

### **What should ACRL “assume” about the future of academic libraries?**

Each year, the ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee provides input to the Board of Directors on the “Assumptions About the Relevant Future for Research and Academic Librarians and Libraries” report. The committee would like your opinions! What do you think about the assumptions and the emergent issues identified in the 2007 Environmental Scan? What’s missing from these reports that you want ACRL to think about?

“Assumptions About the Relevant Future for Research and Academic Librarians and Libraries” is available online at [www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/resourcesforwork/acrlforms/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/whatisacrl/acrlstratplan/revised\\_assumptions\\_2006\\_final.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/resourcesforwork/acrlforms/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/whatisacrl/acrlstratplan/revised_assumptions_2006_final.pdf). The 2007 Environmental Scan is at [www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/whitepapers/Environmental\\_Scan\\_2.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/whitepapers/Environmental_Scan_2.pdf).

Come to the RPRC Focus Group meeting at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 29 to give your feedback. Your voice counts!

### **Google Book Search in Southern California**

The University of California-San Diego (UCSD) recently announced its first shipment of books to be digitized as part of the Google Book Search Library Project. The UCSD Libraries will contribute thousands of volumes from its East Asian language collections and from its International Relations and Pacific Studies Library, in such subject areas as history, literature, public policy, and economics. UCSD is the first university in Southern California to contribute books to Google’s Book Search project. The University of California joined the Google Book Search Library Project in 2006 and agreed to provide several million books from its university libraries for digitization.

“The preservation and provision of access to digital materials has long been a top priority for the UC San Diego Libraries,” said Brian E. C. Schottlaender, the UCSD Audrey Geisel

university librarian. “The library of the 21st century must effectively deliver knowledge and information in an increasingly hybrid environment, where the physical and digital coexist. We are thrilled to be a contributor and partner with Google in this effort because it greatly expands access to our collections for faculty, students and members of the public, which is an essential part of our mission.”

The digitized books will soon begin appearing in the Google Book Search index. The search engine allows anyone to search the full text of books from libraries and publishing partners. For books in the public domain, readers will be able to view, browse, and read the full texts online. For books protected by copyright, users can access basic background (such as the book’s title and the author’s name), a few lines of text related to their search, and information about where they can borrow or buy a book.

### **Columbia goes “Beyond the Desk”**

The Columbia University Libraries Reference Coordinating Committee hosted the symposium, “Beyond the Desk,” March 14, 2008, in the Columbia Business School’s Uris Hall. This was the sixth “Reference in the 21st Century” symposium that Columbia Libraries have hosted since 2001. The annual symposium invites representatives of large private academic research libraries in the Northeast to share ideas, plans, and concerns about reference services.

Joe Janes, associate professor and associate dean for academics at the University of Washington’s Information School, delivered the keynote address at the symposium. Janes discussed how research librarians can serve as technologists and scholars simultaneously, and encouraged reference librarians to focus on their strengths and not fight the Google culture.

The symposium also featured three contributed papers, covering such topics as podcasting as a reference tool, IM reference, and library outreach. A panel discussion explored generational differences between librarians and user groups. A complete program with transcripts of the presentations can be found

at [www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/libraries/bts/symposia/reference/2008/index.html](http://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/libraries/bts/symposia/reference/2008/index.html).

### **Joe McCarthy audio online**

Marquette University's Raynor Memorial Libraries has released a new digital collection, "Senator Joe McCarthy: Audio Excerpts, 1950–1954." The collection provides access to 35 streaming audio files of public remarks delivered by McCarthy during his controversial campaign to remove communists and communist sympathizers from government. McCarthy, a Republican from Wisconsin, was a 1935 graduate of Marquette's Law School.

The digital files were made from original analog tape recordings and represent only a small fraction of the recorded material in the Libraries' Joseph R. McCarthy Papers. The audio excerpts vary from 22 seconds to over ten minutes and are keyword searchable via transcripts at the site. The collection is available online at [digitalmarquette.cdmhost.com/JRM/](http://digitalmarquette.cdmhost.com/JRM/).

### **News from Project Muse**

Project MUSE has announced several new search and Web enhancements. The first is a search plugin tool that allows users to search MUSE content from any Web page, even when MUSE is not open in a browser window. The Project MUSE search plugin can be added to any browser that supports Sherlock and OpenSearch search engine plugins. The plugin adds Project MUSE to the list of search engines that are available in the search box in the upper right corner on your browser. Visit [muse.jhu.edu/about/librarians/search\\_plugin.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/about/librarians/search_plugin.html) to learn more and install the plugin.

A new MUSE RSS feed, "Upcoming Journals for 2008," which provides immediate notification about the launch of new 2008 titles, was recently introduced. When each of the new titles added to the database first becomes available online, feed subscribers receive notification that the journal has launched along with a link to the table of contents of the most current issue. Information about all MUSE RSS feeds is available at

## **I can't live without . . .**

Can you name one Web resource that you can't live without? Is there a blog out there that blows your mind? Or a wiki that wows you every time? Maybe you use a database or Web site that seems to answer your questions before you even ask. If there's a Web resource that speaks to you, chances are it will speak to others in the profession. *C&RL News* wants to hear from you about these tools and how they help you succeed in your work. Whether it provides inspiration or information, we encourage you to share your thoughts about your favorite resource so that we can share them with our readers.

Submissions should be brief, providing a snapshot of the resource and why you can't live without it in about 100 words. Please make sure to include access information. Send your submissions by e-mail to David Free, *C&RL News* editor, [dfree@ala.org](mailto:dfree@ala.org).

[feeds.muse.jhu.edu](http://feeds.muse.jhu.edu). Project MUSE also plans to introduce a newly redesigned Web site by August 2008, with the beta version of the new site available to tour by the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in June.

### **Calling all instruction librarians!**

The ACRL Instruction Section (IS) is launching a new mentoring program. The program is designed to contribute to the professional development of academic librarians interested in information literacy instruction and improving their teaching skills by pairing librarians experienced in teaching with librarians new to instruction or to IS. The program creates a forum for learning opportunities, networking, and the exchange of ideas between paired mentors and mentees.

As this is the inaugural year for the program, the committee seeks IS members for participation as either a mentor or mentee. Participation is primarily virtual, though there will be opportunities to meet in person at ALA Annual and Midwinter conferences. Mentoring relationships will be guided by members of the committee, but flexible to allow for mentors and mentees to work on whatever they wish at whatever depth works for them.

## Apply for new Immersion Assessment Track

ACRL's Institute for Information Literacy is pleased to announce a new addition to its popular Immersion program. "Assessment Immersion Track: Assessment in Practice" is intended for librarians active in teaching and learning and those with leadership roles for information literacy program development who want to improve their knowledge and practice of both classroom and program assessment. Applications for the program, to be held December 4-7, 2008, at the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, Tennessee are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is June 2, 2008.

The new track approaches assessment from a learning-centered perspective, building upon the philosophy of "assessment-as-learning," developed at Alverno College. Formative assessment will be emphasized to explore its role in instructional and curricular design, in librarian/faculty skill development, and in development of information literacy (IL) programs. Summative assessment tools will be explored along with strategies for determining their appropriate application.

Participants will work individually and cooperatively to extend their conceptual

understanding of assessment and to expand their toolkit of practical assessment methods. Participants in this program will emerge with a broader understanding of assessment and how to use assessment as an important tool to guide evidence-based classroom, curriculum and program development.

While the program's content will build upon the assessment curriculum presented in the Teacher and Program Tracks of the Immersion Program, previous participation is not required. Participation is limited to 45 to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. Preference will be given to individuals with at least five years instruction experience in an academic library.

Immersion Assessment Track applications must be submitted via the online application form by Monday, June 2, 2008. The application form, instructions, and complete program details are available at [www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/acrlinfolit/professactivity/iil/immersion/assessmentimmersiona.cfm](http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/acrlinfolit/professactivity/iil/immersion/assessmentimmersiona.cfm).

Questions concerning the program or application process should be directed

Mentoring pairs will be matched after the ALA Annual Conference this summer.

Interested in becoming a mentor and making a difference or being matched with an experienced mentor? Sign up and see more information about the program at [www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/is/iscommittees/webpages/mentoring/ismentoring.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/is/iscommittees/webpages/mentoring/ismentoring.cfm).

Please contact the committee chair, Caroline Barratt, at [ccason@uga.edu](mailto:ccason@uga.edu) with any questions.

### SPARC Digital Repositories Meeting

SPARC, in partnership with SPARC Europe and SPARC Japan/National Institute of Informatics, has announced the SPARC Digital Repositories Meeting 2008, to be held November 17-18, 2008, at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore.

Coming on the heels of two groundbreaking U.S. developments—a recent vote

by Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences enabling the university to offer access to their articles in an institutional repository and implementation of a new National Institutes of Health public access policy—as well as unprecedented advancement in the international sphere over the past year, the meeting will enable stakeholders to explore next steps for the burgeoning open archiving movement. The focus of the meeting will be on effective engagement with scholars and scientists to expand the sharing of research outputs via open repositories.

The program will delve into four key areas: The Policy Environment, New Horizons, Campus Publishing Strategies, and Value-Added Services. These tracks will be supplemented with an Innovation Fair, where new technologies, strategies, and approaches will be highlighted, and a practicum on marketing and advocacy.

The program committee is accepting presentation proposals through May 30. Meeting registration will also open in May. Details are available on the conference Web site at [www.arl.org/sparc/ir08/](http://www.arl.org/sparc/ir08/).

### **ProQuest adds oral histories**

ProQuest is adding a collection of 100 oral history videos from The HistoryMakers, the nation's largest African American video oral history archive, to its Black Studies Center. Each video is two-to-three hours in length and accompanied by complete, searchable transcripts. Videos will also be browseable by name of interviewee, occupation, subject, and theme.

The interviews are of contemporary African Americans, many of whom were the first to break various barriers in business, science, medicine, education, and government, and present full accounts of the subject's early life, family history, education, and professional work. The collection includes interviews with Barack Obama, Reverend Al Sharpton, Gordon Parks, John Lewis, John H. Johnson, Julian Bond, Nikki Giovanni, John Hope Franklin, Terry MacMillian, Isaac Hayes, and Alvin Poussaint.

Black Studies Center is organized around Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience, a core collection of studies summarizing the current state of research and scholarship on important themes such as African American religion, the slave trade and slavery, performing arts and popular culture, and the African American family. Extensive bibliographies, multimedia, and selected full-text, primary research materials are also included. Black Studies Center also offers the entire *Chicago Defender* newspaper from 1910 to 1975 and full-text, academic journals from the *International Index to Black Periodicals*, with a journal index back to 1902.

### **NYU Libraries partner with Institute for the Future of the Book**

The New York University (NYU) Division of Libraries and the Institute for the Future of the Book (IFB) have formed a partnership to build digital infrastructure for 21st century scholarly communications. NYU and IFB have been awarded a start-up grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to design a set of networking tools that will

serve as the membership system for MediaCommons, an all-electronic scholarly publishing network in the digital humanities that IFB has been instrumental in developing.

For the past three years, IFB has been researching, prototyping, and sketching out models for how university presses could expand their publishing programs to include digital and networked formats. The institute is best known for its series of "networked book" experiments, which modify popular blogging technologies to create social book formats for the Web. Out of these projects, IFB developed CommentPress, an extension for the WordPress blog platform that enables paragraph-level commenting in the margins of a text.

As part of the partnership, three of IFB's leaders will work with NYU librarians, the NYU digital library team, and Monica McCormick, the Libraries' program officer for digital scholarly publishing in the development of the publishing network. ✍

### **Save the date: ACRL Membership Meeting/ACRL 101**

All ACRL members are cordially invited to attend the ACRL Membership Meeting from 8:00–8:30 a.m., Saturday, June 28, at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. Following the membership meeting, ACRL is offering a special First-Time Attendee Orientation from 8:30–10:00 a.m. in the same room to help new members and members new to the Annual Conference get the most out of the conference (and membership).

The session will help new members and first-time attendees:

- meet section representatives and learn how to become more involved
- make the most of the exhibits
- pick programs that meet your needs
- meet other first-time attendees
- find answers to any questions you might have about the conference or ACRL

Check the ACRL Insider blog ([www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/](http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/)) for more details in early June.