MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Lloyd Jansen

Most of the ACTSS activity so far in 1998 has centered around planning programs for both the midyear and for the California Library Association (CLA) conference this November in Oakland. In July there was a workshop on using both Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal classifications held in both northern and southern California. If you've thumbed through your preliminary program for the November conference, you may have noticed that ACTSS is preparing several programs covering a wide variety of topics including outsourcing, weeding, and purchasing electronic resource collections. For the first time ACTSS will also be sponsoring a Talk Table on Support Staff Sunday discussing the use of paraprofessionals in Technical Services. Much of the credit for the planning and organization of these programs goes to the ACTSS Program Committee Chair Mary Lang. In addition the annual section business meeting will be held at its traditional 8:00 a.m. time slot on Sunday morning. Arrangements have been made for pastries, breads, and coffee. The business meeting will be highlighted by the presentation of the second annual ACTSS Award for excellence in the field of Technical Services in California libraries. More details on these programs.

By now you should have all received notification of the upcoming program in September sponsored by the ACTSS Cataloging Interest Group (CIG) led by its president, Pat French. "Cataloging Internet Resources for Your Local Catalog" is being co-sponsored by the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG). The CIG is also sponsoring a program at the CLA conference updating the progress of recommendations made at the Toronto conference on the future of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules.

Membership Chair Maryll Telegdy reprised her efforts of last year to improve ACTSS informational flyers. She revised the existing membership flyer (the flyer every new member received when joining ACTSS) and prepared a "JOIN!" flyer to hand out at programs and other events to encourage non-members to join the section.

With the heat of the summer the cool November air seems a long way off. Still, we must begin to look toward next year's activities. The 1998 election results are in and the ACTSS Nominating Committee, Reve Rocke (Chair) and Celia Bakke, did an outstanding job of finding a strong slate of candidates to run for section offices. Reve provides a recap of the election results later in this issue. The winners will join Elaine Franco who takes over as president of ACTSS at the end of the November business meeting. You'll also be hearing from Elaine a bit later in Tech Notes.
I'm looking forward to a busy and eventful conference in November and I hope that the array of programs we have planned will have something for every member. See you in Oakland!

ACTSS PROGRAMS FOR THE 1998 CLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN OAKLAND

Mary Lang, Program Chair

The ACTSS programs being planned for Annual California Library Association Conference include two programs on outsourcing. The first program entitled "The 'O' Word, Part 1: ALA's Outsourcing Task Force--A California Perspective" will report on the group's work with emphasis on the impact to California libraries. The speakers for this program are the two California task force members -- LaDonna Kienitz from Newport Beach Public Library and Patty Wong from Berkeley Public Library. This program will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. and is being co-sponsored by the Public Library Section.

Directly following this program will be "The 'O' Word, Part 2: An Update on Outsourcing in Riverside County and the Palos Verdes Library District." The speakers, Peg Tarbox from Palos Verdes Library and Gary Christmas from County of Riverside, will discuss how the contracts are working. This program will be from 10:30 a.m. to Noon and is being co-sponsored by the Public Library Section and the Management Services Section.

On Sunday, November 15, there will be two programs on collection development. The first program "Show Me the Money: Purchasing Electronic and Print Resources While Balancing the Materials Budget" will address the selecting and the purchasing of materials (both print and electronic) for library collections while staying within budget. The program is from 10:30 a.m. to Noon. The speakers are Bonnie Lew from Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library and Ron Ray from the University of the Pacific.

From 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., the second program "To Weed or Not to Weed! That is the Question" will look at the deselection and the assessment of materials from both public and academic libraries' collections. Collection development policies will also be addressed. The speakers are Barbara Leonard from San Jose State University; Angelynn King from University of Redlands; and Craig Hawbaker from University of the Pacific.

In addition to these programs, a talk table on "The Changing Role of the Paraprofessionals in Technical Services" will be held on Sunday, November 15 from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. Reve Rocke and Maryll Telegdy will lead the discussion.

AS ACTSS PREPARES FOR 1999 ...

Elaine Franco, Vice President

After taking office in November 1998, the new ACTSS Board will begin to plan a new year of ACTSS activity. In order for ACTSS to have a productive and beneficial year for its members, we need your ideas and enthusiasm. Please consider volunteering to help out in one of these areas:

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Helps to select, plan, and organize programs for the 1999 CLA
conference, as well as special programs held in Northern and Southern California during the year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Helps to identify and contact candidates for the 1999 ballot for ACTSS elected offices.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Works on recruiting and welcoming new members to ACTSS.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Solicits nominations for and selects a qualified recipient of the section's Access, Collections and Technical Services award. (To be presented at the CLA annual conference in 1999.)

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Helps produce and distribute Tech Notes, the ACTSS newsletter.

CATALOGING INTEREST GROUP: Statement of purpose: "To provide a forum for conferring on topics and developments of concern to catalogers and to encourage the exchange of ideas and concepts which promote quality and standards in bibliographic records." The election of the 1999 Vice Chair of the Cataloging Interest Group will be held in conjunction with the interest group’s program at the CLA conference in Oakland in November. Anyone interested in running for Vice Chair is encouraged to contact me or Pat French (psfrench@ucdavis.edu, 530/752-2600) by October 15.

If you would like to work with one of these committees or the Cataloging Interest Group, or if you have ideas for a future program or the future direction of the section, please feel free to contact me at any time: Elaine Franco
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ACTSS AWARD
Libby Flynn, Chair, ACTSS Award Committee

Celia Bakke has been chosen to receive the Access, Collections, and Technical Services Section Award of Achievement this year. Celia is the Head of Cataloging at the Clark Library, San Jose State University. She currently serves as CLA Liaison for the Section, and was the 1987-88 president of the CLA Technical Services Chapter (predecessor of ACTSS). Celia will receive a plaque at the ACTSS business meeting on Sunday November 15 at 8:00.

"CONSTRUCTING LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND DEWEY CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS" -- A SUMMER PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CLA ACCESS, COLLECTIONS, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION, JULY 22ND (NAPA CITY/COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY) AND JULY 29TH (U.C. IRVINE)

Lloyd Jansen

Catalogers who classify in either Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal Classification schemes had the chance to bone up on their skills when the Access, Collections, and Technical Services Section (ACTSS) of the California Library Association sponsored a program on specific parts of the two classification system. The program was repeated in northern and southern California.
The program began with Celia Bakke, Head of Cataloging at San Jose State University, discussing the H schedules (Social Sciences) of the LC system. One of many points stressed by Ms. Bakke was the importance of following the directions in the schedules to make sure that a class number is correct. For example, some LC class numbers allow the addition of geographic notation only at the regional or state level while others allow a more specific notation to a state or city in the United States. Those instructions determine to which table a classifier refers.

Ms. Bakke was followed by Elaine Franco, Principal Cataloger at U.C. Davis, who explored the Language and Literature schedules of LC (P-PZ) with an emphasis on PN, PR, and PS. Using printouts of OCLC records, Ms. Franco discussed, among other things, how to bring out important aspects of a work and how those aspects are reflected in the classification number. One example involved a collection of English verse written between 1250 and 1950 that was published in 1972. The PR schedule for English literature includes a notation for "collections published 1961- ". In this case the important aspect for classification is the publication date, not the time period of the works themselves. Both speakers provided detailed handouts and overheads with an emphasis on using tables and cuttering.

In the afternoon Libby Flynn, Head of Technical Services at the Marin County Free Library switched the focus to the Dewey Decimal Classification with a talk about number building in the new 21st edition of Dewey. Ms. Flynn stressed the importance of understanding the 7 principles underlying the DDC. Those principles are: decimal division (ten main classes divided into ten subclasses, etc.), classification by discipline (a single topic can be classed in different disciplines depending on how the subject is treated), hierarchy (as a category becomes more specific the number gets longer), mnemonics (some numbers stand for the same thing throughout the system, e.g., the numbers –73 almost always stand for the United States), literary warrant (classes are only created after materials exist that require them), enumeration (in principle DDC is a list of topics and their class numbers, though recent editions require more number building to save space), and relative location (Melvil Dewey's antidote to the 19th century problem of fixed locations for books). Ms. Flynn then focused on the 800s (Literature) and building numbers using Table 3.

A total of 64 people attended the Napa session, with 60 taking in the program at U.C. Irvine. Registrants had the option of attending either or both the LC and Dewey sessions.

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