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I have wanted to attend an ALA conference ever since I started library school. Traveling to distant cities on a student's budget, though, has made that impossible, so I considered myself lucky when I found out that ALA's annual conference would be in Atlanta this year.

I am from Atlanta and arranged to stay with a friend while attending the conference, which made the trip affordable. Now that I've gone, I am so glad that I took the opportunity to attend.

Having the conference in Atlanta this year was particularly good timing. I graduated from library school in May and hoped to use the placement service to find a job. I found a job before the conference began,

but I decided to attend anyway. I figured that attending the conference would be a good way to start my professional career. Also, I wanted to be able to say that I had "been there, done that." I assumed that attending once during my career would be enough, but was I ever wrong.

I enjoyed my experience at ALA's annual conference more than I imagined I would. The opening session alone was worth the trip. Robert Hughes' rousing speech made me proud to be a librarian. On top of that, the sessions I attended taught me things that I hadn't learned in library school.

Just being around librarians from across the country gave me a sense of community and helped me get an idea of what's

going on in the real world of libraries, and I can't forget to say something about all the freebies. While my shoulders were killing me by the end of the first day as a result of carrying around bags of free stuff given away by the vendors, it was worth it. I got lots of posters, candy, and tote bags, enough to outfit a small army of librarians.

This year I attended ALA's annual conference because it was close by and affordable, and I wanted to go just once. By the end of the first day, though, I had already decided to scrape my pennies together to

## What's Happening in State NMRTs?

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) New Members Round Table (NMRT) is a small group, but it has had an active year. This year's innovations included several exciting programs at the annual NLA conference, including one in which Kayoko Murakami (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Hiroki Takakuwa (Kyoto University, Japan) talked about their survey of Nebraska's public libraries and their Internet access.

We also featured a program commemorating the Centennial of the Nebraska Library Commission, featuring library historians Christine Pawley (University of Iowa), Andrew Wertheimer (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and the commission's Deputy Director, Nancy Busch.

Additionally, we sponsored a reception, where we presented our annual Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award and NMRT Mentor of the Year Award, which went to Karen Hein and Sally Payne. This spring, the NMRT cooperated with the NLA's two other roundtables to offer a combined spring meeting in the center of the state on the theme of "Technology @ Your Library." Several NMRT members

gave talks, which helped add to the event's success.

One innovation this year was "Conference Connections," a program that pairs new members with a mentor, thus allowing new members to learn the ropes of attending NLA annual conferences. We're also pleased to announce that our members will receive our newsletter, *Starting Line*, in the mail a few times per year rather than only picking them up at conferences thanks to efforts of editor, Kira Barnes. People interested in the NLA NMRT can log onto our web page (moderated by Allana Novotny) at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/NMRT/>. I'd like to thank our other current officers: Vice Chair Charity Martin, Past Chair Scott Childers, Treasurer Mary Ellen Ducey, Secretary Sally Gibson, and Awards Coordinator Trudy de Goede, as well as our incoming officers.

*Footnotes plans to make What's Happening in State NMRTs a regular column. We invite all state NMRT chapters to submit a brief article describing a new or innovative concept/event. Please submit articles to Jennifer Knievel at [jennifer.knievel@colorado.edu](mailto:jennifer.knievel@colorado.edu).*

# Resume Review Service Enjoys Success

Laura Kortz

Research Literacy/ Weekend and Evening Librarian, Teachers College, Columbia University

- Volunteering ... was one of the best things I did at the annual conference.
- As a new member to the profession, it's great to be able to provide advice and encouragement to others who are also new.
- I enjoyed the experience — it was nice to get to talk to people who are in the same situation I'll be in about a year from now!
- I had a wonderful time ... I only wish that I had volunteered for another session.
- It was fun, and I'll do it again at Midwinter if I see the announcement in time to sign up!
- This is one of my favorite ALA activities!

Question: What are all these happy people talking about? What library function could possibly elicit such enthusiastic responses?

Answer: The Onsite Resume Reviewing Service at the ALA Placement Center at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, also known as the New Members Round Table (NMRT) Comfort Station.

From the time it opened up on Friday, June

14 at approximately 1 p.m., the NMRT Comfort Station at the ALA Placement Center was bustling with reviewers, NMRT volunteers and job seekers who wanted their resumes reviewed by librarians with experience in hiring, search committees and human resources.

Over the four days we were open, 108 job seekers stopped by to meet with more than 30 resume reviewers. Job seekers included current library school students as well as more experienced librarians; they came from places as far away as Romania and Nepal.

As usual, the pool of reviewers was excellent and institutions represented included Harvard University, Phoenix University, New York University, The New York Public Library, Wayne State, NASA and Rand, the think-tank. Reviewers included university librarians, heads of departments, human resource directors, associate and assistant directors and the president of an ALA division.

My thanks to members of Resume Review Service committee, especially co-chairs

Rich Murray and Vanessa Burford, for making this possible. The following NMRT members are also owed many thanks: Ann Snoeyenbos, Ann Dykas, Beth Evans, Jennifer McCarty, Nanette Wargo, Jessica Placke, Genevieve Gallagher, Caroline Cason, Laurel Bliss, Mark Wendt, Valerie Byrd, Catherine Wong, Gaye Hinchcliff, Amanda Roberts and Smita Parkhe.

The Resume Review Service is a year-round service whereby NMRT members can have their resumes and cover letters critiqued by experienced librarians. For more information on the mail-in service, please contact Vanessa Burford at [vburford@utsa.edu](mailto:vburford@utsa.edu) or take a look at <http://www.ala.org/nmrt/resrev.html>.

Resume reviewing is also available at the Midwinter and Annual conferences, in the ALA Placement Center. For more information on having your resume reviewed or volunteering at the Comfort Station or as a reviewer, please contact Laura Kortz at [lk2002@columbia.edu](mailto:lk2002@columbia.edu). Remember, a successful job hunt begins with a great resume!

## 2002 ALA Student Chapter Award Winners Announced

The winner of the 2002 ALA Student Chapter of the Year Award is Clarion University of Pennsylvania's chapter. The ALA New Members Round Table (NMRT) presents the award. The runner-up for this year's annsylvanN0.06570mTw (a Tw (ho0 -5d-0.2913 Tl Bnce

As many of you may know from past Footnotes articles, the Archives Committee has been busy updating Archives policies to address the new electronic document realities being faced by the New Members Round Table (NMRT) and virtually every other organization.

At the same time, the Documents Digitization Taskforce has been hard at work digitizing older archives material, namely minutes of Executive Board meetings going back to 1978, and making them accessible to the NMRT membership via a web-based database, complete with complex search capabilities.

As of the annual conference in Atlanta in mid-June 2002, the Document Digitization Taskforce has been absorbed into the Archives Committee. The activities of both will continue, but under the broad umbrella of Archives being led by Sherise Kimura, co-chair from Archives and Anna Ferris, co-chair from the former Digitization Taskforce.

The task ahead, however, is a large one. The newly enhanced Archives Committee will now begin to tackle the broader domain of records management, inclusive of new and older, more traditionally archivable documents. This will initially involve gathering information on all types of documents produced in an official capacity by NMRT members. As a matter of fact, in this respect, Archives Committee members have already contacted many of the officers and committee chairs. The information thus gathered will aid in the setting up of retention schedules for the various types of documents produced, helping to determine what gets kept, for how long, and where.

Also incorporated into the guidelines emanating from this will be a schedule and instructions for the gathering or transmission of the documents by or to Archives. As this will include both new and older documents, the schedules will necessarily be a little more complicated for Archives than might otherwise be the case in a more traditional archive scenario.

The inclusion of our newer documents within the umbrella of Archives will enable the Archives Committee to offer full and easy access to all of NMRT's documents and publications from a central database. We hope to include such documents as Footnotes, Handbook, Reports, and others to which access is needed not only for older archives, but also to the newer current versions or issues. All of these, then, will need to be cataloged, to have records created in the database making them accessible and searchable. The Digitization side of the Archives Commit-

tee will concentrate on this portion of the work, while the Archives half focuses on

## NRMT Member Profile: Laura Kortz

Amanda Roberts  
Member, Footnotes Committee



### Educational Background

B.S. in Psychology  
Brooklyn College  
City University of New York

M.L.S. in Information and Library Studies  
Rutgers University

Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Beta Mu

### Professional History

If you've visited the New Members Round Table (NMRT) Comfort Station in the past year, you've probably met Laura Kortz, who coordinated the booth at both the midwinter conference in New Orleans and at annual in Atlanta. Laura has been an active member of the ALA since 2000. In addition to NMRT, she belongs to the Library Research Round Table (LRRT) and the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), and she served on the Gale Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Services Committee from 2000 to 2002. She is currently the co-chair of NMRT's Resume Review Service and a member of the Nominating Committee.

Since January 2001, Laura has worked as a Research Literacy/ Weekend and Evening Librarian at Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City. She enjoys her collection development responsibilities in the areas of clinical and counseling psychology, as well as social and industrial/organizational psychology.

She also enjoys working the reference desk and assisting "panicky and frustrated doctoral students."

Laura has worked in libraries in some capacity since 1994. In 1995, she worked as a Library Assistant in the Reference Department of the Brooklyn College Library. From 1996 to 2001, she worked at the New York Public Library as a Librarian Trainee, Assistant Web Coordinator, and Reference Librarian. She also completed fieldwork in the New York University Archives. "If you forced me to choose a favorite," says Laura, "I would say it was my very first experience at Brooklyn College ... I really enjoyed helping my peers navigate through the informational maze of City University Libraries."

Like many of us, Laura brings a variety of work experiences to our profession. She has worked as a merchandiser and salesperson, real estate agent, cashier, office assistant, and an administrative assistant for Brooklyn College's Center for Diversity and Multicultural Studies. All of her positions have one common thread — service. At one time, Laura wanted to pursue a career in psychology, but she discovered that she was able to find similar enjoyment in library work, which combines the "ability to help people, the ability to solve puzzles, and the ability to see how people think about information and research."

Laura has a variety of different interests and does not limit herself to one type of library. She has dreams of working in a news library, but she can also see herself managing a one-person library in a non-profit organization or working as director of a small college library. She believes that the most important issues facing librarianship are status and pay of librarians; privacy, confidentiality, free speech, and particularly the implications of the U.S. Patriot Act; continued emphasis on technology and digitization; and the intersection between librarians' skills and the skills of computer science professionals.

## President's Column

*Continued from Page 1*

tangible product that members can include in their professional records.

We continue to utilize technology to our advantage and explore new avenues for technological growth. In addition to offering members-only content online, to continuing our electronic documents policy and system development, and to maintaining our volunteer database, we will have a regularly updated news section on the NMRT Web site (<http://www.ala.org/nmrt>). With so many exciting projects going on, check out the news section at least every two months. In addition to improvements on the Web site, we have planned a few focused discussions on various NMRT discussion lists. These focused discussions will tackle issues of common concern to us. More information will be available on our Web site (<http://www.ala.org/nmrt>).

It is not too late to volunteer for a committee or volunteer for liaison positions. If you prefer to take a smaller step, become active in your state association or your student chapter/organization. The NMRT-L discussion list is a great way for you to participate without the commitment of an appointment. NMRT-L distributes important announcements and offers opportunities for participation via focused discussions.

Do you have any suggestions? Please send them to me at [joseph.yue@colorado.edu](mailto:joseph.yue@colorado.edu) or call 303-492-8628. We are the future of ALA. Utilize NMRT to expand your window of opportunities.

**Expand your  
professional  
network. Get  
involved in NMRT!**

“Great program,” “Changed my negative opinion of networking,” “Do it every conference,” and “More” were just a few of the many glowing comments made by attendees of the New Members Round Table (NMRT) President’s Program: “The Successful 21st Century Librarian: Building Your Career” held on Saturday, June 15, 2002, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Plaza Ballroom in the Westin Peachtree Plaza at Atlanta, Georgia.

The program began with presentation of the NMRT Shirley Olofson Award to Dru Henson-Hunt, Librarian at Loretto High

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Subscribe to NMRT-L today for up-to-date NMRT information and lively discussions on a variety of subjects relevant to new librarians.

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There are also several  
other NMRT discussion  
lists available for  
members:  
NMRTWriter, NMRTBD,  
and NMRTSTUDL.

Several focused  
discussions are planned  
for various lists. Be a  
part of the action and  
participate in these  
discussions. Check the  
NMRT Web site (<http://>

**American Library Association/New  
Members Round Table**

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The purpose of *Footnotes* is to disseminate information and news to NMRT members; to alert members of NMRT to developments of interest in ALA and in the library world; and to inform members of NMRT Board actions, state and regional events, and NMRT conference programs and committee activities.

News notices and articles to be considered for inclusion in *Footnotes* should be sent to :

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