

The Basement Blotter



volume two issue one

american library association -- student chapter

august/september 2004

Sharing ^{the} Wheel

Knuth to bring collaborative style to leadership position

By Wendy Ikemoto
Blotter Co-Editor

This fall marks the beginning of Dr. Rebecca Knuth's two-year term as University of Hawai'i at Manoa Library and Information Science program chair.

"It is management, but it's a very collegial type of management," said Knuth of the position. "I don't think of myself as anybody's boss; I think of myself as a facilitator rather than running or driving or anything. We have a great program. I think the previous chairs contributed an incredible amount to the way it runs, to the ethos, to the logistics, and I would like to keep everything coming right along, and if we can think of anything else that needs to be improved, then that's a good goal too."

Knuth joined the UHM LIS program in 1995 as an assistant professor and has since established herself as an excellent educator, teaching classes on subjects such as intellectual freedom and children's and young adult materials and services. This semester she will be teaching history of books and libraries and coordinating the internship program. "One of the rewarding things about being a professor for me is the idea that it's my job to read a million books, think about things, and then

write," said Knuth. "That amazes me every day, that I actually have a job doing that cause that's the thing that really excites me. I consider it an incredible privilege to be a professor."

One of Knuth's most notable pursuits is in the field of censorship and intellectual freedom. Through her efforts, UHM's first course on intellectual freedom was established three years ago. In addition, last year she published her first book titled "Libricide: The Regime-Sponsored Destruction of Books and Libraries in the Twentieth Century." She is currently working on a second book that will focus on biblioclasm, which deals with extreme mindsets and the destruction of books and libraries. Her dedication to intellectual freedom earned her the inaugural ALA-SC Dr. Sarah K. Vann Professional Service Award in May.

"I wanted to find something that I could make my own that really had a lot of substance to it and could be of contribution," said Knuth of her interest in libricide. "All of the things that I'd been doing just sort of converged onto this idea of the destruction of books because in a sense, that's quintessential international librarianship. And one of the things you discover

> see knuth page 3



"I want people to feel good when they're around me, and I want them to feel good about the program"

-- Dr. Rebecca Knuth
LIS Program Chair

upcoming ala-sc events

**hla silent auction
planning meeting**

thursday, sept. 2, 4 p.m.
hl 1 (behind the diner)

ala-sc/sla-asist bake sale

thursday, sept. 2
lis diner

**general membership
meeting**

thursday, sept. 30, 4 p.m.
lis reading area

beach party

sunday, sept. 19
stay tuned for details

www2.hawaii.edu/~alasc

Students glimpse historic collection

By Lillian Nicolich
ALA-SC Vice President

On July 12, a small group of ALA-SC members enjoyed a stroll through Hawaiian history as they took a private guided tour of the Bishop Museum Library and Archives. In the short but informative tour, students glimpsed images of a long-forgotten past in both the library and archives.

The library and archives are two separate collections, each with its own unique materials and access policies. The library contains historical published books and materials that, while requiring special handling, can be accessed directly by patrons. Over 50,000 books and

volumes call the library home. In addition, the library subscribes to over 1,000 periodicals and houses close to 3,000 inactive titles. Newspapers in Hawaiian, Japanese and English reflecting the diverse peoples of Hawai'i are also available on microform and microfiche.

Librarian Patty Lei Belcher donned special white gloves to showcase some of the library's prized possessions to the enthusiastic reception of students. Highlights included one of Captain Cook's journals and a signed copy of Queen Lili'uokalani's autobiography, a source once used in court to authenticate her signature on other documents.

In contrast to the library, the archives contain a number of unpublished documents and other materials that can only be accessed by the archivists. Archives Collection Manager DeSoto Brown outlined various media that are made available to the public, noting that collection materials included photographs, original art, sound recordings, moving images and journals. Some of the sound recordings and moving images in the archives need to be played on special equipment. The ALA-SC group was treated to a sample of this as they viewed a silent, black-and-white recording of a surfing dog, and listened

> see bishop page 4



**american
library
association**
university of
hawai'i at manoa
student chapter
Established Feb. 4, 1992

hamilton library
ground floor
2550 mcCarthy mall
honolulu, hawai'i 96822

president
lori ann saeki

vice president
lillian nicolich

secretary
mona kwon

treasurer
jenn ogg

faculty advisor
andrew wertheimer

blotter co-editors
wendy ikemoto
lori ann saeki

The Basement Blotter is the news-
letter of the American Library As-
sociation – Student Chapter at the
University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Its
editorial content reflects only the
views of its editors and contributors,
who are solely responsible for its
content. No material that appears
in The Basement Blotter may be
reprinted or republished in any
medium without permission.

© 2004

from your ala-sc officers



All the world's a classroom

Joining student organizations helps your career

After remaining awake until the sunrise the last couple of months, watching television infomercials and ordering various blender-like products over the Internet, I have found myself

eagerly awaiting the start of another semester of library school.

We have entered an exciting time in the world of library and information science, as the humanistic and technological aspects of librarianship continue to evolve together to develop new approaches to sharing information. This excitement is reflected in the record number of new students enrolling in the LIS program each semester.

We are fortunate to find ourselves in a fabulous program that vigorously pursues the science of information while remaining firmly rooted in a goal of public service. But as with any profession, the classroom can only be a small part of a library student's learning experience.

That is why we hope that you will become an active member of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa American Library Association Student Chapter, whether you are entering your first semester or your fifth semester in the program. The ALA-SC aims to enhance your LIS experience by offering students the opportunity to join academic philosophy with practical expertise. Through events and activities planned and put together by you and your fellow students, our chapter strives to embody the ALA's mission "to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all."

This spring, the ALA-SC was nationally recognized by the ALA New Members Round Table when we were chosen as runner-up student chapter of the year. We are constantly in need of help from students like yourself to remain at this high standard we have set, and whatever your skills or interests, there is an opportunity for you to get involved with the ALA-SC. You can:

- join the Silent Auction Committee and help us solicit donations for the silent auction at this year's Hawai'i Library Association Conference, our major biennial fund-raising event;
- join the Service Committee and lead tours of Hamilton Library to students and other members of the university community;
- join the Academic Programs Committee and help plan and coordinate brownbag lectures by local and visiting professionals;
- become a staff writer or photographer for The Basement Blotter, the ALA-SC newsletter, now in its second semester;
- or join the Social Programs Committee and help plan ALA-SC parties.

We greatly appreciate and eagerly await your participation in the student chapter, however much or little the time and effort you can commit. Without you, the student, our chapter cannot flourish.

Please visit the ALA-SC Web site at www2.hawaii.edu/~alasc to keep up to date with the latest student chapter news, events and activities.

Lori Ann Saeki
ALA-SC President

when you research why people destroy books is what function books and libraries have and what they mean to a society, because they must be pretty important if people are going through all this trouble to destroy them."

Aside from her work in intellectual freedom, Knuth is well known for her open and inspirational personality. "I would say that the reason I like Dr. Knuth is because she is such a free spirit," said ALA-SC treasurer Jenn Ogg. Added ALA-SC vice president Lillian Nicolich: "As a human being, she's such a warm person and she really respects students as individuals. As a teacher, she makes you question your assumptions, but she provides such a safe, supportive environment that it really encourages you to learn and grow."

One of Knuth's goals as chair is to maintain the LIS program's current positive atmosphere. "I think the most important thing is to have a really high quality program and a lot of happy students, because if we have happy students, it's an indicator we're doing things right," said Knuth. "I think the students want to learn meaningful things; they want to expand and grow. They want to have a sense that they belong to something good, something worthwhile."

Knuth herself is a student and lifelong learner. "My general philosophy is that a class is a community of learners and I'm one of the learners," noted Knuth. "The distinction is that I structure the class and organize it, but I'm a participant to." In fact, since becoming a UHM LIS professor, Knuth has taken five classes in departments such as history, political science and psychology. "I do that for a couple of reasons. One, I want to know the content of those classes, but I also think it's really important to continue to be a learner and to continue to remember what it's like to be on the learning end of the situation."

Said associate professor Dr. Violet Harada: "I think Dr. Knuth's strength is her sincere concern for students. She assumes the chairship

during a time when we will once again be preparing for accreditation. I sincerely hope she will provide the kind of collaborative leadership that will be needed to accomplish this challenging task."

Coordinating accreditation activities will be one of Knuth's most demanding projects. "I see my role as the chair as sort of keeping the program on track and functioning well and student-oriented while we have to go through the various report writing, data collection, stressful kind of activities that are part of accreditation. ... It will be a challenge to find the resources, energy and time to do a really good job with accreditation and to get everyone to kind of pull together because we have to ask the alumni for help, the students for help. It's a large project, so I see that as something that's going to take a lot of our time and energy."

A marked increase in student enrollment also has Knuth working towards opening another faculty crossover position. "I think it has added immensely to the program that we have been able to attract so many kinds of people with different backgrounds because that's a strength of the program. I think there's room for people with an academic orientation, people orientation and technology orientation. But I still love it when somebody says I want to join the program because I love books."

Knuth has previous administrative experience, having served as chair for the Communications and Information Sciences interdisciplinary doctoral program from 1998 to 2001. "Being an administrator is dealing in the art of the possible. ... You learn that sometimes people aren't going to be happy and that's okay. It's a positive thing for me to understand, because I think that a lot of people, especially librarians, want to please everybody all the time. We want to be a personal full service operation all the time and that once you become an administrator you can't please all the people all the time. You've got to learn to live with that and not let it make you nega-

tive and not take away from your desire to please people, to help people."

LIS program chair is a rotated duty among the faculty. Each serves a term of two years. Faculty at UHM has three basic responsibilities: teaching, research (creating new knowledge) and service. The LIS chair must continue to fulfill all three of these requirements while adding administrative duties to their priorities.

"I've seen in the past how difficult it is to be chair and to keep one's own research life going and also not to just get stressed and have it affect one's health," said Knuth. "I have a really strong goal that I want to be a good chair, but I don't want to be a sacrificial lamb. ... I want to be a happy chair; I want people to feel good when they're around me, and I want them to feel good about the program, and I don't want to put my stresses on the people I encounter by complaining or wilting visibly or getting cranky.

"Curses, she's so good," said Knuth of Dr. Diane Nahl, the previous LIS chair. "Diane Nahl was an incredible asset and contributed so much to the program. I benefit from the fact that she left a lot of copious notes and schedules so I don't have to invent everything from scratch. I appreciate that."

Overall, Knuth would like to see students enriched by the LIS experience. "On a personal level, I want them to know that they can set a goal and achieve that goal, to have a sense of confidence and esteem that they achieved a master's program. I think I would like them to leave with a sense of being part of a profession and having some of the basic understandings and tools of that profession. I would like them to leave with the excitement that now they learned a lot of things and be excited about that next step of applying them in a work situation.

"I think the most rewarding part (of being a professor) is following the progress of the students and seeing them follow through to the other end."

now on the shelves

@ your library

Humanizing Information Technology

Julian Warner
Z665 .W27 2004

Digitizing Collections: Strategic Issues for the Information Manager

Lorna M. Hughes
Z681.3.D53 H84 2004

Map Librarianship: An Introduction

Mary Larsgaard
Z692.M3 L37

Digital Libraries: The Life Cycle of Information

Su-Shing Chen
Z699.35.I53 C44 1998

Lost Libraries: The Destruction of Great Book Collections Since Antiquity

James Raven, Editor
Z721 .L67 2004

Women as Scribes: Book Production and Monastic Reform in Twelfth-Century Bavaria

Alison I. Beach
Z801.B3 B43 2004

Memorial Volumes to Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust: A Bibliography of British Library Holdings

Ilana Tahan, Compiler
Z6374.H6 T34 2004

IssueWeb: A Guide and Sourcebook for Researching Controversial Issues on the Web

Karen R. Diaz and Nancy O'Hanlon
ZA4228 .D53 2004



photo by wendy ikemoto

In the Bishop Museum Library reading room, a converted hallway, Librarian Patty Belcher showed the ALA-SC group some of the historic publications in the museum's collection.

bishop

from page one

to a Hawaiian chant recorded on a cylinder.

Generally, patrons must request documents from the archivists, instead of retrieving items themselves. In the case of written documents, archivists assemble a packet of copies of the requested materials for the patron to peruse, while the originals are kept in the archive. The archives' extensive collection of over one million photographs is their most popular offering and is often requested by screenwriters, set designers, magazines, and film and television producers. Researchers and writers also like to peruse journals and other unpublished documents, as well as

photographs and original recordings, including some produced in the Hawaiian language.

The ALA-SC group was both delighted and excited to discover this treasure trove of Hawaiian history available to the public and wish to thank the Bishop Museum Library and Archives staff for their kind hospitality.

The Bishop Museum contains one of the world's most extensive collections focusing on Hawai'i and the Pacific. Additional information on the Bishop Museum Library and Archives can be found at www.bishopmuseum.org by clicking on the link for Library/Archives.

national news

DOJ docs won't be destroyed

Blotter Staff

Following an ALA-submitted Freedom of Information Act inquiry, the U.S. Department of Justice withdrew its request that the Government Printing Office order depository libraries to destroy documents the department deemed not "appropriate for external use."

The ALA filed a request for the withdrawn materials under the Freedom of Information Act in late July, forcing the Justice Department to either rescind its request or provide a satisfactory reason under one of the act's nine exemptions to withhold the documents.

"Our only interest in this issue is that we want to ensure that public documents remain available to the public," said ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano in a press release.

The Justice Department reversed its decision on July 30, 10 days after Superintendent of Documents Judith C. Russell issued the order to destroy the five documents the department described as "training materials and other materials that the Department of Justice staff did not feel were appropriate for external use."

The documents the department wanted removed were Civil and Criminal Forfeiture Procedure, Select Criminal Forfeiture Forms, Select Federal Asset Forfeiture Statutes, Asset forfeiture and money laundering resource directory, and Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act of 2000.

"There's no excuse for them to ask libraries to destroy these materials, and no reason in the world to ask libraries to destroy statutes," Office of Government Relations Deputy Director Patrice McDermott told American Libraries.

Hamilton Library's Government Documents Collection, a federal depository collection, had partially complied with the

order, but was able to return the items to the stacks.

"We had taken them off the shelf and deleted the records from the online catalog, but we hadn't 'done away with them' yet," said Gwen Sinclair, head of government documents and maps.

Sinclair added that the Hawai'i State Library had destroyed its copies of the documents, but the government is printing new copies for those libraries that did so.

Libraries aided for human rights

The Lahaina Public Library is one of 300 libraries nationwide that will receive free films as part of the Human Rights Video Project.

The ALA Public Programs Office and National Video Resources will send to selected libraries 12 videos and supporting materials on human rights. In addition, 50 of these libraries will receive \$750 to present public programs on human rights topics in partnership with a nonprofit community activist organization.

A panel of librarians, filmmakers and human rights professionals selected the video collection, which covers topics such as globalization and labor rights, landmines, the prison industry in the United States, sexual violence in war, police brutality, disability rights, rights to education, justice for torture victims, globalization and International Monetary Fund policies, post-apartheid South Africa, Israel and the Palestinians, AIDS in Africa, and U.S. immigration and political asylum.

The Human Rights Video Project aims to increase public awareness of human rights issues through documentary films. Information on the project and a complete list of participating libraries can be found on the project's Web site at www.humanrightsproject.org.

We Need Your Help!

Join the ALA-SC Silent Auction Committee

ALA-SC is co-sponsoring the silent auction at this year's Hawai'i Library Association Conference, and we need students to help solicit donations from local businesses.



**HLA Silent Auction
Planning Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 2
HL 1, 4 p.m.**

For more information,
visit the ALA-SC
Web site at
www2.hawaii.edu/~alasc