

We're ringing in the New Year with a new look and feel for *C&RL News*. We hope you'll find the new design to be pleasing to the eye, in terms of both aesthetics and readability.

Something else to keep your eye on in 2005 is ACRL's 12th National Conference, "Currents and Convergence: Navigating the Rivers of Change." If you're planning on attending but haven't yet registered, you'll want to note that the early-bird registration deadline is February 7. Meeting this deadline will save you nearly 30% on your conference registration fee.

This year's conference offers more than 200 stimulating programs that reflect the dynamics and diversity of our profession. Learn how to recruit, educate, and retain new librarians; explore the impact of information technology on library service; gain creative answers to your higher education funding needs; discover how to create, control, and

preserve digital resources; and more.

To help you plan your schedule for the conference, a complete preliminary program is included in this issue (page C-1). Additional information is available on the conference Web site at www.acrl.org/minneapolis, where you can register, reserve your hotel room, and develop an itinerary based on your interests.

This issue also features an installment in our ACRL National Conference series, with great tips on sports and recreation activities to try out while visiting Minneapolis. Articles on providing reference service to the visually impaired, the pros and cons of RFID technology, and scholarly communication as part of the LIS curriculum are included as well.

Be an informed voter in the ALA election this spring by reviewing the ACRL slate of candidates included on page 38.

—Stephanie Orphan, Editor-in-chief
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