



ALCTS Annual Report 2010

Creating Our Future has been the primary goal of ALCTS this year as we have continued our focus on reshaping the organization to meet the needs of those working in the rapidly changing fields of technical services, collections, and preservation. At both the Division and Section levels, we have sought to decrease the barriers to performance and increase the opportunities for participation. Our effort is all the more urgent in the face of economic challenges that demand that we provide products and services that are of significant value to attract and retain members. While this is an ongoing task, we have made significant strides in a number of areas this year as outlined below.

Reshaping Our Organization

Input from members over the last several years through surveys, focus groups, and discussion led the ALCTS Executive Committee to conclude that it was time to reshape our organization. The primary concerns expressed by our members were:

- ALCTS no longer reflects the diversity of job functions performed by those employed in collections and technical services;
- Members are frustrated by competing and overlapping programming; and
- Processes are slow and not always clear due in part to redundancy in governance.

The Executive Committee, with input from the Board, worked over the course of this year to construct alternative organizational scenarios that we have now shared with the entire membership for comment. In developing the scenarios, we were looking at options to achieve the following goals:

- Members must be able to find a community of colleagues doing the same work or with similar interests;
- The structure and processes must be transparent;
- The structure must be flexible enough to respond quickly to emerging trends; and
- The organization must provide opportunities for service and leadership.

We look forward to reviewing the feedback from the member survey and from the animated discussions at Annual Conference and plan to present a refined plan for a member vote sometime next year.

Bylaws Changes

In the meantime, the Division undertook a process to revise its Bylaws so future changes that would result from reorganization would not be slowed by outdated and ambiguous documentation. While the Organization and Bylaws Committee accomplished the bulk of its work in 2008/09 under the leadership of Dale Swensen, the Bylaws were put to a membership vote in Fall 2009. The new Bylaws passed with an overwhelmingly positive vote.

Expanding Continuing Education

While working toward an overall reorganization of the Division, the Executive Committee recognized last year that there was a need and opportunity to address issues related to continuing education. In-person workshops were no longer drawing an audience unless they were attached to a conference; members were expressing concerns about travel support from their institutions; and the multi-layered education-committee structure of the division and sections slowed the move of new ideas and products to market. We decided that a change to the education committee structure could move forward before changing the entire organization and might serve as a model for streamlining other product-driven committees such as publications.

To this end, the ALCTS Board approved the dissolution of the ALCTS Education Committee and the creation of a new Continuing Education Committee that began work in summer 2009. Chaired by Pamela Bluh, this Committee has quickly coordinated a robust program of web-courses and webinars that complement programming at conferences. Web courses, offered by ALCTS for several years now, continue to be popular. These 4-week modules cover Acquisitions, Electronic Resource Acquisitions, Collection Development and Management, and new this year, Preservation. Under development are courses in Collections Assessment, Cataloging, and Serials. With the energetic shepherding of CE members, sixteen webinars were offered this year, almost tripling the number presented last year. These webinars covered institutional repositories, cataloging of unusual formats, metadata, disaster planning and response, among other topics. The popular e-Forums begun last year by then President Dina Giambi now have a coordinator, Kristin Martin, who is an ex officio member of the CE Committee. Generally held monthly, these e-mail based conversations continue to attract members and non-members with over 1,000 participants on the e-Forum list. We are grateful to the many members who participate in CE by developing the content for webinars and web courses, who suggest topics, and who participate in and evaluate these events. And we are looking forward to the assessment by the CE Committee of its first year lessons learned and in particular how the liaison relationships with the Sections have worked.

Section Restructuring Initiatives

The Division has not been alone in its focus on reshaping its structure. Several Sections have been working to simplify their structures over the last several years. The Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) completed its transition this year to a slimmed down committee structure. Several topic-based committees were reconstituted as Interest Groups. The Collection Management and Development Section (CMDs) has decided to revise its mission and change its name to the Collection Management Section (CMS) to take effect after Annual of this year. It has also reduced its committees from eight to six and converted three committees to interest groups. The Continuing Resources Section (CRS) has also been streamlining combining its Education Committee with its Research and Publications

Committee. The new Education, Research and Publications Coordinating Committee with a new mission will take effect with the 2010/11 appointments. The Council of Regional Groups (CRG), ALCTS' connection to its affiliate members, has proposed changing its status from a section-like structure to a Division-level committee with a new name, Affiliate Relations Committee. We believe that the good work of CRG will be more visible and integrated with such a change.

National Preservation Week

In addition to efforts at reorganizing, ALCTS and its sections have undertaken many other initiatives during this year. One of the highlights was the first national Preservation Week successfully launched May 9-15. Initiated by PARS, Preservation Week is a collaborative effort involving ALA, the Library of Congress, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Society of American Archivists, and Heritage Preservation. Local libraries and other institutions were encouraged to use Preservation Week to offer events, workshops, and resources to highlight the need for preservation while sharing expertise to help individuals and communities preserve personal and shared collections. A webpage was developed to provide resources, to allow posting of local activities and events (about 35 nationwide), and to allow participants to share stories <http://www.ala.org/preservationweek>. ALA designed a poster and bookmark with the theme of the week—Pass it On—which were available for purchase by midwinter. ALCTS events during the week included the pilot online course, Fundamentals of Preservation, two free public webinars, “Archival 101” and “Mold Prevention and Remediation”, together attracting over 700 participants. Key participants in Preservation Week included the NJ State Library, Regional Alliance for Preservation, FLICC, and NDIIPP. Corporate sponsorship includes Gaylord Bros., FamilyArchives.com, Archival Products and the HF Group. A program at Annual (*Pass it On: National Preservation Week*) and a PARS Working Group will ensure that knowledge and participation in Preservation Week grows over the years. Congratulations to PARS and Preservation Week Task Force chair Jeanne Drewes!

New Members and Emerging Leaders

With the initiative of both seasoned and new members alike, a New Members Interest Group was started this year. The group had its first formal meeting at Midwinter under the energetic leadership of Keisha Manning and worked with the Membership and Leadership Development Committees to design the ALCTS 101 Event at Annual. We hope this new group will help new members find each other and learn about ALCTS at the same time. ALCTS sponsored an Emerging Leader again this year. Shilpa Rele (Metadata Librarian, University of Miami) and her cohort chose the ALCTS proposal as their project. The group worked to help the Leadership Development Committee transform content for new ALCTS leaders onto the Web using Web 2.0 technologies where appropriate. The group has solicited several brief videos from current ALCTS leaders to provide bits of advice to their successors.

Year of Cataloging Research

During the fall, the ALCTS Board approved a resolution to declare 2010 the Year of Cataloging Research. The resolution emanated from the ALCTS Task Force working on implementing recommendations from “On the Record,” the final report of the Task Force for the Future of Bibliographic Control commissioned by LC. ALA Council approved the

recommendation at midwinter. A website <http://faculty.washington.edu/acarlyle/yocr/index.htm> was created to provide information and resources. Programming by the Cataloging and Classification Section (CCS) was presented to encourage more research.

Awards

Among the many individuals honored by ALCTS this year at its award ceremony were Olivia Madison, Dean of the Library at Iowa State University, winner of the Margaret Mann Citation; Michele Cloonan, Dean and Professor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, recipient of the Banks/Harris Preservation Award; Peggy Johnson, Associate University Librarian for Access Services at the University of Minnesota, winner of the Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award; and Kelley McGrath, Cataloging and Metadata Services Librarian at Ball State University, recipient of the Esther J. Piercy Award.

Programs

As usual, ALCTS and its sections continued their tradition of offering many outstanding programs during midwinter and annual conferences. Programs on E-Books, Electronic Resource Management Systems, RDA, the Strategic Future of Print Collections, Preservation Week, Converging Metadata Standards, Social Tagging, Collection Development in Tough Times, and many, many more. The President's Program at Annual featured Dr. Francine Berman, Vice President for Research at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who spoke to an enthusiastic audience on the new role for libraries in shaping 21st century research. The activities cited above are only a snapshot of the many achievements of the committees, sections, and interest groups that make up ALCTS. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful, dedicated individuals both within ALCTS, within the other ALA Divisions, and within ALA itself. Thank you for the opportunity. I look forward to continued progress on our important agenda under the leadership of next year's President, Cynthia Whitaker.

Respectfully submitted:
Mary M. Case
ALCTS President 2009-10