

Librarians Association of the University of California
President's Report
Fall 2004

Introduction

In 2003-2004, Past President Linda Kennedy (D), among her many achievements, demonstrated that the LAUC Executive Board can conduct the association's business throughout the year, smoothly and effectively, keeping the membership informed of its activities between Assembly meetings. Linda created the conditions that are enabling LAUC to operate with agility, during an era when continuous strategic planning defines academic life within the University. We owe Linda a great debt for her vision and organizational skills.

Linda's outstanding leadership has set the stage for many activities for the 2004-2005 year, which I will describe, below. I will also offer some forecasts on some of the activities we may expect to see in the next few months, and in the spring, leading up to our Spring Assembly.

The LAUC Web

Linda and past Webmaster Beth Dupuis (B) undertook a Web overhaul last year, which our new Webmaster, Ilan Eyman (B) has implemented this fall. The Web site will continue to grow, but already it is showing new functionalities and is offering the membership new opportunities to comment in the public forum. The Research and Professional Development pages of the Web are now much more useful, thanks to Vice President Jennifer Reiswig (SD) and Ilan's collaborative planning. Over the next several months, we anticipate enhanced and easier access to LAUC documents of historical note.

At the same time, I have launched an "opinion" feature, with the support of the Executive Board. This column will address issues of interest to LAUC members, and is intended to generate dialogue and invite reaction. In November/December, I will issue a call for "guest opinions", and publish a first guest piece by prior arrangement. The Executive Board's overall goal is to make the LAUC Web a "lively" resource, with offerings that are of interest to the membership, as well as to others who are interested in our professional work. Comments of opinion writers will be the authors' sole responsibility, and we hope that these columns will incite others to consider writing and expressing their opinions.

President's Monthly Messages

I have revived Esther Grassian's practice of monthly messages to the membership, in order to report on LAUC's activities. These will also appear on the LAUC Web.

Assembly News

Fall Assembly: A Strong Program Focus. At the end of the Spring 2004 Assembly at UC Riverside, much of our standing committee work was at a point of completion (with the exception of the

Position Paper Task Force). This enabled the Executive Board to explore a more extensive slate of programming for the Fall Assembly. LAUC invited the Systemwide Operations and Planning Group (SOPAG) to make a panel presentation, and SOPAG graciously agreed. A second program brings together members of the Academic Senate Universitywide Committee on Library (UCOL), and three faculty members from campus level Academic Senate library committees. Our objective in utilizing this program format was to explore whether LAUC Assemblies could provide a venue for programs of broad interest to the profession, and to our colleagues within and beyond the University. If so, and if the Fall 2004 is well-received, it is possible that LAUC will be able to utilize one of its annual Assemblies to “reach out” to our many allied colleagues and friends, who care about libraries and librarians within the University of California.

Invitation to the California Digital Library and Office of Systemwide Library Planning. The Executive Board agreed that in the interest of collegiality, we wished to invite the staff of the CDL and the Office of Systemwide Library Planning to consider attending the Fall Assembly. I received favorable replies from both organizations. In response, CDL University Librarian Dan Greenstein invited Vice President Reiswig and me to visit the CDL and talk about LAUC’s activities in return.

Travel Support. I offered “newer” librarians travel support to attend the Fall Assembly, and received one expression of interest, from Penny Coppernoll-Blach (SD). Since I originally allocated funds for up to four members to travel to Berkeley, and so I have since opened the field to any member who might be interested in attending. As a result, Ruby Ball-Gam (LA), Esther Grassian (LA) and Kari Lucas (SD) were awarded travel support.

Assembly Delegates Listserv. Parliamentarian Paul Weiss (SD) brought to the Board’s attention the fact that under our Bylaws, the “Assembly” exists as a distinct entity and is not defined by the date it is held on. This perspective suggests that the Assembly can perform some of its work in advance of meeting in person. With that in mind, I have established a listserv of Assembly delegates (and the Executive Board), which will facilitate conversation, and perhaps even allow parliamentary actions like up-or-down online voting.

The true test of this approach will come in the weeks prior to the Spring 2005 Assembly, when we will explore many organizational and strategic issues as a result of the work of our standing committees. At its heart, this approach reinforces the fact that LAUC is a representative body, and our representatives and delegates are empowered to take action, in consultation with the general membership. The pace of professional life within the University has accelerated; it seems reasonable that we might be able to conduct some of our business more readily online, and save our precious face to face meeting time to discuss substantive issues.

Spring Assembly: Expect Many Interesting Developments. Our standing committees will report on their activities at UC Santa Barbara in Spring 2005. We will also discuss and vote on the recommendations of the Position Paper Task Force, which has delivered its final report and has completed its work. The Executive Board wishes to express appreciation to past and current members of the PPTF, particularly Heidi Hutchinson (R), for agreeing to chair the task force when Deb Turner (SD) left the University to pursue a doctorate.

“Systemwide Strategic Directions for Libraries and Scholarly Information:” A Call for Divisional Discussion

On October 21, 2004, I sent a call to divisional chairs to undertake a campus-level discussion of the new document, “Systemwide Strategic Directions for Libraries and Scholarly Information:” This important strategic plan was released in June 2004. Past President Kennedy sought to initiate discussion about the plan, and sought an earlier release date, knowing that the summer was not an ideal point in time to take up the matter. Consequently, this document has not been addressed by LAUC in a systematic fashion. The strategic plan includes some very forward-looking concepts, such as shared collections and shared services—concepts that will have wide-ranging impact on LAUC members, if they are implemented. I have asked LAUC divisions to take up this strategic plan, hold substantive discussions on it, and share their findings with the Executive Board by April 30, 2005.

Regional Library Facilities

University Provost M.R.C Greenwood invited LAUC to send her nominations for a LAUC member to serve on the newly formed Regional Library Facility Board. This new board replaces the former Northern and Southern Regional Library Facility boards, as a result of systemwide planning and recommendations made to the University Librarians.

Standing Committee Updates

Our Standing Committees are complete and their charges are on the LAUC Web. We can expect some interesting output from these bodies later this year. I have charged the Committee on Committees Rules and Jurisdiction (COCRJ) to evaluate LAUC’s bylaws and submit a comprehensive revision for consideration. The goal is to bring LAUC’s bylaws into harmony with the bylaws of comparable associations. This will involve many small changes, and a few significant changes, including the creation of “Standing Rules” which will guide the activities of Standing Committees. This change will enable LAUC to shift its Standing Committees’ purposes and charges without a full bylaws revision and vote—making us more responsive and agile as the University continues to grow and evolve.

I have asked the Committee on Professional Governance to discuss the Assistant and Associate ranks of the Librarian Series, and to provide the Executive Board with an analysis of the state of the Series for early and mid-career librarians. Research and Professional Development hopes to create a more effective repository of research outcomes from past sponsored research—which will be a welcome addition. Diversity will continue to monitor our membership and gather important statistics on the demography of the Librarian Series. The Committee on Library Plans and Policies will evaluate its recent activities and provide the Board with an assessment of its role within LAUC.

Peer to Peer (P2P) File Sharing

On September 16, 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger signed executive order S-16-04. The order instructs the California state Chief Information Officer with the development of a statewide policy on Peer-to-Peer (P2P) technology. Despite mentioning the potential for legitimate uses for P2P, the executive order makes it clear that the goal of the policy is to limit its use by state

agencies, including the UCs and CSUs. This is a matter of concern, as the increasingly popular strategy of "LOCKSS" (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) relies upon a P2P platform. LAUC-SD member James R. Jacobs wrote a white paper on the issues surrounding this controversial bill, which the Executive Board endorsed as a useful source of background information. As a result of discussion held on October 19, 2004, I sent James' paper to divisional chairs, and invited them to consider using the document as an opportunity to take up the issue with their University Librarians.

Forecast Activity for the Academic Year

LAUC Systemwide Representatives. After the Fall Assembly, I plan to initiate a dialogue with the many representatives and members of LAUC who serve in advisory roles throughout the University community. As reported in my President's messages, the Executive Board agrees that the pace of planning, and the extent of activities underway are so expansive that it makes sense to invite all of our representatives to discuss their experience in an open forum. This will happen by conference call, and if this forum is productive, it may lead to further dialogue.

New Position Papers. In 2005, I will issue calls for interest in authoring new LAUC Position Papers on two topics: copyright and fair use, and privacy issues. Both of these issues will continue to play an important role in our professional work, and our voice is a unique one in the fabric of society with respect to these issues. These new papers will be envisioned as substantive works of scholarship that analyze the issues, research the history and directions, and offer clearcut positions that LAUC can adopt. Volunteer authors will also be invited to publish their work in professional journals, which will bolster their dossiers for advancement. Depending on the level of interest, LAUC will consider funding travel for groups of authors to meet and plan their approach. It is the Board's hope that the membership will respond to this intellectual opportunity and take maximum advantage of our knowledge and position within the widely-acknowledged leading research university system.

A Special Note of Appreciation: Tammy Dearie, Past SOPAG Representative

In addition to recognizing Linda Kennedy's many contributions, I would also like to thank Tammy Dearie (SD) for her outstanding service as LAUC member of SOPAG. Tammy has been a very productive and proactive member of SOPAG for the past three years, and LAUC is very much in her debt.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terence K.Huwe
2004-2005 LAUC President