

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Chapter of ACRL Commemorates Its History

Morgantown, WV—In June 2013, at its spring conference held in Morgantown, West Virginia, the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (WPWVC ACRL) celebrated its 60th anniversary and, incredibly, at its fall 2013 meeting, the chapter will also commemorate its 25th anniversary.

Two birthdays you say? How is that even possible?

Here's part of the story. However, we don't know all the details—we are hoping past members of WPWVC ACRL can help us find the missing pieces.

The history of WPWVC ACRL began in 1953, when a group of librarians from the Pittsburgh area petitioned the ACRL Board of Directors to authorize "a chapter in this (Pittsburgh) Tri-State area," including Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. This Tri-State Chapter, as it became known, was one of the earliest chapters of ACRL, preceded only by local chapters in Missouri, New Jersey, Illinois, and Philadelphia.

In 1981, the Ohio Chapter of ACRL was formed, splitting the state off from the Tri-State Chapter and, subsequently, the Tri-State Chapter disbanded in 1983. Several years later, in 1987, Susan Neuman, University of Pittsburgh, and Barbara Richards, Carnegie Mellon University, petitioned to establish a new chapter, and in February 1988 the ACRL Board of Directors approved chapter status for Western Pennsylvania. This is when the mystery emerges. By 2001, documents in the chapter's archive show the addition of West Virginia, but exactly when or why that happened has been difficult to figure out due to gaps in the chapter archives.



The WPWVC ACRL 60th birthday cake

You can help solve the mystery. If you have any information on the history of the chapter, recent or ancient, let us know! Visit the chapter website at wpwvcacrl.org and share with us historical notes and photographs about the chapter.

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Photograph by Linda Blake, West Virginia University