



Association for Library Collections & Technical Services Annual Report 2004–2005

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As articulated in its strategic plan for 2001–2005, the mission of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) is to provide leadership to the library and information communities in developing principles, standards, and best practices for creating, collecting, organizing, delivering, and preserving information resources in all forms. ALCTS strives to provide this leadership through its members by fostering educational, research, and professional service opportunities. Of the many objectives included in the ALCTS strategic plan, the division focused during 2004–2005 on three: strategic planning, organization, and education.

Strategic Planning

With ALA very engaged in the creation of its ALA Ahead to 2010 strategic plan, ALCTS extended the time frame on its existing strategic plan through 2006. This approach will allow the division to develop its next strategic plan on the same timeline as the ALA 2010 plan. As initial steps, the division hosted a planning retreat of its leaders during the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando. This afternoon session was facilitated by Maureen Sullivan and was informed by a survey of ALCTS leaders conducted in advance of the retreat. The survey asked three questions:

- What is ALCTS doing right that it should continue doing?
- What is ALCTS not doing well or not doing that it should be doing?
- What areas, issues, and activities should ALCTS focus on in the near future?

This survey and the planning retreat also providing the grist for our planning committee to continue development of our 2006–2011 strategic plan. Our goal is to approve the plan at the Midwinter Meeting 2006 for implementation on July 1, 2006.

in concert with ALA's advocacy plan, ALCTS has taken more active steps to represent policy issues of interest to our members. In particular, we have endorsed policy statements from partner organizations, such as the Association of Research Libraries. We anticipate increased focus on this area in the coming year.

Organization

At the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando, ALCTS gave careful attention to its financial health and the need for increases in dues and subscriptions to

Library Resources & Technical Services (LRTS). It had been ten years since the last increase in ALCTS dues. Despite intensive efforts to contain costs, we had reached a point where existing services and products would begin to suffer without additional support. The ALCTS board, therefore, determined that an increase in dues was required to ensure ALCTS's health and continued development. After more than three years of strategic and tactical planning experience, our plans and services for members were well-formed and in high demand. For example, our venture into Web-based continuing education has been highly successful, with waiting lists for each offering. In order to develop new courses, additional development funds were needed. Once new content is developed, staff support for technology and the instructors is needed. These are the sorts of high-quality member services we wish to maintain and expand. At the Orlando Conference, the ALCTS board approved increases (see table 1) to become effective September 1, 2004. Personal members of ALCTS continue to receive their LRTS subscription as part of their membership fee.

Education

Continuing education is a key service provided by ALCTS for its membership. Success in this arena has spanned the spectrum of regional institutes, preconferences, conference programs, and Web-based fundamentals courses. The delivery of continuing education must evolve and be re-imagined on a regular basis. The financial success of this program is fundamental to the health of the division.

Beginning in 2005, ALCTS adopted a new concept for preconferences. They continue to span the two days before the beginning of the ALA Conference, usually Thursday and Friday. These days are now broken into four segments: Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon, Friday morning, and Friday afternoon. Individual attendees continue to pur-

Table 1. Rate increases

	Membership dues (\$)	
	From	To
Personal	45	55
Institutional	55	65
Support staff	new category	25
Student	15	15
LRTS Subscription fees for nonmembers (\$)		
	From	To
U.S.	55	75
Foreign	65	85

chase a full day of content, but they can now pick and chose among the four offerings. For example, one individual might be interested in the segments running on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Another individual might prefer Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon, leaving them free to attend a committee meeting on Friday morning. This new approach has proven successful and provided considerable flexibility for division members.

Building on the sustained success of the fundamentals of acquisitions Web-based course, active work by our education committee and individual division sections has resulted in plans for new content in the "Fundamentals of . . ." series of Web-based courses. Watch for the Advanced Fundamentals of Acquisitions, Fundamentals of Collection Development, and more in the coming months.

ALCTS' Council on Regional Groups (CRG), one of six sections within ALCTS, is a unique entity. It is composed of members who are actively involved in regional groups in the area of technical services and collections. Over the past year, CRG's role in the division has been enhanced, including the creation of a Continuing Education Committee. This committee will enhance the division's efforts in providing regional training opportunities in concert with these affiliated groups.