



THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY IN 2020: ONE VISION OF OUR FUTURE

Fall Conference

On Friday, November 10, 2006, the Oklahoma Chapter held its Fall Conference at the Oklahoma City campus of Langston University. The conference title was *The Academic Library in 2020: One Vision of Our Future*. The theme reflects the uncertainty we are all feeling about the future direction of academic library services. We had three outstanding speakers: Pamela Snelson, College Librarian, Franklin & Marshall College and 2006 President of ACRL, Joan Lippincott, Associate Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information, and Richard Madaus, Executive Director, College Center for Library Automation.

The conference opened with a keynote address by Pam Snelson who reminded the attendees of upcoming ACRL programs and opportunities and then shared her goals for her Presidential Year. Valuing academic library services in this age of input and output measures has never been entirely successful. Pam is promoting a combination of research and experimental programs to try to assign a dollar value to what we do so that the impact of our academic library services will be measurable.

The second speaker was Joan Lippincott, a librarian and an educator, who shared her understanding of the NetGen college student, and explained how they are different from students of previous generations. Joan also highlighted ways that librarians can make academic library services relevant and accessible to the NetGens.

Continued on page 2



(pictured at left from the top Lippincott, Madaus, Snelson)

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!

My year as President of the Oklahoma Chapter of ACRL is over, and I would like to thank the Board and Members for a very rewarding experience. I really enjoyed meeting so many new people and working with such a supportive Board. In closing, I would encourage those of you who have not served on the Board of OK-ACRL to say yes when invited to run for office. In the meantime, if you are interested in becoming more active, please send me an email and we'll invite you to sit in on a Board meeting and discuss what you would like to see happen in Oklahoma.

Happy New Year to the incoming Board members!

Kate Corbett,
Past President OK-ACRL

Fall Conference continued...

After lunch, Richard Madaus told attendees about technology and popular culture. He pointed out that while most students use laptops, cell phones, ipods and other hand-held communication devices to manage their world, most librarians depend on desk-top computers and desk-top telephones for communication. In order to reach these students, we have to use their tools!

After the speakers, there were breakout sessions where prepared questions were discussed in random groups, after which the results were shared with everyone.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all members of the Oklahoma Chapter of ACRL. This year the OK-ARCL is exploring new ways to extend services to its members. As many of you know, OK-ACRL sponsors a very successful "special interest section," the Community of Oklahoma Information Librarians (COIL, formerly OBIC) for information literacy/instruction librarians. COIL members meet to discuss common issues and challenges, give each other tips, exchange ideas, and explore ways to improve their services. It has been a very long-lived, successful group that has been an invaluable aid to instructional librarians in the state, and this year OK-ACRL would like to some others areas we might explore and develop special interest sections to address other areas of academic librarianship in Oklahoma.

The first area we are looking at for a potential new special interest section is services for distance learning and remote patrons along with related issues such as authentication, database vendor relations, and other "digital library" concerns. To help get the ball rolling, we are holding an informal organizational meeting to be hosted by Robin Leech, Head of Digital Initiatives at the Oklahoma State University Library. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 27 at the Oklahoma State University Library (Dean's Conference Room, 2nd Floor) from 1:00-3:00pm. This will be a preliminary gathering to gauge interest and to see if there would be a desire to continue meeting and discussing topics. All librarians and library staff who are interested in this area would be welcome. For question or directions, please contact Robin at 405-744-9780 or robin.leech@okstate.edu. No advanced registration required

In months to come we will be announcing other organizational meetings for possible special interest sections on the OK-ACRL homepage and through the OK-ACRL membership email list. Please forward these messages to others who

might be interested or post them on other lists. If you have ideas about subject areas for possible special interest sections, please feel free to send them to me at d.oberhelman@okstate.edu, or to any other member of OK-ACRL board or COIL board.

Special interest sections can be as formal or informal in their organization and focus as the participants would like, and they can meet as often and as regularly as they would like. The meetings can feature group discussions on topics (brown-bags or table talks), or they could have speakers who address certain topics. COIL has been sponsoring summer workshops on Information Literacy issues for the past three years, so new special interest sections could also work on annual meetings or ones every two or so years. There is a lot of flexibility to these groups, and the OK-ACRL board would like to give them a chance to define themselves and see if they would like to get together again after an organizational meeting.

We look forward to sponsoring new opportunities for networking and idea-sharing in the Oklahoma academic library community, and will be keeping you informed as we explore other potential interest groups.

I will look forward to working with you all in 2007 as we prepare for a busy year, and I will send in a write-up on ACRL National in Baltimore after the conference later this month.

David Oberhelman,
President, 2007