

**ACRL/CHOICE and ALA Editions to co-publish successor to Books for College Libraries**

ACRL and ALA Editions have signed an agreement to co-publish Resources for College Libraries (RCL), a new core collection of recommended titles for academic libraries. The successor to Books for College Libraries 3rd Edition, RCL will be an online product whose coverage includes both electronic resources and books. Once published, RCL will be regularly updated and revised, ensuring that it remains current.

CHOICE will manage editorial development. Production, marketing, and distribution will be handled by ALA Editions. The target publication date is 2006. Founded in 1964, CHOICE is a publishing unit of ACRL, best known for its print and electronic academic review publications, *CHOICE Magazine* and *ChoiceReviews.online*.

**Thomson Gale offers free MARC records from literature database**

Thomson Gale has made available MARC records from the most-studied authors in its *Literature Resource Center*, a database that provides access to biographies, bibliographies, and critical analysis on more than 120,000 authors. The records use InfoMark technology, which gives libraries the ability to securely deliver copyright-cleared information to patrons through cut and paste methodology. MARC records are available for 2,600 authors and can be downloaded at [www.gale.com](http://www.gale.com) (click "Title Lists," then "MARC 856 and ASCII Records with InfoMarks").

**IMLS seeks proposals for library workforce study**

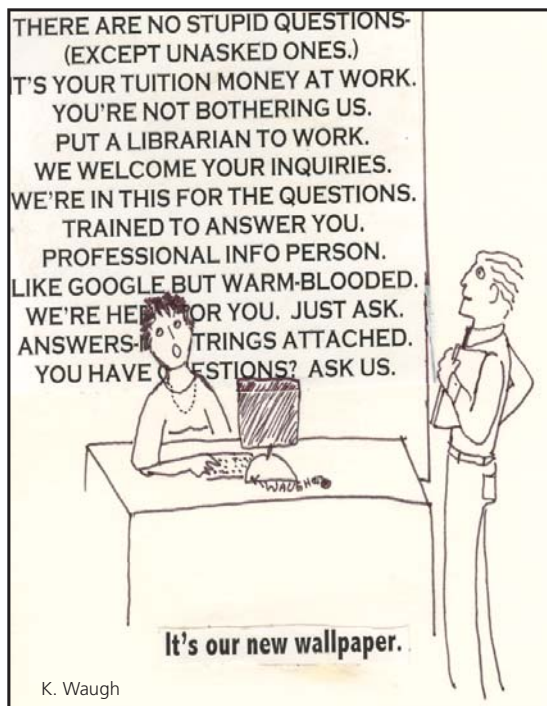
The Institute of Museum and Library Services, Office of Library Services is seeking proposals for a national research study on the future of librarians in the workforce. The study will include an analysis of current and projected U.S. library workforce data by geographic location, type of employers, and functional specifications. It will also assess the demand for librarians over the next decade, the skills they will need, the capacity of graduate schools of li-

brary and information science to meet projected needs, and incentives for attracting qualified individuals.

The maximum award is \$1 million for the two-year project, which is scheduled to begin September 30, 2004. The award will be made under the 2004 Librarians for the 21st Century Program.

**Fulbright Senior Specialists Program offers opportunities for librarians**

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program, a short-term exchange program for U.S. faculty and professionals, is seeking librarians with skills, including digitalization of library materials, records management, cataloguing, and library assessment and evaluation for projects worldwide. Candidates apply to be included on the Fulbright Senior Specialists Roster. The program works to meet the needs of overseas academic institutions by matching candidates from the roster to projects requested by the institutions. Applications are reviewed by discipline peer-review committees and the Board for Foreign Scholarship eight times per year. Foreign language skills are not necessary, but are a plus.



Fulbright Senior Specialists grantees lecture at the undergraduate and graduate levels, consult with administrators and faculty on issues related to curriculum and program development, and develop and assess academic curricula or educational materials. Visit [www.cies.org/specialists](http://www.cies.org/specialists) for the online application and program overview or contact the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program at [fulspec@cies.iie.org](mailto:fulspec@cies.iie.org) or (202) 686-4026.

### **ARL positions itself for the future**

At its February meeting, the Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) Board of Directors established its priorities for the coming year. The first priority for 2004 is to initiate a strategic planning process "that comprehends a review and discussion of the future agendas of its member libraries and articulates a vision of how the Association can support and advance those agendas." To accomplish this priority, ARL has established two new task forces. The ARL Task Force on Governance was established to review current practices and consider restructuring options for Board nominations, elections, and other governance-related aspects of the association. The ARL Strategic Planning task force will develop and initiate a strategic planning process that "articulates a vision of how the association can support and advance" the future agendas of its member libraries.

Other priorities established for 2004 relate to information policies; scholarly communication; collections, access, preservation, and technology; staffing and management; and performance measures. Complete information about ARL's priorities and the strategic planning process can be found at [www.arl.org](http://www.arl.org).

### **Texas A&M commemorates three-millionth volume**

Texas A&M University commemorated the acquisition of its three-millionth volume in April. The milestone volume is a rare first edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* (1855) given by Sara and John Lindsey of Houston. Elmore "Rip" Torn, a former Texas A&M student, presented a special reading from *Leaves of Grass* at the celebration, which was followed by a two-day symposium on Whitman featuring American literature scholars from around the country.

### **Ex Libris developing electronic resource management system**

Ex Libris has announced that it is developing an electronic resource management (ERM) system. The system will incorporate the workflows necessary for selecting, evaluating, acquiring, maintaining, and providing informed access to electronic resources in accordance with their business and license agreements. The ERM system will be

## **Proposals for National Conference contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences due May 28, 2004**

The ACRL National Conference Executive Committee invites you to submit a proposal for the ACRL 12th National Conference, "Currents and Convergence: Navigating the Rivers of Change," Minneapolis, April 7-10, 2005. Proposals for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences are due May 28.

As the premier educational event for academic and research librarians, the ACRL National Conference brings together more than 2,200 librarians and related professionals. The conference will focus on the increased emphasis on interdisciplinary research and technology, which has librarians constantly "Navigating the Rivers of Change" to provide information access that connects people and resources in new ways.

You are encouraged to submit proposals that take a step back from everyday work and explore the major issues, challenges, and opportunities facing academic and research librarians. Applicants are encouraged to examine ACRL's "Focus on the Future Task Force" report while developing program proposals. The report discusses the seven most challenging issues faced by academic librarians, and can be viewed at [www.acrl.org](http://www.acrl.org), click "Issues & Advocacy."

Full text of the Call for Participation is available at the ACRL National Conference Web site at [www.ala.org/acrl/minneapolis](http://www.ala.org/acrl/minneapolis). For further information regarding proposal applications or the ACRL 12th National Conference please e-mail [tedwards@ala.org](mailto:tedwards@ala.org) or [msutton@ala.org](mailto:msutton@ala.org).

a stand-alone product, building on SFX as its core component and with the ability to integrate with other Ex Libris products. The initial release of the system is targeted for the fourth quarter of 2004.

### **Project MUSE launches COUNTER-compliant tool**

Project Muse has launched its new COUNTER-compliant statistics tool, which will eliminate the need to manually run statistics for a specified time period. Instead, monthly statistics will be automatically loaded on the 14th of the subsequent month and will be cumulative. This will enable librarians to display year-to-date totals at any point in the year. The tool was developed in response to the COUNTER Code of Practice for online usage statistics, which governs the exchange of online usage data and allows librarians to better understand how the information services they purchase are being used.

### **NYPL announces best 25 books of 2003**

The New York Public Library (NYPL) has announced its selection of “25 Books to Remember for 2003.” This year’s offerings, spanning all genres, were chosen for their ability to provide an “informative or transformative reading experience.” Selection criteria for the “Books to Remember” list include literary excellence, aesthetic appeal, uniqueness of concept, and command of subject matter. Some items from this year’s list are: *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, by Mary Roach; *The Emperor of Scent: A Story of Perfume, Obsession, and the Last Mystery of the Senses*, by Chandler Burr; and *The Voice at 3:00 A.M.: Selected Late and New Poems*, by Charles Simic. The list is available for free at all NYPL branch libraries.

### **EBSCOhost pay-per-view articles top one million**

EBSCOhost Electronic Journals Service Enhanced now includes more than one million pay-per view articles, largely attributable to the growing portfolio of Taylor & Francis titles and the recent addition of Springer-Verlag. The pay-per-view service provides immediate access, for a fee, to data and research without a waiting period.

### **Mystery writers honor BGSU library**

The Mystery Writers of America honored Bowling Green State University on April 29 at the 58th Annual Edgar Awards. The Raven Award for “commitment to preserve mystery fiction through a formidable and constantly growing collection of detective mystery novels and manuscripts” was bestowed upon the Ray and Pat Browne Library for Popular Culture Studies. Bowling Green is often called the birthplace of popular culture studies. The library’s mystery-detective fiction collection contains the works of all major authors in the genre, including classic sleuth stories, hardboiled private eye novels, and spy thrillers. Unique serial resources include 8,500 pulp magazines, which first published stories by such writers as Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler.



A sampling of detective novels from the Ray and Pat Browne Library for Popular Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University.

### **Corrections**

In the April 2004 issue, two nominating committee chairs listed on page 216 were incorrect. The Asian, African and Middle Eastern contact is Yue Li, [yueli@mail.uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:yueli@mail.uflib.ufl.edu); the African American Studies librarian contact is Lisa Pillow, [lpillow@uic.edu](mailto:lpillow@uic.edu).

In the March 2004 issue, a photo credit was mistakenly omitted from the News from the Field column. The photo of the ACRL/AASL Presidential Report on Information Literacy 15th Anniversary Celebration on page 121 was taken by Y. Diana Wu, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, San Jose State University. The editors regret the errors.

### **Columbia U. launches John Howard Griffin exhibit**

An exhibition titled *The Intrinsic Other: The Life of John Howard Griffin* is on display in the Kempner Gallery of Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Born in 1920, Griffin became famous as a novelist, journalist, humanitarian, and social critic, best known for his book, *Black Like Me*. The exhibition, which will be on display through July 2 and is open to the public, includes portions of Griffin's diary, letters, manuscripts, photographs, journals, and books spanning his career.

### **Harvard developing Women Working online project**

Harvard University Library is working on a project to digitize some of the university's resources on the topic of "Women Working in the United States, 1870–1930." A Beta Web site has been developed to distribute the work that has been done to date to the larger scholarly community ([ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww/](http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww/)). The Beta site provides access to more than 200 digitized books and manuscripts. Feedback is appreciated as the library works to improve the usability of the site.

"Women Working" is part of Harvard's Open Collections Program. The goal of the

program is to increase the availability and use of historical resources for teaching, learning, and research by digitizing selected resources in broad topic areas and provide access to them via the Web.

### **Thomson ISI reports on impact of open access**

Thomson ISI has reported that a significant number of open access journals meet the company's selection criteria, which ensures that only the highest-quality content is indexed. Of the 8,700 selected journals currently covered in Thomson's Web of Science, 191 are open access journals. While small in comparison to the total number of journals indexed in the product, the number is significant in terms of progress made by the open access movement.

Thomson recently conducted a study of the overall performance of open access journals. Using ISI citation metrics (for example, impact factor and cited half life) the study focused on whether open access journals perform differently from other journals in their respective fields. Initial findings indicate that there was no discernible difference in terms of citation impact of frequency of citation. The full paper is available at [www.isinet.com/oaj](http://www.isinet.com/oaj). ■

## **Register by May 21, 2004, for ACRL Preconferences in Orlando**

Keep up to date with the latest developments in information commons planning, information literacy, and scholarly communication. The deadline to register is May 21, 2004. Registration materials are available online at [www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferences/b/annual/an2004/registration.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferences/b/annual/an2004/registration.htm).

- Information Commons: Nuts & Bolts Planning

During this full-day preconference, Information Commons (IC) leaders will provide nuts and bolts instruction for early-state IC planners. Increase your understanding of IC planning, implementation, and assessment issues. Return to your institution with increased clarity of IC problems and possible solutions, as well as practical guidelines and preliminary planning and implementation.

- Information Literacy: Time for a Comprehensive Plan

Using a workbook created by the precon-

ference presenters, attendees will be guided through the process of creating a comprehensive plan for information literacy. Learn how to identify essential elements in constructing a comprehensive plan and discover how to apply those elements to build a successful long-term information literacy plan. Leave the session with an outline and draft plan for your home institution.

- Scholarly Communications 101

Receive an overview of the scholarly communication landscape from ACRL members who are experts on scholarly communication issues. Become fluent with scholarly communication issues and trends, and position yourself to participate in campus communications programs and other advocacy efforts.

Complete details for these preconferences are online at [www.ala.org/acrl/events](http://www.ala.org/acrl/events). Questions? Contact [acrl@ala.org](mailto:acrl@ala.org).