
ACRL issues for the 80s

ACRL's two presidential candidates offer their views on the Association's future.



Sharon A. Hogan



Janice T. Koyama

This presentation of statements from ACRL's candidates for vice-president/president-elect is a new information service for ACRL members. Many of the issues and concerns facing ACRL are discussed informally at meetings, but we have not had a national forum available to all members. These statements provide the basis for an informed choice when you receive your ballot in the next few weeks.—*Sharon J. Rogers, ACRL vice-president/president-elect.*

Sharon A. Hogan:

What we face. Today there is no such thing as a single challenge. Academic and research libraries, personified by their professional staff members, struggle daily with multiple forces, vectors coming from and moving toward diverse (and often opposing) ends. Pressures of funding, collections, technology, service, space, and personnel affect virtually all of us, usually simultaneously. Some pressures build up internally; others threaten to implode from the "outer world" of information. Decisions made nationally about the format or distribution of government documents, for example,

have a profound impact on how academic libraries go about their business. Decisions about data transmission and access are even more disturbing.

But we dare not stop with surveying our own challenges. The parent organizations we serve are under immense internal and external stresses of their own. As the traditional post-secondary population shrinks and national and state funding for higher education declines, demands increase to extend opportunities to non-traditional students and to bolster basic education. The library or learning center's role to meet the teaching and research needs of its "host" means that it must not only absorb the shock of these changes but must also lead in anticipating them.

ACRL as buffer and catalyst. Given this environment of continual change where the only certainty is more uncertainty, ACRL can help us respond wisely. As a national organization representing academic and research librarians in all types of surroundings, ACRL through its elected officers can provide the focus and objectivity we all seek. By building on its strengths—the work of dynamic sections, the precedent of exciting national conferences, encouragement of active chapters, and liaison with discipline associations—ACRL's leadership can assist librarians in their efforts to explore, influence, and educate other groups in the higher education community.

As president of ACRL, a responsibility that involves three years of hard work and choices on behalf of the association, I would strive to see, to understand, and to confront the forces besieging our profession. I would assist the membership in articulating the alternatives that various actions or inactions would have on college or research libraries and would aggressively present those alternatives to national educational and discipline associations or legislative bodies. I would expect to make difficult decisions and defend them to opponents. I

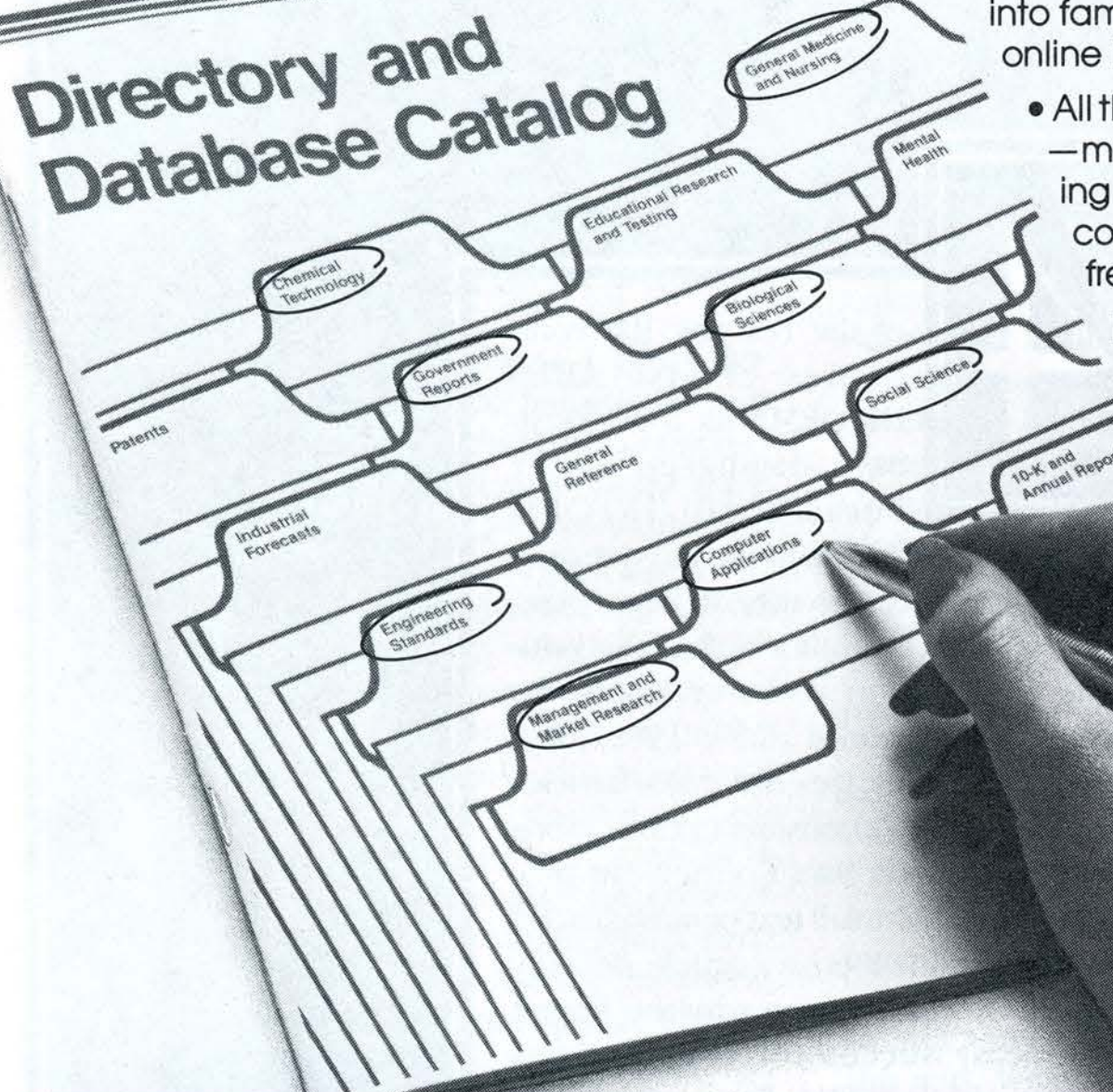
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would also be a good listener, willing to be persuaded to another point of view by strong evidence and argument. Having served three years on ACRL's Budget and Finance Committee and having headed an extremely active chapter, BIS, I am well aware of the financial constraints of the organization and the sorts of trade-offs that are necessary in the light of the ACRL Long Range Planning Model. The alternatives are infinite, the consequences of any decision immense.

Janice T. Koyama:

My interest in serving as the ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect is based on a combination of traditional and non-traditional experiences. Familiarity with ACRL for me began with active involvement in the revival of the California Chapter and in the later years of holding various chapter offices including the presidency. Within ACRL itself I have served on a divisional standing committee, on committees in both "type of library" and "type of activity" sections, and have been a regular participant in several discussion groups. I have also been active on committees of another ALA division which enables me to bring a different perspective to ACRL.

My experience on the California Library Services Board (CLSB), where I am halfway through a four-year gubernatorial appointment as the representative for all academic libraries in the state, has given me an understanding of the nature and importance of board activities, organization, and involvement. CLSB is a model board that is well run and that enjoys excellent relations with its staff. I work with board members from all types of libraries and from various segments of the public-at-large (disabled, economically disadvantaged, limited and non-English speaking), and it has been extremely valuable to hear user perceptions of libraries from the lay board members. I have also enjoyed participation in policy decisions which direct and administer cooperation among academic, public, school, institutional and special libraries throughout California.

At the campus level, one of my emphases as director of the undergraduate library at UC Berkeley has been to establish regular communication channels with appropriate faculty, campus administrators and professional staff. I am committed to improving the visibility of the library in undergraduate affairs particularly and to participating fully in the broader academic environment at Berkeley. These efforts have been successful in transforming the library into a vital partner in many academic support programs and services.

My experiences have provided a framework for many of my ACRL concerns and ideas which are categorized here under three general subject areas.

Chapters/Members. I believe that ACRL must support chapters both financially and programatically at the highest affordable level. The de-

velopment of the special programming funds and the wider distribution of ACRL CE courses have provided us with a good start in this direction. We need to study further this important network structure and consider delivering more services through the chapters, increasing awareness of chapter activities through wider dissemination of *Chapter Topics*, and recognizing chapters that have been particularly effective in furthering ACRL goals with a special award. As for members, I am concerned about those who feel they do not have a voice in ACRL or access to enough opportunities for participation. Some feel left out or overlooked even after serving successfully on section committees or as officers. I believe that efforts must be made to involve new members and to recognize exceptional contributions and service with increasing leadership responsibilities. In order to provide for direct communication between the membership and the Board, an "open forum" time during Board meetings might be a good idea.

The ACRL Board. Speaking of the ACRL Board itself, it is always an important element in the office of the president and is particularly crucial this year. With a new Executive Director, the officers and members of the Board will need to provide special support and cooperation to the staff during the transition period. I am also interested in improving orientation for new Board members, considering changes in representation of the Activity Sections Council, continuing follow up on the Activity Model and the ad hoc task forces' recommendations, and providing stronger liaison and cooperation with other ALA divisions in response to the J. Morris Jones ALA Divisional Leadership Enhancement Program.

ACRL and higher education. Perhaps the most far-reaching is my concern regarding the role of ACRL in higher education. As individual academic libraries and librarians strive to become more active partners in the academic enterprise, so must ACRL increase its efforts to be our collective voice with other professional and scholarly organizations and agencies which share our interests. To this end, we should seriously consider the recent recommendations from the ad hoc Task Force on Academic Libraries and Higher Education for implementation.

It is an honor to be a candidate for ACRL office and an awesome responsibility to lead such a prestigious and influential organization. I am enthusiastic and eager to work with all of you if elected and, no matter what the outcome, will continue to serve ACRL with dedication and commitment.

Editor's note: Sharon A. Hogan is acting director of Temple University Libraries, Philadelphia. Janice T. Koyama is head of the Moffitt Undergraduate Library, University of California, Berkeley. ■■