PRESIDENT’S COLUMN
Libraries in 2008: Great Places to Be!

A Parting Moment

As many know, Oliver Delaney is retiring from fifteen years of service as the OLA government relations representative. Throughout those fifteen years he was well-known for the stance that *people matter most*, and with that philosophy he has been a powerful advocate for Oklahomans and their libraries. In thinking about his years of advocacy and his unique perspectives on government and librarianship, I wanted to understand better librarianship in the state political context and his vision for the future of Oklahoma libraries. Because I thought readers of *Oklahoma Librarian* would also be interested, I invited him to participate in an interview.

He accepted the invitation:

KL: In thinking about our future, is there a single message that you would communicate to the OLA membership?

OD: There is a need to build modern public libraries throughout the state in cities and towns of a size able to sustain the technology and facilities needed now and in the near future. A new Carnegie Foundation system. Libraries are in a position so that society cannot do without them. It is right and reasonable that there are schools and libraries. Why would you not have schools and libraries?

KL: Where do you see the funding that would be equivalent to a new Carnegie Foundation?

OD: Go to the wealthy first, not the state and local governments. We must not rely only on property taxes for support. Recently FOLIO met in Oklahoma City to establish an endowment. A few at the gathering contributed significantly toward the initial $20,000 for the FOLIO investment in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Financial contributions for libraries are now a significant issue—an issue in recent years reflected through the Gates Foundation. Such funding is necessary for this state’s public libraries, which in most cases are not in the sustainable positions of others that have large tax bases.

There is also a necessity for state support of libraries—of all types (school, public academic, and special), and the place to begin is with the public libraries. State government has responsibilities to support libraries; yet, 90% of the state’s annual resources are spent on education, prisons, security, and roads. It will take multiple solutions to move toward stronger support of Oklahoma’s public libraries. Among the possibilities for increased state support are doubling the millage cap and the revision, expansion, and updating of state laws at Title 65 which provide for state public library funding and regional resources. Local funding via property taxes for public libraries is not expanding but rather is in jeopardy of elimination (think: California Proposition 13). Public libraries must develop sustainable non-tax funding in addition to property taxes. They must work with governments and seek endowments and placements in wills and estates. Librarians need to conduct workshops on establishing and growing endowment

(continued)
President’s Column: A Parting Moment (continued)

However, with state government funding will come government guidelines, controls, and demands. Either libraries are locally “controlled” by their own boards, or they are not. State funds can diminish or remove local control.

KL: What would make your vision for public libraries a reality?

OD: A “Statewide Library Services and Construction Act.” [Here Mr. Delaney outlined a map of Oklahoma on a sheet of paper and identified an area in the eastern part of the state.] I see all of Oklahoma’s libraries being formally evaluated for their current service capacities so that areas/counties of greatest need can be targeted first for library reconstruction, with the state providing focused financial support first for that area and next time for the area with the second greatest needs, and so on. Thus, the state’s libraries can be rebuilt through focused political attention until all public libraries of a sustainable size meet today’s community needs.

KL: What can OLA do to facilitate and support a statewide library services and construction act?

OD: Statements and letters to library constituencies. However, when library directors dilute the quality of their staff, how can they explain their professionalism to their publics? They can’t. Librarians should bring their knowledge and intellect to what is happening. They should plan realistically to ensure that throughout the years there are sustainable local-level libraries throughout the state.

Librarians should frequently review selection policies and procedures, engage in dialogue with focus groups, bring the subject of materials selection up first, and engage in peer-review processes as in the professional practice within law and medicine. A good plan is the best defense.

Librarians need to partner with FOLIO, now celebrating its 30th anniversary, as well as other groups and organizations that share our interests (e.g., Freedom of Information, Oklahoma).

[Pausing] Finally, there is a great need for a State Conference on Libraries, like the one which Pat Woodrum and Marty Thompson brought about in 1978 and which Marilyn Vesely coordinated. There should be a 2010 Statewide Conference on Libraries to kick off a statewide Library Services and Construction Act.

Oklahoma can have exemplary public libraries supported with sustainable funding. A 2010 statewide conference could launch that future. People do matter most—those served and those who serve. Thank you, Mr. Delaney.

—Kathy Latrobe

The Oklahoma Library Association awarded Michael Wallis and Julia Brady Ratliff with the OLA Special Project Award for their seven years of successful efforts in coordinating the Oklahoma Literary Landmarks Centennial Project. Unfortunately, Michael was unable to attend the OLA Conference to receive his award. On June 22, at the Hawk Writing Workshop in Tulsa, attended by over 100 writers from places including Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and Canada, Michael’s wife Suzanne Fitzgerald Wallis accepted the award for Michael. Suzanne was at the conference to present a session titled, “After It’s Written, the Real Work Begins: Book Publicity, Promotion, and Marketing.” We appreciate Mr. Bernhardt for providing this opportunity to publicly present the award in front of a large audience and thereby help demonstrate the activities and value of our organizations, the Oklahoma Library Association and Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma. Thank you, Bill!
Marilyn Hinshaw, selected an Oklahoma Library Legend in 2006, will retire from her post as Executive Director of the six county Eastern Oklahoma District Library System headquartered in Muskogee, Oklahoma effective December 31. A strong advocate of staff development, Hinshaw supported the development of state certification and the EODLS board policy of paying every staff member’s cost for state library certification plus all costs of continuing education events to keep each staff member’s certification current. Hinshaw came to Oklahoma from Columbia, Missouri, and hit the ground running with a term as chair of OLA’s Legislative Committee in 1985, followed by election to OLA President, 1988-1989. She stayed active in the Legislative arena, developing legislative relationships that resulted in Oklahoma Department of Library’s funding for grants to build community library buildings.

Hinshaw has also served as president (1999-2000) of the Mountain Plains Library Association where she developed the Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute. A member of ALA since the beginning of her library career, she was elected president of Junior Members Round Table (now NMRT), and later president of two PLA sections. Hinshaw was elected to ALA Council twice over a period of ten years, spacing that out with other association responsibilities. In 2008 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim she was commended for service on ALA’s Budget Analysis and Review Committee, ending as the committee’s chair. She is serving a third and current term as ALA Councilor-at-Large through 2011.

Matt Jones comes to the Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library system from Dell, Inc. Matt is the Dynix System Administrator and Head of Circulation. He serves as the Information and Technology Coordinator for the System. As a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, Matt has a strong background in technology. He and his wife are happy to be back home in Ardmore where they plan to raise their young family.

Amber Carter is the new Youth Services and Assistant Reference Librarian at the Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library System. After graduating with an MLIS from the University of Oklahoma in 2005, Amber relocated to Conroe, Texas where she worked as a reference librarian for two years at the Montgomery County Library System. “I am excited to be back in Oklahoma and working in a wonderful library system so much closer to family and friends,” Amber says.

Jan Reinbold retired as library director of Southern Nazarene University in June, 2008. Dr. Arlita Harris became library director in July, 2008. Dr. Harris comes to SNU from the University of North Texas.

Kayla Gulick is a new Librarian at Arrow Springs Elementary School in Broken Arrow. She completed her MLIS in December, 2007 from OU. She is married to Daniel Gulick, local artist and associate at Philbrook Art Center. Kayla is thrilled to be a part of Arrow Springs Elementary and really enjoys her activities with the students.
Many university libraries subscribe to expensive databases which access Congressional reports, hearings, bills, and laws. But you can find them for free on the web through the Thomas website. Created by the Library of Congress in 1995 at the request of the 104th Congress, the site was designed to make federal legislative materials freely available to the public. Since that time the scope has increased to include not only bills and committee reports, but also laws and other documents pertaining to the actions of Congress. For example, you can access the Congressional Record, which is the verbatim written record of everything discussed on the House and Senate floor (it even includes a few speeches not actually given on the floor). You can also access current activity on the floors of both Houses. You can look at the calendars of the Congress and find out which bills are likely to be discussed on which days. For those who are strong advocates (and what librarian is not??) this gives you an idea of when to write your legislator to convince him or her to vote a particular way on a bill.

The search engines on the site allow you to search bills across several congresses, back to 1983. You can also search for bills by sponsor, and can find roll call votes for either House, to check on whether your legislator followed that great letter of yours when he/she voted. The bill sponsors search goes back to the 93d Congress, or 1973. Committee reports can be searched by committee or keyword or report number, and go back to 1995. Finally, you can search the U.S. Code via a link back to the House of Representatives website, to trace the laws of the U.S. by title (chapter) or topic.

Another important duty of Congress is to ratify treaties. You can search all treaties back to 1993, but you can search older treaties back to 1967 if the treaty was still pending in 1975 when the database was first created. You can get brief information about the treaties, such as when they were approved, main provisions, how the ratification vote went, etc., but you cannot access the entire treaty itself. For this you must link to GPO Access.

For those seeking information on particular legislators, Thomas also links you to the web pages for the House of Representatives and the Senate, where you can link to web pages for individual members of Congress, and also to committee web pages to find out more about each committee. For those interested in the history of the Legislature you can link to Government Resources, which links you to pages on the history of the Congress. There is also a teacher’s link which provides ideas for curriculum tie-ins and lesson plans.

Finally, Thomas also allows you to search presidential nominations. The President is constitutionally mandated to nominate ambassadors, cabinet members, and Supreme Court justices. In addition they usually nominate candidates for various civilian, military and judicial positions. The Senate confirms (or not) these nominations, and Thomas provides background information on the nominating process, as well as a search screen to find nominating hearings in a variety of ways (name, nomination number, state, congress, etc.).

There you have it. The next time a patron walks up asking for the latest bill on Medicare or public health, don’t panic! Go to www.thomas.loc.gov! You’ll find the answer.

– Barbara Miller
How do people decide what careers to choose? Many librarians began by loving books and reading. (Don’t you wish you had more time for that now?) Many librarians volunteered or worked in a library during high school or college and had someone who took extra time with them.

Job Shadow Day is an opportunity to begin planting seeds about library careers for those in your community, school or college. Students and volunteers can get an inside, personal look at the library and potential careers.

The goals of Job Shadow Day—
- Helps prepare the future workforce
- Shows students career possibilities
- Demonstrates tangible commitment to supporting and improving the community
- Creates a feeling of personal satisfaction that comes from mentoring a young person.

The American Association of School Librarians, Public Library Association and Association of College and Research Libraries have joined forces with national sponsors—Junior Achievement, U.S. Dept. of Education, America’s Promise, and U.S. Dept. of Labor—to develop a wonderful job shadowing model for easy adaptation and use locally. JobShadow.org has a variety of materials available to make the day fun and productive—Site Coordinator’s Guide, Teacher’s Guide, Student Workbook, and a Certificate of Achievement. An outline of the day or half-day is given. Students are given a success skills inventory in addition to a career assessment. Ideas for beginning a résumé are given. Suggestions for questions for the mentor and shadow are included, as well. Students also have a worksheet for reflection on the experience.

Before Job Shadow Day 2008, Dr. Sherry Young, Director of Library Services at Cameron University Library, put a sign on the door asking if anyone would like to participate in a job shadowing experience. Two students volunteered and found it very interesting. One librarian served as the main mentor, but the students visited with different librarians on staff. One staff member was currently in library school and told the shadows about how to apply for library school and her experiences. Shadows were taken to lunch.

Young was also shadowed by a professor’s daughter, who was twelve years old. Young shared her job activities and took her to lunch. She later learned that the shadow is interested in library school. Young enjoyed the experience. “It was rewarding to see that other people are interested in your occupation,” Young said. She is planning to contact high school librarians in her area and have them recommend possible shadows for this next year.

Library Club members and part-time staffers at Rose State were asked if they would like to participate in job shadowing. Four requested to join the experience. The shadows were shown around the Library departments (some of which they were not aware existed), introduced to activities they did not know happened in “their” library, and worked with librarians at their desks on the pertinent activities for the day. They found the experience very enlightening about the wide variety of librarians’ duties.

During the Information Matrix Camp this summer, Cathy Adams, Young Adult Librarian at the Moore Public Library (Pioneer Library System), hosted seven returning campers. The middle-school-age participants had 30-minute segments at departments throughout the library. Participants were—
- Weeding after an explanation of the process.
- Working on business development kits.
- Checking in and out books at the customer service desk.
- Helping at all the public service desks.
- Shelving.

Adams planned as large a variety of activities as possible within her library. The staff members thought the shadowing was a very positive experience. The campers thought it was really fun and enjoyed it.

Campers comments on their blog about the day included—
- “We talked about different library positions and did some job shadowing … and I did adult reference desk and I asked some questions to the helper too.”
- “We went to the Moore library and did job statuses where you got to choose a position in the library and do that with the employee.”
- “I was in the children's department, and I got to check in new books.”
- “I got to shadow a librarian. It was so much fun…”

The process is easy.
- Review the resources at jobshadow.org.
- Decide who your target audience is (volunteer, students, anyone).
- Invite participants or advertise.
- Plan activities.
- Make copies of Student Workbook and Certificate of Achievement.
- Enjoy the day!

—Sharon Saulmon, Dean, Learning Resources Center, Rose State College and member, OLA’s Career Recruitment and Retention Committee
Nieuwenhuizen, Agnes. *Right Book Right Time: 500 great reads for teenagers*. Australia: Allen and Unwin, 2007. xi + 355 pp. 978-174114-883-1. “Read for pleasure, for thrills, for escape … read for yourself and not for others” states the author. This book is an annotated list of subject reads for teens. Author Nieuwenhuizen’s diverse background influences her choices of literature and underscores the arrangement and content of this book. Nieuwenhuizen, born in Iran to Hungarian parents, migrated to Australia where she has promoted youth literature for many years. The thematic grouping of the stories is so much richer than the usual choices of Realistic fiction, Historical Fiction, etc. Twelve sections including action, adventure & crime, been & gone, extreme & edgy, life, love & loss, this sporting life, what if?, lead teachers and librarians through the maze of young adult literature offered by publishers today. The stories have tantalizing short summaries with quotations from the texts and reviews previously published in professional literature. While many of the book titles are from Australia, Nieuwenhuizen’s home base, the stories are diverse geographically with many coming from translated texts; books from Poland, Germany, UK, USA, Russia, Canada, Thailand, and New Zealand add to the international appeal of this book. Professors, librarians, and teachers will use this guide to promote reading connections or “trails” between the classics and contemporary literature. —Elaina Stewart, Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Roberto, K. R., ed. *Radical Cataloging: Essays at the Front*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, c2008. 978-0-7864-3543-2. 311 p. $45.00. This book offers a wide variety of eminently readable essays on the past, current, and future state of cataloging. There is something here for everyone who is interested in cataloging. The “radical” nature of the book is reflected in essays focused on the struggle to make cataloging more inclusive and less likely to ignore or marginalize people, things, or ideas outside the mainstream. In addition, and to me this is the biggest appeal, there are a number of essays focusing on the enormous changes facing the cataloging world – from the Library of Congress’ decisions to drop series authority work and prioritize the cataloging of digital material over that of print to essays about how new tools and Web 2.0 are changing the way we think about cataloging to thoughts on authority control and subject access. Finally, there are just a bunch of gems on a variety of cataloging-related topics, including a delightful one about the “random rants in comic rhyme” shared with coworkers over the years by cataloger Albert Huffstickler at the Perry-Castaneda Library. This book is a must-read for catalogers and others who want or need to know the cataloging debates and issues that shape our catalogs and thus the information our customers are able to retrieve, as well as for anyone who wants to know more about the radical side of the cataloging profession. —Sarah Simpson, Tulsa City-County Library

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*Mark your calendars now for:*

- **February 1, 2009:** Deadline for nominations for the Robert Motter Vendor Appreciation Award, to be presented at the OLA Annual Conference in April. [http://www.oklibs.org/awards/motter.html](http://www.oklibs.org/awards/motter.html)
- **March 7, 2009:** Border Queen Book Festival 2009: 10am to 3pm, Asbury Complex, Comanche OK. [http://www.bqbf.blogspot.com/](http://www.bqbf.blogspot.com/)
- **June 5-6, 2009:** Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival, [www.territortellers.org](http://www.territorytellers.org)
Recent Events at Tulsa City-County Library

Louis Sachar, author of the Newbery Medal-winning “Holes,” received the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2008 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature on Aug. 22 at Tulsa City-County Library’s Central Library. More than 500 fans turned out to honor him. Earlier that day, Sachar spoke to fourth- and fifth-graders at Tulsa Public Schools Barnard Elementary School. Two of those students, Reggie Mayes and Charles Burts, had the honor of presenting the Zarrow award to Sachar at the Friday night award presentation. The award consisted of an engraved crystal book and $7,500 cash prize. Earlier in the year, to prepare area students for Sachar’s visit to Tulsa, Tulsa City-County Library and the Tulsa World daily newspaper presented a workshop for teachers that featured classroom lessons and activities focused on Sachar’s “Holes.” Workshop participants each received 35 free copies of “Holes” to give to their students. More than 3,000 copies of “Holes” were given out. The books were provided by the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

More than 40,000 kids and teens participated in Tulsa City-County Library’s 2008 summer reading programs. At the onset of the programs, Bob Walker, mayor of Sand Springs, challenged other communities in Tulsa County to a friendly competition to see whose town could increase their participation in the summer reading program the most. In the end, Sand Springs was the clear winner as nearly a third more Sand Springs children and teens participated in this year’s program than in 2007. As a special treat, Mayor Bob Walker got to throw out the first pitch at the annual Library Summer Reading Program Night at a Tulsa Drillers baseball game. Pictured, left to right, at the game are: Tulsa library mascot Buddy Bookworm; Mark Carlson, branch manager of TCCL’s Charles Page Library in Sand Springs; Sand Springs Mayor Bob Walker; and Tulsa Drillers mascot Hornsby. —Jackie Hill
FOLIO Scholarships

FOLIO (Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma) awards four scholarships each spring to library support staff to encourage them to pursue training and education which will develop and broaden job knowledge, skills and expertise. Applicants must be currently employed at a public, academic, or special library in the state of Oklahoma. Priority is given to education for a master’s degree. The application consists of a form available on the FOLIO website (www.okfriends.net) and a one to two page response to the essay question: What are your continuing education goals and how will further education help you in your library career?

Deadline for submission of applications is March 1, 2009. Selection will be made by a committee comprised of FOLIO Board members. Scholarship amount will be a minimum of $250 for up to four recipients, depending on committee selections. Scholarship awards will be presented at the FOLIO Annual Meeting Luncheon on April 23, held during the OLA Annual Conference. Recipients will receive one free luncheon ticket and may purchase additional tickets if desired.

Submit applications to Laurie Sundborg, c/o Tulsa City-County Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa, OK 74103.