President’s Message

TECHNICAL SERVICES IS DEAD!
LONG LIVE TECHNICAL SERVICES!

A rose by any other name might smell as sweet, but if you change the shape and aroma is the flower still a rose?

After at least a decade of serious talk and sporadic action the related topics of "the wholistic library," "breaking down the walls between technical and public services," and "technical services as a public service" still draw considerable discussion and debate. Automation, experiments in management theory and practice, and changing demands on libraries have all kept these topics relevant. The primary TSC program at this year’s CLA Annual Conference --"Automation: How it Changes Our Profession"--is likely to at least touch on these very issues.

Times change and so do names. If you don’t believe me just try doing some authority work or ask your local serials cataloger. Unless s/he is Rumpelstiltskin you’re bound to get an earful. No doubt you have experienced or even initiated some changes in your own job responsibilities and maybe your job title has changed, too. In some cases these changes may be superficial, but in others they are more profound. It does seem that automation and other factors are changing what we do and how we do it, and one might expect the pace of change to accelerate. These days we denizens of "the back room" of technical services find ourselves performing more direct public services as the
builders, evaluators, and interpreters of online catalogs. We often work more closely with reference, bibliographic instruction, and other staff members and they may find themselves doing more "technical services things" in the development of specialized databases and local area networks.

New names such as Bibliographic Services or Collection Management can be found on many departments, but what do we call ourselves? Traditional titles such as cataloger, acquisition librarian, and serial librarian are still common coin of the realm and, more often than not, our organizational charts reflect the standard bifurcation of technical and public services. These words are also the common terminology in our professional associations even in the midst of change. The Resources and Technical Services Division of ALA, for instance, changed its name to the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, not The Association for Somewhat Indirect Public Services, The Division of Constant Collection and Catalog Cleanup, or The Cutting Edge Club, even though some truth and possibly even a little perverse esprit d’corps could be found in such seemingly satirical titles.

The California Library Association is currently in the midst of a major structural reorganization. My reading of the situation is that most of the currently existing chapters will continue play an important role within CLA. How the organizational and financial links between CLA and the chapters will change remains to be seen. Will CLA become more centralized or more of a federation? In either case, the Technical Services Chapter is one of the largest and most active groups within CLA, and due to the challenges of change in our bailiwick and the interest and dedication of our members we can expect to remain an important part of the Association.

But is the name "Technical Services Chapter" still appropriate? Will it continue to be in five or ten years or will it become an anachronism? Does it accurately express what we do or what we will be doing? Will it remain a useful rubric or does failure to find more current terminology eventually reflect resistance to change? On the other hand, with most everything else around us changing is that old name comfortable and comforting like a favorite old pair of shoes? What might be a better name? Will a change of name inevitably cause a change of focus or the membership of the group? If we wanted to cover new ground couldn’t we do so through the formation of new discussion groups or by co-sponsoring more programs with
other subdivisions of CLA? Am I making too big a deal about this? Perhaps, but these might be questions worth considering in the coming years.

At this point I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to everyone who has served the Chapter so ably this year, particularly Vice President Diane Bebber, Treasurer-Membership Coordinator-Secretary Karleen Darr, Technotes Editor Margaret Capron, Discussion Group Leaders Starla Doescher, Dee Near, Jessica Marshall, Valerie Bross, Jean Alexander, Lisa Stevens, Sandra Smith, Joanna Dunklee, Jay Lee and Kathy Cresto, and Program Committee Members Derry Juneja and Nancy Neal. (Please contact Diane if you are interested in being a Discussion Group Leader next year.) Regardless of what we call ourselves, as long as we continue to offer interesting, pertinent programs and have a high level of member involvement, we will come out smelling like a rose.

Jim Dwyer
TSC President

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLA TSC (NORTHERN)

CATALOGING, ACQUISITIONS AND SERIALS DISCUSSION GROUPS with SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

"Training Part Two: The Sequel"

Date: Thursday, October 11
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Place: San Jose Public Library

Featured speakers:

"Acquisitions training since automation: what's new and what's not"
Starla Doescher
Acquisitions/Collection Development Librarian
University of the Pacific

"The jigsaw puzzle approach to serials training"
Kay Thorn
Serials Librarian
California State University
San Jose

"Training copy catalogers: practical tips and hints"
Suzanne Rostamizadeh
San Jose Public Library
"Ongoing education programs"
Dr. Jim Healey
California State University
San Jose

"Training of library technicians"
Ruth Anne Lowe
Foothill College

Registration: $5.00 for members
$7.00 for non-members

Registration deadline: October 1, 1990

For more information, contact
Dee Near
Merced County Library
2100 'O' Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7484

Separate notices will be going out to all Northern California Chapter members.

CLA/TSC SERIALS DISCUSSION GROUP
and NETWORK SERIALS TASK FORCE

"California Statewide Serials Project (CSSP) Update"

SOUTHERN

Date: Tuesday, September 18
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Place: Downey Public Library

NORTHERN

Date: Friday, September 21
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Place: San Jose State University Library

Featured speakers (Task Force members):

1. Project Overview and Update

SOUTH

Irene Lovas: Overview and update
Mary Johnson, moderator

NORTH

Diana Paque: Overview and update
Todd Bennett, moderator

2. Discussion Forums to Review
   Alternative System Models

Barbara Will, facilitator
Network Coordinator
California State Library

Registration: $8.00
$10.00 (after September 5)

Contact persons:

SOUTH

Kathleen Cresto
Thousand Oaks Public Library
1401 E. Janss Rd
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
(805) 497-6282
NORTH

Valerie Bross
Kennedy Library
Cataloging Dept.
Cal-Poly University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
(805) 756-2389

The Task Force will be soliciting comments and suggestions on five preliminary system models for statewide bibliographic access to serials in California. Members of the Task Force will provide a project overview and update. The system models are being developed by RMG Consultants, Inc., as part of a contract to provide technical assistance to the Task Force which is charged with long-range planning for bibliographic access to serials in California within a multitype library environment.

Separate flyers are being sent out to all members for both programs.

CLA CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

TSC PROGRAM

The Chapter and the CLA Automated Library Services Committee will continue a joint sponsorship of the Annual High Technology Program at the Conference:

Date: Sunday, November 4
Time: 8:30 a.m. - noon
Place: CLA Conference, San Diego

Keynote speaker:

Michael Gorman
California State University
Fresno

Other speakers:

Frank D'Andraia
University of North Dakota

Susan Jurist
University of California
San Diego

Lois Kershner
PLAN

Kathy Hudson
California State Library

This year's topic is the effect of automation on the structure of the profession and what changes we can expect automation to bring about in how we do our work.

The program will follow a short business meeting. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of Quality Books.

DISCUSSION GROUP PROGRAMS

ACQUISITIONS AND SERIALS DISCUSSION GROUPS

"Bookman, Business Manager, Librarian or Clerk: Emerging Portraits in Acquisitions and Serials"

Date: Monday, November 5
Time: 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Place: CLA Conference, San Diego

Panelists will share their views of the staff skills and attributes desirable and the organizational opportunities available for staff in these functions.
CATALOGING DISCUSSION GROUP

"Cataloging Staff for the 90's: What Will We Need? Will We Be Able to Find It?"

Date: Monday, November 5
Time: 10:30 a.m. - noon
Place: CLA Conference, San Diego

Featured Speakers:

Liz Bishoff
OCLC

Judith Tessier
San Jose State University

Dan Arsner
Palomar College

Speakers will discuss the training needs, opportunities and challenges facing cataloging staff in the nineties.

MICROCOMPUTER DISCUSSION GROUP

"Managing Staff Microcomputers Before They Manage You"

Date: Monday, November 5
Time: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Place: CLA Conference, San Diego

Panelists will be led by Larry Wood (RMG Consultants) in discussing a planning approach to managing microcomputers in libraries. Panelists to be announced.

EDITOR NEEDED!!!!

We need an editor for TECHNOTES for 1991. If you feel you would like to take on this task, please contact Diane Bebber at Palos Verdes Library District, 650 Deep Valley Drive, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274. 916-377-9584 as soon as possible.

Tech Notes is the newsletter of the Technical Services Chapter of the California Library Association, 717 K St., Suite 300, Sacramento, Calif. 95184. Three issues have appeared in 1990: March, June and September. This issue was produced with the invaluable assistance of Ken Firestein, Systems Dept., UC Davis. The work was produced on an IBM using Wordperfect 5.0 and printed on an HP Laserjet Series II(P).

Until a new editor has been appointed, signed items for Tech Notes should be mailed (preferably in machine-readable form) to:

Diane Bebber
Assistant Director, Technical Services
Palos Verdes Library District
650 Deep Valley Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
(213) 377-9584

Deadline for the next issue is Feb 15th