

# DLS Newsletter

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**Distance Learning Section**

## Greetings from the Chair

- Jack Fritts, [jfritts@ben.edu](mailto:jfritts@ben.edu)

At Annual in Chicago this past summer we celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the Distance Learning Section. Our festivities were held at National-Louis University's Chicago Campus and were very well attended. It was great to see all those who had a hand in the development of the Section over those fifteen years.

It was even better to see all the new faces. As a growing Section in a growing field, it is gratifying to know that our work attracts new members on a continuous basis, and it is even more gratifying that so many of the newer members are eagerly jumping in and joining our committees and taking part in our activities.

We continue to grow and expand, which is in keeping with our roles as the missionaries of library service. We specialize in reaching out to those who traditionally were considered underserved. That willingness to go beyond the traditional boundaries has been our strength. We have demonstrated (and continue to demonstrate) that all learners can be supported regardless of location or distance from the home campus.

One statement that I have made to various groups is that what we do has not really changed over these years; what has changed are the tools available to us. We can now do so much more than we could fifteen years ago because of the growth in technology. As I look at the ways we serve our varied populations I am hearing more of you indicating that you are now trying to provide the same level of service to your home populations as we now routinely provide to the remote users. Another shift has been the blurring of boundaries. At my institution we have nontraditional programs being offered right on campus. Even though those students are meeting down the hall from us, we are still providing them with the services identified originally for the off-campus programs. I think many of us share that experience. Another major shift I have observed is that many more institutions are now offering the kinds of programs and degrees that several years ago were only offered by a select group of institutions. This shift has played a large part in our continued growth as new players enter the stage and look to us for guidance and leadership.

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*"...willingness to go beyond the traditional boundaries has been our strength."*

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**Remember** to nominate someone for the  
ACRL/DLS Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian Conference Sponsorship Award  
details inside, page 2

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*From the section chair, continued from page 1*



As distance learning seems to grow in popularity there are also more organizations springing up to address various issues. Our Liaison Committee has the challenging task of identifying those groups and making connections with them in various venues. I think we have been doing a good job of outreach and we need to continue doing so. In that vein, I want to introduce all of you to our newest committee and venture. Sandy Slade, who has edited the bibliography *Library Services for Distance Learning* for many years, has decided that it is time to pass the torch. The Section is taking over the maintenance and production of the bibliography, which became an online resource with the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. At Annual, the Executive Committee approved the establishment of the Bibliography Committee, and over this past summer the Executive Committee approved the committee

charge. Sherrill Weaver of Oakton Community College in Illinois has agreed to serve as the first chair of this committee. We hope that all who have been part of this undertaking in the past will continue the good work they have done as we establish the working committee and any subsidiary groups. The first in-person meeting of the Bibliography Committee will take place at Midwinter during the All-Committee Meeting time. Please think about joining us as we move into an exciting new phase of our life. If you are interested in becoming active in any of our committee work, please visit our web site to see the list of committees and their purposes, and remember that you are more than welcome to join us on Sunday morning, January 22, 2006, in San Antonio, at our All-Committees Meeting time.

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*Please join us  
on Sunday  
morning in  
San Antonio  
for committee  
meetings*

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**Now Accepting Nominations**

**ACRL/DLS Haworth Press  
Distance Learning Librarian  
Conference Sponsorship Award**

*see page 4*

## Guidelines Open Hearing at ALA in Chicago

The Guidelines Committee held an open hearing at ALA in Chicago to solicit input on the *Guidelines for Distance Learning Library Services*. The last major revision was completed in 1998; a limited revision was approved in 2004.

### The hearing: a brief summary

Axtell Schmetzke (University of Wisconsin) read from a prepared statement in which he advocated specific language to address accessibility issues for distance learners. The Guidelines cover connectivity but not accessibility. Accessible design is critical for print and electronic materials, including databases. The Philosophy and Service sections do not mention students with disabilities and explicit language is needed. The Guidelines should reference Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The full text of Mr. Schmetzke's statement will be included in the complete hearing report. A full report of the hearing will be posted on the Committee's web site.

### Other issues discussed:

- include language to define distance learners (remote vs. distance learners)
- emphasize need for a human interface to services
- discuss workload issues (what is an equitable workload for distance education librarians?)
- address all models of online learning
- delineate need for quality of information technology
- update print documents and include language for electronic documents
- change outdated language
- reformat the document

### Future hearings

Guidelines hearing at the ALA Midwinter 2006 conference in San Antonio. The hearing format in San Antonio will be an interactive workshop designed to flesh out ideas and develop specific language. We will hold another workshop at the Off-Campus Library Services Conference in April 2006.

### New Guidelines brochures available!

If you need copies, please contact the committee chair, Rob Morrison at 435-797-1477 or robmor@cc.usu.edu with your address and number of brochures needed. The Guidelines are ideal to distribute to school administrators, other librarians/library organizations in your area, and especially for accreditation visits!

**Open  
guidelines  
hearing  
also at  
ALA in  
San Antonio**

*Distance Learning Section*



## Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Distance Learning Section

The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Distance Learning Section (DLS), was held on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at National-Louis University's (NLU) Chicago Campus, and was a huge success. The nearly 80 attendees enjoyed a continental breakfast hosted by Haworth Press, and a chance to visit with old and new DLS friends.

The morning Anniversary Celebration included a welcome by NLU Library Dean Kathy Walsh, an introduction by DLS Chair, Stephen Dew, an informative slide presentation on the history of the Section by Linda Frederiksen, and an introduction of DLS past Chairs and ACRL guests. The Anniversary program was followed by the Discussion Group, chaired by Jill Ortner, and the DLS Annual Membership Meeting, chaired by Stephen Dew.



These fine people are the past Chairs of the Section along with the present Chair and the Incoming Chair



Linda Frederiksen, relating the history of the Distance Learning Section

### Sojourn to Savannah

Need a fun and informative spring get-away? Join other Distance Services librarians at the 12<sup>th</sup> Off-Campus Library Services Conference in Savannah, Georgia, April 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. The conference will be packed with lots of informative presentations and chances to network with other distance learning librarians. The Featured Speaker for the conference will be Marshall Keys, Executive Director of NELINET, the largest library organization in New England.

For more information go to: <http://ocls.cmich.edu/conference/index.html>.

Don't miss this great event in Savannah, Georgia's First City that is full of history, haunts, and fun.

**ACRL/DLS Haworth Press  
Distance Learning Librarian  
Conference Sponsorship Award**  
Deadline Dec. 2, 2005

This conference sponsorship award honors any individual ACRL member working in the field of, or contributing to the success of distance learning librarianship or related library service in higher education.

The award consists of \$1200 to help defray the costs of travel to and participation in the ALA Annual Meeting and a citation plaque sponsored by Haworth Press.

Nominees should have demonstrated achievements in one or more of the following areas:

- Contribution to or support for distance learning librarianship and library services, e.g., service to students and faculty, publications, training, innovation and/or leadership
- Consultation services in support of higher education distance students and programs beyond the traditional library boundaries
- Training of faculty and staff who support library services for distance students
- Advocacy at decision-making levels, especially in funding and policy development as related to distance learning librarianship
- Work with outside agencies in support of students learning at a distance
- Significant research and publication in areas of distance learning librarianship
- Planning and implementation of distance learning library programs of such exemplary quality that they serve as a model for others.

### **Nomination Process**

Applicants or nominators should send one completed copy of the award nomination form (ACRL Distance Learning Section) to: Thomas E. Abbott, Dean of Libraries, University of Maine, 46 University Drive, Augusta, ME 04330-9410, phone: 207-753-6610; fax:207-753-6658, e-mail: tabbott@maine.edu.

Submissions must also include three letters of nomination or support (maximum two pages double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font). Completed applications and all supporting documents must be received by the specified deadline. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

**Submission Deadline: December 2, 2005**

### **Previous Recipients**

2005 – Martha Kreszock, Appalachian State University  
2004 – Susan S. Lowe, University of Maine System

**The ACRL President's Program, "Time for a Reality Check: Academic Librarians in a Tivo-Lutionary Age,"** held on Monday June 27, featured two speakers from Beloit College. Tom McBride, Professor of English and Keefer Professor of Humanities, is the director of Beloit's First Year Initiatives program. Ron Nief, Public Affairs Director, researches and compiles the annual Beloit College Mindset List. The original list was written in a humorous vein by an institutional researcher, and Nief tweaked it to show typical life experiences of first-year college students. McBride distributes the list to tell Beloit College faculty that "the students are younger," while the faculty are getting older. (Does this strike a chord with you?) The first list was published in 1998, for the Class of 2002, most of whose members were born in 1980. So, if you are doing your math, the year when the Class of 2009 students were born was 1987.

While many entries on the lists reflect consumer culture, some refer to political events and facts. For example, the Class of 2008 mindset list includes "photographs have always been processed in an hour or less," "there has always been a Comedy Channel," and "computers have always suffered from viruses." The word "mindset" came into everyday use in the late 1960s. The speakers acknowledged that the listed "facts" go unchallenged and the lists do not reflect diverse cultures.

Are the Mindset Lists relevant to distance librarians? Well, you can find some humor in them, and you may have had a wry feeling when someone didn't understand your reference to an LP or a return key on a keyboard! Yes, there is relevance. Many institutions are reporting an increased number of undergraduates taking online/distance courses. The lists can be used in an ice-breaker exercise for an instruction session, and can provide different analogies when you are creating tutorials and handouts. The lists are a handy tool for thinking about different perspectives or mindsets that distance students – or the newly hired librarian you are working with – have about daily life experiences.

Watch for the Class of 2009 mindset list at <http://www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset/>

Kate Adams, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### **Notes from the DLS Discussion Group**

Monday, June 27, 2005

Discussion began with responses to the ACRL Distance Learning Section 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary program entitled "Distance Learning: We Know Where We've Been, But Where Are We Going?" that was held on Saturday, June 25, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The discussion group participants raised concerns about recent survey results on recommended leadership attributes that were presented by Arthur Young, Dean of University Libraries at Northern Illinois University. Since the results reflect the concerns of [only] the ARL librarians who were surveyed, perhaps surveying directors from a broader spectrum of libraries potentially would have yielded different results.

Advocacy, marketing, and communication issues were highlighted as we discussed a seeming lack of awareness about the library services available for distant learners across many campuses and the need for more productive communication channels.

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## SPEC Kit Now Available

Members of the DLS Instruction Committee chaired by Ramona Islam have published an ARL SPEC Kit, titled "Collaboration for Distance Learning Information Literacy Instruction," co-sponsored by ACRL and ARL. The SPEC Kit, available July 2005, is the result of a systematic survey of ARL member libraries. The SPEC Kit was compiled by members of the Instruction Committee over a two-year period, using technologies similar to those used for distance learning. Distance learning librarians will find an executive summary, a survey instrument including tallied responses and selected comments, representative documents, and a selected reading list detailing current practices in collaborative distance learning information literacy instruction.

### full list of authors :

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*discussion group notes, continued from page 6*

Other topics included mature learners, who tend to seek out and take advantage of available services; the blurring of the distinction between remote users and distance education learners and what services and service levels are provided; the changing nature of reference work; library school courses on library instruction and teaching information literacy; the need for library school instruction on accreditation of institutions; and meeting the needs of diverse learners, including communication among international students, students with various learning styles and the millenials.

**Claudia Shorr**, Gwinnett University Library Center

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Happy Trails to you -  
Until we meet again!



## Hope to see you in San Antonio !!

### DLS sessions:

- Guidelines hearing Saturday 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Committees – Sunday 8a.m.-12 noon; Executive Committee 4-6 p.m.
- Discussion group – Monday 8-11

### Sign up for OFFCAMP listserv:

<http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/offcamp.html>

### Visit our Web page:

<http://caspian.switchinc.org/~distlearn>

The DLS newsletter is a biannual publication of the Distance Learning Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 ext. 2516. It is included in your ACRL/ALA membership fee.

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