Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries 1999-2000

ORALL had a busy and productive year in 1999-2000. It began at the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., where ORALL's exhibit hall table advertised the celebration of the association's fiftieth anniversary. Included in the display were photographs from previous ORALL meetings and personal comments from the members in the photographs. These photos were collected in the preparation of a historical booklet that was later distributed at the fiftieth-anniversary meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in October 1999.

Also during the AALL Annual Meeting, ORALL held an anniversary kick-off reception, complete with candlelight, gourmet desserts, champagne punch, and golden anniversary decorations. A few attendees arrived in formal attire, while others sported the new ORALL fiftieth-anniversary T-shirts. AALL members attending the event were presented a commemorative coaster as a souvenir of the evening's festivities.

On October 13-15, 1999, the Columbus Local Arrangements Committee hosted a fiftieth-anniversary celebration that ORALL members will not soon forget. These able volunteers went far beyond the organization's expectations in staging an annual meeting that was celebratory, delightfully informative, and featured several unique surprises. Highlights of the program included an opening reception in the rotunda of the Ohio state capitol building, congratulatory remarks brought from the AALL Executive Board by Treasurer Janis Johnston, a luncheon address by Bob Berring, and a surprise appearance by a Marilyn Monroe lookalike singing "Happy Birthday" to outgoing ORALL President Keith Blough. Educational sessions included presentations on e-commerce, government relations, knowledge management, the perils of ignoring electronic sources, a copyright update, and a session on Cincinnati's law librarian-sponsored training program for summer associates. Vendor displays were designed to relate the publisher's historical relationship with ORALL. Each attendee received a zippered folio bearing the ORALL anniversary logo. All in all, ORALL's fiftieth-anniversary meeting was a huge success.

In ORALL's ongoing efforts to support and encourage professional development and education among its members, the organization provided a number of scholarships during the past year. These scholarships are awarded to help defray the cost of attendance at AALL and ORALL meetings, and they included two scholarships totaling $1,395 for the 1999 AALL meeting, five ($1,500) for the 1999 ORALL meeting, and two ($1,830) for the 2000 AALL meeting.

The spring retreat was held March 31-April 1, 2000, at Deer Creek State Park, just outside Columbus. ORALL retreats are designed to be less formal than the annual meeting, providing members with opportunities to network, compare policies and procedures, and collaborate on solutions to mutual problems. Educational sessions at this year's retreat included an overview of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System and a session on how to teach adult learners. Among other important items was the Nominating Committee's announcement of the new slate of officers for 2000-01: Ellen Quinn, Vice President/President-Elect; Claudia Zaher, Secretary; and Michael Whiteman, Board member.

A recent major concern to Ohio members of the association was the proposed implementation of a new Ohio Supreme Court rule that was intended to prohibit the attachment of computer-generated case reports to filings with the supreme court. The proposal was undertaken with limited communication to outside parties and, needless to say, the law library community was aghast to discover this new rule
barely three days before it was to go into effect. Upon this discovery, a message went out over the ORALL discussion list urging all members to communicate their opposition to such a drastic change in court procedure. Within two days, the Ohio Supreme Court Clerk's office was flooded with letters and e-mails from ORALL members strongly recommending that the court reconsider this proposed policy. ORALL President Richard Humphrey drafted a message to the court on behalf of the 230 Ohio members of ORALL. Major law firms in Ohio also sent messages from their partners urging the court's reconsideration. On June 16, 2000, the Ohio Supreme Court issued a notice that the rule revision would be held "in abeyance" until further notice.

Richard Humphrey, President

1999-2000