

I attended the ALA CLA joint annual meeting in Toronto in June. I attended the RLG Shares Roundtable, the RLG Shares Practitioners' Council, the RUSA MOUSS ILL meeting, and the OCLC/ILLiad user group meeting. I renewed acquaintance with some of my new Midwinter ILL friends in Toronto. The big topic at the Shares Roundtable and Practitioners' Council was the retirement of the RLG ILL mainframe system and the migration to a peer-to-peer environment. Many Shares members are ILLiad users, so much discussion was focused on whether ILLiad and ILL Manager (RLG's equivalent of ILLiad) will interoperate. At the time of the meeting, RLIN ILL was still in operation, so there was much anxiety and speculation on how things will be in the new environment. At the RUSA MOUSS ILL meeting, there were two excellent presentations on copyright, one from the U.S. view and one from the Canadian view. There was also a presentation on the ARL interlibrary loan cost study. The ARL presentation was a bit of a disappointment, as the presenters could not answer many of the detailed questions about the data. There were questions from people who had participated in previous cost studies; they were not very satisfied with the answers given by Mary Jackson and Bruce Kingma. Announcements about the new section of ALA were made and ballots collected; the ballot to create the new section is expected to pass and the new section to begin activities in 2004.

I also attended an ILL full day preconference on Friday. There were presentations on open source software, implementation of ILLiad and implementation of ILL manager. The presentation on ILL Manager by Kimberly Burke Sweetman of NYU was especially good. Kimberly clearly outlined the process of bringing NYU's ILL operation from already excellent to even more excellent, through the installation of RLG's web based ILL management system. Her remarks on what she learned during the planning are especially valuable to anyone who will be undertaking the same kind of project. After the preconference, there was a dinner attended by many of the participants; it had been arranged by Mary Hollerich, the moderator of the ILL-L listserv. The dinner was a good opportunity to network and tell war stories about ILL experiences. What always emerges from meetings with other ILL practitioners is suggestions for best practices and new ways to look at old problems. It's always good to hear the insights of other practitioners. One topic that always comes up in ILL meetings is licensing agreements and how they affect resource sharing. Everyone agrees Elsevier will soon rule the world.

The OCLC/ILLiad user group didn't have much news, as the Atlas Systems person who was supposed to attend was not well and could not attend the conference.