



Biblio-Notes

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Notes from the Chair

Dear LES members,

Although winter seems to be lingering for our colleagues in the Midwest, another spring semester is drawing to a close.

After successfully hosting our second virtual Midwinter, the LES Executive Committee would like to reexamine whether continuing to meet virtually is in the best interests of the section and its membership. To that end, the Virtual Participation Committee (David Oberhelman, Chair) has commissioned a sub-group to develop a survey on virtual meetings. I ask that you take the time to respond to the survey when it goes out in May

identifying research topics and publishing venues, working with editors and publishers, and collaborating with colleagues and faculty.

To coordinate the LES social media presence, the Publications Committee (Laura Braunstein, Chair) has a new position, which was approved by LES Executive at its virtual Midwinter meeting. Amanda Binder will serve as our first Social Media Coordinator and will manage our presence on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). If you haven't yet "liked" and "followed" LES, I encourage you to do so. It's a great way to stay connected to the section. A subset of the Publications Committee along with several LES volunteers has also been updating the categories for the [Journal of American Studies](#), which is currently available on [Zotero](#).

The Planning Committee (Kristina DeVoe, chair) has been hard at work reviewing the [Journal of American Studies](#), the LES Governance Procedures, and the LES Strategic Plan. Many thanks to all of the Planning Committee members for their diligent work keeping these important documents up-to-date.

To accommodate the new schedule (see below), our three discussion groups will all be meeting separately at Annual with hour-long slots each. As we approach the end of June, be looking for calls for topics. Please contact the discussion group chairs—Amanda Dinscore and Alex Watson (New Members); Robin Imhof and Aline Soules (Collections); and Sara Seten Berghausen and Tammy Eschedor-Voelker (Reference)—if there are any topics you would like to discuss.

Lastly, LES will continue its tradition of collaboration by co-sponsoring a member of the 2014 Emerging Leader class with WESS and SEES. A call for applications should go out in May.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago and the ALA Annual Conference. ALA recently changed the time slots available for meetings, so we had to make some slight adjustments to our normal meeting times. I hope that the newly revised schedule works well for our section and reduces meeting conflicts. I've included information about the MLA International Bibliography and Digital Humanities discussion groups, as they're of interest to many LES members.

After Annual, I'll be passing my duties as chair over to our Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, [Tijana Kostić](#) (h)-4(a0)

LES @ ALA Annual Conference 2013

** Not an official LES meeting but of broad interest to the LES membership.

Saturday, June 29

Executive Committee Meeting I
McCormick Place Convention Center - S505a

MLA International Bibliography in Academic
Libraries Discussion Group**
McCormick Place Convention Center - S504a

Literary Texts and the Library in the Digital Age:
New Collaborations for European and American
Studies (Co-sponsored by LES, SEES, and WESS)
McCormick Place Convention Center - S105d

New Members Discussion Group
Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel - Soldier Field

Sunday, June 30

Reference Discussion Group
Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel - Comiskey

Sunday, June 30

General Membership Forum
Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel - Comiskey

Collections Discussion Group
Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel - Columbus CD

Digital Humanities Discussion Group**
McCormick Place Convention Center - N227a

Monday, July 1

All Committees Meeting
Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel - Columbus G

Executive Committee Meeting II
Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel - Skyway 260



Special Section: Exhibits

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Tactile Texts: the Book as Art

by Jen Stevens

Last fall, my Fine Arts Librarian colleague Jenna Rinalducci and I worked with our Special Collections colleagues to present the exhibit “tactile texts: the book as art” for Fall for the Book, an annual regional book festival in Northern Virginia. This exhibit showcased the collection of artists’ books that we’ve been developing for the last few years. Because artists’ books are so tactile, we combined an opening reception with a book viewing in the Special Collections’ Reading Room so that attendees could actually handle the books.

As we prepared the promotional materials, we realized that defining an “artist’s book” was actually quite difficult. Essentially, an artist’s book is a piece of artwork in book form, with the content and form of artists’ books inescapably tied together – but they vary greatly. Visuals turned out to be the best advertisements.

The exhibit an

“My Life is an Open Book...”

by Sarah Wenzel

A recent exhibit at the University of Chicago focused on our developing collection of Chicago zines. Entitled

, my exhibit drew primarily on the history of women's self-publishing and autobiography, to take the viewer from the 16th century to the present day. While I have to admit that every zine in the exhibit was my favorite at one point or the other, my heart did seem to have been won particularly by

and by Rebecca Mir's small and beautifully produced series.

There's a web version of the contemporary pieces in the exhibit at <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/webexhibits/mylifeisanopenbook/>.

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4. Participate yourself

Not every English or literature librarian in an academic setting is a die-hard creative writer, but participating

of the digital humanities sessions, at the Libraries and Research in Languages and Literatures Discussion Group, and at the session on "Bibliography in the Digital Age." Just one anecdote to illustrate: during this last session, one of the panelists stated that librarians do not understand the difference between a copy and an edition. With one voice, a chorus of librarians (approximately a third of the audience), responded vigorously: "Yes we do!"

New sources (or sources new to me) that librarians may find interesting

dhcommons.org

<http://cultureplex.ca/>

[Bibliography for "Toward a New Hybrid Pedagogy: Embodiment and Learning in the Classroom 2.0"](#)

[Conference on College Composition & Communication](#)

Open Access Work in the MLA Commons:
["Literary Studies in the Digital Age"](#)

And an FYI: DARE will go online this year to take advantage of the ability to manipulate the maps; there's a call for beta-testing volunteers on their newsletter:

Panelists included Andrew Stauffer, Associate Professor of English at the University of Virginia and Director of NINES (Networked Infrastructure for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship) and Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, an institutional member of the Five College Library Depository joint collections housing consortium; and Deanna Marcum, Managing Director of Ithaka S+R and a major voice in the study of faculty attitudes towards electronic texts, served as the respondent and guided the conversation.

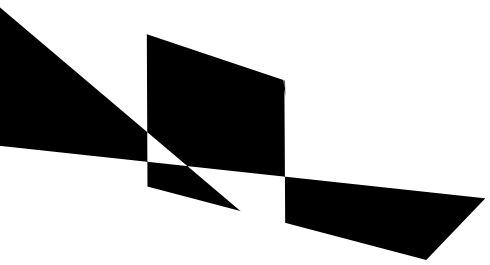
Andrew Stauffer, whose field of study is the Long Nineteenth Century during which the first mass-marketed books were produced, noted that pre-1800 books are often in library special collections units whereas books from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are often on open stacks, and are increasingly being deaccessioned or relocated to remote storage to open up the shelves, or indeed to remove the shelves so that the floors can be

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The Secretary and Member-at-Large serve for one year, while the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect serves three: one as Vice-Chair, one as Chair, and one as Immediate Past Chair. Below are basic job descriptions of the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and the Secretary, from the LES Governance Procedures. The Member-at-Large has no specific job duties.

