Go West, OLA!

On October 24, OLA leaders headed to Goodwell for a regional meeting at the McKee Library at Oklahoma Panhandle State University from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting which was hosted by OLA’s Membership Committee was to introduce attendees from the Oklahoma Panhandle to OLA and provide some instruction searching in EBSCOhost databases. Evlyn Schmidt, retired library director from Oklahoma Panhandle State University, was the coordinator of the event.

A very successful meeting has been reported with twenty-two attendees, including six public library staff; five school library media specialists; four Oklahoma Panhandle State University staff members; two Oklahoma Panhandle State University administrators, Dr. Wayne Manning (VPAAO) and Tony Hardman (Library Director); Emily Brown, COIL representative; and four OLA representatives, including Executive Director Kay Boies, President Cheryl Suttles, Legislative Committee Co-Chair Marty Thompson, and Membership Committee Chair Kate Blalack. It was reported that those individuals traveling from Stillwater, Oklahoma City, and Edmond had an interesting trip. According to Evlyn Schmidt, “the panhandle wind decided to rear its ugly head and visitors got to share the tumbleweed symphony on the road!”

OLA representatives presented general information about OLA, discussed annual conference plans, provided some updates on the activities of OLA, and encouraged attendees to become involved in the political process. Also, they stressed that, thanks to Webex online conferencing and other improved communications, opportunities for leadership positions are increasing for all OLA members, regardless of where they live or work.

Photos: (top to bottom) Membership Chair Kate Miller, Legislative Chair Marty Thompson and President Cheryl Suttles speak about OLA to the librarians in far northwest Oklahoma on October 24th. (photos from Evlyn Schmidt)
As I write this column, I am packing for the beach!!!! Seven great days in Florida with nothing to do but stare at the water and pick up shells.

I guess I could do some great analogy about the varied shells being like the many kinds of libraries in Oklahoma…………….maybe not.

What I really want to talk about are the regional meetings that the membership committee is planning. The first one has probably already happened. We are going to Oklahoma Panhandle State on October 24. The new Director Tony Hardman welcomed the idea of hosting the meeting. Evlyn Schmidt is coordinating, with EBSCO training planned. Several of the OLA leadership are taking the long drive to Goodwell to meet potential new members, and current members. We will talk about OLA and the advantages to membership. This idea is being revived from previous years in order to go to where the librarians are. We realize not everyone can travel and participate actively in OLA. These regional meetings are designed to gather your opinions and ideas.

Please attend a regional meeting if one is announced in your area. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact Kate Blalack.  kate.blalack@okstate.edu

So I bid you adieu from the white sands and emerald waters of the Florida panhandle. Next month I am going to Denver. Mountains and snow possibly.

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Correction: In the last issue of Oklahoma Librarian Lesley Langlie was incorrectly identified as the director of the Wooster library! It should have been the Wister Library! Sorry Leslie!
Librarians and Faculty Collaborate on UCD Workshop

38 librarians and their teacher/collaborators attended the Two Heads ARE Better than One: Successful Librarian Collaborations at Southern Nazarene University on October 14, 2011. The program was planned by the University and College Division of OLA and co-sponsored by the School and Public Library Divisions.

Vicki Daves and Rosa Blocker began the day by sharing their collaborative successes with 3rd and 4th graders at Harmony Schools in Cushing.

Dan Chaney and Julie Croff then talked about working together at Oklahoma State University on health science course development.

A writing center in the OSU architecture library was the collaborative project of Susan Bobo and Rebecca Damron.

After a lunch dine-around in downtown Bethany Sarah Clark and Rich Ronan talked about their experiences with embedding librarians in online courses at Rogers State University.

The final program of the day's workshop was presented by Melany Kyzer and Katie King of Southern Nazarene University. They told about the successful learning communities for freshmen at SNU.

Photos: Librarians (top to bottom) Susan Bobo, Rebecca Damron, and a panel of Julie Croff, Dan Chaney, Vickie Daves and Rosa Blocker talk to participants about collaboration. (Courtesy of Arlita Harris)
National disability advocate Kathie Snow to hold workshop Nov. 11 at Midwest City Public Library

(DEL CITY, OKLA. / Oct. 1, 2011) – Nationally known author and disability advocate Kathie Snow will present “Inclusive Libraries: Welcoming People with Different Abilities” at the Midwest City Public Library Friday, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The all day workshop will teach librarians and other public service providers how to make their institutions and services more inclusive by acquiring new attitudes and perceptions about individuals with disabilities.

“A green apple is more like a red apple than different, and a person with a disability is more like people without disabilities than different,” said Snow. “One out of every five Americans has a disability. Like gender, ethnicity, and other traits, disability is a natural part of life and doesn’t have to be a barrier to a person’s success.”

Snow, the parent of an adult child with a disability, has been a popular speaker at conferences and workshops for over sixteen years. Her book, “Disability is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children with Disabilities,” is used as a textbook at universities across the nation.

Snow’s lively and insightful workshop questions today’s conventional wisdom and suggests alternatives to traditional services for people with disabilities. The workshop will cover a variety of topics including “People First Language,” developing new attitudes and perceptions about people with disabilities, using natural supports and generic services to create inclusive communities, cooperative advocacy, legislative issues, effective partnerships, empowerment and understanding disability history.

“Inclusive Libraries” is sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association’s Social Responsibilities Roundtable and the Metropolitan Library System. Although it will specifically address librarians and library services, the workshop is beneficial for all public service providers including school teachers, counselors, parents and other advocates.

The workshop, which includes lunch, is $65.00 for members of the Oklahoma Library Association, $120.00 for non-members and $40.00 for library science students. Registration is required and available online at http://store.oklibs.org.

For more information about the workshop, please contact Tera McAmis at 405-255-0009 or tmcamis@metrolibrary.org. For more information about Snow, visit her website at www.disabilityisnatural.com.

Contact: : Tera McAmis, Social Responsibilities Roundtable, Oklahoma Library Association
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Oral History in Libraries

Giving Voice to Veterans in Your Community

To date the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center, created in 2000 by legislation, has received over 78,000 oral history interviews and of these, a little over 10,000 are accessible online. World War II ended in 1946, sixty-five years ago, with around 16 million men and women having served in it. There are only two million of these veterans living today. There is an urgency to gather more of their personal accounts of war. The project is aimed at veterans from all the wars and conflicts involving American citizens. The Vietnam Conflict began fifty years ago in 1961 and the Korean War was 1950 to 1955. These two groups of veterans are being focused on as we begin to lose more of them as well. It seems veterans of the Vietnam Conflict are not living as long as the WWII veterans in part due to the differences in warfare. Librarians and communities are encouraged to begin gathering veterans’ stories to help create a collection from which “future generations can better understand the realities of war.”

The project’s website www.loc.gov/vets provides information about the project and how to participate. Interested participants may print a field kit for the project which contains required forms and suggested questions. There are also guidelines for preparing and conducting the interview. Once the interview is completed, there are instructions for sending it to the Library of Congress. It is also important to note, that a copy may be kept by the individual and/or locally. With this in mind, libraries across the state are encouraged to develop a project and share their interviews with the Library of Congress while keeping a copy for the historical relevance to their communities.

Additionally, the site offers program and project suggestions for libraries such as scheduling a film and asking a veteran to introduce it or hosting a Canteen Evening or M.A.S.H. theme party to launch a veterans’ oral history project. In addition to gathering oral histories, the project is also interested in gathering such things as wartime love letters, photo collections, memoirs and journals. This type of activity is a way to involve the community and involve different generations while honoring American veterans.

Interviews that are already online, can be searched and listened to. The collection can be browsed. It can also be searched by conflict or era, by branch of service, by prisoner or war, by name of veteran or donor or interviewer, by location of service, and by gender. For interviews that have been transcribed and/or digitized, the researcher can access the audio and/or text. For libraries, the site can be useful in a multitude of ways from conducting local interviews to using the interviews already accessible online. For additional information regarding the practice of oral history, feel free to contact the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at liboh@okstate.edu or 405-744-7685.

—Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn
Oklahoma Oral History Research Program
Oklahoma State University Libraries
Tribal Libraries Committee Meeting at the Muscogee Nation

On October 4th our committee held its monthly meeting in Okmulgee. We began in the morning with a visit to the new College of the Muscogee Nation, and followed in the afternoon with a visit to the Nation’s Archives, at the tribal headquarters. (While “Creek” is the tribal name generally used, the Muscogees are reasserting their own name for their people.)

The college President, Mr. Robert Bible, and Karen Haught, the librarian, hosted our meeting. (Karen is also a member of our Tribal committee.) Mr. Bible took time from his schedule to give us a tour of the new college building, dedicated last fall. It’s a thoroughly modern facility, from its energy-conserving geothermal power system to its classrooms complete with Smart Boards. Karen’s library is a compact location, but still hospitable with plenty of space to display the collection of books and journals. This library will eventually transfer to the new building. To see more on the College, visit their website at http://www.mvsktc.org/

The building houses the administrative offices of the College, the Library, and classrooms. Construction on the next phase of the college, student housing, will be completed early next year. Future plans include buildings to the north, west, and south completing a circle that expresses the history and traditions of the Muscogees. The new building is a beautiful structure, built in keeping with Muscogee culture and language. The symbols of Muscogee clans are featured in the cultural plaza at the entrance to the building. There is a mound at the building, reminding us that the Muscogee culture goes back to the Mound Builder culture in the southeastern part of America. The College is committed to core Muscogee values of respect, integrity, responsibility, humility, and wisdom. Its motto is “Preserving the Past, Cultivating Futures”.

While we were at the College, we also had a short business meeting, where we discussed plans for Conference 2012 and our hopes to achieve full committee status within OLA. In addition to many of our regular committee members, we welcomed several guests. They were Kristin Cunningham from Okmulgee Public Library, Jenny Duncan from the OSU Institute of Technology, and Dr. Clara Sue Kidwell, new head of the American Indian Studies Program at Bacone.
College. Jere Harris and Nancy Calhoun from Muskogee Public Library also attended the meeting. The College graciously hosted us for a pizza lunch.

In the afternoon we visited the tribal archives at the Muscogee Nation Headquarters. They are part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Office, headed by Ted Isham. The staff members of the Library and Archives are Rose Johnson, Librarian, and Rufus “Buddy” Cox, Archivist. If you visit the Nation’s website, you’ll find this description of the library and archives resources:

Under the direction of the Office of Cultural and Historical Preservation Office, the Muscogee Nation Library/Archives addresses the research and information needs of both citizens and non-citizens engaging in serious inquiry into Muscogee culture and history. The Library/Archives houses a collection of over 1,600 volumes of reference materials, an almost complete set of Bureau of American Ethnology reports and bulletins. 730 reels microfilmed records of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from 1828 to 1840. Included in the collections are the Final Dawes Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes, the Grant Forman collection of Oklahoma Pioneer Histories. Also in a special collection are the private letters of Pleasant Porter, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee Nation during the allotment act in early 1900’s. Due to the fragile condition, one of a kind, or limited availability of most works, all Muscogee Nation Library/Archival collections are non-circulating. This description comes from the Nation’s website, and the URL is http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/ . In other words, this is a very small library that has rich resources, and is dedicated to serving as a source of national knowledge for the Muscogee people.

During our visit to both these tribal libraries we learned many things; one of the most impressive is the effort that everyone is making opportunities for American Indians who are Muscogee, or members of other tribes, to be knowledgeable about culture, especially their Native languages. You will hear or see examples in the Muscogee language on both websites. The members of the Committee would like to express special thanks to our hosts, and we hope to make return visits in the future. We also plan to visit the Delaware Nation Library in the spring.

By Karen Haught, Committee Member and Librarian, College of the Muscogee Nation, and Helen Clements, OSU-Stillwater, committee co-chair.

Photo: CMN’s Regents Director for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. James King, CMN President Robert Bible, Dr. Phyllis Fife, and Board of regents Secretary Sharon Mouss. Photo courtesy of Crystal Bowles.
The proliferation of electronic media – books, music, internet, social networking, virtual worlds, etc – is changing how people use, access, and view information. Librarians are reacting with a mix of excitement and trepidation. A few brag proudly that they do not know how to send a text while others own all the latest gadgets and fluently speak the language of geek. As of late, ebooks have been at the eye of this information cyclone. Libraries and publishers alike are struggling to adapt the print paradigm to the electronic world, and there are concerns over why libraries should be involved.

Some of the trepidation regarding ebooks stems from the predictions that ebooks are a precursor to the death of print. Rest assured the future is not a Star Trek episode where gigabytes of information will be carried around on small tablet devices that…oh wait. We are there. When ebooks will replace print or even if this apocalypse will take place, no one can say. One thing that can be stated with some level of certainty is that ebooks have hit the mainstream.

The advent of cheaper mobile devices, both dedicated readers and tablets, have led to an exponential increase in the demand for digital books. In the Metropolitan Library System, circulation statistics for ebooks have increased 760% in the last year! The surprising fact is that craze for ebooks is not limited to the Millennials or even the X-Gens. Baby Boomers and their predecessors are prolific users of ebooks. Among other reasons, the older generations find the devices lighter and easier to hold, and they are able to adjust the font to be a little easier on their eyes.

The concept of ebooks is a struggle for some librarians as they want to hold the physical book in their hand, turn the pages, and smell the paper. They want to employ their imagination to its fullest and immerse themselves in the world created by the author. The idea of enhanced ebooks is anathema to them. While traditional books hold an intrinsic place in our society, it is vital that we, as librarians, are open to the future. Just as we build print collections that may contain materials we find personally offensive, we must build access to information in all ways even if we might find it uncomfortable.

Ebooks are not without their issues, and the ever shrinking library budget makes them an even greater challenge. Despite or perhaps because of these issues, this is an extremely exciting time to be a librarian. It is a pivotal time within the library world, and we have a chance to influence the futures of libraries. One of our main missions as librarians is to provide unfettered access to information and ideas. The nature of information is changing. How we provide access is changing. We can choose to wait as Borders did to see how Amazon fares in this new world, or we can choose to boldly go where no librarian has gone before. The choice is ours.

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Oklahoma’s Only Statewide Virtual Consortium Grows Larger

In February of this year the Oklahoma Virtual Library was launched. Initiated by the Stillwater Public Library the consortium began with five public libraries throughout the state. The response has been nothing less than overwhelming.

Each quarter that has passed has brought new members to the consortium and the total is expected to rise to 22 by the end of November. The current libraries include: Anadarko, Ardmore, Bartlesville, Chickasaw Regional Library System, Duncan, El Reno, Elk City, Enid, Guymon, Langley, Mabel C. Fry, Miami, Mustang, Ponca City, Stillwater, Watonga and Woodward. The libraries slated to join in November are Ada, Durant, Marlow, Pryor and Vinita.

In addition to the rapid increase in member libraries the quality of the collection has greatly improved. In July the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, using federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded a $100,000 grant to the consortium for the purchase of new materials. The Oklahoma Virtual Library, as a result, now has over 6200 downloadable ebooks, audiobooks and music titles.

Great things lie ahead as the consortium continues to grow. If your library is interested in finding out more about joining the Oklahoma Virtual Library then you can do so by contacting Scott Freeman at the Stillwater Public Library. You can reach him at (405)372-3633x102 or

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Oklahoma Library Community is Major Player in Two National Digital Initiatives

As broadband spreads across the country and online access becomes essential to citizens, two national digital initiatives are underway to help communities and libraries plan for the future. Oklahoma’s library community is playing a significant role in the development of these initiatives.

Initiative: Creating Digitally Inclusive Communities
Access to online services is becoming increasingly important for citizens to fully engage in American society. To help address this need, Oklahoma City served as one of only three sites in the nation to provide citizen feedback on a proposed Framework for Digitally Inclusive Communities. Commissioned by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Framework will serve as a planning guide for communities to assess their capabilities and needs to create digitally inclusive communities. IMLS has worked closely with the University of Washington (UW) Information School and more than 100 other agencies and individuals with deep knowledge about public access to technology and the diverse information needs of citizens.

Following the drafting of the Framework report, IMLS and its partners selected Oklahoma City, Los Angeles, CA and Bangor, ME to host citizen and leadership forums to provide reaction to the document before the plan is officially released next year. The Oklahoma City forums, hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) and the Metropolitan Library System (MLS), were held October 11 and 12 at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library.

"When we talk about digital inclusion, we're not just talking about access to the Internet," ODL Director Susan McVey said. "It also involves the availability of hardware and software, access to relevant online content and services, and training in digital literacy skills."

McVey said Oklahoma was selected as a site because of the number of state, regional and library broadband initiatives currently under way. "We also have a mix of areas, from regions with high digital saturation to communities with little access to digital information and technologies."

MLS Director Donna Morris said the forums provided a great opportunity for the city.

"This was our chance to begin the dialog about the importance of digital inclusion in our community," Morris said, "and to assure that we continue to be a city on the rise."

The Framework identifies key foundational principles that communities must address when planning for digital inclusion: availability and affordability, public access, accessibility for people with disabilities, digital adoption and digital literacy, and consumer education and protection.
Realizing these strong foundational principles in the community will help citizens participate in the areas of education, health care, public safety and emergency services, economic and workforce development, civic engagement, and quality of life. These are the targeted principles of the Framework.

In addition to librarians, the invitation list for the forums included educators, museum professionals, adult literacy advocates, representatives from state agencies, and staff from non-profits that work with individuals who may find it a struggle to access online resources.

The 31 citizens and 11 community leaders at the two Oklahoma City forums provided a variety of feedback. Some highlights include:

• Community planning is more about leadership and partnerships than bits and bytes.
• Schools have a wealth of computer and online resources that are not being used in the community afterhours.
• Accessibility issues are not just found among citizens with physical disabilities. Education levels, slower learning curves, and decisions not to engage online all provide challenges.
• Even if the resources are there, we cannot expect to reach 100% digital inclusion in this day and age. Some will always opt out.
• Libraries are often the de facto place for citizens to access information and services, and agencies often direct clients to libraries without providing any solutions to the libraries to help meet increases in customer expectations.
• Resource sharing and planning is essential; community-based non-profits, libraries, and other information providers must be aware of each other’s resources to prevent duplication of effort, and to identify any “holes” that should be filled with information resources.
• Cost considerations should be addressed when communities are using the Framework for planning purposes.
• Community self-assessments are good; rankings and comparisons to peer communities are good; recognition is good, but costly community accreditation programs should be avoided.

A guide and draft report for the national project are available online at:

www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/DIC-FrameworkGuide.pdf

www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/DIC-FrameworkReport.pdf

Photo: Networking at the Community Forum: ODL’s Susan McVey chats with Terry Watson, director of Workforce Solutions at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Behind them, Ada’s Jennifer Greenstreet has a discussion with Joe Briley of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. (photo courtesy of ODL)
Inclusion Forum, con’t.

Initiative: Establishing Public Access Technology Benchmarks for Public Libraries

In January of this year, a variety of organizations requested grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fund a project to develop a set of benchmarks to guide public libraries in sustaining and improving public access technology. The approved grant projects hit the ground running in February with the Seattle convening of a Round Table of all of the partners, including the ALA Office of Information Technology Policy, the Urban Libraries Council, the Public Library Association, the University of Washington Information School, the International City County Management Association (ICMA), TechSoup, Web Junction, the LYRASIS Library Consortium, and three state libraries: ODL, the Texas State Library, and the California State Library.

The benchmarks project is an ambitious undertaking. It will:

• provide a range of benchmarks, measurements, and goals related to planning, broadband capacity, partnerships, staffing, and public training that can be used by libraries of all sizes to improve services;
• provide levels of attainment so that even the smallest libraries can reach for improvement;
• provide a scoring process to recognize (and possibly certify) libraries that meet particular levels of attainment; and,
• provide a process that can be used to advocate for libraries within communities, and with local and state government officials.

At press time, the drafted benchmarks were being finalized for pilot testing in Oklahoma, Texas, California and North Carolina. Two libraries in each of the states will begin the process early next year. Pilot test sites in Oklahoma will be the Miami Public Library and the Tulsa City-County Library System.

At the September ICMA Annual Conference in Milwaukee, representatives from the pilot libraries met for the first time to discuss the process. Oklahoma attendees were Marcia Johnson, director of the Miami Public Library; Tim Wilson, interim city manager of Miami; Gary Shaefer, CEO of the Tulsa City-County Library System; Charlotte Frazier, director of support services at TCCL; and ODL Director Susan McVey.

Benchmark partners have been holding focus groups the past few months, and members of the Oklahoma Public Library Directors Council were able to have their say and react to the proposed benchmarks at their October meeting.

To date, reaction to the benchmark project has been mostly positive, with libraries around the country signaling approval of a process that could help them keep up in this fast-changing technological world.

-Bill Young, Public Information Manager, Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries

Oklahoma librarians at the Oklahoma City Community Forum on Creating Digitally Inclusive Communities (left to right): ODL Director Susan McVey, University of Oklahoma Professor Emeritus Lotsee Patterson, Ada Public Library Director Jennifer Greenstreet, Metropolitan Library System Director Donna Morris, Oklahoma City Community College librarian Rachel Butler, Miami Public Library Director Marcia Johnson, and Iowa Tribe librarian Sandy Tharp. (photo courtesy of ODL).

As the preface to The Future of Archives and Recordkeeping: A Reader asserts, this book is intended to target individuals completing graduate work in archives, but is also of interest to anyone researching in this field; they have achieved their goal. This exquisite volume was written by 12 renowned international scholars and professionals in the archival field. The book gives a sample of questions being asked by leaders in the modern archival community, and is laid out as more of a “state of archives” than practical advice or methodologies. There are more questions than answers, which is certainly where the modern archival community finds themselves as a profession: shifting into new directions and previously unexplored territory.

As stated in the Introduction to the book, the chapters were meant to be read either individually or as part of the overall theme, divided into four sections: “Defining archives,” “Shaping a discipline,” “Archives 2.0: archives in society,” and “Archives in the information age: is there still a role for the archivist?” (pp. xvii –xx). This book is heavily dosed with professional jargon that requires a basic understanding of how archives are defined. Important historical scholars, with whom those in archival graduate programs are sure to be familiar (such as Theodore Schellenberg), are cited. An understanding of the structures of archives and recordkeeping, selection and appraisal of historical documents, and Web 2.0 technologies will be helpful background knowledge for anyone perusing this book. The science of archives and record selection is discussed, with the chapters emphasizing how archives have traditionally been defined and how they are changing to meet the needs of modern users.

Many of the chapters discuss how archivists themselves have been “gatekeepers” and guardians of information, and how now they are redefining their roles and the roles of archives in the context of the modern world and technologies. Questions explored include: What is a modern archival context? How is history defined and ordered? How do users and other professions play a role in modern archives, and technology? How do we apply existing knowledge to the changing role of archives and the archival profession? Chapter 4, for example, written by Luciana Duranti, discusses among other things the “science” of “diplomacy,” and how this can be applied and evolved to suit electronic records and formats (p 71-86). The book as a whole is very philosophical and creatively written, but some of the chapters are more difficult to parse than others. For the advanced scholar, this is an excellent resource, especially for those interested in how to apply existing knowledge to new methodologies and technologies, changes taking place in the profession, and where archives of the future are heading.

~Kate Blalack,
Visiting Professor and Special Collections Librarian
Oklahoma State University
Banned Books Week Celebrated in Style

Free and open access to information is a freedom Americans sometimes take for granted. This right is protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and is celebrated during Banned Books Week. The Rose State College Learning Resources Center (LRC) brought awareness of censorship and book banning through various activities held on their campus. On September 26th Wendell Edwards, KOCO Channel 5 Weekend News Anchor, moderated a panel discussion between State Representative Jason Nelson, attorney Jim Roth, and Director of the Oklahoma Press Association, Mark Thomas. Students, faculty and the general public were invited to attend the discussion which proved to be not only controversial but educational and enlightening as well. The discussion was lively and sometimes entertaining as the participants responded to questions from the audience.

The LRC hosted two Read-Outs. Students from the Rose State Theatre Department along with faculty members and others read segments from their favorite challenged, controversial, or banned book. Readers gathered outside the RSC Library and read with enthusiasm as others casually stopped to listen. Books like James and the Giant Peach, King and King, and To Kill a Mockingbird are examples of books read.

On September 28th Dr. Joey Senat, Professor of Journalism at Oklahoma State University provided an interesting and thought-provoking presentation on First Amendment rights. Dr. Senat’s presentation challenged students to think critically and analytically when evaluating literature.
In addition to these activities, a colorful display of banned books was available in the LRC lobby during the entire week and a bibliography was provided containing lists of banned and challenged books. Books on the list included *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, published in 1852 and credited with fueling the abolitionist movement prior to the Civil War and Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of the Species*, published in 1859. Somewhat coincidentally, Banned Books Week overlapped a traveling exhibition, *Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation*, organized by the Huntington Library of San Marino, California. The two events, Banned Books Week and Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation provided a wealth of information, entertainment and excitement at the Rose State LRC. Dr. Michael Lasser, one of two co-authors of *America’s Songs: The Stories Behind the Songs of Broadway, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley*, and whose syndicated radio show is *Fascinatin’ Rhythm*, also spoke about songs of the Civil War during that week.

Coordinator of Audio Visual Services for the RSC LRC, Barb Pfrehm, and Special Projects Librarian, Brad Robinson, provided the leadership that made Banned Books Week a huge success.

http://15thstreetnews.com/2011/10/13/%e2%80%9ccensorship%e2%80%9d-deprivation-and-the-first-amendment/
http://www.american-song.com/
http://www.facebook.com/joey.senat

Melissa Huffman, Coordinator
Library Reference/Instruction
Rose State College
Software: Review of Webex

The Oklahoma Library Association recently purchased online meeting software called Webex. Since acquiring Webex a number of people have held meetings and there are even rumors of possible webinars. As the point person for Webex I was asked to make my first column a review of the software. I’ll try to take this on without bias, but I’ll preface my review by disclosing that I was part of the team that selected Webex.

I will cover six categories of information in my reviews: functionality, quality, accessories, system requirements, support, and price/availability. Not every category will apply to every review, but this is generally what readers can expect.

Webex is online meeting software that allows participants to interact online in real time. Participants can hear, and if they have video cameras, see each other. Features include desktop and application sharing, file uploading and a shared whiteboard. Meeting hosts can assign roles to different people. For instance the host can change who acts as “presenter” at any point in the meeting. The Webex account purchased by OLA only allows one host account and a total of 25 attendees per meeting. Meetings can be recorded, both audio and visual. There is a chat feature, note taking function and attractive communication buttons to show a “raised hand” and others. The program can be used for online meetings and seminars.

The interface is appealing and relatively uncluttered. Graphics are attractive and fairly easy to spot when needed. Unfortunately sound quality can vary dramatically. Sound depends greatly on the quality of each attendee’s microphones and headphones/speakers or phone connections. Cell phones, speakers and speakerphones can generate echoes and feedback that are very distracting. Usually this isn’t a problem, but it can become one if even one person is using a poor audio connection. When entering a meeting the participant waits for the Webex plug in to load. This is quick and painless in most cases. In fact even
computers that have somewhat restrictive permissions placed on them by systems departments can load the plug in. Only in the most restricted computer settings will prevent the plug in from launching. I have used this program on two different laptops, a desktop and an iPhone 4s. All four systems ran Webex with no problem, although the iPhone app had limited functionality relative to the full desktop version.

Webex users will need some way to access the audio portion of the meeting. This can be done by phone or with the use of a microphone and headset. Additionally users may want a web cam to interact with other attendees visually. The higher quality the peripheral the better the experience will be for the user.

Webex works with Windows and Mac operating systems. A fast internet connection is ideal, but Webex works fairly well at slower speeds. If the internet connection is too slow some users on computer audio might experience an audio delay and slow connections can affect desktop and application sharing creating sluggish or choppy viewing.

Webex training and support materials are fairly good, but some people have had trouble accessing their online help pages. Generally the information is good and online users’ forums are helpful for answering questions. To access the help pages visit https://oklibs.webex.com/mw0306ld/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=oklibs. Much of the information can be downloaded as PDFs.

Webex is relatively inexpensive compared to other options for web conferencing. Several plans are available and range from as low as $19 per month to around $450 per month. Of course features vary considerably based on the cost of the plan and subscribers who prepay for an entire year can get a significant discount. Webex can be purchased through the company website at Webex.com.

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Oral History Association Council Weighs In on New Federal Regulations for Institutional Review Board Authority

The federal government recently requested comment on proposed changes to the Common Rule, which regulates research on what are termed “human subjects.” (The comment period closed on October 26, 2011.) The changes seem to be a very mixed bag for oral history, history, and archives—offering both an opportunity to address past concerns about the effect that federal regulations have on oral history as well as potentially new problems for archives under the rubric of “information risk.” The proposed changes offer a significant opportunity to weigh in on the effect of Common Rule regulations on history and oral history.

In recent weeks, the leadership of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Oral History Association (OHA), and others have discussed the proposed changes and, after careful deliberation, defined a set of core principles and “talking points” to guide a formal response. Last week in Denver, the OHA Council endorsed the talking points below (abbreviated from a longer set so as to fit within the 2,000 character limit imposed by the online response form):

1) Regarding whether “certain fields of study [such as history] whose methods of inquiry were not intended to or should not be covered,” the organizations argue for full exclusion of oral history from the terms of the Common Rule for the following reasons:
   a. Oral history research focuses on eliciting information about particular past experiences and suffers irreparable harm when forced into rubrics developed to treat subjects in a “generalizable” way as demanded by scientific research;
   b. Oral history research is built on open dialogue with interviewees and cannot be assessed properly within the strictures of the IRB regulatory framework;
   c. The proposed “excused” category does not address the concerns held by the above organizations. It keeps oral history tied to inappropriate science frameworks and adds the burden of rules designed to prevent “information risk”
   d. This is not a plea to be free of professional standards. The Oral History Association maintains its own Principles and Best Practices governing the conduct of oral histories in an ethically responsible way; but these standards are applied in fundamentally different ways than the scientific procedures and criteria administered by IRBs.

2) The implications for oral historians in the proposed rules to limit “information risk” are also of concern.
   a. Overregulation of the future use of archival or public-use data can inhibit our understanding of the past, including data that would hold scholars accountable for past misuse of research subjects;
   b. Oral history protocols already mandate signed consent forms and releases by interviewees, in which they state explicitly the terms by which interviews can be used in the future;
   c. The federal proposal—and specifically the application of HIPAA rules to non-medical research—reflects the danger of a “one size fits all” approach.

3) History and Oral History were never envisioned as falling under these rules and were not in the enabling legislation. This review offers an opportunity to correct the misapplication of IRB authority.

Librarians take Note: These Information Risk Proposals have the potential to affect University Libraries and their archives.

Statement authored by Oral History Association Council, submitted by Mary Larson, Professor and Head of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program and Acting President of the Oral History
Call for Session Proposals for the 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (November 15, 2011 Deadline)

This is an invitation to submit proposals for sessions for the 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums to be held June 4-7, 2012 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the Cherokee-owned Hard Rock Casino and Resort. The four-day conference will bring together cultures from across the nation and around the world to exchange best practices for indigenous archives, libraries, and museums. The conference features six pre-conference workshops, two pre-conference tours, 56 concurrent sessions, two general sessions, three keynote luncheons, and a post-conference Town Hall-style meeting. Conference tracks focus on library, archive, and museum collections, programs, and services, as well as specialized topics such as cultural tourism, advocacy, oral history projects, language programs, digitization, preservation, and fundraising. The conference is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and sponsored by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. To view past conference programs and/or submit a proposal before the November 15 deadline, visit www.atalm.org. Please direct questions to atalminfo@gmail.com

We hope to see you in Tulsa!

Susan Feller, Conference Director
405-522-3259

Melissa Brodt, Project Manager
405-522-3515
Regional Meeting, con’t. from page 1.

At 3:00 p.m. and again at 5:00 p.m., EBSCOhost instruction was provided by Emily Brown, a University of Central Oklahoma librarian representing COIL (Community of Oklahoma Instruction Librarians). This instruction was well received, and all participants appreciated being able to attend the instruction closer to home without having to travel for several hours. Public library staff from Guymon Public Library and Hooker Public Library received 1 hour of CEU credit. School library media specialists from Straight, Goodwell, Forgan, Beaver, and Guymon also attended the instruction. Refreshments and networking provided some time to ask questions and share stories. Attendees were very appreciative of the OLA leadership for making the trip to the Panhandle. Several attendees, as well as others who could not attend the meet-

ing, asked OLA to continue planning regional meetings and instructional sessions.

Several years ago the OLA leadership, in an effort to make the Oklahoma Library Association better known throughout Oklahoma and to recruit new members, decided to host regional meetings in various libraries throughout the State. These meetings have provided an excellent opportunity for area librarians to learn about OLA and also creates an opportunity for those librarians to get to know each other. Some of the past locations for regional meetings include Edmond, Norman, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Weatherford. The OLA Membership Committee is planning another regional meeting for Spring 2012, so pay close attention to see if one may be coming your direction!

OLA librarian Evlyn Schmidt, Kay Boies, and OK-ACRL librarian Emily Brown inform on benefits to participation in OLA and ACRL (photo: Evlyn Schmidt)
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