
LIBRAS internship in college library administration

By Jonathan D. Lauer

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Where to get some hands-on experience.

More than two years ago William A. Moffett sounded the clarion call proclaiming the continuing vitality and value of college librarianship in his ACRL conference address, "Reflections of a College Librarian: Looking for Life and Redemption This Side of ARL," later published in *College and Research Libraries*. The sentiments expressed in his paper rang true for many college librarians, a number of whom shared his hope "that the Great Lakes College Association (and perhaps other college consortia) can be persuaded to offer internships in college library administration... By doing so we may be able to compensate for the lack of a recognizable career ladder for college library directors and perhaps counter some of the bias which discourages good people from seriously considering careers in smaller institutions."¹

As a direct response to his challenge, the LIBRAS consortium will offer its first internship in college library administration during the summer of 1987.

LIBRAS, a consortium comprising 15 Chicago-area liberal arts college libraries,² celebrated its

¹William A. Moffett, "Reflections of a College Librarian: Looking for Life and Redemption This Side of ARL," *College & Research Libraries* 45 (September 1984):338, 345.

²Aurora University, Barat College (Lake Forest), Concordia College (River Forest), Elmhurst College, Illinois Benedictine College (Lisle), Judson College (Elgin), Kendall College (Evanston), Lake Forest College, Lewis University (Ro-

meoville), North Central College (Naperville), North Park College (Chicago), Rosary College (River Forest), Saint Xavier College (Chicago), Trinity College (Deerfield), and Wheaton College. twentieth anniversary in 1985. Since its inception, LIBRAS has established an impressive record of library cooperation. While the expeditious exchange of resources among its constituent members through interlibrary loan remains an integral aspect of its commitment to cooperation, LIBRAS activities encompass cooperative collection development, continuing education (including an annual all-day workshop), and group purchasing of supplies. No fewer than six members also participate in LCS, Illinois' statewide library computer network, with two more institutions authorized to join in the near future. And five LIBRAS libraries recently extended their interlibrary loan capabilities to include telefacsimile reproduction.

It is in this context of cooperation that the LIBRAS internship program came into being. The internship will extend over a mutually agreed upon four week period during the summer of 1987 (broadly conceived as May 10 through September 10, 1987). As Ed Meachen, library director at North Central College, so ably stated, "The summer months, particularly at the end of the old fiscal year and the beginning of the new, are especially critical. This is the time of budget discussions, writing the annual report, special (library-wide) pro-

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jects...and individual staff projects. Summer, therefore, is not a slack time, but rather the most important library 'business' time of the year."

One LIBRAS library will serve as the Mentor Library with a number of cooperating libraries serving as field trip sites to provide a depth of exposure and experience not possible if the entire program were confined to one institution. LIBRAS will extend a \$1,000 stipend and a \$200 room allowance. The intern is responsible for transportation and incidental expenses. Applicants must have completed one year of library school or be currently employed in a college library. The intern will complete a

written report of the experience which will include, but not be limited to, such activities as a supervised reading program in library management, shadowing the host director, analyzing the library budgeting process, comparing the library's organization chart and job descriptions with the realities of day-to-day activities, and helping revamp collection development policy and mission statements.

Internship applicants should submit a letter and resume by March 1, 1987, to: Jonathan D. Lauer, Chair, LIBRAS Internship Committee, Aurora University, Aurora, IL 60506. ■■

ACRL actions, July 1986

Highlights of the Annual Conference meetings of the ACRL Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors of the Association of College and Research Libraries met twice during the ALA Annual Conference in New York: on June 28, 1986, and July 1, 1986.

American Council on Education

The Board endorsed the statement of the American Council on Higher Education, "A Call to Conscience," in support of funding for higher education at the Federal level.

BIS Think Tank

The Board endorsed in principle the concept of a Bibliographic Instruction Section Think Tank retreat in June 1987, contingent upon the section's success in raising funds for it.

Budget

The Board approved the ACRL budget for 1986-87, which projects a deficit of approximately \$50,000, largely for the work on *Books for College*

Libraries, 3d edition.

Chapters

The Board approved the petition for the establishment of an ACRL chapter in Alabama.

Cinema Librarians

The Board dissolved the Cinema Librarians Discussion Group. The Art Section has expanded its program coverage of the visual and performing arts and will be increasingly concerned with topics of interest to cinema librarians.

Commemorations

The Board voted to observe the 100th anniversary of the founding of the ALA College Library Section—the forerunner of ACRL—at the ACRL Fifth National Conference in Cincinnati in 1989, and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Association of College and Reference Libraries (as ACRL used to be called) at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in 1990.