During three beautiful fall days in early November, a vision took shape. In a spectacular setting in southeastern Oklahoma, a dream came true. Due to the commitment, dedication, and contributions of dozens of the state’s best and brightest, the Oklahoma Library Association’s inaugural leadership institute became a reality and, by all accounts, a huge success.

OLA GOLD started with an idea that came to the fore in long-range planning when Kathryn Lewis was OLA president-elect. The proposal was to develop a leadership retreat that would inspire and grow future leaders for the Oklahoma library community. Several OLA leaders attended an ALA workshop on forming state leadership seminars. After three years of planning, designing, and developing, OLA GOLD was established.

The first OLA GOLD Leadership Institute convened on November 3 at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Conference Center in Ardmore. Under the tutelage of Institute facilitator Pat Wagner and six mentors, twenty-four participants selected from a pool of applicants representing academic, public and school libraries, began a journey toward honing their leadership skills, meeting new friends, learning more about librarianship and gaining an increased knowledge of OLA.

Centered on the theme of “Everyday Leadership,” Pat Wagner led “a highly interactive seminar built around a series of exercises where participants think, write, talk and solve problems in small groups regarding library leadership issues, and then present to the larger group.” Pat anchored the Institute’s curriculum with four models: the Leadership Model, the Organizational Map, the Influence Model, and the Five-Minute Strategic Plan.

Participants, mentors, facilitator, and support staff gathered at the conference center Wednesday afternoon to meet roommates, become familiar with the Institute site, and have dinner. Following dinner, all involved assembled in the conference center’s pavilion for the Networking Game where they discovered the five rules of professional networking while getting to know each other and working on real library problems. The exercise challenged participants to develop a list of things they need and a corresponding list of things they can offer, and provided an opportunity to communicate the items on their lists through active networking with each other. Participants learned that they “need to make networking reciprocal” by keeping in mind that “networking as transaction is the key concept, with the idea that allowing help is actually giving a gift.”

Continued on pages 62 and 63
Since our last Oklahoma Librarian went to press, we have mourned the loss of Donna Norvell, a special colleague whose work over the years as a children’s specialist at ODL, OSU and for Edmond Public Schools touched the lives of many librarians, children and parents throughout Oklahoma. We shall miss her, her positive approach and her enthusiasm. Many lives have been enriched through her work and friendships. And library services for Oklahoma children are stronger in both school and public libraries as a result of Donna’s dedication and influence. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Donna’s family and her many close friends.

A committee has been appointed to plan an OLA memorial or recognition for Donna. Jenny Stenis will chair the committee. Feel free to contact her with your thoughts and ideas… jenny@pls.lib.ok.us or (405) 701-2663.

Congratulations to the OLA Leadership Committee! After three years of dedicated, solid planning the OLA Gold Leadership Institute became a reality and a huge success in early November. In addition to the Leadership Committee, I want to thank Patrick Brennen and the Noble Foundation for their hospitality and generosity in hosting the Institute at the fabulous Noble Conference Center in Ardmore. There could not have been a nicer location for this dynamic Leadership Institute. Thanks also to friends and libraries around the state who gave scholarship money that helped some participants attend. They include Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO), Eastern Oklahoma District Library System, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and Tulsa City-County Library System. We are grateful to the libraries that paid for their staff to attend as participants, mentors and committee members. The entire group worked hard while learning and sharing much about leadership, the risks and the rewards. As one enthusiastic mentor wrote, “Thank you! You’ve planted some seeds here that… may one day change the course of OLA and Oklahoma Libraries… for the better.”

Also in November, FOI Oklahoma sponsored the 6th Annual First Amendment Congress. Both the Education Day and Professional Day were well attended. Speakers and panelists shared thought provoking information and discussed the many challenges we face in a free society, especially one that tries to balance individual civil liberties and the right to privacy while providing free access to information. Tom Blanton, Director of the National Security Archive at George Washington University in Washington D.C. praised libraries and the American Library Association for being at the forefront and leading the way in the effort to preserve the right to freedom of information requests from federal agencies. Barb Pfrehm did an outstanding display of challenged books.

The year’s first OLA Regional Meeting was held in Ada at East Central University. Thanks to Dana Belcher and Adrianna Lancaster for their hospitality and making sure that we had good representation from all types of libraries in the area. Future Regional Meetings are listed below. Join us when we are in your area.

Congratulations to the citizens of Choctaw County and the Southeastern Library System on the opening of the magnificent new Choctaw County Library in Hugo. The dedication in early November was a genuine tribute to the spirit and commitment of the citizens of the city and county who have long supported quality library services and facilities. The beautiful new library and learning center is a community resource center in the finest sense of the meaning.

Get to know your new legislators and stay in touch with those who are returning to the Capitol. As the old saying goes, “All politics are local!” Please sign up and complete the Legislative Committee’s Legislative Network Registration Form on the OLA Web Page. You can be a “friendly voice” for your library and for all Oklahoma libraries. We will all benefit from each individual contact and contribution!
Dates to remember:

February 15, 2005, 4:00 PM – Regional Meeting at Hardesty Regional Library in Tulsa

February 22, 2005, 4:00 PM – Regional Meeting at Rogers State College in Claremore

March 30 – April 1, 2005 – OLA Annual Conference in Norman!

During this Holiday Season, we all reflect on the blessings that we enjoy and share. So, let me share this message with you. It Is –

A time for peace, a time for joy,
You receive a gift, you give a toy.

A time for work, a time for rest,
You rush around, you want the best.

A time for laughs, a time for love,
You make plans, far and above.

A time for wishes, a time for cheer,
You worked hard another year.

So, take more time, before it goes,
My wish for you...Stop...
Take a “New Spin”
and Smell the roses!

Happy New Year  Y’All!

Lynn A. McIntosh
President

OU SLIS Student Attends IFLA in Buenos Aires

In August, five Oklahomans attended the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. IFLA is the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and its conference theme this year was “Libraries: Tools for Education and Development.” Participants attended five days of paper presentations, poster sessions, and plenary lectures on a variety of topics from every area of the profession. Examples of interesting presentations included a history of the Alexandria library in Egypt, a narrative of how librarians circumvented censorship in Chile during the Pinochet dictatorship, and bridging the digital divide in rural central Africa.

In addition to learning about developments in libraries and information centers, participants had the opportunity to meet and socialize with other information professionals from around the world. Over 2500 delegates from 121 countries attended the conference and took part in an evening celebrating Argentine culture, a dinner with international cuisine, and the opening session in the famed Colon Theater opera house.

This chance to experience new cultures in a new place is only one of the benefits of attending an IFLA conference. Delegates gain a wider perspective on information issues and understand that all information professionals face similar challenges regardless of country, economic status, or political environment. Seeing examples of how our colleagues are facing these challenges makes one realize that the information profession is indeed vibrant and that our community extends farther than we know.

Attending an IFLA conference is a valuable experience and an anonymous donor felt this so deeply that he or she funded a grant for one MLIS student from the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies to attend. As the recipient of that grant, I know that this conference is both informative and fun, regardless of professional experience or the type of information environment where one works. I encourage everyone to attend next year’s IFLA conference, to be held in Oslo, Norway, August 14 through 18, 2005. For more information see the official Web site at http://www.ifla.org.
Tulsa City-County Library Celebrates Children's Book Week With Author/Illustrator Arthur Howard

Tulsa City-County Library celebrated National Children's Book Week with popular author and illustrator Arthur Howard when he came to Tulsa Nov. 18 as the featured artist for Books to Treasure. Best known as the illustrator of Cynthia Rylant's "Mr. Putter & Tabby" series and Kathi Appelt's "Bubba and Beau" series, Howard talked about the art of illustrating and signed copies of his books. Nearly 200 children, parents, teachers and librarians attended the free event held at the Hardesty Regional Library. At the presentation, Howard told stories, read some of his picture books and showed kids how he goes about illustrating a story.

"Bringing a popular children's book illustrator to town is the perfect way to celebrate Children's Book Week and promote the beauty of children's literature," said Lana Voss, Tulsa City-County Library children's librarian and coordinator of Books to Treasure. "This year's program was a terrific success. Arthur Howard's presentation was exciting and interactive and so much fun. The parents loved it just about as much as the kids!"

One of the goals of Books to Treasure is to sign up all second-graders in Tulsa County for a Tulsa City-County Library card. This year, TCCL children's librarians visited public schools in the area and handed out library card applications for the students to take home. Each second-grader who returned a completed application got a special treat - a really cool, customized library card with an illustration from Howard's book "Serious Trouble."

As a part of Books to Treasure, all second-graders at Tulsa Public Schools and several other public school districts in the area received a free paperback copy of "Mr. Putter & Tabby Catch the Cold." Plus, Howard spoke at a Tulsa Public Schools elementary school as well as at a private elementary school in the area while in Tulsa.

The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation sponsors Books to Treasure. "The Zarrow family foundation has given Tulsa's children a wonderful gift," said Ellen Duecker, director of instructional media and library services, Tulsa Public Schools. "Many of our students come from homes without books and other reading materials. So this is a very special gift for them. It is also an exciting opportunity for all of our students to connect books and reading with real live authors and illustrators."

For more information about Books to Treasure, click on http://kids.tulsalibrary.org/services or call Voss at (918) 596-7971.

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"Serving the Mentally Ill," an OLA pre-conference workshop sponsored by the Interlibrary Cooperation Committee and the Support Staff Roundtable, will be presented from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2005, at the National Center for Employee Development in Norman.

The workshop will focus on interacting effectively with mentally ill patrons in the library. Greer Fites and Kari Whittow of Red Rock Behavioral Health Services in Tulsa will lead the morning session of the workshop. Greer and Kari will teach workshop participants to recognize common symptoms and behavioral patterns of mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder and also how to distinguish mental illness from other disabilities. Greer and Kari will also speak about statewide health care agencies and resources that have been established to help persons with mental illness. Plenty of time will be allotted for questions and discussion.

The afternoon session will focus on the practical application of serving mentally ill patrons in the library. Topics discussed will include applying your library's policies to patrons with mental illness to ensure equity of access and consistent evaluation of appropriate and inappropriate behavior in the library. Participants will review policies already in use and learn how to write policies of their own.
A Tribute to Donna Norvell

Donna was a mentor to all of us, a creative, generous lady. She was always thinking about literacy and how to use good books and fun props for summer reading, bringing her exhilarating eagerness for the upcoming summer. When we did dinosaurs for summer reading, Donna had her research cut out for herself; the summer manual was awesome! She had a dino idea for every age child, every library and every librarian. It was always great fun going to the summer reading preview with Donna, she showed us what we could do to promote literacy with a fabulous theme to connect with our kiddos. She shared her enthusiasm in a genuine way, with youth librarians all across the state of Oklahoma. She always made a point to attend our CATS meetings, and would help us with contacts for programming. Donna pulled a group of us together for the Youth Services Advisory Council back in 2001, what a project. Our team built a network of youth librarians across the state with Donna’s help. Donna’s commitment to youth services in Oklahoma is her legacy. Her memory will be our inspiration as we continue to serve the youth of Oklahoma.

Darla L’Allier
CATS chairperson

Donna was a very special person in my life. She was a mentor, a friend, and a sister. I believe that her sincere love of books and children touched not just my life, but many lives in the library field in Oklahoma. Donna and I came to work in and for Oklahoma libraries about the same time. I started in Norman as a Children’s Assistant, and met and worked with Donna on various OLA committees such as Children’s and Young Adult Sequoyah and CATS.

Donna loved books and she loved theme shopping for her books. Whenever we had a CATS meeting or were at OLA or other meetings together, we would always take a few minutes or hours to shop. She was always looking for new things to accessorize her latest Summer Reading Program. There was always a new puppet, book-themed toy or incentive to add to the collection for her to share with all the children’s librarians. Unable to contain her excitement in introducing the new SRP theme and all its accoutrements Donna’s enthusiasm was infectious to other librarians in the state.

I will miss the calls that start with “Whatcha doing? What’s that kiddo into now?” Always a visit to touch base with me and mine and then she might say “I need your expertise or help on this advisory group, OLA committee or (just fill in the blank). How could I ever say no? I am so glad I never did. I would have missed knowing and loving this beautiful person who made such an impact on my life.

Jenny Stenis
Norman Public Library

When I think about Donna, I recall all of the library conferences that we went on together and how she was always scouting out articles for summer reading. In Phoenix she was so excited to find the Hawaii store so she could buy articles for the summer reading program that year. Donna was very enthusiastic about CATS and keeping the momentum going in developing the group. She always tried to get new members to come to the meetings and share their experiences in working with children. She loved her collection of author-signed books and had a whole room with them in it.

Donna made the challenge of summer reading exciting with all of her innovative program ideas. She was a good friend and she will be terribly missed.

Kathy Logan
Enid Public Library
Following breakfast Thursday morning, Pat provided an introduction to the small group process she would use during the remainder of the Institute, then dived into the Leadership Model, which she summarized as “a vanilla list of several attributes of leadership: risk, vision (the future), influence and character.” In small groups, participants tackled the question “What is leadership” and presented their findings to the larger group. Through the exercise and a discussion on leadership principles, participants learned that “silence and reflection are good,” to “encourage others to express their constructive opinions for the betterment of library services and operations,” and that “quantifiable tasks are not always the most useful. Focusing on interpersonal relations also increases productivity.”

In the afternoon, participants navigated the Organizational Map “which explains the difference among task (frontline), management and leadership thinking and action.” Participants were asked, in their small groups, to devise a library scenario then view that scenario from the three different levels. Participants found it “interesting to learn the three different groups in an organization and recognize it in the workplace” and determined to “try to think of all three levels when tackling a problem.”

Thursday evening’s activity, On Your Feet, was “an interactive theater class where participants paired up and learned how to coach better public speaking performances from each other.” Participants learned to “be more aware of my presentation (body language) and voice level when I am in front of an audience: and to “use my voice as a tool.”

Friday morning participants studied the Influence Model, “which is about how to use influence when you don’t have power or authority to achieve your goals.” Participants learned the three steps toward using influence: rapport, information, and action and, in their small groups, discussed ways to build rapport in the workplace.

In the afternoon, participants examined the Five-Minute Strategic Plan, a “simple four-step model for strategic planning centered on working for the better future of those served.” In their small groups, participants discussed current trends -- “the buzz” -- and stretched their imaginations by developing lists of “Way Cool at the Library” ideas. This section “really made me understand about the difference in visionary thinking and big picture stuff.”

“The this has been a wonderful, fantastic experience for me and, I think, for everyone else….You’ve planted some seeds here that…may one day change the course of OLA and Oklahoma libraries – and I’m sure for the better.”

--Mentor

Friday wrapped up with a look at building community by developing a “political action map” of a community or institution in order to identify exactly what is in the service area and to answer the questions “what are you missing” and “what needs to be targeted?” For participants, this “reaffirmed the point that community is central -- [it’s not about] your library’s vision but your community’s needs.”

Saturday morning participants addressed the question: “So, what are you going to do differently when you go back to the library?” In small groups, they developed a list of questions to ask the leadership Expert Panel, billed as “a surprise guest panel to answer all your problems.” It was indeed a surprise to
participants Beverly Dowdy, Marcia Johnson, Gina Wooster, Kathy Huber, and Lynn Wallace when their names were selected as the members of the panel. They successfully handled questions from their audience and received a rousing round of applause at the conclusion of their presentation.

Following the expert panel, each mentor gave a brief presentation on what they can do for the participants along with information on their involvement in OLA and the impact that has had on them as a leader. The participants then turned to working on their final exercise, creating a personal action plan to answer today’s question. One by one they presented their action plan to the assembled group.

Leadership Institute Committee Co-chair Rachel Butler describes the graduation ceremony: “One by one we called each participant to the front, where Kathryn Lewis, Kay Boies, and I presented each one with a certificate. Congratulatory handshakes often turned into spontaneous hugs. The ceremony started with enthusiastic festiveness and, thanks to a bunch of party toy noisemakers, got more and more enthusiastic (and loud). It was emotional and cathartic.”

Great thanks to our contributors to the first OLA GOLD Library Leadership Institute: Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Eastern Oklahoma District Library System Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) Oklahoma Department of Libraries Tulsa City-County Library System We could not have done it without you!

Note: For a complete list of the OLA GOLD participants and mentors, please visit the OLA website: http://www.oklibs.org.

“People seem to see a leader in me and I’m going to go back believing it.” -- Participant

OLA Leadership Institute Committee

Kay Boies
Oklahoma Library Association

Rachel Butler, Co-chair
Oklahoma City Community College

Shirley Folsom
Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Library

Kathryn Lewis, Co-chair
Norman Public Schools

Lynn McIntosh
Chickasaw Regional Library System

Anna Moore

Sharlotte Riggle
Chickasaw Regional Library System

Sarah Robbins
University of Oklahoma

Vicki Sullivan
Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Deborah Willis
Midwest City Library

Pictures, clockwise from top of page 62: Facilitator Pat Wagner; Mentor Wayne Hanway chats with a local resident at the Thursday evening reception; Committee members Sarah Robbins and Kathryn Lewis with participant Gina Minks, and Valerie Kimble with Noble Library Director Patrick Brennen.
The Life of a High School Library Media Specialist

It was toward the end of summer break. Everyone was asking me the same question: “How many days before you go back to school?” I would groan, “Oh, I have to go back in 2 weeks which is one week before the teachers even have to come back.” And then I would apologize, “I don’t know why I groan like that every year, because I love my job.”

Yes, I love being a high school library media specialist. Every day is different! I get to work with teachers and students and I have great staff help. I don’t have the same duties the classroom teachers have and rarely do I have a discipline problem.

Jenks is a large high school with grades 10-12. Because of our size, we have two library media specialists—me and Dan Manley.

Before students or teachers come we get our bulletin boards ready with one being “Meet the Media Staff” displaying individual collages of pictures and words that describe each of us. We get book kiosks ready with new books, books of specific genres, or a display featuring books representing the monthly emphasis.

Some days in the Jenks High School Media Center it is very busy with classes doing research, classes or individual students using the computer lab, and many other activities. The beginning of each school year constitutes many activities to orient, direct, teach, and guide teachers and students. Each school year is different according to the curriculum, teachers, students and other factors.

Before returning teachers come back we have an orientation for the new teachers. We introduce our library staff and explain our services and resources available. We have several handouts explaining audiovisual usage. We show off some of our latest equipment and technology to tempt them. We are pleased to tell them that our collection of books and audiovisuals are all on an online catalog, so they may look at it from their classroom or any Mac or PC on campus. Our databases are all available at home with special remote access.

Starting the second day of school we start book talks for any interested teachers. Then we do orientations for all the incoming sophomore classes.

At the beginning of the year we train any student aides we may get. They have a course guide which they are responsible for various assignments. We usually have at least one work-study student from the special education department who is trained much like a student aide, but is paid for their services.

During hours either Dan or I don’t work with classes, I keep busy managing books and budgets while Dan manages our technology as the building contact representative and makes audiovisual and equipment purchases. We both read book reviews from book reviewing periodicals and other reviewing sources. We keep our website up-to-date with items helpful to students and their parents. I do the cataloging of the books and Dan does the same for the audiovisuals and equipment.

When a teacher signs up for a research unit, Dan and I share responsibilities of working with teachers. We ask that the teachers provide us with a copy of the student assignment sheet. We prepare according to what the students will be researching. Sometimes it may require our putting together a specific research sheet to guide them. We do a presentation at the beginning of their research unit and work with them for the duration of the unit. Sometimes a unit may require meeting with the teacher to do some specific planning. Often times a research assignment may require a PowerPoint, a visual, or a student-chosen presentation. We work with the students to help them produce whatever it is they want to use in the production of their assignment.

We constantly are sending out e-mails to the high school staff with lists of new books, audiovisuals, technology and other resources.

After school we may have in-services on the use of our own online catalog, state- and school-provided online databases, and frequently-used equipment.

Monday through Thursday we keep the media center open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dan and I share duties working from 4-7 p.m. Students are able to get individual help finding resources, doing research, working on assignments in the computer lab, etc.

Of course activities in the media center change at the end of the year. We are diligently trying to get those overdue books in. We are weeding and repairing books as well as setting aside those which need re-binding. Inventory goes quite smoothly with laptops, wireless connections and real-time input. It’s so much easier and less time consuming than in the past. We don’t dread the end of the year anymore.

Some years we do surveys to assess resource usage, needs, teacher usage, and more. These may guide us in purchasing, collaboration with teachers, usage of the facility or adding needed programming.

Dan and I are always looking for new ways to draw teachers and students into the library media center or to use our resources remotely. Whether it’s through displays, bulletin boards, website articles, e-mails, daily announcements or some new creative method, we like to be used. We are always open to new ideas to dispense and enable access to the Jenks High School Media Center’s services and resources.

Carla Aldrich
Jenks High School
http://www.geo.ou.edu/ — Then click on the round button for “MAPS”

The University of Oklahoma’s Department of Geology has mounted a number of useful municipality, county, and legislative district maps on their webpage. Here is what they have and how to access and use it. Most of the maps that you would use you will find in their “Free Digital Maps” section that is at the top of the webpage; they also have a “Custom Maps” section further down the webpage.

FREE DIGITAL MAPS

1. Town and City maps—you will find a drop-down box of municipalities. Open it, scroll down to find your town or city, and click the “View” button. You’ll get a map that outlines the incorporated limits along with markings for highways, roads, railroads, and water features. For large cities such as Tulsa you will have to scroll both up and down and sideways to view the entire map. Note that this tool doesn’t include maps for any unincorporated places such as Dale, Dennis, or Meridian, Oklahoma.

2. County maps—you will find a drop-down box of counties. Choose your county, then look at the types of maps available below the drop-down box. These are: County Precinct Maps (each county is divided into County Commissioner service precincts), County School District Maps in three size resolutions (each county is divided into school districts), County Basemaps (the basic maps of each county, divided by township, range, and section), and County Boundary maps (also by township, range, and section but with special attention to county boundaries). Once you’ve chosen your county, just click on the type of map that you want and it will appear for your county.

CUSTOM MAPS

The OU Department of Geology will also create special maps on demand for a fee. Among these are Oklahoma Legislative Precinct maps, State Senate and State House Jurisdictional maps, Oil and Gas Wellspot and Production Interval maps, Waterflood maps, and School District maps. Since these aren’t free to you, I won’t review them.

But here is one website where you can access Oklahoma school district maps for free: the National Center for Educational Statistics maintains a School District Demographics webpage at http://maps.nces.ed.gov/sddsgis/

To use this tool, which is called “Map Viewer:"

1. use the drop-down box to select a state, then
2. click the “Click to list school districts” button. A new webpage will appear, after which you then
3. use another drop-down box to select a school district in Oklahoma, then
4. click the “Click for school district map” button to get the map, which will immediately begin to load.

The “Free Digital Maps” webpage is a good source for Oklahoma’s town and county maps. The University of Oklahoma’s Department of Geology offers a useful service to our state in providing us with these maps.

Steve Beleu
ODL
Did you know that Oklahoma is home to one of the world’s largest privately-held terrorism libraries? On Nov. 5, 2004 the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT) dedicated the permanent relocation of its Terrorism Information Center. The MIPT library now occupies the 5th floor of the Old Journal Record Building, adjacent to the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

Housed in a 3,300 square-foot reading room that also serves as a fully equipped conference space, MIPT’s Terrorism Information Center consists of 2,139 books, 1,178 reports and articles, and 1,150 electronic resources, which include conference proceedings, reports and studies in full text, as copyright allows. MIPT’s library staff also monitors over 30 electronic mailing lists on topics such as terrorism, first responders, emergency management and weapons of mass destruction.

MIPT’s Terrorism Information Center also includes a digital information center: MIPT’s website, http://www.mipt.org. The MIPT website is a widely used and highly acclaimed terrorism information resource, receiving over 40,000 visitors per month. MIPT.org has over 1,100 reports, articles, fact sheets, journals, and links, as well as a searchable online library catalog. MIPT continuously adds to its bibliographies on terrorism and mental health, as well as its calendar of conferences and training courses. The site also provides access to MIPT’s knowledge bases: Lessons Learned Information Sharing system, the Responder Knowledge Base and the newest addition, the Terrorism Knowledge Base.

Dr. Brad Robison, the MIPT Terrorism Information Center director, has been with the Institute since its creation in 1999. He, along with Librarian Kay Crandall, provides specific information on terrorism to researchers when requested via the website or by calling (405) 278-6311.

“MIPT’s Terrorism Information Center is available to anyone who needs information on terrorism,” said Robison. “On questions ranging from the Oklahoma City Bombing to Al Qaeda, we more than likely have the answers. And if we don’t, we will track them down.”

Robison and Crandall have contributed to terrorism research done by universities, terrorism think tanks, journalists, the U.S. State Department and the White House.

Becoming the premier center of terrorism information is a mandate defined by the family members, survivors and rescue workers of the 1995 Oklahoma City Murrah Federal Building bombing. Upon the recommendation of those affected by the bombing, Congress created the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism in 1999 as the third component of the Oklahoma City National Memorial. MIPT is a non-profit funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and has a separate board and mission from that of the Memorial. MIPT’s mission “to prevent terrorism or mitigate its effects,” encompasses the family members, survivors and rescue workers’ original mandate for MIPT to “act as a resource clearinghouse by establishing an online library containing national research, education and training information related to the prevention and mitigation of terrorism.”

The MIPT Terrorism Information Center’s resources are available free of charge electronically, through MIPT.org, or through interlibrary loan. Researchers interested in utilizing the library in person should call Dr. Brad Robison at (405) 278-6311 to make arrangements. An agreement and MIPT’s collocation with the Oklahoma City National Memorial Archives provides research accessibility to both collections.

For more information, please call (405) 278-6311, or visit http://www.mipt.org.
Libraries A to Z — and You!

What does a librarian do when there is the biggest turnover in the state Legislature in forty years, because of term limits, and the 39 new representatives and 15 new senators are overwhelmed by lobbyists and organizations competing for their attention and support? They are constantly hearing about the needs of common education, higher education, transportation, law enforcement, health care, the judiciary, agriculture, the correctional system, veterans, the environment, tourism and recreation, economic development, the oil and gas industry, utilities, wildlife, state employees, etc., not to mention the varied concerns of their constituents.

What chance do librarians have to get a word in edgewise among all that, let alone address the sad reality that many new legislators are not library users and know essentially nothing about the needs and concerns of Oklahoma’s diverse public, academic, school, and special libraries? The tendency of legislators under time pressure to use out-of-date stereotypes when making decisions has been disastrous for libraries many times in the past.

Oliver Delaney, the veteran legislative liaison for the Oklahoma Library Association, brought this problem to the OLA Legislative Committee in the late spring of 2004. Committee members agreed that it would be important for librarians, trustees, and library friends all around the state to contact candidates and newly-elected legislators to tell them about library needs, but how effective could they be when there was not an easily explained high profile issue to point to?

What seemed to be needed was something that would quickly and easily explain today’s Oklahoma library basics, sort of a library political ABC. That concept set me to thinking.

If I seemed rather preoccupied and absent-minded at the Legislative Committee’s meeting on July 8th, it was because I was working on an ABC list that I had started that morning while driving to Oklahoma City from McAlester. A two-hour drive on divided highways gives you time to think, although not to safely write things down.

Anyone who has ever played an alphabet game knows that there are lots of possibilities for some letters and hardly anything for others, like Q, X, and Z. This was one problem, but I was confident that it would not be a big one. X proved easy because X is the traditional mark for voting. Z is not very readily associated with libraries, but Zero gave me a good way to close with impact, reminding legislators that their support makes all the difference to libraries. A bigger challenge was to make a balanced choice of which areas of the Oklahoma library picture to present, with the further constraint of needing to be very concise.

By the time the meeting was done and I went to lunch with June Lester and Christine Sauro, I had a rough list ready for their consideration. They gave me several good suggestions. At home in McAlester that evening, I wrote a simple statement for all 26 letters. The next day, I sent my first draft to State Librarian Susan McVey, asking for statistics and feedback. Susan provided both, greatly improving the text at several points. I used Microsoft Publisher to turn it into a quick and dirty booklet and then passed it on.

The Legislative Committee liked it, and voted to publish it as “Libraries A to Z: A Primer.” Gary Kramer, the Public Information Officer at the Pioneer Library System, did a wonderful job of turning my booklet into a polished, attractive work ready to go to the printer.

The rest of the story is up to Oklahoma’s librarians, trustees, and library friends. It is your job to take just a few minutes of a legislator’s time, give them the primer, and quickly go through it with them. If they have questions, make sure you get back to them with an answer.

Then, next spring, when you need to talk to your legislator again because his or her support is needed, you will have already laid the groundwork for success.

Wayne Hanway

Note: For copies of the Libraries A to Z booklet, contact Kay Boies at (405) 348-0506 or kboies@coxinet.net.

OLA’s 2004 Legislative Goals

To protect the rights of Oklahoma citizens to access the information they need in all formats, print and electronic.

To preserve Oklahoma’s tradition of local library governance by citizens for public and school libraries.

To support the Oklahoma Department of Libraries’ budget priorities and essential services.

To ensure quality school library programs staffed by certified Master’s level library educators.
Amigos provides Oklahoma libraries easy access to the wide variety of programs and services offered by OCLC, including:

- Connexion (cataloging)
- CatExpress
- Resource Sharing (ILL)
- FirstSearch
- QuestionPoint
- ILLiad
- CONTENTdm

...and much more

For more information on OCLC services available through Amigos, contact Ramona McKeown, 1-800-843-8482, ext. 2818, or mckeown@amigos.org.

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