ALA/1980 HIGHLIGHTS: FROM A TECHNICAL SERVICES POINT OF VIEW

The ALA/RTSD/APA Preconference on Acquisitions for the 80's (June 26-28, 1980 at NYU) brought together publishers, vendors, and librarians to discuss the issues we will all be facing in the coming decade. The eight sessions and panel discussions were of uneven quality, and at times tended to be a little repetitive. There were some excellent presentations, however, which stimulated the audience to confront the problems facing acquisitions people. The speakers emphasized three themes that they feel will set the tone for the 80's: economic pressures, automation, and resource sharing.

For me, the highlight of the Preconference was the debate over the value of use burgh Study) in setting acquisitions. State Univ., defended the usefulness of value concept will prevail in collect attempted to refute Mr. Axford by reinforce what librarians have explained that there is no way to needed by scholars, and that certain critical mass of rich.

In his wrap-up to the Preconference, Murray Martin, Penn. State, declared that a major theme of the meeting was the management of change, not the fear of change. He stressed that librarians must control the development of the technology that effects us. There were almost 25 California participants at this Preconference. If you would like the name of a participant in your area in order to get more details, please contact me.

The ALA Conference itself presented members with a myriad of programs on every imaginable topic. Since my own interests lie in the areas of technical services and automation, I stuck to programs dealing with those topics. The LAMA Circulation Services Section put on an excellent all-day program entitled, "Automated Circulation Systems: Planning, Implementation, Use." The panel of experts for this program included library consultants (Richard Boss and Joseph Matthews) as well as librarians who have had direct experience implementing circulation systems. Kevin Hegarty, Tacoma Public Library, gave a very humorous account of all the problems his library has encountered in automating their circulation system. It was announced that there are plans in the works for a preconference on circulation systems at ALA next year in San Francisco.

Another excellent program was "The Potential of Online Circulation Systems as Online Catalogs" put on by the RASD Catalog Use Committee. Kenneth Dowin, Pikes Peak Regional Library, and Susan Miller, Ohio State, discussed their libraries' experiences with online catalogs. User response has been overwhelmingly positive in both libraries. Neal Kaske from OCLC described a research project he is conducting on how library patrons use the subject search. All of these presentations on online catalogs will be printed in the Fall 1980 issue of RQ.

--Sue Metzger
UC San Diego Library
Spring Workshops Report

North: The joint effort with the Northern California Technical Processes Group to enlighten technical services people and other librarians on the problems and prospects of AACR 2 was a great success. The day-long workshop took place at Mills College on May 23 with over 140 in attendance.

Paula Schwartz, RLIN staff member, blended slides from last summer's ALA Institute on AACR 2 with discussion on the highlights in description, choice of access, and form of entry for various material formats under AACR 2. Paula really pinpointed many of the major problems of interpretation that catalogers will face, for example:

-- Determining the level of description desired
-- Using a multilevel entry
-- Adjusting to the changes in form of entry to direct form for corporate bodies
-- Determining the predominant form used in the works of an individual or a group as the choice of access point
-- Determining whether a work should be entered under corporate body or under title—the question of does this work really "emanate" from this corporate body.

Paula deserves a standing ovation for her herculean efforts in absorbing and presenting in such a thorough and interesting fashion the changes that we should expect based upon AACR 2's adoption.

Paula's lively presentation evoked good audience participation and really set the tone for the more detailed group discussions in the afternoon. Discussion groups covered AACR 2 rules specific to audio-visual materials, documents, serials, music, and sound recordings, full and limited monographic cataloging. Group leaders provided several examples which were used to point out AACR 2 vs. AACR 1 approaches to form of entry, choice of access point, and description. Participants were invited to bring in their own AACR 2 questions and problems for discussion in small groups.

Judging by the positive comments from workshop-goers the session is likely to be repeated in the fall. At least 70 people who expressed an interest had to be turned away for lack of space.

* Other Workshop Plans-- Pat Thomas and Liz Dickinson are considering additional workshop possibilities for the fall in the northern part of the State. We are considering a program similar to the spring session held in Los Angeles on the how-tos, what-not-to-dos, problems and prospects of automating various technical services functions. Any ideas for fleshing out this program, or alternative topics, should be sent to Liz Dickinson by August 15 at Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, 605 North E St. Dorado Street, Stockton, CA 95202.

--Liz Dickinson

(Spring Workshops report continues on p. 3)
South: In May CLA/TS-South held their workshop at the Los Angeles Arboretum, famed for the location shots for the Fantasy Island series on TV. Five speakers spoke on "After Automation" or the affects automation has on work routines. Coming from a variety of libraries having varying degrees of automation, the five panalists covered a wide range of practical problems related to automation projects. These included preparing for online circulation, using OCLC for serials check-in, OCLC workflows, automation for the small public library, and how to evaluate automation projects. A lively audience responded to these speakers with many questions.

After the workshop there was ample time to visit the Arboretum grounds famed for their rose gardens, a variety of trees, and many peacocks ambling everywhere. Here too, is Queen Ann's House seen by many on the Fantasy Island series. Originally the summer home for "Lucky Baldwin," its quaint rooms are decorated in the period of the early railway baron.

Many thanks to Anne Frank and Mike Randall for serving on the arrangements committee and to the five speakers who made this a memorable and worthwhile workshop. The speakers were Kathy Donahue, Pat Sullivan, Margaret Tapper, Kamala Stilwell, and Sue Beagh Epstein.

--William Way
Riverside City and County Public Library

---

YES

I want to join the California Library Association Technical Services Chapter and keep up with the current issues in our profession.

NAME: ________________________________  New membership □

ADDRESS: ________________________________  Renewal □

CLA member - $3.00 □

Non-CLA member - $5.00 □

Make checks payable to: CLA Technical Services Chapter, and send them to: Michael Randall, Serials Dept., University Research Library, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.
MORE ON THE AUTOMATION PROJECTS CLEARINGHOUSE.

While we await word from the California State Library on our proposal for a statewide clearinghouse for library automation projects (See Tech Notes, March 1980), I ran across the following notice in the "Information Wanted" column of the latest LITA NEWSLETTER (Summer 1980):

"ON UNPUBLISHED REPORTS OR STUDIES ON LIBRARY AUTOMATION. Send copies to Maurice Freedman, Professor at Columbia University School of Library Service, 516 Butler Library, New York, NY 10027. Mitch has offered to act as a clearinghouse for automation reports. The Newsletter will assist by publishing listings from time to time."

This would seem to be an effort to establish a national clearinghouse for library automation studies, with the LITA NEWSLETTER serving as a means for advertising its holdings. Seems like an idea worth supporting.

--Sue Metzger
UC San Diego