

**ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, 2006**  
**Report by Yana V. Serdyuk**

Nearly 17,000 librarians, exhibitors, and library supporters attended 2006 ALA annual conference - the first convention held in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina.

I had a chance to discuss some issues related to my library with its current vendors and had interesting conversations with other exhibitors. I participated in the following programs:

- **Free E-Reserves: Saving Money, Saving Time, and Expanding Services with Open Source Software.**

eReserves is a critical service that supports classroom instruction. This session conducted by Kyle Fenton and Maurice York from Emory University covered the open source application ReserveDirect developed by Emory University. This software can be used to expand services while saving time and money.

- **The Copyright Office comes to ALA.**

Attorney Mary Rasenberger of the U.S. Copyright Office specializing in library related concerns talked about impact of copyright issues on libraries. Issues that were discussed included fair use, copyright term extension, and the Digital Millennium Act. There was also a demonstration of the Copyright Office web site.

- **Open Mike on Salaries in Libraries.**

Discussion of what needs to be done to improve librarians' salaries.

- **All the news you never get.**

Representatives of the press discussed the lack of coverage of international news events in the mainstream media and how librarians can respond to this trend.

- **Podcasting in the Classroom: Impact, Implications, and Implementations of Podcasting for Teaching and Learning.**

This program explored how podcasts can translate into the educational sphere and the implications and opportunities for libraries to become more deeply engaged in the classroom environment through them.

- **What to Do When the Feds Come Knocking: The Reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act and Librarians.**

Review of the PATRIOT reauthorization legislation signed into law by President

Bush on March 9, 2006. For details on this session presented by Deborah Caldwell-Stone, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom and Patrice McDermott, ALA Office of Government Relations see:

[http://www.cal-webs.org/if\\_patriot2.html#colorado2](http://www.cal-webs.org/if_patriot2.html#colorado2) and

<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/civilliberties/theusapatriotact/usapatriotact.htm#reauth>

- **School Libraries Work: Rebuilding for Learning: A National Town Hall meeting.**

This program, with keynote speaker First Lady Laura Bush, explored the role of school libraries in the context of learning and total school and community recovery after Hurricane Katrina.