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ACL News & Notes

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ACL News & Notes



This section of *The Christian Librarian* includes updates to the membership, announcements from members, and reports from various committees and groups around the Association of Christian Librarians. If you have news or notes to share in an upcoming print issue of *The Christian Librarian*, please email robbie@arbor.edu.

– Robbie Bolton, News & Notes Editor

Bible College Section: Then & Now

The Bible College Section (BCS) has been a part of the Association of Christian Librarians since 1985. It was during that year that the ACL board of trustees voted to change the bylaws for the formation of sections. The BCS was allowed to elect five individuals to form a leadership team. Work had already begun at this time on a Bible College Library Manual in collaboration with the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (AABC; now the Association for Biblical Higher Education or ABHE). This manual was developed into the Guidelines for Bible College Libraries published by AABC in 1987. The goal of the Guidelines is to define what a good library is based on accreditation standards.

The purpose of the section was to promote the interests of the librarians in Bible Colleges including cooperation and standards. Of vital interest to all was developing a strong communication link with the accrediting association. The activities of the committee consisted of having members compile bibliographies

and provide a clearinghouse for written policies and procedures. You can imagine that the annual conferences were busy work sessions for the librarians as they assembled their projects.

In 1997, in response to being questioned by the ACL Board if the sectional meeting had any value, the members of the section responded with a unanimous consensus that because of the connection with AABC and the sharing of resources, the section had great value and should continue to meet. And continue they did.

The idea to have an ACL pre-conference session to serve as a training time for evaluators to be trained for AABC was first introduced in 1999. Dr. Randall Bell conducted pre-conference training sessions in 2001 and 2011. It is hoped that these evaluator training sessions will become part of a cyclical training program between ACL and ABHE.

Since ABHE holds its annual conference in February and ACL holds its annual

conference in June, there was a felt disconnect between the two organizations. In 2010, closer communication between ABHE and the BCS was formalized with the appointment of a liaison.

Current projects of the BCS include the continual updating of bibliographies (requested by new colleges seeking accreditation with ABHE), writing a BCS handbook, developing “topics of interest” for activities during annual business meetings, connecting mentees with mentors, and other projects of interest to Bible College librarians. The

Library Guidelines has been refined and expanded, changing its name to Library Guidelines for ABHE Colleges and Universities. Other accrediting agencies (TRACS) are looking at adapting the Guidelines for their institutions to use.

The Bible College Section has been an active and vital part of ACL. Librarians are helping one another and strengthening one another. The section is fulfilling its mission.

– Paul Roberts



Moving on up

Rory Patterson was recently promoted to Associate Dean, Planning, Administration, and Operations at the Jerry Falwell Library, Liberty University. Patterson’s previous position was Coordinator of Undergraduate and Online Research Assistance at Liberty University’s Jerry Falwell Library.



Nelson completes PhD

On November 12, 2014, Denise Nelson successfully defended her doctoral dissertation to complete her PhD in Higher Education from Azusa Pacific University. Her dissertation is titled “The Role of Thriving in Student Satisfaction with College.” Congratulations, Dr. Nelson.

Solo Librarians Interest Group

The Solo Librarians Interest Group (SLIG) was formed in the Fall of 2012 by the Board of ACL for librarians who serve as the only librarian at their institution. At first, the group was organized via a listserv separate from the much larger ACL listserv. Under the direction of moderator Paul Roberts, the group grew to 54 members. Topics ranging from where is the best place to put barcodes, to automation software were discussed.

At the 2013 Point Loma Nazarene University conference, the SLIG folks met face-to-face for the first time to continue discussions and pray for one another. The group was meeting needs and other solo librarians wanted to join. The group has met at each conference ever since to build up each other.

SLIG member Jill Botticelli has taken it upon herself to get the names of all the members and every Monday sends out a prayer reminder on the listserv for each member. The member being prayed for often sends updated information so that the membership can pray more specifically for them.

Librarians who used to feel alone and without a voice to get help now have a welcoming community of understanding believers who are open to their requests. If you are a solo librarian and want to join us, contact the ACL home office.

– Paul Roberts

Save the date...

...for the 2016 Annual Conference. Get ready for the 60th Annual Conference and anniversary celebration to be held at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon, June 13-16, 2016! You won't want to miss it!