
A summary of ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meetings, 1999-2010 as reported in the ALCTS Newsletter Online [ANO] and elsewhere

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ANO Index at: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/index.cfm
Note: URLs in this report correct as of 21 June 2010.

[1999]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
May 1999 [Vol. 10, No. 3]
Meeting listed for 1999 Annual (New Orleans, LA) as being held:
Sunday, June 27, 2-4 P.M. – Ernest N. Morial Convention Center [Room 272]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
September 1999 [Vol. 10, No. 5]

1999 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA
[No report listed in this issue.]

[2000]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
Spring 2000 [Vol. 11, No. 1]

2000 Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, TX
Sunday, January 16, 2-4 P.M. – Holiday Inn Riverwalk [Tarantella 1]

The Role of the Professional in Academic Technical Services Discussion Group discussed the topic “The Role of the Technical Services Professional in Digital Projects.”

Cathy Gerhart introduced several digital projects at the University of Washington Libraries with an explanation and an online demonstration of Web sites. The catalogers at UW have been actively involved, and many important benefits have been realized from this involvement.

Charley Pennell introduced digital projects at North Carolina State University, where the Digital Libraries Initiative department develops digital projects such as current awareness tools, MyLibrary, imaging projects, and a faculty publications program. Catalogers are frequently involved in this work and the library has been contacted for consultation and assistance with
digital projects by other campus academic departments, which provides more opportunities for technical services professionals to be involved. The audience followed these examples with questions related to the specific projects and with comments on their own library activities in the digital arena.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
Fall 2000 [Vol. 11, No. 3]

2000 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL
Sunday, July 9, 2–4 P.M. – Palmer House [Parlor H]

The **Role of the Professional in Academic Technical Services Discussion Group**’s topic was “Technology Skills Needed by Technical Services Professionals and How to Acquire Them.”

Rebecca Breedlove, University of Massachusetts, Boston, discussed the implementation of electronic firm ordering at her institution, describing the evolution from a paper-based ordering process to the current electronic process.

Michael Johnson, University of Minnesota, talked about his use of macros to automate processes at his institution. He gave a number of examples that have provided tools for customizing workflow.

Brad Eden, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, explained how his institution has become the technology center on campus; for example, duties of the cataloging staff now include Web maintenance and design. They also are becoming involved in digitization and scanning projects and in the use of metadata. From the audience’s questions, it was obvious that most libraries are grappling with the need for new skills, new areas of involvement, or reorganization.

[2001]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
Spring 2001 [Vol. 12, No. 1]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v12/v12n1/newsdgrpt.cfm

2001 Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C.
Sunday, January 14, 2–4 P.M. – J.W. Marriott Hotel [Cannon]

The **Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments Discussion Group** centered on the advanced technology skills required of technical services professionals as well as the unique skill sets needed to capitalize on sophisticated library systems and integrate new electronic resources into those systems. Deb Silverman (University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System) spoke on her experience increasing technical skills of her staff
in order to reduce their dependency on the Systems Department. Rather than rely on IT staff for expertise, they developed the expertise within her department. Following her presentation there was a lively discussion. The audience had many questions related to the specific projects and offered comments on their own library situations. There was discussion about the relationship between technical services staff and IT staff.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
Fall 2001 [Vol. 12, No. 3]

2001 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA
Sunday, June 17, 2–4 P.M. – Pan Pacific Hotel [Olympic A]

The Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments Discussion Group discussed “the ‘graying’ of technical services professionals in academic libraries: what it means and what can we do about it.” Questions asked included:

- What happens when the professionals with all of the experience retire and no younger librarians have learned the operation?
- What happens when technical services professionals are moved into management positions and no new, entry-level librarians have been hired?
- What can we do now to ensure that we have the necessary expertise in technical services to address future needs?
- Do we need to examine the way we advertise and recruit new technical services professionals?

[2002]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
Spring 2002 [Vol. 13, No. 1]
http://www.al.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v13/v13n1/ano13n1_evts_disc.cfm

2002 Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans, LA
Sunday, January 20, 2–4 P.M. – Embassy Suites [Lafitte II]

The Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments Discussion Group explored the role of technical services professionals in responding to the budget and staffing challenges currently facing academic libraries and their role in planning for and managing change.

Cecilia Leathem (University of Miami) highlighted the importance of making sure the work done by staff in your department is well documented and well understood by the library administration. She stressed the importance of encouraging a culture of collaboration, rather
than competition, both within the department and with other departments. She also noted the importance of examining your departmental organization and reviewing operations and procedures to find and deal with any “hidden fat.” Leathem talked about staff considerations that need to be kept in mind when dealing with challenging situations. As much as possible, staff members need to be kept informed and involved in decision making. She concluded by urging us not to take budget constraints personally. Although it may not be easy, take a leadership role in planning for change, maintain a realistic perspective, and avoid paranoia.

Roberta Winjum (Vanderbilt University) spoke about the process her institution used to reach consensus about workflow improvements and to help staff welcome change.

Jacqueline Coats (University of Washington) talked about the benefits of revamping workflows to incorporate a full range of automated services offered by library book vendors. Coats noted that special benefits accrue from approaching such a project in its entirety, rather than piecemeal. The resulting synergy can yield significant benefits, such as a reduction in the time spent managing backlogs and the smoothing of workflow from selection through cataloging.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
Fall 2002 [Vol. 13, No. 3]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v13/v13n3/ano13n3_nws_dscsrprts.cfm

2002 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA
Sunday, June 16, 2-4 P.M. – Hilton [Forsythe]

The Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments Discussion Group’s heard three speakers address the topic “Technical Services in Transition: The Role of Technical Services Librarians in Planning for and Managing Change.”

Karen Akins (Texas A&M University, Commerce) focused on the transition when long-term technical services professionals retire from the perspective of the people who replace the retirees. Akins described what was done to prepare for the departure of four professionals (e.g., job shadowing, preparation of documentation, etc.) whose average stay at the libraries exceeded twenty-five years. She also talked about some of the difficulties experienced by the librarians who replaced them and some of their survival techniques. Taking on new management tasks, for example, was a challenge; encouraging a team atmosphere to take advantage of existing staff experience was a useful survival technique. Finally Akins provided some recommendations for both the Libraries and new librarians to help facilitate a smooth transition.

Timothy Gatti (State University of New York, Albany) addressed the topic “The Rise of the Young Turks—Generation X as Supervisor.” He noted that the combination of a rapidly aging population and the lack of interest by many current catalogers in becoming supervisors is leading to the rise of a younger generation of supervisors. While the number of new hires in research libraries increased by 35 percent in 2000, the number of new-hire catalogers is down 45 percent from 1985. If this trend continues, it will result in a shortage of not just catalogers
but of supervisors as well. As Timothy noted, the vacuum is likely to be filled by Generation X-ers, who will bring their own unique supervisory styles to these assignments.

Kay Johnson (University of Tennessee) described how vacancies in the leadership positions at her institution in both the acquisitions and processing department and the cataloging department prompted the merger of those two units into a single Technical Services Team. In this new environment, the cross training of catalogers and acquisitions staff and the training of both groups in original cataloging of monographs, has changed the nature of technical services at the University of Tennessee. Support staff now perform tasks previously assigned to librarians, and librarians have taken on tasks formerly accomplished by department heads. Some of the disadvantages of this new approach are that staff feel a lot of stress related to maintaining standards of quality while doing multiple tasks, and the reorganization has caused confusion for public services staff who don’t know who to go to with questions or problems. Among the advantages are an improved understanding by technical services staff of the work done by others on the team, increased pay for paraprofessionals to compensate for the addition of original cataloging, and more variety in the work done by technical services staff.

[2003]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
April 2003 [Vol. 14, No. 2]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v14/v14n2/ano14n2_evts_dgs.cfm

2003 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, PA
Sunday, January 26, 2–4 P.M. – Radisson [Warwick]

Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments:

Daisy P. Waters (State University of New York at Buffalo) spoke on "Recruiting Technical Services Librarians: a Continuous Process." She gave the audience a review of the literature regarding one of the library profession's most challenging topics. Ms. Waters shared her personal story of recruitment, and it was one worthy enough to tell again to other aspiring recruits.

Micheline Brown (Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC) described "Collaborative Opportunities for Technical and Public Service Librarians: Cross Training Reference Librarians to Catalog." Ms. Brown left the audience looking for ways to identify areas and needs of possible collaboration, the elements of designing such a project, requirements for training, and keys to a successful collaborative project.

Sara Spiegel (Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America) spoke on "The Relationship between Professional and Support Staff in Technical Services, or Energizing our Support Staff as a Crucial Factor of Better Dynamics and Outcomes in Technical Services." This topic was very appropriate for today's library discussions. She gave the audience much to consider regarding
existing organizational models for technical services and suggestions for a new, more flexible approach to training; one that creates different dynamics within the department.

Each speaker made reference to the same three words: enthusiasm, flexibility and evaluation. Enthusiasm is certainly contagious in recruiting, in training and in collaborating. When flexibility is demonstrated it produces a more relaxed partnership for any project. Evaluation lays the foundation for continuous improvement.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
June 2003 [Vol. 14, No. 3]
Meeting listed for 2003 Annual (Toronto, CA) as being held:
Sunday, June 22, 2-4 P.M. – The Toronto Hilton [Tom Thomson]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
August 2003 [Vol. 14, No. 4]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v14/v14n4/eventsdg.cfm

2003 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada
[No report listed in this issue.]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
October 2003 [Vol. 14, No. 5]
<COMPILER’S NOTE: This issue included an article of possible interest to this group:

“Mentoring Program to Recruit Catalogers Completes Successful Pilot Program”>
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v14/v14n5/ano14n5_nws_cetrcmntor.cfm

[2004]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
February 2004 [Vol. 15, No. 1]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v15/n1/ano15n1_evts_discussion.cfm

2004 Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, CA
Sunday, January 11, 2-4 P.M. – US Grant Hotel [Horton Br D]

Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments: Heard three presentations, followed by question and answer sessions following each presentation. Patricia Dragon (East Carolina University) discussed "The Online Catalog: A source of frustration or an opportunity for collaboration?" Cynthia Shieh (University of the Pacific) described "Conflicts between Technical and Public Services Librarians: Similarities between the High-Tech Industry
and Academic Libraries."

Jin Ma (Penn State University) discussed "Metadata Workflows for Digitization Projects." There was interesting discussion and questions on each presentation.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
August 2004 [Vol. 15, No. 4]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v15/n4/ano15n4_evts_dgig.cfm

2004 Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL
Sunday, June 27, 2-4 P.M. – Rosen Plaza Hotel [Salon 9]

Role of the Professional in Academic Technical Services DG: discussed a number of issues of interest: the role of support staff/professionals in academic technical services; better communication between administration and public services about what technical services does; and how to be proactive within and among colleagues and faculty.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
December 2004 [Vol. 15, No. 6]
Meeting listed for 2005 Midwinter (Boston, MA) as being held:
Sunday, January 16, 2-4 P.M. – Westin Copley Place [Great Republic]

[2005]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
February 2005 [Vol. 16, No. 1]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v16/n1/mw2005/dgig.cfm

2005 Midwinter Meeting in Boston, MA
[No report listed in this issue.]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
June 2005 [Vol. 16, No. 3]
Meeting listed for 2005 Annual (Chicago, IL) as being held:
Role of the Professional in Academic Technical Services
Sunday, June 27, 2-4 P.M. – Hilton [Lake Huron]

AND (?)

Role of the Professional in Research Library Technical Services
Sunday, June 27, 2-4 P.M. – Palmer House [Salon X]
Role of the Professional in Academic Library Technical Services DG
Discussed issues related to professional staff as trainers in technical services. The conversation (generally quite lively) included sharing useful training techniques, how to pitch training sessions for different audiences (professional or para-professional staff), and ideas for resolving problems related to training.

[2006]

Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Discussion Group
Those present at the ALCTS Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Discussion Group meeting engaged in a wide-ranging discussion about the changes they have observed taking place in technical services departments today, and how those changes have impacted the role of professional librarians in technical services.

The first change considered was the effect of digital projects and metadata on technical services departments in general and on cataloging units in particular. The discussion opened with a series of related questions:

- The profession has seen the emergence of MARC and non-MARC metadata specialists. What is the role of the “metadata librarian”?
- Should expertise in traditional cataloging and metadata co-exist in the same person?
- Should traditional cataloging and metadata services co-exist in the same department?
- How does this new focus on metadata affect the retention and training of existing librarians and staff, and the recruitment of new librarians and staff?

A second change for technical services is the increasing complexity of and rapid change in the information technology used in technical services. Two key problems with this relationship were identified. The first problem is the increased need for computer security measures and firewalls, which in many cases interferes with the ability of technical services staff to do their work. The second problem is the increased need for desktop support and computer trouble-shooting.

The third change affecting technical services is the changing nature of collections, which in turn fuel the need for technical services departments to reorganize. Several attendees described
how their technical services department was reconfigured in light of the increased use of shelf-ready books, decline in the number of print journals being received, and the increased need to devote resources to electronic resource management (ERM) software. Reorganization was often seen as the opportunity to recruit new staff, to institute new technology and new workflows, and to retrain existing staff.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
June 2006 [Vol. 17, No. 3]
Meeting listed for 2006 Annual (New Orleans, LA) as being held:
Role of the Professional in Academic Technical Services Discussion Group
Sunday, June 25, 1:30-3:30 P.M. – Sheraton [Napoleon Ballroom, D3]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
August 2006 [Vol. 17, No. 4]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v17/n4/evnt/dgig.cfm

2006 ALA Annual (New Orleans, LA)
[No report listed in this issue.]

[2007]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
February 2007 [Vol. 18, No. 1]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v18/n1/rpts/dgigreports.cfm

Sunday, January 21, 4-6 P.M. – WCC [Room 615]

Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments

The Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Discussion Group is a very informal group and the discussion is usually fluid and less structured. The group has dwindled considerably over the last few years, chiefly because it meets at the same time as another ALCTS discussion group, Creative Ideas in Technical Services. And while there is the potential for overlapping threads of discussion between the two groups, those attending the Role of the Professional Discussion Group at Midwinter felt that the two should not be merged. They believe there are enough differences to warrant having both groups.

The group also discussed removing the words “Academic Research” from the discussion group name. The consensus was that technical service departments have the same type of issues regardless of type of library, and removing the term “academic” could attract other participants from public and special libraries’ technical services departments.
The current chair will work with the O&B liaison to complete the Self Study Review. There is no current vice-chair/chair-elect, and one person indicated possible interest in “running” for the position of discussion group chair. The current chair will work with her and the others who attended to develop a slate of officers for election at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
June 2007 [Vol. 18, No. 3]
Meeting listed for 2007 Annual (Washington, D.C.) as being held:
Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services DG
Sunday, June 24, 4:00-5:30 P.M. – The J.W. Marriott [Dirksen]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
August 2007 [Vol. 18, No. 4]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v18/n4/rpts/dgig.cfm
2007 Annual (Washington, D.C.)
[No report listed in this issue.]

[2008]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
February 2008 [Vol. 19, No. 1]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v19/n1/index.cfm#dgig

2008 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, PA
Sunday, January 13, 2-4 P.M. – Philadelphia Convention Center (PCC) [Room 308]

Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments DG

Ruth Fischer of R2 Consulting welcomed everyone, distributed handouts of the proposed meeting agenda and copies of the invited speaker’s notes. Fischer asked Martha Bace, University of Alabama, to provide a very brief history of the DG. As was recorded in last year’s report, Bace noted that the discussion group has seen various fluctuations in attendance over the years. She also noted the meeting’s very “competitive” timeslot, which is at the same times as the Creative Ideas in Technical Services Discussion Group and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, both having similar focus, being two primary examples. She was gratified to see the turnout for this meeting, particularly since attendance is typically lower during the Midwinter Meeting. Michael Rice of the University of Michigan’s Kresge Business Administration Library was introduced as the current co-vice chair. Fischer noted that Angela Laack of Southern
Methodist University, the other co-vice chair, was unable to attend the conference due to maternity leave.

**Presentation by Invited Speaker**

**Mary McKeown**, Head of Cataloging/Principal Cataloger, Hesburgh Libraries, University of Notre Dame, gave a twenty minute presentation entitled “Appropriate Roles for MLS and Non-MLS Catalogers.” More specifically, she described the cataloging environment at Notre Dame in the 1990s and the department’s reorganization plan which included the development of subject and/or language based teams by pairing original catalogers with one or two staff members. When McKeown arrived in 1991 as the Humanities and Medieval Studies Cataloger, work within the Cataloging Department was distributed solely based on the presence or absence of a full cataloging record without, among others, any analysis of the appropriateness of the available record(s) for Notre Dame’s collections or taking advantage of the diverse skill set of various department employees when processing it. As an example, German texts were not systematically given to a native German speaker on staff. Original and complex copy cataloging was only done by MLS catalogers who worked in isolation, both physically and organizationally, from the rest of the department. Problems and frustrations arose when materials would be sent back to the department to fix errors that could have easily been prevented if a more careful analysis of the material had been done in the first place. To complicate matters, from March 1997 to July 2001, the department suffered from the lack of leadership and direction with the absence of a department head and other high level management changes that occurred during this period.

In view of these conditions, and in an effort to save time that professionals spent on cataloging tasks, the proposal was accepted to pair original catalogers with a staff member to create subject/language based teams. Other perceived benefits of this plan were to develop a greater understanding among the department’s staff to better handle important “premiere” collections (and to get the job done right the first time), provide the cataloging staff with development opportunities, and give catalog librarians supervisory experience. McKeown then described some of the cataloging tasks that were to be performed by the non-MLS staff members under this new arrangement. These included: call number and subject heading additions to incomplete copy, original cataloging that could be derived from existing full copy of a closely related title (i.e. different edition or a translation of original work), authority work in the local system, establishing new literary author call numbers, and depending on the varying technical skills of the teams, original cataloging for such things as Notre Dame theses or for “formulic” projects. Additional benefits were gained by having paraprofessionals perform non-cataloging tasks such as web site maintenance, collection development support, ILS upgrade testing, and service on library committees.

The changes were not implemented without challenges or problems. McKeown described the four primary issues Notre Dame’s Cataloging Department faced:

- a. large investment of initial training time which included many interruptions for MLS catalogers to answer questions and mentor the staff,
- b. some staff members took considerable time in developing confidence in their abilities to approach their work in a different way (doing new tasks, exercising judgment),
- c. it took three to four years to upgrade positions and salaries, one position at a time, and
d. the new system led to two levels of staff within the department which in turn created some tension, since those at the lower level felt that those above them were doing the same basic kinds of work for higher pay.

For all the initial investment of time in training and disruptions within the department, McKeown felt in hindsight that everyone would agree that it was worth the effort. She expounded on other benefits the department has gained from the move to team based cataloging. Primary among these is greater staff development, for which Notre Dame has made a high priority. Auditing classes in subject areas pertinent to their work, attending off-site workshops, and enhancing their technical skills beyond those needed to use OCLC and the ILS are just a few examples of staff member initiatives. The department is also better able to handle a large influx of materials that do not lend themselves to simple copy cataloging and, at the same time, is delivering a better cataloging product to meet user needs. Within the past two years, the remaining copy cataloging positions have been upgraded and have been given similar complex copy and some original cataloging for English language materials.

**Open Discussion**

A number of attendees participated in a lively discussion session. Much of the discussion focused on leadership, professionals and paraprofessionals working together, and the benefits of professional education. The discussion also touched on the differences of working in a union versus a non-union workplace. The final point of discussion was a follow-up on the topic of leadership by professionals.

Possible topics for discussion at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference include: succession planning and how libraries are working now for the wave of retirements in the near future, how to promote lower level employees to move up in skill level to replace retiring catalogers, and how to enrich a job position or add non-monetary incentives to induce staff to stay and to continue a high level of work while maintaining positive morale.
monetary incentives have been used successfully to motivate both veteran and novice staff members? What else can we be doing in terms of succession planning?

The kick-off speaker was Bruce Evans, Bibliographic Access Unit Leader, Baylor University Libraries. His presentation followed this basic outline.

- Background information and details of transition from Southern Methodist University to Baylor
- Things that helped in the transition
- Beginning the work of rebuilding Bibliographic Access
- Rebuilding Bibliographic Access' Personnel
- Rebuilding Bibliographic Access’ Professionalism
- Rebuilding Bibliographic Access’ Organizational Structure and Workflow
- Subsequent Changes and Improvements to Bibliographic Access Structure, Workflow, and Personnel
- Concluding thoughts on things learned and important points

Nearly an hour of open discussion followed the presentation, which was moderated by Ruth Fischer, the outgoing Chair of the discussion group. There was a high level of energy and participation.

There was a brief business meeting at the end of the session. Topics included the announcement that ALCTS Discussion Groups will become interest groups. New co-chairs (Michael Rice and Angela Laack) were welcomed. Co-Vice-Chairs were nominated for the coming year: Robert Renda, Columbia University and Sandra Macke, University of Denver. Topics for the Midwinter Meeting in Denver were discussed.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
December 2008 [Vol. 19, No. 6]
Meeting listed for 2009 Midwinter (Denver, CO) as being held:
Role of the Professional Librarian in Technical Services
Sunday, January 25, 4:00-5:30 P.M. – Sheraton [Tower Court “C”]

[2009]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
March 2009 [Vol. 20, No. 1]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v20/n1/event/ig_rpt.cfm

2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, CO
Sunday, January 25, 4:00-5:30 P.M. – Sheraton [Tower Court “C”]
Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments

The discussion topic was “Tough Times Hit Technical Services: How T.S. Librarians are Coping with the Economic Recession.” Co-chairs Michael Rice of the University of Michigan and Angela Laack of Southern Methodist University (Texas) opened the meeting with introductions. A brief history of the group was presented, which highlighted various past discussion topics. Some initial questions were posed to start the forum.

Many participants reported that their libraries had already begun eliminating cataloging positions, implemented hiring freezes, or offering early retirement packages, for which a large proportion of staff were eligible. As a result of these reductions, remaining staff have more to do and work is being reassigned in new ways. This is an obvious challenge, but it can also offer greater opportunities, as individuals take on broader responsibilities and learn new skills.

Attendees also discussed the transfer of former professional responsibilities to paraprofessionals. They debated the benefits of outsourcing, particularly when it involves rare or special collections work, and its impact on the overall quality of the catalog. They deliberated the increased need for better collaboration between peer libraries, such as cooperative cataloging. They stressed the need to ease restrictions on the ability to enhance shared records. The conversation also included the necessity of improved communication and mutual understanding between technical services staff, public service staff, and more importantly, higher management. Managers need to make informed and equitable decisions when it comes to allocating reduced library budgets. The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of possible topics for the next session in Chicago.

ALCTS Newsletter Online
June 2009 [Vol. 20, no. 2]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v20/n2/event/09schgrp.cfm

Meeting listed for 2009 Annual (Chicago, IL) as being held:
Sunday, July 12, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Palmer House [LaSalle 1]

ALCTS Newsletter Online
September 2009 [Vol. 20, No. 3]
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/ano/v20/n3/event/ig_rpt.cfm

2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL [No report listed in this issue.]
2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, IL  
Sunday, July 12 – 3:30-5:30 P.M.  
The Palmer House [LaSalle 1]; 17 East Monroe Street

Meeting Theme: The Library's Own Transformers:  
What Really is the Role of the Professional Librarian In Technical Services?

Over the last fifty years, no other single department in libraries has been as greatly impacted by the ceaseless march of technology, with its workflow re-designs, restructurings, and outsourcings; nor has any been more prone to budgetary fluctuations and shortfalls as the technical services department. Faced with such a radically changing environment, professional librarians who work under these conditions have had to transform themselves endlessly to meet constantly changing demands to provide access to an ever expanding body of human knowledge in new and (r)-evolutionary ways. One focus of this meeting was to examine the question: Just what does it mean to be a professional librarian in technical services today?

Invited speaker Wanda Jazayeri, Head of Cataloging Maintenance & Department Assistant at the University of California at Irvine (UCI) Libraries; Irvine, California started off the discussion by describing the various changes in personnel, their evolving responsibilities, and how technology has helped them cope with the on-going transformation she has witnessed within the Technical Services Division, and more specifically the Cataloging Department, at UCI’s Libraries during her time there since 1998.

After the lively discussion that followed her presentation a brief business meeting was held, during which Wanda Jazayeri and Jack Hall (Manager of Cataloging Services / Linguistics Librarian at the University of Houston Libraries) both graciously volunteered to become the new Interest Group Co-Vice Chairs for the upcoming year.

[2010]

2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston, MA  
Sunday, January 17 – 4:00-5:00 P.M.  
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center [Room 157A]

Meeting Theme: What is Technical Services?

The functions included under technical services can vary from one institution to another, and within individual libraries the definition may be changing as technical services librarians take on new roles. How do libraries decide what to include as part of technical services? And what is it like to move from one institution to another where the definition and the expectations may be different?

2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC  
Sunday, June 27 – 4:00-5:30 P.M.  
The Madison Hotel [Mount Vernon A]; 1177 15th Street NW

Meeting Theme: The Changing Role of the Professional Librarian in an Age of Outsourcing

To different degrees at different institutions, technical services librarians are in a period of transition from title-by-title acquisitions and cataloging to a new world of outsourced collection development and resource description (approval plans, e-journal packages, record loads, shelf-ready books). How are experienced technical services librarians adapting to an environment that is becoming radically different from the one they were trained for, and what types of resources and support are available for them in this transition?