and activities, including a blog, a wiki, at least three mailing lists, two databases, and a web site, all hosted and maintained by different entities. Management and performance issues have become problematic and the Communications Committee recommended consolidating these services, in the interest of increasing and improving organizational use of information technology, and investigated hosting alternatives. The Board approved moving IT services to a consolidated host, and the Communications Committee is in the process of making a final recommendation as to who that host should be.