



## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The Oklahoma Chapter of ACRL is about to go through some fundamental organizational changes. National ACRL has asked all state chapters to incorporate as non-profit organization or merge with their state library organization by the end of 2000. After a review of the chapter bylaws at our last board meeting in May, the board members voted to pursue incorporation of the Oklahoma Chapter.

Several factors aided this decision:

1. If our chapter were to merge with OLA, the chapter would lose its independent status as an interest group for academic librarians.
2. Other ACRL chapters that merged with their state library organization reported forfeiture of their treasury.
3. Many of OLA's University and College Division members are also national and state chapter members of ACRL, a sign that there is support for both organizations.

4. To incorporate would require only a few changes to our existing bylaws. The cost for legal advice is minimal compared to losing the chapter's treasury.

### WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

The chapter requested legal advice for the incorporation process from attorney Steven Holcombe in Stillwater. Mr. Holcombe will be present at the July 9 board meeting to review our bylaws and make suggestions for amendments.

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

All members of ACRL are invited to visit our board meeting on July 9 to allow feedback and member input. [1:00 pm at the OSU Patent & Trademark Library in Room 206 of the Center for International Trade and Development on the OSU campus in Stillwater.] The proposed changes to our bylaws and the incorporation of the chapter as a whole will be put to a vote at our annual Fall Conference. Mail ballots will be provided for those members who are unable to attend the fall conference.

Our annual ACRL Fall Conference is planned for late October or early November. Several of our past conferences looked at issues in librarianship that were connected to changing technologies: distance education, censorship and the Internet, electronic archives. This year's conference "The Millennium Librarian" will focus on the human aspects of librarianship. What skills will librarians need to compete in the increasingly technological environments of our libraries? What role will we play in the 'information business' that is different from database vendors, websites and Internet search engines? Which services and what information will library users demand from librarians that they can't get from a computer or fulltext database?

I hope to see you at our fall conference.

**THOMAS THORISCH**

President, Oklahoma Chapter  
of ACRL

### **FROM THE EDITOR:**

◆ In this issue of the newsletter we are beginning a new feature which will highlight a unique collection or service in an Oklahoma academic library. For this issue, two of our intrepid OK-ACRL board members agreed to get the ball rolling: **JULIA CRAWFORD** writes about the Patent & Trademark Depository Library at OSU, and **DARCY RANKIN** writes about the Black Heritage Center at Langston University.

◆ We already have two additional volunteers for future issues. If you would be willing to write a brief piece about a service or collection found in your library, please contact:

**ANNE PRESTAMO**

Editor, ACRL Newsletter  
Edmon Low Library ◆ Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078-1071  
405-744-9161 ◆ 405-744-5183 (FAX)  
prestam@okstate.edu

◆ **OK-ACRL WEBPAGES** have a new address. <<http://okacrl.okstate.edu>>.

Please visit the new address and bookmark it for future reference.



## OSU'S PTDL: A HIGHLIGHT

The OSU Patent & Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) is one of 83 designated depositories in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The OSU Library began participating in the depository program in 1956, and is the only PTDL in the state. The OSU PTDL is one of just 41 collections in the country to hold the entire set of 6 million patents and 2.5 million trademarks, issued since 1790 by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

All Oklahomans have access to this valuable resource for their Intellectual Property research needs. The OSU PTDL offers free services to anyone, whether they are an Independent Inventor, a university researcher, a grade school student or an entrepreneur starting a new business.

Common uses of the OSU PTDL collection revolve around five core interests:

### 1. Preliminary Patent Searching

Individuals hoping to obtain patent protection visit the OSU PTDL to perform a preliminary patent search. Patrons are encouraged to call ahead to schedule an appointment for search assistance. Most novice patent searchers require a significant amount of one-on-one assistance to become initiated to the use of the tools provided by the USPTO. Further, the free tools available on the Internet are not organized in a fashion to facilitate thorough search results. If an individual has never searched the patent literature before, there is very little chance they will be successful using the tools via the Internet.

### 2. Scholarly Research

It is estimated that eight of every ten patents contains information not found in any other print sources. Following this model, roughly 4.8 million patents are unique resources containing details of scientific study and contain a wealth of information for historians, cultural geographers, and popular culture scholars.

### 3. Preliminary Trademark Searching

The selection of a name to identify goods or services should include searching for similar marks at the federal, state and common-law level BEFORE any money is spent on printing business cards, letterhead, checks, and product packaging. Individuals interested in naming a service or product utilize the OSU PTDL Trademark Search services to determine if other confusingly similar marks have been registered at the federal level. The staff of the OSU PTDL will perform the search of federally registered and pending marks for a small fee. Search results are mailed first class, and are accompanied by an informational packet.

### 4. Informational Materials and Seminars

The OSU PTDL provides literature via mail and the Internet regarding Intellectual Property topics. Also, informational seminars are available for all age-levels on topics including but not limited to, Basics of Intellectual Property, African-American Inventors, Young Inventors, Patent Searching on the Internet, Patent Searching in the Engineering Classroom, and Patents & Trademarks as Scholarly Research Tools.

### 5. Document Delivery

The OSU PTDL accepts request for patent document delivery by phone/fax/email. Copies of patents are mailed or faxed within 24 hours of receipt of order.

For more information regarding the OSU Patent & Trademark Library, or the services offered by the staff, contact Julia Crawford at (405) 744-7086, [juliac@okstate.edu](mailto:juliac@okstate.edu), or visit the website at <http://www.library.okstate.edu/dept/patents/>.

## NEWS

- ◆ From **FRANCINE J. FISK** at McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa:
  - **LORI N. CURTIS** has been appointed the new Head of Special Collections. Curtis has been with TU since 1987, most recently serving as Associate Curator of Special Collections. She received her Masters of Library Science degree in 1987 from the University of California at Los Angeles with emphasis in special collections administration. She received her Master of Arts in history from the University of California at Riverside and her Bachelors of Science in social studies and history from Pacific Union College, where she also minored in library science. As Head of Special Collections, Curtis will provide leadership, planning and overall management of the activities of the department, including book collections, manuscripts, archives and preservation.
  - **MARC CARLSON** was recently appointed as an Asst. Librarian at the University of Tulsa's McFarlin Library. Marc works in Reference and Interlibrary Loan. He received his MLIS from the University of Oklahoma, and he has a BA in History and Anthropology. Marc previously worked as a part-time Reference Librarian at Tulsa Community College and in various paraprofessional capacities in McFarlin Library.
- ◆ Friends of the OSU Library welcomes Doris Kearns Goodwin as the 1999 H. Louise Cobb Distinguished Author to Stillwater Friday, Nov. 5. For ticket information, (405)744-7331 or e-mail [sherry@okstate.edu](mailto:sherry@okstate.edu).



## MELVIN B. TOLSON

### BLACK HERITAGE CENTER:

### ▲ HIGHLIGHT

Langston University was founded in 1897 as Oklahoma's Colored Agricultural and Normal University. An important addition came to life in January 1970 when Langston's Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center opened. The Black Heritage Center is a special library with a three-fold purpose: to acquire materials concerning the black experience in the U.S. and the world, to meet the research needs of the students and faculty of the University, and to provide research materials for scholars in the southwestern United States. Initial funding for the Black Heritage Center was obtained by Oklahoma State Representative A. Visanio Johnson who secured grants from the Oklahoma Historical Society to purchase materials for the collection.

Today's Black Heritage Center houses more than 10,000 print volumes, a selection of microforms and videos, and a collection of current black newspapers and periodicals. The Black Heritage Center also features an interesting collection of African and African American arts and crafts. Several glass cases display African jewelry, knives, tools and other artifacts. Other display cases feature memorabilia from Langston University's early days and a selection of post-reconstruction caricatures of African Americans. Walls of the Center are decorated with posters concerning African American history, artwork by past and present Langston staff and students, and examples of traditional African clothing crafted from the brightly colored fabric known as kente cloth. The Center also hosts speakers and other programs for the enlightenment of Langston students, faculty, and the community. The 1998-99 school year featured three speakers from the Oklahoma Territorial Speakers group. Langston students are fond of the quiet, open study space equipped with plenty of comfortable chairs, sofas, and study tables.

One outstanding feature of the Black Heritage Center, according to Curator Bettye Black, is the excellent collection of African American fiction. Ms. Black says the collection contains many obscure items not found in other libraries. These items make the BHC a popular interlibrary loan site throughout the region and the country. At times, interlibrary loan circulation rivals on-campus circulation.

The Black Heritage Center is open to the students and faculty of the University, as well as to members of the community and scholars doing research in the areas of

African and African American studies. The Center is open whenever the University is in session and during parts of the intersessions. The Center has a small staff featuring a Curator, Ms. Bettye Black; an Assistant Curator, Mr. Edward Grady; and a staff assistant, Ms. Betty Brown. Work study students help out at the circulation desk and in the stack area. The Center is a closed-stack library. Patrons must request the materials they need at the circulation desk to be retrieved from the stacks by a staff member. With some exceptions, materials housed in the BHC may be checked-out by current LU students or faculty or requested through interlibrary loan.

Melvin B. Tolson, for whom the Black Heritage Center was named, was an internationally known poet and playwright who taught English and drama at LU from 1947 - 1965. His major works include *Libretto for the Republic of Liberia* and *Harlem Gallery*. In addition to his teaching and writing, he was appointed Poet Laureate of Liberia in 1947 and won the poetry award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1965. Tolson also served as mayor of the city of Langston for four terms. A critical biography of Tolson entitled *Melvin B. Tolson*, was written by Langston professor Joy Flasch and published in 1972 by Twayne Publishing as part of their United States Authors series.

More information about the Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center is available by contacting Ms. Bettye Black, Curator, 405-466-3239.

## NEWS

- ◆ From **BETH FREEMAN** at OSU-Tulsa...OSU-Tulsa Library added eight databases to support engineering, business, computing, telecommunications and education programs on campus, but they are available to the public. The additions include *Congressional Universe*, *Dow Jones Interactive*, *Engineering Information Village*, *Stat-USA*, *Statistical Universe*, and *Telecom*.
- ◆ OSU will celebrate the acquisitions of its two-millionth volume (*Schoolcraft's Indians of the United States 1851-1857*) Thursday, Sept. 30 at 10:30 am on the Edmon Low Library's South Lawn. Pulitzer Prize winner Scott Momaday will keynote.
- ◆ OSU welcomes new documents librarian **TANYA FINCHUM**. Tanya received her Library Science degree at the University of Tennessee and received a Masters Degree in Rehab Counseling from University of Cincinnati. She can be reached at (405)744-6546 or [ftanya@okstate.edu](mailto:ftanya@okstate.edu).



## **OK/ACRL OFFICERS 1999**

President-THOMAS THORISCH  
Tulsa Community College  
10300 E. 81st Street S.  
Tulsa, OK 74133  
tthorisc@tulsa.cc.ok.us

Vice-President/President Elect-SUSAN HAHN  
University of Oklahoma  
Bizzell Library  
Norman, OK 73019  
shahn@ou.edu

Past-President-RHONDA TAYLOR  
University of Oklahoma, SLIS  
401 W. Brooks, Rm. 120  
Norman, OK 73019-0528  
rtaylor@ou.edu

Secretary-JULIA CRAWFORD  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
juliac@okstate.edu

Treasurer-LAURA BOTTOMS  
Rogers University  
Thunderbird Library  
1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd  
Claremore, OK 74017-3252  
LBottoms@rsu.edu

Board Members  
DARCY RANKIN  
Langston University  
Langston, OK 74820  
darankin@lunet.edu

ANNE PRESTAMO  
Edmon Low Library  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
prestam@okstate.edu

BETSY TONN  
University of Central Oklahoma Library  
100 N. University Dr.  
Edmond, OK 73134  
btonn@ucok.edu

OBIC Chair - EDWIN WILES  
Dulaney-Browne Library  
Oklahoma City University  
2501 Blackwelder  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
emwiles@frodo.okcu.edu

## **RACING TOWARD TOMORROW:**

### **A PERSONAL LOOK AT ACRL'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

This was my second ACRL national convention attended and hopefully my last convention in Detroit. The convention was held at Detroit's old and worn CABO Convention Center. Detroit, symbolizing the automobile culture, has a poor public transit system and a road system needing major repair. To save some money I elected to stay at the Hyatt @ Dearborn, not realizing the distance the Convention Center was from my hotel. Walking was not encouraged due to the distance and the propensity of roadway blocking any type of a safe and friendly sidewalk. Bus transportation provided by ACRL was only once an hour creating some long lines during the early morning.

The four-day conference was very interesting but presented a challenge to catch all of the scheduled papers and panel discussions that seem attractive. One of the most discussed topics was distance education-specifically 1) what librarians can do with electronic resources to improve their delivery to the end users and 2) how librarians can provide reference services and electronic resources to the end user.

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ◆ A University of New Orleans librarian surveyed UNO faculty use of e-journals. She found 61% of the faculty has used e-journals during 1998, and more than 90% usage by the physics faculty.
- ◆ Besides full text e-journals, Stanford's Linear Accelerator Center is also indexing pre-e-prints, which are pre-publications available only through the internet and are heavily used in physics for immediate dissemination of experimental results. A lively discussion focused on how these full text e-prints alter traditional library work, affecting workload and cataloging.
- ◆ Net Library ([www.netlibrary.com](http://www.netlibrary.com)) attracted crowds with their full-text e-books database. One can search for words within the book text or print out the entire book.
- ◆ The folks at *Choice* were pushing their electronic version of the magazine. For the price of two paper subscriptions, a library can have access to the electronic version of their magazine plus a paper copy for archival purposes.

Good food and music were provided at evening functions held at the Museum of African American History (Friday night) and the Henry Ford Museum (Saturday night). ACRL librarians should consider attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference scheduled for Denver during March 15-18, 2001. It is a great way to keep abreast of new products, current library research and trends in public and technical services.

**STEVE LOCY, OSU**