

ALA Annual Conference
Washington, D.C.
June 25-28, 2010

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ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. Provided numerous opportunities for learning and networking. This report highlights the programs and committee meetings I attended.

Friday, June 25

Conference 101 (NMRT Orientation Committee)

On Friday evening, my fellow committee members and I welcomed more than 300 first-time conference attendees by hosting a one-hour program designed to introduce them to the best ways to navigate the conference. The program included short talks by Teri Switzer, past ALA Treasurer and chair of the Training, Orientation, and Leadership Development Committee; John Chrastka, Director of Member Development; and Camila Aire, ALA President, among others. Helping to welcome and orient new members is always one of the highlights of my conference experience.

Saturday, June 26

NMRT Orientation (NMRT Orientation Committee)

Saturday morning began with an extended version of Friday's orientation program. As co-chair, I moderated this two-hour session, which included eight speakers including all of those who spoke on Friday night as well as Matthew Cizek, NMRT Annual Conference Local Information Committee, and Angie Kelleher, NMRT Resume Review Service, among others. One of the highlights of the program was the ice breaker Bingo game, which allowed members to practice their networking skills. At the conclusion of the program, several of the attendees stayed to ask questions and advice of individual committee members. After moderating this session, I feel fully prepared to take on the responsibility of chairing the committee in the coming year.

Multiple Formats and Copies in a Digital Age: Acceptance, Tolerance, Elimination (ALCTS CMDS Administration of Collection Development Committee)

As a member of the ALCTS CMDS Administration of Collection Development Committee, I was required to attend the program that we planned, and I'm so glad that I did. Roy Ziegler, Associate Director of Collections, Florida State University; Robert Kieft, College Librarian, Occidental College; and Doug Way, Head of Collection Development, Grand Valley State University summarized the recent deselection projects performed at their libraries and suggested that even bigger changes may be on the way. Ziegler explained that Florida State has withdrawn periodical volumes that are duplicated in JSTOR and that they had gone even further by canceling subscriptions for any print titles that are available in two or more aggregated databases. Kieft asked attendees to think about where libraries are headed and what assumptions we are making about library collections. He suggested that as catalogs improve and features are added we will want to consider stronger consortia and less duplication of collections—users will be able to more easily evaluate and select interesting titles online, much as they do with Amazon.com. Finally, Way discussed the barriers and benefits of deduplication of electronic/print collections. The general feeling was that despite the fact that more and more materials

are being made available electronically, our buildings are still filling up and we will all be required to eliminate print copies of materials, especially periodicals, that are available electronically.

Sunday, June 27

Discovery Systems: Solutions a User Could Love

This program included presentations by librarians at institutions that are using EBSCO, Serials Solutions, and Ex Libris' discovery systems. I found the discussions of the individual products to be of limited user, but I enjoyed hearing Marshall Breeding of Vanderbilt University discuss the current state of discovery in libraries and in other online environments. He emphasized the point that seemed to be repeated throughout the conference—the content and the technologies that the Millennial generation is looking for are available, but libraries and librarians have a long road to travel to keep up.

Creative Ideas in Technical Services Interest Group Meeting

As the outgoing Chair of the ALCTS CITS Interest Group, I'm a bit biased, but the time I spent discussing creative ideas with fellow conference attendees was one of the best parts of my Annual Conference experience. This year, we broke out into small groups to discuss open source tools for technical services, inter-generational conflict and cooperation, metadata, life in a one woman (or man) department, and how to deal with asking staff to perform activities that may fall far outside of their job descriptions. As has been the norm over the past several years, many of the discussions revolved around the current state of the economy and its effects on our libraries. In general, as in the past, it all comes down to flexibility, the ability to motivate and encourage colleagues and staff, and a positive attitude. For my full report on this meeting, please see the Spring(?) 2011 issue of *Technical Services Quarterly*.

Monday, June 28

eBooks: How Do You Know It Was Worth It?

For this program, Terry Kirchner, Westchester (NY) Library System; Tom Wright, Brigham Young University (BYU); and Christopher Warnock, ebrary, described a few of the ways that they have proven the need for e-books in their own libraries/companies. For my full report on this program, please see the Fall issue of the *ALCTS Newsletter Online*.