



Volume 49 | Issue 2

Article 6

2006

Anniversary Greetings From the Friends of ACL

Alice Ruleman
The Christian Librarian

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Recommended Citation

Ruleman, Alice (2006) "Anniversary Greetings From the Friends of ACL," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 49: Iss. 2, Article 6.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1705>

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spiritual emphasis of the founding leaders. Attendance at the annual conference has increased over the years, with approximately an average 200 attending, depending on the location.

The purchase of ACL's own property in Cedarville was a giant step forward for ACL. It will bring more creditability to the Association. Those who had the foresight to see this and bring this to fruition about are to be congratulated. Now permanent office space will be provided for the organization's business. Hopefully, the time will come when ACL will be able to have full-time staff and regular hours. The building will also house the archives for the

organization. Special attention should be given to the gathering of our archives and their preservation.

We have a responsibility to keep up with current trends in the Library world. There are many possibilities to be accomplished. I believe that ACL's greatest days are still ahead. Let us celebrate ACL's fifty years of professional growth and development and spiritual nurture and fellowship among Christian Librarians. Let us also continue toward the future possibilities that lie ahead for the Association of Christian Librarians. †

Anniversary Greetings

From the Friends of ACL

*Compiled by Alice Ruleman
News & Views Editor
The Christian Librarian*

For our special 50th anniversary issue, we decided to replace our usual News & Views section with greetings from friends of ACL. We contacted companies who have been involved in our vender exhibits, previous keynote speakers and pre-conference presenters, organizations that ACL and our member libraries have relationships with, past-presidents and the wonderful members of ACL. Many have graciously responded and shared their well wishes and memories of the Association. I hope that you are as touched as I have been as you read these greetings.

CCCU

As the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, I am humbled to think of the visionaries who pulled the Association of Christian Librarians together 50 years ago while I was a high school freshman! One of my first meetings after becoming president of the CCCU was with a group of our librarians. From that evening on, I have been more aware of the central role librarians play in keeping up with the doubling of knowledge every few years, the

shifting paradigms you face that are brought about by technology, and the challenge of selecting the best resources within tight budgets. We in Christian higher learning have great respect for the written word as we seek to honor Him who said he was the Living Word. You are a protector of the written word in all its dimensions. May you continue for many years to come in your faithfulness to our mission of relating scholarship and service to Biblical truth.

Robert C. Andringa, Ph.D.
President, CCCU

SOLINET

Dear ACL Friends,

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary! How time flies. This will be a truly blessed year for ACL and its 500 members.

I remember attending my first ACL meeting in Tennessee. Having never been to an ACL meeting before, I didn't know folks and didn't know what to expect. Well, when I arrived there was a lovely note in my room, and flowers too! I knew that I was going to enjoy this conference. Then,

I went in to dinner and was immediately embraced by the ACL'ers. I felt I had been in ACL since forever. What a friendly, thoughtful and fun bunch of people.

It has been a privilege to speak at the ACL conference, and I look forward to doing so again in the next 50 years!

Kate Nevins
Solinet Executive Director

Surpass Software

I enjoyed attending our first ACL conference in 2005. Your members are so friendly, and it was great to be able to share Surpass library automation with them. The librarians were so involved in the workshop I conducted. When I had to turn the room over to another presenter, they followed me back to my booth to continue our talk.

Kate Finch Rumsey
Library Automation Specialist
Surpass Software

Former President

In 1986, the Association held its annual conference in Dayton, Tennessee, and I was blessed to hear of it. It sounded to me like a potentially good alternative or complement to secular library association conferences. So I went, and I was immediately “hooked.”

How to summarize in a few sentences what I have seen in twenty years as a member of ACL? Tremendous commitment and hard work by many members who have served in leadership positions, hosted conferences, and managed our publications. Substantial growth in number of members. Transitioning in many ways with the technological innovations in our work and society. Continuing good fellowship and enriching of relationships with colleagues and friends at annual conferences. It has been a privilege for me to know, gain inspiration from, and laugh with fellow Christian librarians, and to struggle through Association decisions with a number of colleagues. I have tremendous respect for fellow members. I think I am a better librarian and Christian because of many of you.

And what of ACL's future? I think we have many strengths on which to build and many opportunities to continue to attain our vision and accomplish our mission. It is important to marshal the energies and imaginations of a broad cross-section of the membership. It is important to build on past strategic planning and successes and failures. Our Board of Directors is currently grappling with how best to adapt leadership and management of the Association to maximize our potential. I encourage every member to pray regularly about that process and that in all things we will be pleasing to God and in accord with His will.

Steven L. Preston
President 2000-2004

Oy Vey – EBSCO!

Nuh – so why is a nice Jewish girl writing in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Association of Christian Librarians?? OY! Is it a story!

One of my very first visits as the EBSCO librarian was to Cedarville College where I promptly got a flat tire in my brand new EBSCOMobile. Truth is it got a little *fermisht* [confusing]. But never fear – Jan and crew came to the fore and *shelpped* me all around until I was able to drive home (we even had a little *eppes* [something to eat]!). Needless to say I was impressed – what *menshes* [good guys]! And that started a warm relationship with Cedarville and with many other *haymish ponems* [friendly faces] of the ACL.

Then I found out about the ACL conference – and was asked if EBSCO would like to participate. Well, of course and I offered to do my *shtikl* [bit] (and I had a new schmatte [rag] to wear). Since members affirm the ACL Statement of Faith even associate membership was out for me so I just decided I would be an interfaith friend of ACL. I thought that was the end of the *Megillah* and it was not *eckveldt* [the end of the earth].

I showed up at the 1997 conference at Cedarville – registered and got my badge. Only it was not just your ordinary badge. No ... it was a *brokhe* [blessing]. Under my name and title it read: HONORARY CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN with a Mogen David in the upper right hand

When I started library school last year, I was encouraged by the program advisor to join as many library organizations as possible. I was excited to become a part of these organizations, but I found most of the groups I joined to be focused on principles that were not necessarily the same as my own. Out of desperation I finally went to the Internet and typed in a search for "Christian Library Associations". The ACL was one of the first ten results and I found out that wonderful Christian associations really do exist for librarians.

I have only been in the association a little over a year but I have received so much encouragement and support that I really consider this organization the only library association to which I have strong ties. I signed up for the ACL e-mail list-server and discovered that I could ask any question about libraries and get multiple answers quickly! The members of ACL are truly concerned with helping each other. Not only that, but the Christian perspective is refreshing after my library science classes in which the focus is on the intensely secular/postmodern worldview of my professors and classmates.

I also appreciate the journal and annual conferences as other points of contact. I believe Christians need to join together to make their perspective heard as a dynamic part of the library world. We have so much more to offer than other librarians because we have a purpose and goal in the Lord Jesus Christ that brings a new focus to the way we do all things in our lives. This should be evident in our work and have a dynamic impact in the libraries we serve.

I was glad to stumble across the ACL and will happily renew my membership as part of this organization for as long as I am a librarian. I happily recommend joining to any Christian who has the slightest interest in libraries!

What the ACL means to me is that I have the support of an organization dedicated to the edification of Christians in the ever-changing world of libraries. The support of other Christians who are interested in the same issues from a similar point of view is such a blessing to me in a field where Christians seem to be in the vast minority. I appreciate that ACL is a dedicated group of professionals who seek to serve each other as the body of Christ. I receive so many benefits from my contact with other Christians and cannot say enough about the encouragement and edification I have received from the fellowship with other Christian librarians. The ACL stands as a much needed support system for professional librarians who seek to serve others from Christ's point of view. I look forward to ways in which I can continue to grow with the strength of this organization as a pillar of support behind me.

Esther Moberg, Library Assistant, Gearhart Elementary School

What ACL Means to Me.

corner. I just *likhticheh* and *kvelled* [lit up and gushed with pride]! Jan and the Board had convened and made a "special" membership category for me. What a *mitzah* [good deed]! I wear it with much *naches* [pride] and it has given me many *simchas* [joys].

Eve Davis
Senior Account Services Manager
EBSCO

Lee University

Lee University congratulates the Association of Christian Librarians on its 50 years of successful growth and service. ACL is the unchallenged leader in the professional development of Christians serving in academic libraries. Having

hosted the annual conference in 1999, Lee recognizes the huge amount of work by dedicated volunteers that is required for such a sizable organization to function. We are very grateful that ACL has chosen to recognize our former library director, Francis Arrington, as an honorary lifetime member. On your 50th anniversary, Lee University celebrates with you.

Carolyn Dirksen, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

TRACS

I would like to congratulate the Association of Christian Librarians on their 50th anniversary. All of us at TRACS, including the Staff, Accreditation Commission and member

institutions join together in thanking ACL for all of the services they provide, including the journal, *"The Christian Librarian,"* the ACL Conference, membership privileges, and Christian fellowship.

My association with ACL has been rewarding both personally and professionally and I look forward to the continuing relationship with TRACS in the development of quality Christian higher education.

Russell G. Fitzgerald
Executive Director
Transnational Association of Christian Colleges
and Schools

Ambassador Books & Media

I have represented Ambassador Books and Media since 1988, and over this time, I have attended many, many conferences. The annual ACL conference is consistently the best managed and organized. In addition, the ACL librarians are among the warmest and friendliest professionals I have had the pleasure to know and work with.

Stuart Grinell
Marketing Representative
Ambassador Books & Media

Nehemiah Communications (an old friend at a new place!)

The Christian Library Association holds a very special place in my heart. Of all the speeches I have made in my life, the two given for CLA were the most difficult for me. Both made me do a great deal of soul-searching and mind stretching.

The first time I was directed to talk about how information literacy related to my faith. I had always been ready to talk of how the information literacy movement has been blessed by God because of its "ministering unto the least of these," and its being a practical way of preparing students to respond to Christ's admonition to "seek the truth." But looking at how information literacy was a manifestation of my own faith was something that I had never thought through.

Doing so proved to be a blessing, because for the first time I saw how God had faithfully woven together my calling to promote information literacy into a pattern for good along with the ups and downs of my professional and personal life experiences and particularly in the growth of my faith in Christ.

The second time, I was asked to relate information literacy to the then very popular little book, *THE PRAYER OF JABEZ*, taken from I Chronicles 4 – 10. Under God's leading this little prayer – buried in the midst of a long list of genealogies – became a call to greater service to students by expanding our role on campuses beyond the walls of libraries into student learning. Adapting the outline for prayer at the end of the book, all of us present committed ourselves to future information literacy endeavors far beyond what we could do apart from the leading and blessings of God.

Congratulations ACL on your 50th anniversary!
Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik
Vice President, Nehemiah Communications

ABHE

Congratulations to ACL upon 50 years of effective service to the Christian higher education community. The ACL, especially its Bible College Committee, has had a major impact on the Association for Biblical Higher Education by offering thoughtful suggestions and recommendations regarding the ABHE's accreditation standards, procedures, and data collection efforts. The Christian Periodical Index has become one of the most important research tools for students in ABHE member institutions. Over the years, through my participation in ACL conferences and workshops and my contacts with ACL member librarians during campus visits, my own understanding of the benefits and procedures of an effective library operation has been greatly enhanced. May God continue to bless the ACL and make it even more fruitful as it continues to serve.

Dr. Randall E. Bell
Associate Director
Association for Biblical Higher Education

Index Data

Back in the late 1980's and early 1990's, as an Automation Consultant for Public Library Systems in Minnesota, I frequently worked with Tom Scott, who was then head of the Plum Creek Library System in Southwestern Minnesota. Over a dozen years later, in 2003, Tom called me "out of the blue" to ask me to give the keynote presentation at the 47th annual conference of the Association of Christian Librarians.

In early June, my wife and I drove from our home in Urbana Illinois to Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. I had worked quite hard on the keynote address and the workshop I was also asked to give, so now that the work was completed, I was looking forward to a nice mini-vacation with Barbara. I had never been to Kentucky before, but she had been a long-time admirer of Bybee pottery, the crafts of Berea, and a certain bookstore in Lexington, and was looking forward to showing me around the area.

Many experiences on that trip were memorable, but the thing that has stuck with me most over the years was the welcoming and the warmth I received from the ACL, not only from Tom Scott and Patti Fisher, who made the arrangements, but from all the conference attendees. I remember two African librarians – I believe they were from Kenya – who really wanted to help develop their library services and who engaged me in lively conversation over the course of two days. One of the themes of my keynote presentation was the importance of Open Source Software to libraries.

I mention the theme of Open Source Software and the two librarians I met from Africa because both were harbingers for me of the changes that would soon overtake my library career. Today I spend two months every year in East and West Africa working with university libraries in those areas to improve library services. When I'm not in Africa, I spend my time promoting the software of Index Data, a library vendor that develops and distributes Open Source software to libraries. Looking back, I now see that 47th

ACL Annual Conference as the beginning of a transition between my then rather traditional library career and my new adventures to come doing what I really believe in.

Congratulations on your 50th. May the ACL go from strength to strength.

David Dorman
US Marketing Manager
Index Data

FOCLIS

Greetings to our brethren and sisters in Christ Jesus,

On this golden anniversary of the Association of Christian Librarians another group of Christian Librarians sends its heartfelt best wishes and prayers for a mighty blessing on ACL.

The Fellowship of Christian Library and Information Specialists is a smaller group which meets within the American Library Association conferences. We have appreciated a number of members from ACL who also participate in ALA joining us for FOCLIS Breakfasts at the annual conferences in the summers. We always enjoy the fellowship, prayer and support from as many Christian librarians as we can muster together to provide a much needed respite at ALA conferences. Several ACL members have also served and are serving on the FOCLIS Board of Directors. We appreciate their service to keep FOCLIS thriving and their great leadership abilities, and prayerful attitudes.

Since many of us on the FOCLIS Board are also ACL members we continue to keep ACL members abreast of our activities through the ACL listserv. We are glad to have this camaraderie with ACL and this wonderful avenue for communication with the many Christian librarians the listserv reaches.

We pray for the Lord's blessing upon all that ACL and ACLers do in their daily jobs as fellow Christian librarians and scholars. And we pray for a mighty outpouring of God's blessing on the 50th Anniversary ACL Conference.

Sincerely Yours in Christ's Name,
Tami Echavarria Robinson, President

Wollen, Molzan and Partners

Until I ran into Patti Fisher at ALA several years ago, I didn't know there was such an organization as ACL in the world. Patti recognized a photo of the Kinlaw Library at Asbury College in our trade show booth at ALA, and asked if we knew that her organization would be having their annual conference in that building. Since then, we've been at every conference, have met and spoken with many ACL folks, and have been

privileged to correspond with many through the list serve.

My colleagues and I continue to be impressed with the warm and genuine community that is ACL. I hope that we can continue to walk together, and that our firm can continue to be of service to the Association.

Many thanks,
Timothy Fleck
Woollen, Molzan and Partners, Architects

Life Members

Betty Lu Anderson

"Probably the highlight of ACL involvement was when Susan Johnson and I were co-chairmen for the first annual ACL conference in the west in Portland, Oregon. We felt you all had a great time! We did – the memories inspire us still!"

Laura Ann Braswell

"Learned so much at the conferences that was useful in my work ..."

Fayette Storm Daavis

"During the years I attended ... I personally benefited in knowledge as well as the unique fellowship with the other members ... my heart will always be with the ACL."

Eleanor E. Parry

"Best wishes for a wonderful conference to celebrate 50 years!"

Marcelyn Smid

"After a number of years of discussing as an organization how we could be a part of mission libraries, CILA was born. What a thrill!"

Dorothy K. Spidell

"I count myself blessed to have had a part in the founding of the organization, the Association of Christian Librarians, at Nyack College, New York, fifty years ago."

"From the vantage point of one of the founding members of The Association of Christian Librarians, the Association is to be complimented for its adherence to the early goals and objectives that were so important fifty years ago and remain so today."

John A Witmer

"... [In 1969 or 1970] I went to CLF, where I was welcomed and found a friendly atmosphere."

*Compiled by Dale Solberg,
Chair of the ACL 50th
Anniversary Celebration
Committee.*

ACL Life Members

William Abernathy
Betty Anderson
Frances Arrington
Laura Braswell
Wava Bueschlen
Ruth Butler
Fayette Davis
Bea Flinger
Mary Hovda
Eva Kiewitt
Hilda Kroeker
Lois Lehman
Helen Lemmon
May Leo
Lois Luesing
Eleanor Parry
Shirley Pelley
Marcelyn Smid
Dorothy Spidell
Rebecca Van Meeveren
Pat Westmoreland
Alice Wills
John Witmer