

Academic & Special Libraries Section Report

January 2007

Submitted by Jamie Kearley, Section Chair

Jamie Kearley, Chair, Karen Lange, Chair-Elect, and Debbie McCarthy, Secretary met in early December to discuss the content of the WLA Executive Council retreat and its implications for the Academic Section. As a result of our discussion Debbie agreed to review our by-laws to determine if any changes or enhancements need to be made. Two things at our annual meeting during WLA indicated a need to do this. First, we were unable to elect officers because we did not have a quorum. Subsequently, an email ballot was used following the meeting to elect officers. Second, was a discussion regarding the content of the WLA annual conference and the low of participation of academic librarians in this year's conference. It was also noted that we have not included technical services and special libraries in the programming. Members voiced the need for a section dinner and roundtable discussions at the annual conference. Other topics for programs included:

- Assessment - how to measure quality and how to create a good survey
- Technical Services
 - There is no TS section in WLA – is that something that this section could push for?
 - AV cataloging
 - FRBR
 - Metadata
- Teaching
- Rare books - both preservation and collection under less than ideal conditions
- Accreditation
- Statistics - how to collect and present meaningful statistics
- Distance education

Karen agreed to develop survey questions to poll members and non-member academic librarians to get a broad picture of who we are and the professional needs of the section members.