

MEETING MINUTES

ACRL SECTION MEETING - MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (MLA)

May 21, 2014 (11:30 AM – 1:30 PM)
Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, MS

The ACRL Section of the MLA opened its annual spring meeting at 11:30 a.m. with lunch. Chairman Bob Wolverton, Jr. welcomed attendees and introduced the other officers (Vice Chair James Kennedy and Secretary Steve Haller), solicited program ideas for the fall meeting in Vicksburg, and invited any non-members in attendance to join MLA-ACRL. The other 31 attendees introduced themselves (and their institutions and positions): Jamie Wilson, Molly McManus, Michelle Finerty, Julie Thornton, Blair Booker, David Nolen, Jorge Brown, Miao Jin, Peter Dean, Sarah Welch, Jennifer Brannock, Elena Azadbakht, Rick Torgerson, Sheryl Stump, Jacqueline Quinn, Alex Watson, Hazel Bell, Mary Ann Jones, Marty Coleman, Danielle Terrell, Eva Smith, Mary Harris, Lacy Ellinwood, Sybyl Stringer, Judy Hilkert, Deborah Lee, Li Zhang, Hillary Richardson, Sheeji Kathuria, Amanda Powers, and Barbara Price.

Following lunch, Vice Chair James Kennedy introduced the panelists for the meeting topic "Academic Librarians and Academic Faculty: Building a Better Liaison Relationship" and each presented a number of related approaches and experiences:

- Elena Azadbakht, Assistant Professor & Reference Librarian for Health Sciences (University of Southern Mississippi) spoke about how USM's liaison program works. She stated that one librarian covers each of USM's five colleges. There are one-on-one interactions between department heads and faculty collection development liaisons.
- Michelle Finerty Reference & Instruction Librarian (Mississippi College) mentioned about how the librarians at MC have monthly meetings with people in the departments in which they liaise as well as yearly meetings with department heads. As a librarian hired last year, she works on developing relationships with faculty and students.
- Sybyl Stringer, Administrative Librarian (Hinds Community College, Nursing/Allied Health Center) discussed the challenges of being a librarian at a branch campus of the college having to do things often associated with other offices (e.g., writing center) and mentioned the difficulties when it comes to getting the attention of faculty members if secretaries and cupcakes are not involved.
- Alex Watson, Assistant Professor & Reference Librarian and (University of Mississippi) discussed the challenges that come with dealing with faculty members who are not interested in letting librarians know the publications in which they publish as well as those individuals who are also used to the materials they formerly accessed as graduate students at Ivy League universities. He also mentioned the informal role that the interlibrary loan librarian has when it comes to determining the interests of professors. He also mentioned that working with graduate students in programs is another good way to determine interests.

The well-received presentations were followed by lively and informative questions and discussions among the panelists and the attendees.

Section Business Meeting Minutes

After the panel session ended at approximately 1:15 p.m., Chairman Wolverton called the Section business meeting to order with the following members in attendance: Blair Booker, David Nolen, Jorge Brown, Sarah Welch, Jennifer Brannock, Elena Azadbakht, Rick Torgerson, Sheryl Stump, Jacqueline Quinn, Hazel Bell, Danielle Terrell, Eva Smith, Mary Harris, Lacy Ellinwood, Deborah Lee, Hillary Richardson, Sheeji Kathuria, Amanda Powers, Alex P. Watson, James Kennedy, and Steve Haller.

Motion by S. Haller for approval of the Agenda, seconded by J. Brannock. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by S. Haller for approval of MLA-ACRL Minutes from May 24, 2013 as distributed and previously posted on ACRL wiki, seconded by J. Brannock. Motion carried by voice vote.

Under Old Business, Chairman Wolverton solicited and received general approval to continue meeting in the spring and October of each year.

Under New Business, Chairman Wolverton solicited and the group discussed possible topics for the MLA-ACRL Fall 2014 meeting in Vicksburg (mid-morning on October 16, preferably right before lunch), including:

- “The Value of Academic Librarianship”
- “Collaborations among Academic and Public (possibly including K-12 Schools)”
- “E-Book Issues...”
- “Legislative Affairs, Lobbying Activities, and other Advocacy (State and Local)”

“Working with Student Affairs Offices” was covered at a previous conference.

These topics will be further explored and presented for comment by Chairman Wolverton and Vice Chair Kennedy in the coming weeks.

Motion by A. Palmer to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Brannock. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Steve Haller, Secretary