

ARL ACTIVITIES

Kaylyn Groves, *Managing Editor, ARL Web Content*

A TRIBUTE TO DUANE WEBSTER

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In everyone's professional life there are people who become one's mentors and models for emulation. They are the people who lead and others readily follow. All fields of endeavor have them and librarianship is no exception. One person who has made a lasting impression on me, as a mentor, leader, and model is Duane Webster, Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Duane will retire in 2008 after 38 years of service and his presence will be greatly missed.

I first met Duane Webster in 1973 when I was Associate Director of Libraries at the University of Rochester working on a Management Review and Analysis Program (MRAP) project. Duane was then working in ARL's Office of Management Studies and was serving as a consultant to the University of Rochester Libraries for its MRAP study. I was immediately impressed with his professional knowledge and understanding of library issues and, most of all, his vision for libraries of the future. I later became better acquainted with him when I had an opportunity to serve on the committee that oversaw the Office of Management Studies.

When I became Dean of University Libraries at the University of Oklahoma in 1978 my work brought me in more frequent contact with Duane. As I began my new position at Oklahoma, the University Libraries was finishing its own MRAP study and I invited Duane to speak to the librarians here. In 1988, he became executive director of ARL and our already lengthy association continued and our friendship grew.

Duane has served as Executive Director of ARL for 20 years. That in itself is a major accomplishment. It is the longest tenure of an executive director in ARL's history and speaks volumes about Duane's interpersonal and leadership skills. It is, indeed, a challenge to lead 123 of North America's most accomplished librarians for two decades.

It was Duane's leadership that brought a new era to ARL beginning in 1989 as he addressed a wide variety of emerging issues in ways that positively affected all academic libraries. Duane created the ARL Office of Scholarly Communication, which called attention to skyrocketing serial prices and explored ways and means of dealing with this financial crisis in libraries. In partnership with CAUSE and EDUCOM he established the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), which promoted the use of the Internet to enhance academic scholarship. He has played a major role in CNI's development, management, and staffing over the years. It was under his leadership that ARL secured a grant from

the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to put in place a professionally staffed unit for gathering statistics and measurement capacity to improve ARL data. Working with Texas A&M University staff, Duane developed Web-based assessment services that allowed universities to analyze and evaluate user perceptions of library performance. This service became known as LibQUAL+[®] and has been utilized by many academic libraries to improve services for their clientele. He began the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) to promote scholarly publishing systems for the improvement of access to scholarly journals in the sciences, technology, and medicine. Equally important was Duane's establishment of the Global Resources Network for improving access to foreign language resources and his work with intellectual property legislation and litigation. He was in the forefront to promote a diversity program that helped research libraries build a more diverse staff; and he was a strong advocate for enhanced copyright legislation. Indeed, Duane was a key player in the development of the Library Copyright Alliance.

A couple of Duane's accomplishments were tangential to his work with library issues, but nonetheless of paramount importance to ARL. One was his successful increase of the ARL organizational budget from \$3 million to more than \$7 million and the establishment of a \$1 million reserve fund. Another achievement was moving the organization to 21 Dupont Circle, which made ARL more visible to its constituency and improved the working space for its staff. His efforts to make ARL an integral part of higher education were rewarded in partnerships with EDUCAUSE and the establishment of CNI; with the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the creation of Global Resources Network; and, perhaps most significantly, in the invitation for ARL to join and become the only library-related organization in the Washington Higher Education Secretariat.

From another perspective, but highly indicative of his dedication to his work, it should be noted that in the 38 years of his association with ARL, Duane never missed a Membership Meeting and participated in more than 200 ARL Board meetings. During this time he has worked with more than 500 ARL member representatives and reported to 19 different ARL presidents.

Duane's career with ARL may be summed up by noting that he successfully raised the influence and visibility of the organization both nationally and internationally and, while doing so, improved scholarly communication and focused attention on the rapidly changing role of the academic library. These are all laudable achievements that reflect Duane's amazing leadership abilities. I predict it will be a long time before his achievements are equaled and even longer before they are surpassed. Thanks to Duane Webster, ARL has become a more responsive and more

effective organization. It has become an organization synonymous with excellence. I know that I speak for many colleagues both in and outside of ARL when I say Duane Webster will be missed greatly by the profession. Thank you, Duane, for the service you have given to research libraries.

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This tribute will be published as an editorial in a forthcoming issue of Journal of Library Administration.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES CONVENE SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF DUANE WEBSTER

James G. Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, has organized a symposium in honor of Duane Webster, Executive Director, ARL. Webster is retiring after 38 years at ARL, including the past 20 years as Executive Director. The symposium is an occasion to reflect on his leadership, the changes underway in research libraries, and the future agenda of ARL. The symposium will be held April 25 at Columbia University's Low Library.

For more information, see the Columbia Web site, "Celebrating the Career of Duane Webster: A Symposium on the Association of Research Libraries History, Accomplishments, Future Developments," <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/conferences/2008/arl-symposium/>.

TRANSITIONS

ARL Transitions

Boston College: Jerome Yavarkovsky announced his retirement from his position of University Librarian, effective June 30, 2008.

Georgia Tech: Rich Meyer announced his retirement from his position of Dean and Director of Libraries, effective summer 2008.

Indiana: Patricia A. Steele was named Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries, effective January 1, 2008. She served as Ruth Lilly Interim Dean since 2005.

Ohio: Scott Seaman was named Dean of Libraries, effective April 1, 2008. He was formerly Associate Director, Administrative Services, Norlin Library, University of Colorado at Boulder.

Rochester: Susan Gibbons was named Vice Provost and Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly Dean of River Campus Libraries, effective March 1, 2008. She was previously Associate Dean for Public Services and Collection Development in the same library, and succeeds Ronald F. Dow, who stepped down March 1 after 11 years as Dean.

ARL Staff Transitions

Mark Young resigned as Statistics Liaison, effective March 7, 2008, to take a position at PinnacleSports.com.

Other Transitions

American Council on Education: Molly Corbett Broad was named President, effective May 1, 2008. She is currently a professor in the School of Government at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and was formerly UNC President.

HONORS

Daniel E. Atkins, inaugural director of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a distinguished professor in the School of Information and in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Michigan, was named the 2008 recipient of the Paul Evan Peters Award. The award recognizes notable, lasting achievements in the creation and innovative use of information resources and services that advance scholarship and intellectual productivity through communication networks. The award is presented by CNI in concert with ARL and EDUCAUSE

Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, was named a Dame of the British Empire in the New Years Honors for her services to education.

Carol Pitts Diedrichs, Dean of Libraries at the University of Kentucky, was awarded the 2008 Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional service to ALCTS and its areas of interest.

Peggy Hoon, Special Assistant to the Provost for Copyright Administration at North Carolina State University and former ARL Visiting Scholar and developer of the ARL Know Your Copy Rights initiative, is the 2008 recipient of the L. Ray Patterson Copyright Award: In Support of Users' Rights. The award is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) and the OITP Copyright Advisory Committee.

McMaster University Libraries was awarded an Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Excellence in Academic Libraries Award for 2008. The award recognizes the library staff for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of the institution.

Duane E. Webster, Executive Director of ARL, was named as the 2008 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) Joseph W. Lippincott Award in recognition of his many accomplishments during his distinguished career at ARL.