BIRD LIBRARY DIRECTOR WINS MLA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Marty Thompson, Director of the Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library, was awarded the President's Award at the Medical Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference held in May 2009.

The President's Award is given to an MLA member who has been selected by the association's officers and Board of Directors for a notable or important contribution made during the past association year. The contribution must have enhanced the profession of health sciences librarianship or furthered the objectives of the association.

At the Awards Luncheon MLA President Mary Ryan presented the President's Award to Marty Thompson, in recognition of his extensive contributions in the area of library disaster planning to MLA, its members and the medical library community. For over 30 years Marty has been heavily involved in Oklahoma libraries, involved in both training and outreach to libraries and health professionals. He is a past president of OLA and an OLA Centennial Library Legend. Congratulations to Marty, the Library and the OUHSC!

ODL HIGHLIGHTED FOR SERVICE BY GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) is being spotlighted by the U.S. Government Printing Office this June, 2009. The Oklahoma Territorial Library began receiving Federal depository materials in 1893, fourteen years before Oklahoma was granted statehood in 1907!

Today the Oklahoma Department of Libraries works to expand the knowledge and enrich the lives of the people of their state. Their mission is to serve the information and records management needs of state government, assist with public library development, coordinate library and information technology projects for the state, and serve the general public through its specialized collections.

The regional depository coordinator, Steve Beleu, actively works to educate libraries about the benefits and opportunities of being a Federal depository library, especially working to bring tribal college libraries into the program. He shares his specialized knowledge of tribal resources at conferences and through Web pages. His latest Web page: Federal Websites for Tribal Libraries and Tribal College Libraries pulls together many resources of interest to tribal libraries and for those interested in researching tribal issues. Mr. Beleu has taken extensive agency training, and runs workshops covering a range of topics tailored to the needs of the hosting library, such as health statistics, American Memory information, and Census information.

Congratulations to ODL and to Steve Beleu! Read the whole story here http://www.fdlp.gov/outreach/spotlight/403-oklahoma-department-of-libraries-us-government-information-division
Explore the Possibilities

“The future belongs to people who see possibilities before they become obvious.”
Theodore Levitt (1925-2006)

One of the most challenging things in life can be to look beyond the immediate and limited world around us and move outside the comfortable and familiar and into the strange and different. Yet there is also something inside all of us that compels us to peer around that corner or see what’s over that hill. On the one hand we enjoy the security of the known while at the same time we feel the urge to explore the unknown.

My challenge to each of you during the coming year is to surrender to that urge to explore. Given the state of the economy and the challenges facing all of us, now is the time to seriously explore all the possibilities before us, in terms of serving our customers, developing our collections (both print and online), dealing with staff constraints – well, you can make your own list. (I know you’ve got one!) If you believe in making lemonade when handed a lemon, then it’s time to look at the new possibilities that may be opening before us as well as revisiting old ones that we may not have looked at for a while.

Hence the theme of the 2010 annual conference and of my year as president of OLA: “Explore the Possibilities.” That is certainly what your Association’s leadership will be doing in the coming months – looking beyond the challenges and seeking the opportunities that lie behind them.

At the annual leadership retreat in June (held this year on the campus of The University of Tulsa) I presented a number of challenges to the attendees, focusing on those areas in which I have a particular interest. The first is in the area of technology.

The OLA website is the most significant communication tool that we have. It is also badly out-of-date and in need of a complete overhaul. And that’s exactly what it’s getting. Tiffany Benson (TU), OLA’s webmaster, and Roy Degler (OSU) are currently giving the website a complete top-to-bottom makeover. Not only will we see a more “modern-looking” site, but one with a completely different structure and philosophy. Utilizing a content management system called ModX, the chairs of our divisions, roundtables and committees are taking direct responsibility for providing up-to-date content for their areas of the site. (The first training session in using this resource took place at the retreat.) Look for many other changes as well, including news feeds and a new calendar. We hope to launch the renovated site in the early fall. Be watching the OLA discussion list for details.

In addition to the website, we’ll be exploring other online possibilities, including the use of Facebook and Twitter as communication tools. We’ll also be investigating e-voting in OLA elections. This is a serious move, involving changes to the by-laws as well as figuring out the logistics, so it may be 2011 before this becomes a reality. But it’s coming!

Of course, there’s much more to OLA than technology. One committee I intend to spend some time on is the Tribal Libraries Ad Hoc Committee. Created by Jan Bryant during her term as president, this committee is charged with outreach to tribal libraries and librarians in our state. As I told the committee at the June meeting, it amazes me that this hasn’t been
an ongoing project of the association for years. This is Oklahoma, after all. You almost want to slap yourself on the forehead and say “Well, duh!” We hope to see this committee become a permanent part of OLA. Already they’ve begun planning programs for conference and a workshop for the fall of 2010. Perhaps, one day, will we see a Tribal Libraries Division in OLA? A possibility worth exploring?

One of our roundtables is in serious trouble and facing dissolution. The Information Technology Roundtable focuses on technology and electronic services as related to libraries. You would expect it to be one of the most popular in the Association. After all, what library doesn’t deal with technology or wrestle with offering electronic services? Yet in the last few years this group has gradually declined to the point that it’s virtually inactive. One of my goals for the year is to get this roundtable back on its feet.

Finally, there are three other things I’m going to be pushing the division, roundtables and committees to consider this year. First is to develop a larger number of workshops than we have in the recent past. Providing workshops that offer continuing education on topics of interest and relevance to the membership is one of the primary responsibilities of any professional association. It’s also a valuable revenue stream for OLA that helps us keep other costs, such as membership dues, as low as we possibly can. Second, I’m urging our various groups to develop year-round planning cycles, looking a bit further into the future in terms of planning activities and programming than in the past. Too often we tend not to look past the next July 1 when the new chairs take office. Instead, planning should be an ongoing routine that transcends the terms of individual chairs. Finally, we need to look at updating the OLA Handbook and bring it into line with the changing needs and realities of our Association. The current handbook is available online to all Association members at [http://www.oklibs.org/organization/OLAHandbook09-10.pdf](http://www.oklibs.org/organization/OLAHandbook09-10.pdf).

Let me conclude with a suggestion: Don’t hesitate. Mark your calendars now! The 2010 annual conference is scheduled for April 19-21 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. This will be a joint conference with the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) so it will be bigger with a greater variety of programs and speakers. The Program Committee, led by the intrepid Wayne Hanway, will make sure of that. You do not want to miss it. You’ll be hearing much more about it in the months to come. Trust me!

I hope you have a great summer. And while you’re at it, don’t forget to “explore the possibilities.”

Charles Brooks
OLA President

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**Thanks to Donors**

On behalf of the Endowment Committee, we would like to thank everyone who donated to the OLA Endowment Fund at the annual conference. As we work to grow and expand strong libraries in Oklahoma’s second 100 years, the Endowment Fund is one key to our success. Your donations get us closer to the second $100,000 and supports OLA’s focus on raising awareness about literacy and libraries in Oklahoma while enhancing professional development for library staff throughout the state.

Making a tax deductible donation to the Endowment Fund is always a thoughtful way to honor, recognize or memorialize a special friend or colleague. This can be done online or by sending a check with pertinent information to the OLA office.

Thank You,
Marty Thompson and Lynn McIntosh, Co-Chairs, Endowment Committee 2008/09
Welcome to “Oral History in Libraries,” a new column in Oklahoma Librarian. With each issue, we hope to share news about collections around the state, discuss methodology and trends in technology, and highlight other interesting tips regarding the practice and preservation of oral history. Why oral history? Well, there is something special about these primary sources that provide insight into our history, communities, people and the way we live our lives. Why oral history in the library? Librarians not only are curators of oral histories but are also creators of oral histories. Libraries are often referred to as ‘culture keepers’ and oral histories are a means of gathering and preserving community culture as well as an approach to collection development that can be directly community related. While the focus of an oral history collection or project may vary from institution to institution, one thing remains constant…you have ordinary people sharing extraordinary stories.

Oral histories may vary in length, format, and topic but once you start working with these materials, they will enhance your appreciation and understanding of Oklahoma history. First person accounts of war, the Depression, living in Oklahoma, oil boom, oil bust, dealing with tragedy, enjoying victories—recording or listening to these firsthand accounts can be a quite powerful teaching and learning experience. And the best part, everyone has a story to tell!

If you are new to oral histories, there are many online resources available that can help guide your efforts. One place to turn is the Baylor University Institute for Oral History. Through their website, you can view many online guides that cover an introduction to oral history, digital oral history, transcribing oral history, along with a guide for K-12 teachers and students looking to undertake an oral history project. These online guides are free and available in PDF format from their website: http://www.baylor.edu/Oral_History/ Click on the “workshop on the web” link from the left hand menu to view these resources.

Another key online resource is the H-Oralhist listserv. This community of oral historians, scholars, librarians, students, and those involved in the profession is just one way to keep up with the latest news in oral history. It is also the perfect forum to ask questions, gain insight and participate in discussions on methodology, equipment, and transcription. The H-Oralhist archives also contain a wealth of knowledge. To join the H-Oralhist listserv or view past discussions, visit: http://www.h-net.org/~oralhist/.

One final website of note is the home of the Oral History Association (OHA), located at http://www.oralhistory.org. Here, you can find information about the organization along with guidelines in evaluating oral history. The guidelines include sections on conduct, responsibility of researchers, and interviewer-interviewee relations. The OHA website also has a host of links to various institutions involved in oral history, and a new Wiki where you can find and share resources and other information.

In the next issue, we’ll take a more in depth look at oral history collections in the state as we review results from the recent Survey of Oral History Collections in Oklahoma, conducted through the OSU Library. If you have news that you would like to share about how you use or record oral history in your library, send us an e-mail at liboh@okstate.edu.

-Juliana Nykolaiszyn & Tanya Finchum
O’Gorman, Jack, ed. *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2008. 7th ed. I-xvii + 329 pp. 978-0-8389-0943-0. $80.00. *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries* was last published in 1999 and the wait was worth it! This paperback book will capably serve small (10,000 to 24,999 population) to medium-sized (25,000 to 99,999 population) libraries by directing collection development and management efforts in a manner which addresses dwindling budgets. The volume is divided into twenty chapters relating to subject classifications and, within those chapters, into reference formats, such as databases, dictionaries, and encyclopedias. O’Gorman and his elite team of experts have also included more online sources, an increasingly desirable form of reference source collection. Each entry includes the edition reviewed, ISBN, cost (price range indicated by dollar signs), DDC and LCCN, and an annotation. Some of the broad topical and popular coverage includes: Business and Careers; Political Science and Law; Education; Words and Language; Science and Technology; Health and Medicine; Households; Crafts and Hobbies; and Games and Sports. Highly recommended. —Linda Gens, Guthrie Public Library.

Chmara, Theresa. *Privacy and Confidentiality Issues: A Guide for Librarians and Their Lawyers*. Chicago: ALA, 2009. 978-0-8389-0970-6. 98 pp. $40.00. How do you handle a request to see patron records? Author Theresa Chmara explains in this clear, concise guide not only how to respond to requests for patron records, but also the First Amendment rights library patrons have and how those rights impact on privacy, how to deal with privacy and the Internet, the privacy rights of minors, and library responses to Patriot Act requests. Chmara is very big on privacy policies, stating that the library will be better able to handle challenges if they have written library privacy policies. She says that library privacy policies should encompass all areas of the library, “including circulation of materials, use of the Internet, processing of hold requests, and use of the library facility.” Chmara presents her information in a frequently-asked-questions (FAQ) style, and also includes references and discussion of court cases that have an impact on library privacy issues. In the back she includes state privacy and confidentiality statutes from all fifty states having an impact on libraries. Chmara is a lawyer who has dealt with First Amendment issues and has represented the American Library Association on freedom of speech issues. A necessary book for library administrators on how to handle privacy issues in the library. —Dennis Miles, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

*Cultural History of Reading. Volume 1, World Literature.* Gabrielle Watling, editor. *Volume 2, American Literature.* Sara E. Quay, editor. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2009. ISBN 9780313337444 (Set), 9780313337451 (Vol. 1), 9780313337468 (Vol. 2). Vol. 1, x, 654 p. Vol. 2, xii, 406 p. $199.95. Greenwood’s *Cultural History of Reading* offers a fascinating picture of what people in different nations and at different times have read, and how their reading in turned helped shape their cultures. Also available online as part of Greenwood’s Daily Life series (http://dailylife.greenwood.com), this incisive two-part study is divided into a larger volume on world literature that covers the Americas (except for the United States), Europe and Britain, Asia and the Pacific, South Asia and India, and Africa and the Middle East as well as a smaller volume covering American reading habits from Colonial Days through 2007. The essays are all written by noted literary or cultural studies scholars who provide very detailed bibliographies of primary and secondary readings. Each essay begins with a timeline of significant events for that region and then offers a general historical overview followed by analyses of the various popular, scientific, religious, political, and other books, periodicals, and texts that the people from the area read and discussed in different eras. These volumes help place literary traditions and movements into historical context and demonstrate the power of the written word in civilizations from antiquity to the twenty-first century. Those interested in publishing history, the history of the book, and in all genres of literature will benefit from the concise accounts of reading habits around the world and throughout time. This set is highly recommended for academic and large public libraries supporting a strong collection in literature and world history. —David Oberhelman, Oklahoma State University.

Lewis, Alison, ed. *Questioning Library Neutrality: Essays From Progressive Librarian*. Duluth: Library Juice Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-9778617-7-4. 152 p. $18.00. *Questioning Library Neutrality* is a collection of essays originally published in the journal *Progressive Librarian* during the past thirty years. These writings, published between the ’70s through the early 2000s, collectively advocate against the idea of librarians maintaining neutrality in collection development and reference. Instead, they argue in various ways for the idea of librarians taking a stand for social justice. The essays address the Library Bill of Rights, in which the idea of neutrality in librarianship is enshrined. They also chronicle the rise of ALA’s Social Responsibilities Round Table, and the response of American librarians in general to the social issues of the past few decades. Their themes range from self-censorship in libraries to e-mail campaigns in favor of controversial books. Peter McDonald, for example, takes a deep dive into the modern flavors of censorship and corporate domination, while Steven Joyce gives us a thumbnail sketch of how SRRT was born amid the gay rights movement. And Ann Sparanese describes her surprise at how rapidly a publisher responded to her e-mail in favor of publishing a book by Michael Moore. The collection can serve younger librarians as a history of American librarianship during the past thirty tumultuous years, the field’s responses to sweeping social change as told from what is today seen as a particularly “liberal” point of view. Older librarians will perhaps read these essays as a critique of librarians’ actions (and inactions) during their careers. —Michele Seikel, Oklahoma State University.
Oklahoma Webpages: The Health of Oklahomans

We're making an exception to our policy of only reviewing websites that originate in Oklahoma to share these federal agency websites about the condition of Oklahoma’s health with you.

Oklahoma “Dashboard” on Health Care Quality Compared to All States
http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov/snaps07/dashboard.jsp?menuId=4&state=OK&level=0
U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Includes ratings for hospital, nursing home, and home health care, care for cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and other diseases and health conditions, and more. Oklahoma rates below average in most categories, average in a few categories, and above average in care for respiratory diseases in which we are rated “Strong”. Note: use the blue arrow.

National Survey of Children’s Health, 2007, Oklahoma
http://nschdata.org/StateProfiles/CustomProfile07.aspx?rid=5&geo=Oklahoma

National Survey of Children’s Health with Special Healthcare Needs, Oklahoma
National Center for Health Statistics. Both include data for our state and the nation.

Obesity and Overweight in Oklahoma
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (hereafter “CDC”). Click on this website, then click the “Play” button above the map, and you’ll watch a slideshow about the spread of obesity in Oklahoma from 1985 to 2007. Obesity in our state rises from less than 10% in 1985 to 25% - 29% in 2007.
http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/trends.html
How the CDC defines obesity - http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/defining.html
Basic obesity and overweight CDC website - http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/index.html

Diabetes in Oklahoma by County, maps and data
CDC. Click on the “data” or “maps” links. Data and maps display the most current year, but data and maps for some of the conditions of diabetes go back to 1993 or at least 2000.

Heart Disease and Stroke maps for Oklahoma
CDC. This is the map for stroke deaths and hospitalizations OR heart disease deaths and hospitalizations. Choose either “Stroke” or “Heart Disease.” After the map loads you can also click on “State Statistics” to view state data or “County Listings” to view data for Oklahoma’s 77 counties.
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/giscvh2/Results.aspx

Tobacco Control Highlights Report, Oklahoma
CDC. Choose “Oklahoma” and click “Generate Report” to get data on mortality, loss of productivity, attempts to quit smoking, smoking by high school age youth, and state legislation information.

Steve Beleu, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Federal Docs Coordinator
Value added: Stuck for information?  
Your Oklahoma’s federal depositories can help

Throughout these Docs 101 articles, I have been encouraging everyone to check with their depositories for more information. What kinds of information can they provide, and how can they help? Oklahoma has 18 depository libraries, and is fortunate enough to have two regional depositories. Know the difference? Well, regionals (OSU Stillwater and Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries) are sort of the leaders of the group. Regionals collect all categories of government information, and are required to keep it forever. So, they have the largest collections, and interact with the selectives, supplying things they might not select but occasionally need. Selectives can be very large, like University of Oklahoma, or very small, but they are only required to keep those categories they select for 5 years. Of course many libraries keep the material much longer. For a list of the Oklahoma depositories, and to find the one closest to you, follow this link http://www.odl.state.ok.us/usinfo/usdepsys.htm to the regional’s web page. Here you will find contact information for the depository nearest you.

Now that you have found your depository, how will you use it? First of all you may need your depository contact if you need historical material. Older (pre 1980) congressional, judicial and executive material may not be available on a web site. If you need copies of early American Indian School publications, or historical information on your county or the state you might contact your depository. Do you need an older hearing, or an older law? How about an old congressional committee document?

Among the historical collections which are heavily used are Department of Agriculture publications, which go back over 100 years, and Geological Survey publications, which also go far back in time. As yet these are not available on the web, and many times a patron has to locate historical material in these areas. Perhaps a Soil Survey for a particular county hasn’t been done in 50 years, and the 1960 edition is needed. Or perhaps a study on an Oklahoma dam or waterway falls into this time period. Depositories will not only have these materials, but usually will have older indexes to the historical material if your patron does not have a citation to the particular issue they need. Does someone need a copy of an older treaty? We have them! How about older census reports? We got ‘em, going back to 1790.

Even though most current government information is on the Web, and in spite of the excellent search strategies which have appeared in this column, you still might still not be connected to the best answer to your information need. Many Oklahoma depositories have excellent web pages directing you to government reports and articles, and these links have been pre selected by depository librarians who know the BEST sources for your topic. Check out the web pages through the link above. In addition, many depositories have created indexes or digital collections of their own for government materials. This is the “value added” factor. OSU is just finishing up the digitized McCaslin collection of Oklahoma maps in the Congressional Serial set, a gold mine of a database database for those needing historical maps of the state or the territory (this will be reviewed soon for the OK librarian). They have also digitized and indexed the Kappler Indian Treaties. Oklahoma Department of Libraries is digitizing thirty years of research reports from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and making them available to the public. Their web site (see above) also lists several special collections of government information held at the various depositories in Oklahoma. And ODL has added extra value in the many workshops Steve Beleu does all over the state, working directly with federal agencies to help Oklahoma librarians learn to navigate various complex government web sites and indexes (check out his web site for more information).

So there you have it. If you still need more government information, the OLA Government Documents Round Table is planning a workshop on Docs 101 in the coming year. Stay tuned for further information!

- Barbara Miller, OSU Libraries, Documents Department
FROM ALA TO OKLAHOMA

Advocating in a Tough Economy, Tools to Help You from ALA

Did you know that 73% of public libraries report they provide the only free access to the Internet in their communities? And for rural libraries, like many in Oklahoma, the figure is 83%! The American Library Association has provided resources to help you tell your story to the media and to elected officials and funders. Libraries are not only sources of free books, but also free job seeking information by providing web and community resources for jobs.

Need help organizing resources for job seekers? Go to http://www.alac.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/Issues%20brief-jobs.pdf where ALA briefs discuss the range of library resources available to job seekers and the challenges to maintaining these services. Additional briefing reports are at: http://www.alac.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/Issues_Briefs.cfm.

And for help advocating for libraries in the current economic crisis, go to http://www.alac.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/index.cfm for a toolkit to help you advocate for library resources.