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to the copyright holder. The processing fee is where the VPP discount takes place. At 67%, the regular \$3.00 processing fee becomes only \$1.00, a significant savings for volume users. Members can expect to receive the discount within ten business days of registering. SOLINET will submit registrations to CCC weekly through March 31, then monthly, with the discount becoming effective by the first of the next month.

Details of the program are available at www.solinet.net/library_products/ccc. For registration information, please contact the [SOLINET Member Services Help Desk](#) by email or 1-800-999-8558. For all other questions and requests, you may contact the [Copyright Clearance Center](#) by email or at 978-646-2600.

SOLINET AND THE HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE PUBLISH *THE STATE OF LIBRARIES AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES*

The Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) and the HBCU Library Alliance recently completed and published an assessment of the state of libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Produced with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, *The State of Libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities* uses data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics through its biennial Academic Libraries Survey.

The statistical study describes levels of support for and services from HBCU libraries and compares it to that for other, peer academic libraries in the U.S. It offers a baseline for future comparison among HBCUs and of HBCUs with non-HBCUs. It also provides data that can be used to strengthen libraries at HBCUs, individually and as a group. The report is available on SOLINET's website at www.solinet.net/resources/HBCUStats and on the HBCU Library Alliance website at www.hbculibraries.org.

Created by the deans and directors of HBCU libraries in 2002, the HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. The purpose of the HBCU Library Alliance is to ensure excellence in HBCU libraries through the development, collaboration, coordination, and promotion of programs and activities to enhance members' collections and services. Visit the HBCU Library Alliance website at www.hbculibraries.org.

ASERL VIRTUAL REFERENCE EXPANDS SERVICE SPONSORS IPOD GIVEAWAY

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) finalized a new partnership with the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies to provide additional service hours for its groundbreaking regional virtual reference service, "Ask a Librarian." Students from UA-SLIS will now supplement the chat service coverage provided by reference staff at ASERL libraries into the late-night hours.

To mark the expanded service, ASERL will give away a 1MB iPod Shuffle to one user of the online reference service at each participating ASERL institution.

Beginning February 6, the service will be open until midnight (ET) seven days a week. "This is an exciting time for us," commented John Burger, ASERL's Executive Director. "We have been seeking a cost-effective way to meet our patrons' reference needs later into the evenings. Working with future librarians is a great way to provide the additional service, and to forge new relationships with our colleagues of tomorrow, too." The "Ask a Librarian" service is open to affiliated users of the participating libraries via each library's home page.

The iPod giveaway will run during the month of February. Users affiliated with the participating universities will be eligible to win one iPod per campus. To enter, a user simply needs to log into the system via their library's home page and chat with the librarian as usual. Winners will be selected via a random drawing in early March. ASERL reserves the right to verify the winners' affiliation with the participating university before prizes are awarded. All official rules are available at www.aserl.org

ASERL libraries participating in the "Ask a Librarian" service are the College of William & Mary, Florida State University, Mississippi State University, the University of Alabama, the University of Central Florida, the University of Memphis, the University of Mississippi, UNC Charlotte, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Founded in 1956, ASERL is the largest regional academic library cooperative in the country, with 37 research libraries and six state libraries. ASERL was a founding member of the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), the largest OCLC regional network in the U.S. Launched in 2004, ASERL's "Ask a Librarian" project is the first regionally-staff chat-based reference service dedicated to the needs of research library patrons.

**ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA / SOUTHEAST CHAPTER
21ST ANNUAL LOPRESTI AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING ART PUBLISHING IN THE SOUTHEAST
2005**

In 1985 the Southeast Chapter of the Art Libraries Society established the LoPresti Publication Awards Competition to recognize and encourage excellence in art publications issued in the southeastern United States. The publication awards are named in honor of [Mary Ellen "Mel" LoPresti](#), former Design Librarian at North Carolina State University, who died in 1985. Ms. LoPresti was also a Past Chair and one of the founding members of the Chapter.

Museums and galleries, educational institutions, libraries, organizations, and commercial presses are encouraged to submit publications for consideration. All publications are judged on the quality of content and format within the appropriate category. The number of items that may be submitted is not restricted.

Art and architectural books, exhibition catalogs, and serials published during an individual calendar year are eligible for consideration. Only publications from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee or the Virgin Islands are eligible for consideration. For information about past winners and on submissions, see [Announcements](#) on the ARLIS/SE website.

Winners of the awards are announced at the ARLIS/SE annual meeting normally held in late October or early November. Winners will be notified by mail and will be reported in various regional library and arts publications. There is no entry fee, but ARLIS/SE reserves the right to retain all works submitted for consideration. The winning publications are housed at the Duke University East Campus Library in Durham, NC.

The nominees for the 2005 award included 45 total entries. The breakdown was 26 books, 13 exhibition catalogs, 3 artist's books, and 3 serials. Entries were submitted from 22 publishers broken down with 6 University Presses, 9 Museums, 2 Commercial publishers, and 5 Other. Among the states submitting entries were Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina with 4 publishers each;