

Surplus Fund Award Committee established. The Committee is responsible for writing objectives for allocating surplus funds, developing guidelines, receiving proposals from ACRL units, and making recommendations for allocations.

Both the regular budget process and the surplus funds allocation policy are guided by the goals, objectives and strategies in the ACRL Strategic Plan. The plan was adopted in 1986 and was developed with widespread participation by ACRL members. Now our challenge is to keep the plan up to date, so that it continues to reflect our values and priorities as we make budgetary and operating decisions. All ACRL units are being asked to contribute to the regular and ongoing revision of the plan.

It is too easy, as we have learned from experiences in our libraries, to complete a plan, congratulate ourselves on a job well done, and then file it away. Yet of all organizations, it is vital that a large membership organization such as ACRL has a plan which is a living document to rely on. The complexities of such a wide geographic spread, of meeting only two times a year, and of having management and leadership shared between elected leaders and professional staff all call for a clear and current touchstone for guidance. The Planning Committee will soon be asking for additional advice on unit goals and objectives and how they fit into the plan. The informed advice of members will be critical to our success.

My theme for the year is "Fostering Creativity and Innovation." As President I have had the privilege and pleasure of attending numerous meetings

of chapters and affiliated organizations already this year. My talks to chapters have been primarily concerned with creativity and leadership, and the need for both as academic and research librarians cope with the challenges of the information society. The new "Innovations" column in *C&RL News* is one forum for sharing creative ideas. My President's program on July 11 in New Orleans will also be on the topic of creativity. An exciting and involving experience is promised!

The most exciting innovations, to me, are not the technological wonders which have become almost commonplace in libraries, but the *social* innovations we are creating. Often we are unaware of social innovations because many people may be involved in their creation and because they are evolutionary, based on a cycle of trial, adjustment and adaptation. Nevertheless, they *are* innovations, and they call upon some of our greatest creative powers. Social innovations are such things as new organizational structures, new service designs, the development of new ways of looking at our world. They are also found in our goals, plans and budgets for our professional association—those elements which articulate our professional values!

ACRL is a lively, dynamic organization. It strives to be responsible, responsive and innovative. I think we have much to be proud of, as we look back at the past year, and forward to 1988.

Joanne R. Euster
ACRL President



ACRL executive summary

Executive Committee

The most significant event of the month was the meeting of the ACRL Executive Committee at Headquarters on November 2. At their meeting, the group took several key actions:

The Committee approved the request of CJCLS to sponsor (jointly with AECT/CCAIT) a Teleconference on CD-ROM Technology to be held in April 1988. Details may be found on p.10 of this issue.

The Committee approved a proposal for allocating "surplus funds." It is ACRL policy that each year's budget revenues equal or exceed expenses. For several years, ACRL financial performance has been better than expected, and the Association has been building a fund balance as a reserve for special projects and emergencies. Recently the Board set as a goal the maintenance of a fund balance equal to 50% of the average annual expenditures for the previous three years. At the end of the 1986-87 fiscal year, the fund balance was greater than that goal, and the Budget and Finance Com-

mittee suggested that a mechanism be established to allocate these "surplus funds." Whenever there is a surplus, proposals will be solicited from ACRL units and a committee will award the funds. Further information will be sent to all unit heads soon.

The Committee approved the establishment of two new task forces: one on Professional Ethics and one on ACRL and Social Responsibility.

The Committee took three actions in connection with planning a project to serve libraries in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's):

- an effort will be made to seek funding for three annual accreditation workshops;
- funding will be sought for an NEH project targeted specifically at HBCU's and their communities;
- staff will draft a proposal for a project to collect information about HBCU libraries for use principally in accreditation work.

Planning workshop

On the day following the Executive Committee meeting, the first planning workshop involving

ACRL staff and key members was held. Present were ACRL President Joanne Euster, President-Elect Joseph Boissé, Planning Committee Chair Carolyn Dusenbury, Budget and Finance Chair Pat Wand, six ACRL staff members, and consultant Sharon Pierce. The sessions focused on clarifying the process for annual planning, so that ideas and suggestions can be collected from all ACRL units, the ACRL President-Elect can be involved, the Budget and Finance Committee can consider fiscal implications, the staff can prepare the necessary documents, and the Planning Committee can coordinate annual and longer-range plans. Recognizing the complexity of the process, the group acknowledged the lengthy transition period needed to move to a plan-driven mode of operation and the importance of each others' roles.

WESS Conference

3,000 packets were sent out inviting interested people to attend the WESS Conference in Florence, Italy, April 4-8, 1988. If you would like to receive one, please call Sheryl Stephens at the ACRL office for a copy.

Headquarters

Staff began the annual budget preparation process. Discussion of budget items occupied the Budget and Finance Committee at the Midwinter Meeting, although the final budget will not be approved until the Annual Conference.

Twenty Northern Illinois University students enrolled in an "Academic Libraries" course visited ACRL and the ALA Headquarters Library in October. Cathleen Bourdon and Mary Ellen Davis reviewed ACRL services and opportunities for professional development.

The ACRL staff has been receiving excellent advice in the use of computer equipment acquired over the past few months, both from ALA staff and independent consultants. The new office machines are being used for word processing, spreadsheet, database management, communications, and electronic publishing.

College & Research Libraries News finished 1987 with a total of 748 pages—only 16 pages less than 1986, which included the very large Baltimore Conference issue. The expanded size is due to an increasing number of articles and columns as well as increasing number of advertising pages.—
JoAn S. Segal. ■ ■

ACRL's Fifth National Conference: A call for papers and programs

The Association of College and Research Libraries invites proposals for papers and programs to be held at its Fifth National Conference in Cincinnati, April 5-8, 1989. The conference theme, "Building on the First Century," celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the College Library Section of the American Library Association in 1889. Papers and program proposals are sought on issues in higher education and academic librarianship that link the past with the future. The goals of the National Conferences are a) to contribute to the total professional development of academic and research librarians, and b) to promote study, research and publication relevant to academic and research librarianship.

Contributed papers are a major feature of ACRL conferences and are invited in the following two categories:

1. *Research reports* are to be descriptions of studies that utilize rigorous research methodology and that include identified hypotheses and a clearly stated conclusion. The maximum length for a manuscript is 2,500 words.

2. *Position papers* are to be presentations in which problems are clearly identified and solutions proposed. Descriptions may be of locally implemented experiences (successes and failures), theoretical models, or state of the art reviews. Although

not requiring formal research methodology, these papers should be well organized, and should develop clear positions or concepts. The maximum length for a manuscript is 1,800 words.

Each contributed paper will be reviewed by at least two referees in a blind reviewing process. Criteria for selection include clarity, originality, relevance to the theme and suitability for oral presentation.

Accepted papers will be returned to the authors for final editing and preparation of camera-ready copy for the published conference proceedings. Authors will have fifteen minutes to present their papers, followed by fifteen minutes for comments and reactions from the audience. Papers may be scheduled for presentation more than once. Authors must attend the conference at their own expense. Additional instructions to authors will be mailed upon receipt of a notice of intention to submit a paper.

Potential contributors should send a 200-word description of their paper, the tentative title, the category (research or position), their name, mailing address, and work phone number. The deadline for sending a notice of intent to submit a paper is *June 1, 1988*. The deadline for submitting the full paper is *July 31, 1988*. Send the notice to: ACRL Contributed Papers, c/o Jan Fennell, Georgia Col-

lege Library, 231 W. Hancock St., Milledgeville, GA 31061.

Proposals for programs at the National Conference are also welcome. Possible formats include panel presentations, discussion group sessions, idea briefs, or poster sessions. Programs may be either 30 or 60 minutes in length. Presenters must attend the conference at their own expense. Additional information will be sent upon the receipt of a program proposal.

Program proposals should include a 200-word description of the program, the tentative title, and name, mailing address, and work phone number of the contact person. The deadline for submitting a program proposal is *July 31, 1988*. Send program proposals to: ACRL Program, c/o Jordan Scepaniski, University Library and Learning Resources, California State University, Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90840. ■■

Information for administrators

By Peter G. Watson

*University Librarian
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Report of a test of library information support for a neglected user group.

Most academic libraries possess well-developed services to support the teaching, learning, and research functions of both students and faculty, yet offer no comparable support to the administrative function, which is obviously an activity highly crucial to the health and well-being of any college or university. Without dwelling on the reasons why this gap has been allowed to exist, this report will present some findings from one library's attempt to determine through a practical test, whether or not the library could in fact provide direct information support for campus administrators.

Picking up on the insights expressed by a librarian who is now an academic administrator (Rebecca Kellogg, University of Arizona), the Meriam Library of California State University, Chico, last academic year decided to devote a small amount of physical and personnel resources to seeing what would result if the Library offered the services of a librarian as an information assistant to administra-

tors, specifically to support the performance of their administrative duties. Evidence exists that librarians will have to a) make an attempt to understand the dynamics of the administrator's work-life; and b) be flexible about modes of library service, if they are to be successful in serving this group.¹

Strong administrative support was given by CSU Chico's university librarian Judith A. Sessions, who wrote an introductory letter to the six senior administrators of the campus designating me—I was then assistant university librarian (programs and services)—as the agent to carry out the test. I visited the offices of those administrators, explained the concept and general procedures, and took copious notes.

¹Rebecca Kellogg, "From the President," *RQ* 25 (Fall 1985):9-10; and Rebecca Kellogg, "Beliefs and Realities," *C&RL News* 47 (September 1986):492-96.