

## **141st ARL Membership Meeting October 16-17, 2002**

### **Introduction & Summary By Judith Matz, ARL Communications Officer**

One hundred and twelve member institutions were represented at ARL's 141st Membership Meeting, held in Washington, D.C., on October 16-17. More than 40 former ARL directors and guests joined the celebration as the Association marked its 70th anniversary. Digital preservation strategies and the open sharing of knowledge were the major themes of the meeting.

#### **Anniversary Celebration**

The meeting began with a special program to commemorate ARL's 70th anniversary. ARL President Paula Kaufman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) welcomed the Association's newest member, the University of Louisville, represented by Hannelore Rader. Four new ARL directors were introduced: Wendy Lougee (Minnesota), Randy Olsen (Brigham Young), Deborah Carver (Oregon), and Peter Young (National Agricultural Library). Merrily Taylor (Brown) was recognized for her 20 years of continuous service as an ARL director, and members saluted retiring director, Don Bosseau (Miami). ARL Executive Director Duane Webster introduced the former ARL directors and announced that the most senior of those at the meeting was Robert Blackburn (Toronto) who attended his first ARL Membership Meeting in 1948.

William Crowe (Kansas) delivered a celebratory address, "The End of History? Reflections on a Decade," highlighting the trends that epitomize the past decade of ARL activities. James Neal (Columbia) then discussed "Turnover Trends: ARL Library Directors, 1948-2002," analyzing the levels and patterns of turnover among research library directors and exploring the impact and reasons for this turnover.

#### **Digital Preservation Strategies**

Nancy Gwinn (Smithsonian Institution), chair of the ARL Preservation Committee, convened a program on "Emerging Digital Preservation Strategies." Dale Flecker (Harvard) spoke of his university's e-journal archiving study, and Kevin Guthrie, President of JSTOR, discussed the organizational challenges of building an electronic archive and the relationship of the e-archive to JSTOR's print archive. Ms. Gwinn also paid tribute to Jan Merrill-Oldham (Harvard) for 15 years of service as consultant to the Preservation Committee.

## **Open Sharing of Knowledge**

Chuck M. Vest, President of MIT, was the featured speaker for a program session on "Universities in the Digital Age." He described two new MIT initiatives, OpenCourseWare and DSpace, designed to manage and share knowledge and promote accessibility. Defining research libraries as the stewards of accessible knowledge, he called on the ARL membership to assume major roles within their institutions to accelerate the open sharing of intellectual resources.

## **Digital Rights Management**

At the Federal Relations lunch, Rick Weingarten, Director of the American Library Association Office for Information Technology Policy, spoke about a subject of increasing interest and importance to ARL members: digital rights management and copyright. After a spirited question-and-answer period, members chose among three concurrent discussion groups:

- "Future Needs for Cyber Infrastructure: Recommendations of the NSF Blue Ribbon Panel," led by Dan Atkins (University of Michigan)
- "ARL Input for the ACRL Task Force on the Future," led by Shirley Baker, Washington University in St. Louis
- "Building an Affordable E-Journal Archive and Preservation System: LOCKSS," led by Vicky Reich, Stanford University

## **Business Meeting**

At the ARL Business Meeting, members adopted dues for 2003 and elected three new ARL Board members: Rush Miller (Pittsburgh), Sherrie Schmidt (Arizona), and Paul Willis (South Carolina). President Paula Kaufman announced that the Board elected Sarah Thomas (Cornell) as Vice President/President Elect.

Paul Mosher (Pennsylvania) and Dan Hazen (Harvard) updated the membership on the AAU/ARL Global Resources Program and invited comment on a discussion paper on the evolution of the program. Sarah Michalak (Utah) updated members on the Portal Applications Working Group and the Scholars Portal Project.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Kaufman presented the gavel to Fred Heath (Texas A&M), who began his year as ARL president.