

# Tech Notes

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

October 2000

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Pat French*

The 2000 Access, Collections and Technical Services Section year is coming to a close with the approach of the annual conference in Santa Clara on November 10-13. As in past years, ACTSS focused its efforts on planning and hosting continuing education workshops for its members and other library staff in California. See reports below on the Maps Cataloging Workshop held in August and the Basic Serials Cataloging Workshop held in September.

ACTSS was complimented on its record of creating continuing education library opportunities at the recent annual leadership retreat for incoming CLA officers. Susan Negreen, CLA Executive Director, recognized ACTSS as CLA's most active section in this area. All of us working in libraries know how great the need for training is at all levels and how very specialized the library field is. Just last week, my library director commented in a meeting on how "technical" library technical services are. The same can be said of access services and collection development areas as well. Library workers face a constant challenge to master today's tasks and also adapt to the library world's changing body of standards, computer technologies and local organizational evolution. The paradox is that there are few sources for the training we need other than ourselves, i.e., our colleagues in other libraries who have gone before us into new areas or who are able to participate in the profession's larger development outside individual libraries. I think that ACTSS' success in recent years is due to the everyday ACTSS librarians who have been willing to help identify topics for workshops they themselves would like to attend and then go out looking for someone they can find through the grapevine who has experience in these areas. Add to that the willingness to work out the nitty-gritty logistical necessities of putting on a workshop and you have a recipe for expert training for the benefit of many created by a few non-experts. ACTSS members owe a hearty thanks to the volunteers who have worked to make our workshops happen. And please don't underestimate the fact that ACTSS needs new people with ideas for next

year's workshops and, if possible, a willingness to make them happen.

A more complete summary of ACTSS activities during 2000 will be presented at the annual membership meeting on Friday, November 10, from 1:30-2:30. Immediately following this meeting, the new ACTSS board for 2001 will hold its first meeting. You have elected two new officers for 2001: Lynne Toribara (Santa Clara University), Vice-President, and Marsha Pollak (Sunnyvale Public Library), Secretary. Lynne and Marsha will join our new President, Maryll Telegdy (Napa City/County Library) to create the ACTSS agenda for next year. Between now and the conference, they will be working with retiring board members to recruit and appoint people to help on ACTSS committees for programs, membership and nominations. If you receive a call from one of them, please consider saying "yes" to getting involved. Or, better yet, volunteer yourself by contacting Maryll Telegdy at [mtelegdy@co.napa.ca.us](mailto:mtelegdy@co.napa.ca.us) or (707) 253-4061.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

*Maryll Telegdy*

This is your 2001 president signing in for the last Tech Notes of 2000. The time is coming to start planning for the programs during the year and for Conference 2001 in Long Beach. After the California Millennium Conference at Santa Clara coming up soon (I hope to see all of you there at the annual Membership meeting on Friday, November 10, 2000 at 1:30 PM) we hope to get back to the usual format where Sections get more time and opportunity within Conference to plan to put on programs.

With technology marching on unrelentlessly and knowing well that WE ARE Access and Technical Services, our duty is to show the future, to see the future, to become visionaries. How do we become visionaries? To begin with you have to have a dream. Whenever you dream something you usually look at the reasons why you might have dreamt it, or look at the background of that dream. All dreams have

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backgrounds. And if you know the past, you can do the future!

Let me give you an example of a dream I had. The very first time I ever searched Amazon.com I became envious of their book-jackets in a thumbnail, their "visuals", their links to related items, etc. My dream was to see that in an OPAC. Now I know you can, you can enrich your MARC records, there are several programs out there already that can do it and bring it in on your web based catalogs.

In order to serve you better as your president I want to know about your dreams. I promise that I will do my best to find the right experts to lead us making that dream a reality for the enhancement of our access and technical services.

In order to reach that reachable goal I need your input. All the input you can provide. Give me a list of your dreams so we can plan turning them into a learning experience, into programs for ACTSS for 2001, into reality... Please write to me, call me, fax me, or e-mail me at:

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**MAP CATALOGING WORKSHOP**

*Yolanda Blue, Program Committee Chair*

The Program Committee coordinated two full day workshops on Map and Atlas Cataloging. The hands on workshops were held at the University of California, Berkeley on August 10 and the University of California, Los Angeles on August 11.

The presenter, Catherine Gerhart, Music/Media Cataloger at the University of Washington Libraries, provided instructions on such areas as fixed field assignments, identification of various types of maps, subject and classification procedures.

The workshops were attended by participants representing libraries from throughout California as well as New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada.

**SCCTP BASIC SERIALS CATALOGING  
WORKSHOPS,  
SPONSORED BY ACTSS CATALOGING  
INTEREST GROUP**

*Charlotte Xanders, Chair, Cataloging Interest Group*

Two Basic Serials Cataloging workshops were offered in September 2000 by the Cataloging Interest Group. The first, held at UC Davis, September 11-12 was attended by 31 persons from northern California and Nevada; the second, held at Cal Poly, Pomona, September 13-14 was attended by 25 southern Californians. Both workshops were attended by a mix of academic, public and private library employees and both workshops had a mix of folks with minimal or no serials experience to those who had been working with serials for a number of years but always felt they needed more training. The workshop is a set of modules which can be structured into a workshop of 1-2 days depending on the needs of the attendees. Both of the September workshops were two full days and covered nearly all aspects of serials cataloging -- from how to distinguish between a monograph and a serial to future trends in serials cataloging. The workshop was designed by the CONSER Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program. Each attendee was asked to do pre-workshop exercises, took away post-workshop exercises to do, and received an extensive Trainee Manual. The UC Davis workshop trainers were Valerie Bross, Serials Cataloging Section Head at Young Research Library, UCLA and Pat French, Principal Serials Cataloger, UC Davis. The Cal Poly Pomona workshop trainers were Rhonda K. Lawrence, Head of Cataloging, UCLA Law Library and Yvonne Wei Zhang, Catalog Librarian at Cal Poly Pomona. The evaluations submitted by the attendees were excellent. Many commented on how much they had learned. As many of us are, I am a self-taught, some-time cataloger of serials, and I found it truly amazing how much germane knowledge and information could be taught in a brief period of time by this extremely well-designed workshop. Of course, all four of our trainers exceeded all expectations! They were well informed, experienced, knowledgeable, and outstanding teachers.