
ACRL President's report, 1986-87

By Hannelore B. Rader

ACRL's 48th President

ACRL's past year in perspective.

My year as President of ACRL has been an exciting time to be active in ACRL and ALA affairs.

New task forces and committees

In response to suggestions from members about their needs and interests, I appointed four task forces in July 1986.

The Task Force on Librarians as Instructors, chaired by Marian Winner, will present its final report in New Orleans. The group has been examining librarians' roles in bibliographic instruction and credit courses, and as instructors in library schools. A preliminary report has been presented at the San Francisco Conference.

The Task Force on Libraries and Computer Centers, Richard Boss, chair, carried out a survey to identify some of the organizational changes being made to accommodate developments in computing on campus. They will present a final report in New Orleans, describing guidelines for cooperation between libraries and computing centers.

The Task Force on Library Access, with Kathleen Gunning as chair, prepared the fine ACRL response to the Lacy Report, which I presented to the ALA Special Committee on Freedom



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and Equality of Access to Information at the Midwinter Meeting in Chicago. They have continued to consider access items on behalf of ACRL.

The Task Force on Chapter Guidelines has been working on a revision of the guidelines that will protect ACRL from liability without placing restraints on the activities in which chapters can engage. Bob Carmack has chaired the task force, which has reported on a plan at San Francisco.

At the 1987 Midwinter Meeting, the Board approved the establishment of an International Relations Committee, and Maureen Pastine has agreed to serve as chair. My contacts with academic librarians indicated there was great interest in the international scene and I am pleased to see ACRL establish a formal unit to deal with international affairs. The charge includes the preparation of guidelines for promoting international exchanges of librarians and information, and assisting librarians of other countries in the use of library and bibliographic techniques.

Chapters

I am very enthusiastic about the ACRL Chapter affiliates. Working with these groups has been one of the most satisfying of my presidential duties. With 38 chapter links, ACRL is "close to home" for academic librarians, whether or not they are ACRL members. The following chapters had "official visits," and as visitors we enjoyed interesting programs and stimulating discussion and brought back some great ideas for ACRL: Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon/Washington.

ACRL Board and Executive Committee

Some of the highlights of Board and Executive Committee meetings this year:

- approved the publication of a brief version of the ACRL Strategic Plan in two formats—as published in *College & Research Libraries News*, January 1987, and (same content, different look) as a brochure. Free copies of the brochure are available from the ACRL office.

- began the Candidates' Forum for ACRL presidential candidates at Midwinter. This project will now be coordinated by the ACRL Chapters Council.

- approved the "Standards for Ethical Conduct for Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Librarians." The full statement of the standards appeared in the March 1987 issue of *College & Research Libraries News*.

- approved the "Model Statement of Criteria and Procedures for Appointment, Promotion in Academic Rank, and Tenure for College and University Librarians." The full statement appeared in the May 1987 issue of *College & Research Libraries News*.

- selected Phoenix, Arizona, as the site for ACRL's Sixth National Conference, April 1-4, 1992. ALA Executive Board approval has been sought at the San Francisco Conference.

- approved the petitions for the establishment of two new discussion groups: one for Canadian Studies and another on Electronic Library Development in Academic Libraries.

- voted to sponsor the Western European Specialist's Section conference, April 5-8, 1988, in Florence, Italy.

ALA affairs

This has been a year of serious discussion between ALA and its divisions and among the divisions themselves. I found the Division Officers' meeting in Chicago very interesting and participated actively. Widespread discussion at the Midwinter Meeting focused on the "Policies of ALA in Relation to Divisions" (the new version of the Operating Agreement). In the meetings of ACRL's Budget and Finance Committee and its Board of Directors, as well as at the ALA Planning and Budget Assembly, the ACRL position was clarified. By April when the ACRL Executive Committee met, they were ready to endorse a statement of their position regarding the new "Operating Agreement." This statement has been published in *College & Research Libraries News* and widely distributed among the ALA and ACRL membership, in the hope that a position of Association-wide unity can be reached by the time the Council votes on the new Policies in San Antonio in January 1988.

Choice and Books for College Libraries 3d edition

In November I visited the offices of *Choice* and *Books for College Libraries* and observed two exciting operations. There, a staff of 21 under Patricia Sabosik, editor and publisher, produces 11 issues a year of *Choice* which publishes more reviews than any other reviewing medium in English (over 6,000 a year). Each issue also includes a featured bibliographic essay and there are other special features, such as one on reference books each November and the special issue featuring the "Outstanding Academic Books," a list of some 600 top titles, every May.

The 3d edition of *Books for College Libraries* is nearing completion. The 6-volume set, edited by Virginia Clark under Pat Sabosik as project director, will be published jointly with ALA Publishing during the 1987-88 fiscal year. It is the product of more than 500 faculty members: *Choice* reviewers who volunteered to select titles in their fields, using lists prepared by Clark and her staff from *BCL2* and *Choice* reviews published since *BCL2*, and adding any additional works they wished. All subject lists so created are then being scrutinized by collection development librarians with subject

Oberly Award winners

Jacqueline A. Ashby and Stella Gomez have been selected to receive the 1987 Eunice Rockwood Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences. The award recognizes their jointly written monograph, *Women, Agriculture, and Rural Development in Latin America*, co-published in Colombia by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) and the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) in 1985.

Ashby is a sociologist with the IFDC/CIAT Phosphorus Project in Cali, Colombia; Gomez is a Cali native with an MLS from the Universidad de Antioquia and is now Bibliographical and Reference Section supervisor at the IFDC/CIAT library.

The Oberly Memorial Award, instituted in 1925, is presented in odd-numbered years to American citizens who compile the best bibliographies in agriculture or related sciences in the preceding two-year period. The award is administered by ACRL's Science and Technology Section, and is made possible by a fund established by colleagues in memory of Eunice Rockwood Oberly. One of the authors is an American citizen and thus conforms to the rules of the award.

The bibliography is available for \$11.75 (plus \$2.50 postage) through the Agribookstore, c/o Winrock International, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington, VA 22209.

area specialization to ensure balance. About 50,000 titles will appear in the 3d edition.

Conclusion

The year has also been an exciting one for me

personally. I am grateful for the support of my ACRL and ALA friends as I move into a new position as director of libraries at Cleveland State University, and honored to have had the opportunity to serve as ACRL President. ■■

CD-ROM: A primer

By **Karen A. Becker**

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Some definitions, questions, and answers on a very hot topic.

This primer evolved from a cheat sheet I prepared for myself to alleviate my confusion in dealing with the new optical/laser technology. After attending the Online '86 conference in Chicago, I realized how much I didn't know about CD-ROM and related technologies, and attempting to read the journal literature didn't help much. Authors assumed that the reader already understood the basics, such as: what is the difference between video disks and CD-ROM (there's a difference?), what are the "compatibility" problems to which everyone kept referring (compatible with what?), or what is really a "fair" price? The presentations and demonstrations were very amazing, but I wanted to be able to ask the salespeople and representatives some intelligent questions, and wished I was more familiar with the "burning issues."

This article is divided into two parts: the first part includes a "family tree" of optical technology and a list of definitions. As these applications of laser technology are fairly new, definitions do vary somewhat from source to source, but I have tried to synthesize the most commonly recognized definitions. The second part attempts to cover the issues currently being discussed with reference to optical

technology, especially as it relates to libraries. The purpose of this paper is to instill confidence in the reader—confidence to read a journal article (even in a computer journal!) and confidence to communicate with publishers and vendors of optical technology.

Optical disks

Optical disk: Generic term for media produced and read with laser technology.

Laser disk: Optical disk.

Analog/digital: An analog signal has significance at all times. An analog (dial) watch can show any time, such as 8:32 and 37 seconds. Television transmissions use analog signals. A digital signal is measured as being either on or off, up or down, etc. A digital watch will show the time as being either 8:32 or 8:33. Digital signals are commonly used in computer programming languages. The important fact to remember from all this, is that some optical technology uses the analog format, and some the digital format.

How are optical disks made? The information is converted to the proper format (analog or digital) and written on a *master* disk with a laser (*master-*