

ALA Annual Conference
Washington, D.C.
June 24-27, 2010

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ALA Annual in New Orleans provided numerous opportunities for learning and networking. This report highlights the programs and committee meetings I attended.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24th

NMRT Conference 101

On Friday afternoon, I moderated this recently redesigned orientation program for an audience of approximately 200 first-time Annual Conference attendees. Panelists included Deana Groves, NMRT President; John Chrastka, ALA Director of Member Development; Joe Frueh, Exhibits Round Table/Agati; and Michael Golrick, ALA Counselor/State Library of Louisiana. I was very pleased that the first of my two final programs as chair of the NMRT Orientation Committee went so smoothly.

Opening General Session: Dan Savage

Dan Savage gave a very moving speech at the conference's opening session. He discussed the It Gets Better project that he and his husband launched in 2010 in response to the suicides of several GLBT teens who had been bullied in school. Prior to Savage's talk, there was a brief appearance by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and a pre-recorded message from Melinda Gates.

Exhibits Opening Reception

This year's Exhibits Opening Reception allowed me the time to meet with a representative from Springer in order to learn about some interesting journal subscription options available to CARLI members.

NMRT Mentoring Social

I volunteered prior to the conference to meet with two new librarians at the NMRT Mentoring Social. I enjoyed meeting and talking to several first-time attendees during the event, and I was able to answer many of their questions in hopes of preparing them for a successful first conference experience.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th

Conference Orientation

On Saturday morning, I passed moderating duties on to the incoming chair of the NMRT Orientation Committee and observed her in order to provide feedback and suggestions for the coming year. In addition to the panelists who participated in Friday's program, we also welcomed Jenifer Grady, ALA-APA; Jenna Ryan, NMRT Annual Conference Local Information Committee/Louisiana State University; Roberta Stevens, ALA President; and Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of ALA.

NMRT Executive Board Meeting

Later on Saturday morning, I attended the NMRT Executive Board Meeting in order to report on the activities of the ALA/NMRT Online Orientation Task Force that I chair.

COSWL Introduction to Women's Issues: Caregiving

I decided to step outside of NMRT and Technical Services for a couple of hours in order to attend a session on COSWL's work on workplace issues and support for women who care for an adult family member in addition to performing their regular job duties. Based on the program's description, I was hoping for a discussion based on a broader definition of caregiving, but it was interesting nonetheless. The leaders of COSWL are looking for ways to get ALA to endorse policies or best practices for managers of staff who also have caregiving duties.

PARS Two Thumbs Up! Preservation Film Festival

Late on Saturday afternoon, PARS and Alexander Street Press presented a film festival, highlighting short films (many from YouTube) for collection care education initiatives. My full report on this program may be read in an upcoming issue of the *ALCTS Newsletter Online*.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26th

CMS Committee All-Committee Meeting

On Sunday morning, I attended the final meeting of the ALCTS-CMS Administration of Collection Development meeting. Our primary business was to solicit signatures for a petition to create an Administration of Collection Development Interest Group within CMS. I have been appointed as an intern to the CMS Publications Committee so that I may continue contributing to the organization in the coming years.

Right Here I See My Own Books: The Women's Library at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair

Sarah Wadsworth gave an extended reading from her new book (with Wayne Wiegand), *Right here I see my own books: the Woman's Building library at the World's Columbian Exposition*. She read about the creation of the library, its librarians, and the public's reactions to it. Unfortunately, the library no longer exists as a single collection and even its remaining shelf list is difficult to understand. Based on the program, I plan to order a copy of Wadsworth and Wiegand's book for Oesterle Library's collection. It will be a nice supplement to our Tholin Chicagoana Collection, which contains numerous primary resource titles from the Columbian Exposition.

RDA Update Forum

The RDA saga continues, and I attended this forum in order to keep up with the developments so that I could report back to I-CAT (a CARLI committee) on what is happening. There was little new information beyond what is available in the executive report released by the Library of Congress and national libraries in early June. The national libraries plan to work with the Joint Steering Committee to revise 2-3 chapters within the next couple of months, and they hope to have a timeline for the transition from MARC to a new encoding standard by September 30th. PCC is looking for ways to deal with RDA-style

authority headings for the near future. OCLC is beginning work on updating the text and examples in Bibliographic Formats and Standards. ALA Publishing continues working on enhancements to the Toolkit and will be hosting virtual user groups throughout the coming year in an attempt to improve the project.

MONDAY, JUNE 27th

Journal Review Benefits Beyond the Budget: Dollars and Sense

Paul Beavers, Beth Callahan, Cindy Krolkowski, and Diane Palden of Wayne State University discussed their ongoing, multi-year journal review process and their successes and challenges. I was most interested in the extensive spreadsheet they developed with information about every title in their collection, including format, availability, and usage. The librarians at Wayne State are currently looking for ways to use bibliographies from their faculty publications, theses and dissertations, and capstone papers in future review processes.