ALCTS-MRC (formerly ALCTS-AV, for those of you who track these initialisms) sponsored a program session at the Annual Meeting, titled "Acquiring minds want to know: the acquisitions process and collection development of videos and CD-ROMs." The first speaker, Sally Mason Robinson (National Video Resources, a not-for-profit established by the Rockefeller Foundation), reminded the audience that "media", here defined as videos and CD-ROMs, needs to be viewed as a mainstream collection activity for libraries that pursue the goal of offering users the most appropriate medium for information and for learning. She offered the cautionary tale of videocassettes and libraries; slow to catch on with library patrons, videos exploded in popularity around 1985. Some libraries were completely unprepared, and made matters worse by adopting a distinction between "real" and "video" users of libraries. She stressed the need for a collection development policy, particularly when considering the addition of a new format (e.g. DVD) to the collection. Some of the considerations she offered for this latter: who has the equipment? What is it good for? (Faulkner works best from a book; instructions for hanging wallpaper can be effectively conveyed on video) Is its cost proportional to its potential for use? Is it truly in demand?

Is the supply adequate? Mason Robinson touched on issues of organization of a collection, pointing out challenges (inconsistency of information provided by producers, reissues in different formats) that sometimes lead to shortcuts in cataloging that can make the item invisible to the catalog user. She strongly advocated classification of videos and CD-ROMs, made all the more important as libraries have moved past feature films to buy materials in all subject areas; to not classify to the same level as print materials, she said, suggested a lack of seriousness about the format. Several of the handouts from Ms. Mason Robinson's presentation are available at http://www.nvr.org/nvr/SMRlibraryindex.html.

Merle Slyhoff (Univ. of Pennsylvania Law Library) spoke to the task of actually finding and acquiring videos and CD-ROMs. She presented an extensive bibliography of resources for these tasks, with comments. She pointed out that older sources should not be discounted - not every topic is time-sensitive, though the possibility with dealing with an outmoded format has to be considered. Persons interested in seeing this list should contact Merle at University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, 3460 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3406 (mslyhoff@oyez.law.upenn.edu).

Acquiring materials and adding them to a collection is not the end of the road, particularly in media formats. Julia Gammon (Univ. of Akron) directed her presentation to issues of copyright, licenses, and negotiating license agreements. She brought 35 years' worth of examples from her institution to illustrate the ambiguities and pitfalls of such issues, and their renewed relevance in the consortial age (Akron is part of Ohiolink, the statewide library consortium which includes loaning of video materials). She reminded listeners that licenses are contracts; whomever signs off on a license should be someone in the institution who has the authority to deal with the terms. She provided a handout with principles for licensing electronic resources, found on the ARL Web site at http://www.arl.org/scomm/licensing/principles.html, and outlined procedures to follow from the initial point of order and the license negotiations period through cataloging and processing.

ALCTS-MRC also held its regular complement of meetings. The first, on Sunday morning, dealt mainly with housekeeping issues, though it did feature a report from Martha Yee (UCLA) about the 0.24 Task Force's work (see the CC:DA report for more information). The Tuesday meeting featured liaison and subcommittee reports; the former are more thoroughly covered in other MLA liaisons' reports. The Producer/Distributor-Library Relations Subcommittee reported continued work on its "Are you media-savvy" brochures. The Standards Subcommittee is still trying to steer its Draft Standards for Packaging of Media Resources through to completion and adoption by NISO. ALCTS-MRC Chair Ann Caldwell (Brown Univ.) reported on MLA member and ALCTS-MRC member Lowell Ashley's (Smithsonian Inst.) receipt of the MLA Special Achievement Award; Lowell is also the Vice-President/President-Elect of OLAC (whose next meeting is Oct. 12-16, 2000, in Seattle). The two major items of business had to do with the 0.24 Task Force interim report (cf. the CC:DA report) and recommendations from the PCC Core Bibliographic Record for Audiovisual Materials Task Group to address problems with defining core-record standards for these materials. Group
member Eric Childress (OCLC) addressed the status of these recommendations, most of which had been dealt with. The meeting concluded with announcements of changes in personnel and recognition of those who were concluding their service to the committee, most notably chair Ann Caldwell.

Submitted by Mark Scharff