



Notes & Tracings

Newsletter of the Academic Section

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From the Chair by Michael Matthews

Thanks to Carla Clark, David Duggar, and all of the section chairs for providing a useful conference at the Shreveport Convention Center, surely one of the best venues for sharing our ideas and expertise—if the most geographically secluded. I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of librarians and library staff who filled the capacious corridors of the Center, enthusiastic but bleary-eyed from the previous afternoon's (or evening's) pastoral drive up I-49. As a citizen of upper Louisiana, I congratulate you on your will-power and endurance to brave 150-300 miles of pine trees and alluvial plains. I look forward to next year's conference in Baton Rouge, where frenetic traffic, contradictory exit signs, and homicidal motorists will make travel time fly by.

Academic librarians are, by force of contract or administrative will, encouraged to provide presentations. But many of us actually choose to present at conferences because the love we have for our work, despite the perpetual lack of sufficient travel budgets. It is no secret that most librarians who travel to provide presentations are doing so out of their own pockets. The upcoming conference of 2013 will not be an exception, especially since it will be scheduled during March, well after the inevitable mid-year budget cut vacates our institutional budget lines. On Monday, June 04, the state budget will be passed by the Louisiana House of Representatives, filled with a surfeit of stopgap fiscal measures. Over \$200 million will be diverted from the so-called Rainy Day fund to "solve" an annualized budget shortfall. The only long-term solution to the budget "cliff" is the reintroduction of revenue, mostly in the form of corporate and severance taxes, the latter of which have been reduced by 80% over the past four years. Next year, severance taxes are slated to be "negative," meaning that drilling companies will be provided an additional tax exemption. The end result for higher education has been a 40% reduction in state subsidies, with an average tuition increase of 20% per student. Tuition increases do not make up the difference, causing many university administrators to terminate programs, but only after severely reducing the budgets of their libraries. Lower taxes result in fewer libraries, and smaller, even deficient, library holdings. Today, a library does not have to be burned to be destroyed. The ravages of chronic under-funding can tip the library into obsolescence, and the result is the same: oblivion.

As we face another year of withering budget cuts, let us work together to mitigate the impact of shrinking resources by communicating more closely on our serials cuts, database drops, and open-source solutions. We should utilize the immense power of LOUIS in establishing new consortial agreements, such as the recent Sage journals package acquisition that resulted in several hundred new titles for participating libraries. Last month, I was awarded a \$62,500 grant from the Board of Regents to purchase the Counseling and Training in Video collection from Alexander Street Press, which will be shared by five participating institutions. Other opportunities for collaboration certainly exist, and we are called as professionals to exploit all of them. As respected members of our communities, we should also impress upon our fellow citizens one simple but unimpeachable truth: When you cut taxes, you cut libraries. Then, pat them on the shoulder and tell them to vote their conscience in the next election.

Thanks to Carla Clark, David Duggar, and all of the section chairs for providing a useful conference at the Shreveport Convention Center.

*Mike Matthews
chair*

Academic Section News

LLA Academic Section Business Meeting
Thursday, March 22, 2012
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm
Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference
Shreveport Convention Center, Shreveport, LA

Officers Present: Michael Matthews (Chair), Brian Sherman (Vice-Chair), Karen Niemla (Secretary)

Business:

Recognition of the winner of the LLA Academic Librarian award, Ms. Beth Stahr of Southeastern University.

Recognition of incoming officers for 2012-2013: Neil Guilbeau of Nicholls State University (Vice-Chair), and Melinda Matthews of the University of Louisiana at Monroe (Secretary)

Michael Matthews reported the LLA Executive Committee is interested in pursuing a "joint-conference" with the Mississippi Library Association to be held in New Orleans, date is TBD. He asked for any volunteers for a working group to hammer out the details. Stephanie Braunstein of Louisiana State University will chair the committee.

Michael Matthews announced that the Louisiana Chapter of ACRL is currently offering \$10.00 discount to join ACRL-LA if one is already a member of the Academic Section.

Michael Matthews put forward the idea of holding a statewide electronic resources management workshop in conjunction with ACRL-LA. April Grey of the University of Louisiana of Lafayette and Karen Niemla of the University of Louisiana at Monroe volunteered to assist in planning.

Business was concluded at 2:15 PM.

Library news from around the state

Louisiana State University

Linda Smith Griffin was appointed to the LSU Student Code of Conduct Review Committee, 2012-2015.

Mike Russo was named a 2012 Mover & Shaker by *Library Journal*. Russo was selected for this honor because of his work on the formation of LSUnited, a faculty labor union that was formed in 2011. Mike was also an ACRL Member of the Week, and profiled on the ACRL Insider blog at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/archives/5278>. He was one of four nationwide faculty members featured in a *Chronicle of Higher Education* article about faculty pay at <http://chronicle.com/article/faculty-salaries-barely-budge-2012/131432>.

Mike Waugh was hired as LSU's Systems Librarian.

The **LSU Libraries** has received preliminary notification of an award from the Louisiana Board of Regents through its Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund. The grant will enable the Libraries to purchase new scanners suitable for face-up scanning of materials. The scanners will be used initially to digitize at least 10,000 pages of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and related historical materials pertaining to Louisiana and the lower Mississippi Valley, which will be available in the Louisiana Digital Library. The Libraries have agreed to serve as an ASERL "Center of Excellence" for USACE documents. Award of the LEQSF grants will be finalized in early June.

The Libraries' bicentennial exhibition, "State of Transition: Louisiana circa 1812," has been held over and will continue on exhibition until July 7. You can learn more about the exhibition, previewing some of its contents, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWlezMtqZio> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6IV7UBVjGI>.

On June 16, the Libraries will host a viewing of the famed double elephant folio edition of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* (London, 1827-1838). The viewing will be held in the McIlhenny Room of Hill Memorial Library on the LSU campus, on Saturday, June 16. Audubon Day is free and the public is invited, but reservations are required. Viewings of the folio volumes are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, and 1 p.m. Only 40 people per hour will be admitted, so that everyone has a chance to view the four folio volumes. To request a reservation, please use the online registration form at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/audubon/reservations.html> or call 225-

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Library news from around the state

Louisiana State University (continued from page 2)

578-6544 during business hours. Attendees will also have the opportunity to view the Libraries' bicentennial exhibition between 9a.m. and 2p.m. that day.

The **LSU Libraries' Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project**, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with the Library of Congress, has selected an additional 27 newspapers to be included in this ongoing effort to digitize Louisiana's historical newspapers. The new papers, selected based on input from an advisory board, include newspapers with French and Spanish language content. Full details are available at http://bill.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/2012/03/27-newspapers-selected-for-digitization-by-the-digitizing-louisiana-newspapers-project/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=27-newspapers-selected-for-digitization-by-the-digitizing-louisiana-newspapers-project.

Louisiana Tech University

Prescott Memorial Library received a grant this Spring from the Lagniappe Ladies organization to purchase Liberal Arts books. The Lagniappe Ladies are a ladies-only giving organization which by their definition, "is for women who passionately support the mission and vision of Louisiana Tech University, whereby a group of women pool financial resources and then jointly decide how the resources are spent." A grant of \$4,500 was given to purchase books for the Lagniappe Ladies Liberal Arts Collection.

Southern University

John B. Cade Library in collaboration with the National Society of Leadership & Success, Southern University A&M College Chapter presents *Dean John B. Cade's Slave Narratives*. John Brother Cade's *The Ex-Slave Narratives* (1935) was compiled during the same years as Works Progress Administration's (WPA) *American Slave Narratives* (1936-1938). The big difference between Cade's work and that of WPA is federal financial backing which led to the employment of established writers organized into the Federal Writers Project (FWP). Cade, while teaching history at Prairie View College (now Prairie View A&M University), composed a questionnaire, organized his history students, and commissioned them to go out and interview former slaves for the purpose of documenting their experience in servitude as chattel to their Texas owners. A display of Cade's *Slave Narratives* can be found on the first floor of the John B. Cade Library. By the end of the summer our entire collection of *Ex-Slave Narratives* will be available on our web site to make them not only accessible to our constituents (faculty, staff, students and administrators) but also to all those who would visit our web site.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Two successful Student Technology Enhancement Grants offer new equipment to library users. "Upgrades to Audiovisual Equipment in Dupré Library" submitted by **Andrea Flockton**, Head of Collection Development, and **Heather Plaisance**, Research Librarian, funds \$2610 worth of new audiovisual equipment. "Edith Garland Dupré Library: Knowledge Imaging Centers for Digital Scanning" submitted by **April Grey**, Head of Cataloging; **Derek Mosley**, Assistant Director of the Gaines Center; and **Duane Huvall**, Systems Coordinator, was awarded \$48,140 for 4 self-service knowledge imaging center digital scanners.

In cooperation with the UL Lafayette Continuing Education, Road Scholars Program (formerly, Elderhostel), librarians and staff of the Ernest J. Gaines Center and the Cajun and Creole Music Collection recently co-hosted two week-long service learning programs. **Derek Mosley**, **Sandy Himel**, Head of Research and Government Information; and Library Specialist **Mary Beck** participated in the training and supervision of 34 volunteers/participants who worked on projects for both collections.



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Library news from around the state

University of Louisiana at Lafayette (continued from page 3)

The library celebrated Women's History Month with a lecture series, a screening of the film *For Colored Girls*, and exhibits on women's organizations in the area and notable Louisiana women. **April Grey** and **Jean Kiesel**, Louisiana Room Librarian, coordinated the exhibits.

Later exhibits were "Live Oaks" created by **Bruce Turner**, Assistant Dean of Special Collections, and "University Commencement" created by **Sheryl M. Curry**, Head of Information and Web Services.

The Gaines Center continued its monthly film and reading series. Notable guests included South African Poet Laureate Keorapetse "Willie" Kgositsile and novelists Willy Vlautin and Gerald Duff. During February, the Center sponsored its 1st Annual Spoken Word Night. Participants read from the works of African American authors. **Derek Mosley** was instrumental in implementing these events.

Betsy Miguez, Assistant Dean of Public Services, was selected for the ALA Amelia Bloomer Project, a committee that creates an annual booklist of the best feminist books for young readers.

April Grey received an Annual Conference Professional Development Attendance Award sponsored by the ALA New Members Round Table. Grey was recently nominated as Intern to the ALA Committee on Diversity and appointed to the CMMS/PCC Committee on Continuing Education Training Materials.

Grey's 2012 publications include "So You Think You're an Expert: Keyword Searching vs. Controlled Subject Headings" in *Codex: the Journal of the Louisiana Chapter of the ACRL* and book reviews in *Catholic Library World* and *Louisiana Libraries*.

Derek Mosley presented "Utilizing New Media to Promote Archival Access and Use" at the Southern Archives Conference in Jackson, MS, on April 27.

At the 2012 LLA Conference, **Lance Chance**, Instructional Services Librarian, participated in the panel discussion "Puzzled About Distance/Online Learning Services?" and **April Grey** was a co-presenter for "Behind the Cloud."

For 2012-13, **Betsy Miguez** was elected LLA 2nd vice president. **Jean Kiesel** was elected chair and **Sheryl M. Curry** was elected secretary of the Subject Specialists Section.

During Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 finals, the UL Lafayette SGA and other campus organizations staged 15-minute raves at Dupré Library. The library staff cooperated by assisting with planning and safety regulations, having furniture moved from the center hall, dimming lights in the rave area, and making announcements prior to the raves. Student monitors held doors, distributed glow sticks, regulated the location of the rave, and enticed participants to leave when it was over with the offer of bottled water outside the building. University Police and other safety support personnel were on hand.



University of New Orleans

Gena Chattin has been appointed Digital Initiatives Librarian. **Jennifer Jackson** has been appointed Instruction Librarian. **Lindsey Reno** has been appointed Acquisitions Librarian.

Florence M. Jumonville, Louisiana and Special Collections Librarian, contributed an invited article, "Considerable Inconvenience ... and Much Discontent: Languages in New Orleans, 1803-1860," to the Spring 2012 issue of the *Southern Journal of Linguistics*.

Sonnet Ireland, Federal Documents Librarian, made the following presentations:

LASL Midwinter Presentation - From Gov Docs to Fun Docs! Using Government Information to Enhance your Library and School (Mar. 3rd)

LLA Presentation - For the People: Digitizing Hearings from the 60s, 70s, and 80s (Mar. 22nd)

LLA Presentation with **Faith Simmons (UNO)** - Tweet-a-Librarian: How Twitter can Revolutionize the Way You Do Reference (Mar. 23rd)

LLA Presentation with **Faith Simmons (UNO)**- To the Cloud! How to Compile and Analyze Reference Statistics Easily and for Free (Mar. 23rd)

LLA Presentation with April Grey (ULL) - Behind the Cloud: Cloud Computing Programs Demystified (Mar. 23rd)

The **Earl K. Long Library** received an award of Special Recognition from the LLA GODORT for Digitizing U.S. Senate and House Hearings from the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.

Louisiana Library Association

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NOTES & TRACINGS

IS ON THE WEB:

www.llaonline.org/fp/newsletters.php

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(Nicholls State University)

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