

## In the News

Preparing for an accreditation visit—although stressful—can be an opportunity for the library to take a step back and evaluate its services and collections. This issue contains 15 tips for preparing for an accreditation visit compiled by librarians who are veterans of the accreditation process as well as a list of experienced librarians selected by ACRL's Accreditation Advisers Board who are willing to answer your accreditation questions.

One of your questions may be just what is the role of the librarian in the accreditation process. I thought it would be interesting to look at that question from an accrediting official's point of view. So this issue includes an interview with Howard Simmons, executive director of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and an opinion column penned by the associate executive director of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Ralph Wolff.

This issue continues our coverage of ACRL's Sixth National Conference with more session summaries to share with you some of the great

ideas we heard in Salt Lake City. The conference proceedings (containing the full text of all the keynote speeches, such as Julian Bond's, as well as the papers and programs) will be published in August so be sure to reserve your copy now. Call ALA's Order Department at 1-(800) 545-2433, press 7.

Phillip Young conjures up that summertime feeling in his vivid description of an estate sale on a hot and humid August afternoon. The book as a medium lives on! Speaking of books, we thoroughly enjoyed the suggestion book comments that were sent in and share with you some of our favorites on page 467. Keep sending in those gems.

If you've been hearing a lot about OCLC's FirstSearch and wanted more specifics, this issue recounts the experiences of two universities using this service.

Congratulations to Tom Kirk, ACRL's next president, and all of the newly elected section officers who are volunteering their time and talent to ACRL.

—Mary Ellen K. Davis  
*Editor & Publisher*

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