

## ARL MEMBERSHIP CONVENES IN PHILADELPHIA

**A**RL President Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, convened the 146th Membership Meeting in Philadelphia on May 24-27. Hosted by the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University, 107 member libraries were represented in a series of meetings that included discussions shaping ARL's Strategic Plan and program sessions. The meeting theme—"Strategic Directions for Research Libraries: Innovation and Impact in Times of Change"—appropriately embraced both the planning discussions and the program sessions.

### The Transformative Nature of Large-Scale Digitization

The program sessions opened with comments from Ann Wolpert on the important role of research libraries in teaching, learning, and research. To illustrate, she introduced a panel on the "Transformative Nature of Large-Scale Digitization Projects." Carole Moore, Chief Librarian at University of Toronto; John Price Wilkin, Associate University Librarian, Library Information Technology and Technical and Access Services at University of Michigan; and Clifford Lynch, Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), opened the panel with brief remarks followed by an extensive dialogue with the audience. The panelists sparked commentary on issues such as: the importance of a mix of private and public investment in digitization; the need to move collectively to more strategic and shared storage arrangements for both digital and print resources; the value of international competition to be "the first" to digitize national cultural heritage and make it available on the Internet; and the implications of expanding the public domain for scholars and scientists even as other information resources remain available to them only from "silos" that are governed by copyright restrictions.

### Expanding the Public Domain

The panel was followed with lively remarks by James Boyle, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Law, Duke University Law School. Boyle built on one theme of the morning panel as he advocated for expanding the public domain and a return to evidence-based policy making.

### Academic Uses of the Internet

Steve Jones, Professor of Communications at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Senior Researcher for the Pew Internet and American Life Project, presented the findings of the project's 2004 survey of college students and faculty. From the survey results he concludes that the academic population views the Internet as an "information-Swiss Army Knife," i.e., one cornerstone in their academic environment that they can

call upon in a variety of ways to gain access to information tools and to content. The Internet remains only one of multiple ways that students and faculty undertake their academic and social life, Jones said, citing a high prevalence of student use of cell phones while also being online. He highlighted implications of the findings for libraries. For example, he called on libraries to take responsibility for teaching critical information assessment skills, citing faculty frustration that students do not demonstrate an ability to evaluate information sources.

In addition to these program sessions, member representatives gathered in small groups to discuss: "Anticompetitive Implications of Bundling," led by Meredith Butler, Dean and Director of Libraries at University at Albany; "Establishing the Infrastructure for Digital Publishing," led by Ken Frazier, Director of Libraries at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and "Campus Responsibilities for Course Management Systems," led by Suzanne Thorin, Dean of University Libraries at Indiana University Bloomington.

Membership Meeting background papers, speaker slides, and discussion summaries are posted on the ARL Membership Meeting Web site <http://www.arl.org/arl/proceedings/146/>.

### Welcomes & Tributes

Five new ARL member representatives were introduced at this meeting: Larry Alford, University Librarian at Temple University; Jeffrey Horrell, Dean of Libraries at Dartmouth College; Deborah Jakubs, University Librarian at Duke University; Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries at University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and Janine Schmidt, Director of Libraries at McGill University. Four member representatives received tributes on the occasion of their last ARL Membership Meeting: Meredith Butler; Bill Gosling, University Librarian at University of Michigan; Graham Hill, University Librarian at McMaster University; and Frank Winter, Director of Libraries at University of Saskatchewan.

During the ARL Business Meeting, Ken Frazier introduced a resolution in honor of SPARC's founding Executive Director Rick Johnson and his contributions to research libraries and the scholarly community. The resolution was passed by acclamation and with a standing ovation for Rick from the ARL membership.

The next Membership Meeting will be October 26-27 in Washington, DC. The meeting will be followed on October 28 by a forum on "Managing Digital Assets: Strategic Issues for Research Libraries." This one-day program is being sponsored by ARL, Digital Library Federation, Council on Library and Information Resources, and CNI.