PUBLIC LIBRARY HERITAGE:  
A TASK FORCE AND A NEED
by Don Foos, Chair
Public Library Association
Public Library Heritage Task Force

As an institution the public library in its role in American life has made a major impact on each of our lives. Historically, the public library has a defined place in society. Institutionally it is recognized as a conceptual source of information for the Nation’s population and in this capacity is charged with the responsibility of providing free library service to all. Throughout the years many events have shaped the public library and regardless of wars, depressions, economic hardship and governmental setbacks, public libraries have maintained. The last survey report completed in 1977 by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) indicated there were 10,134 public libraries of all sizes throughout the nation. Considering the existence of 29 public libraries at the time the nation was founded in 1776 and the COSLA figure of 10,134 in 1977. It can be concluded that over a 200 year time period, public libraries have become a recognized governmental institution in our American society. Public library heritage is an important aspect of American History.

The Public Library Association (PLA) under the leadership of President Donald J. Sager considers public library heritage to be a vital part of archival information and is concerned with the preservation and accessibility of documents and artifacts important to the heritage of the American public library. To this end, a PLA Public Library Heritage Task Force, composed of six PLA members was appointed in 1982 and charged with the responsibility to develop recommendations for the PLA Executive Board. In addition to the concerns for the preservation and accessibility of historic documents and artifacts, the Task Force is to consider the relative benefits of a study associated with the creation and maintenance of a museum on the American Public Library.

Rolling to a start, the Public Library Association’s Public Library Heritage Task Force held its first meeting during the American Library Association Midwinter Conference in San Antonio, Texas: Concerned with the overall responsibility of the Charge, “. . . which would inform the public of the goals, principles, heritage and role of the public library in American life, and preserve for future generations the rich heritage of this institution and profession, and provide an opportunity for the public to learn how public library service may evolve in the future,” the meeting was opened for general comments and discussion. The many recommendations and suggestions that followed made by Task Force Members and guests projected a long term job for the PLA group.

As a main topic of discussion, it was suggested that state, regional, and national library associations, agencies, historical societies and library schools be contacted to find out “what’s out there.” In the form of a survey, the Task Force’s fact finding mission could result in the form of a Source Book of information about librarians. Where it is and who’s doing it seem to be an important first step for the Task Force. Suggestions to establish or develop a “Heritage Trail of Librarians” depicting historic public library landmarks across the nation; to select or solicit a physical location to serve as a repository for public librarians; to contact vendors as a possible source of revenue for a proposed oral history project that would involve interviewing public library pioneers; and to consider the development of an exhibition that could become a permanent museum at the 1992 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago were among the more important recommendations made at the San Antonio meeting.

As a result of the enthusiasm displayed by attendees at the first Task Force meeting in San Antonio, an Open Hearing, “Directions toward the 1992 World Exposition to be held in Chicago” was held on Friday, March 25, 1983, at the First Public Library Association (PLA) Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center. The early 9:00 AM time slot for the Hearing did not project a heavy attendance at the meeting. To the joy of the Task Force Chair and Members, a robust group attended the provided many more recommendations and suggestions for the PLA Executive Board’s consideration.

PLA President Donald J. Sager again reiterated to the Task Force their Charge and suggested that he felt the life of the Task Force would be extended in the form of a PLA standing committee. He felt the first responsibility of the Task Force would be to define goals and objectives and to consider establishing subcommittees to handle the many tasks that lie ahead. Before general Hearing discussion began, Task Force Member Mary Louise Rheay, director of the Cobb (Georgia) County Library, presented a summary overview of the Public Library Heritage Task Force meeting held at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter conference in San Antonio, which included the development of a public library museum. She also suggested that contact people be identified in every state and regional library association for future involvement with public library heritage projects.

Incoming PLA President Nancy Bolt assured Hearing participants that the work of the Task Force as a committee would be continued. She addressed the vital importance of public library heritage and the importance of the role of the public library in American life. Many suggestions were presented and Dr. Lawrence McCrank, head of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections of the Indiana State University Library, felt that some of the Task Force matters might overlap ongoing work of existing ALA Committees, such as the Library History Roundtable. He also felt that inadequate written library histories were being maintained.

Responding to Dr. McCrank’s statement, Ruth Frame, Deputy Director of the ALA, suggested that any overlap that existed between the PLA Task Force responsibilities and any ALA Committee would not be a problem. She felt that the Task Force should identify tasks and needed to develop planning procedures and further suggested that the work of the Task Force, should be publicized. Ms. Frame suggested newsreleases be sent to all library related journals and periodicals. Speaking as a vendor, Sandy Liberman of The Oryx Press in Phoenix felt that if the Public Library Heritage Task Force’s goals, objectives, and tasks were identified, commercial vendors would be very cooperative in the efforts of the PLA groups to secure a public library heritage.

Dr. Dorothy Kittle and Arthur Kirchenbaum of the U.S. Department of Education felt that the work of the Task Force was needed. Mr. Kirchenbaum suggested that the American Library Trustees Association and local and regional trustee and friends groups should be solicited for assistance. Following a comment by Carolyn Watkins, director of the public library in Westbrook, Maine, that she felt public libraries would be willing to provide “copies” of written historical records. Hearing attendees volunteered to represent various states: Mary Louise Rheay volunteered for Georgia; Nancy Pack, director of the North Little Rock Public Library for Arkansas; Iowa by Des Moines Public Library Director, Elaine Estes; Ohio by Task Force Member Arlynn Burton; Maryland by Jenny Murphy of the Eastern Shore Regional Library; Indiana by Larry McCrank; and Maine by Carolyn Watkins. Allan Kleinman of the Brooklyn Public Library suggested that a pictorial published history of public libraries was also needed.

(Continued on page 2)
The enthusiasm of the attendees forced the hearing overtime and the chair closed the meeting at 10:30 AM. Another open hearing is scheduled for Monday, June 27, 1983, 9:30-11:30 AM at the American Library Association Conference in Los Angeles. Present PLA Public Library Heritage Task Force membership includes, Ms. Betty W. Bender, director of the Spokane (Washington) Public Library; Ms. Alynn R. Burton, Regional Librarian, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library; Dr. Philip Clark, St. John’s University, Division of Library and Information Science, Jamaica, New York; Dr. Margaret M. Monroe, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Ms. Mary Louise Rhody, director of the Cobb County (Georgia) Public Library, and Don Foss (Chair).

The Public Library Heritage Task Force purpose is to develop recommendations to the Public Library Association Executive Board which would ensure the preservation and accessibility of documents and artifacts important to the heritage of the American public library, including the study of relative benefits associated with the creation and maintenance of a museum on the American public library, which would inform the public of the goals, principles, heritage and role of the public library in American life, and preserve for future generations the rich heritage of this institution and profession, and provide an opportunity for the public to learn how public library service may evolve in the future. Such study should include contact with museum officials, and the review of the relative advantages of creating either an independent institution or affiliating with some existing library or museum. At the conclusion of this study, the task force should submit a report with recommendations to the PLA Board, by June, 1983. In the event the report recommends the creation of such an institution, strategies for the implementation of the project should be included in the document. Particular attention should be paid to the opportunity which may be provided by the forthcoming World’s Columbian Exposition in 1992.

Information and suggestions for the PLA Public Library Heritage Task Force may be sent to Don Foss, Director, Library and Information Science Programs, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Library Suite 507, 33rd and University, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72204. EVERY ONE IS INVITED TO THE MEETING IN LOS ANGELES. STATE AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ARE NEEDED.

EVENING HOURS & SATURDAYS: A Controversy

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries has proposed a number of rules to provide more access to public libraries. One of those rules has become the subject of controversy. At a hearing held last month by the Department, a proposed rule requiring public libraries to remain open during some evening hours caused such a stir that a final approval of the rule has been delayed until the Department’s May meeting. According to proposed revisions of the Department’s rules and regulations, public libraries would be required to keep their libraries open after 5 o’clock one evening a week, for two hours, if they serve a population of 2,000 or less. Those with a population of 2,000 to 5,000 would be required, in addition to evening hours, to open for three hours on Saturday or Sunday. Those serving 5,000 to 10,000 have the same requirements except they would be open two evenings a week and the requirement for cities in the 10,000 to 25,000 population category would be maintaining their libraries open at least three hours after 5 o’clock three evenings a week and four hours on Saturday or Sunday. “The real issue of evening hours is local control,” said Robert L. Clark, Jr., department director. Communities feel they know their own constituencies better and believe the state needs to avoid interfering in their internal affairs. Another concern of communities is their ability to meet the state’s expectations in light-of-cuts in their budget.

Some of the proposed rules were well received. A current rule is the requirement that state aid grants apply only to libraries which serve at least 2,000 people. The revisions will eliminate this requirement. “I thought it was discriminatory to smaller communities,” said Mr. Clark, who recommended the change. Another revision would provide communities an exemption from the requirement that they continue to spend for library service an amount not less than that of the preceding fiscal year.

“How Do We Come Across?”

Dr. A. J. Anderson, Guest speaker

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY DIVISION,
OLA CONFERENCE REPORT

Deborah J. Karpuk, Secretary

Among the three programs co-sponsored by the College and University Division at the 76th annual Oklahoma Library Association Conference was a presentation given by Dr. A. J. Anderson, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College. Boston, Mass. entitled “How Do We Come Across?” (co-sponsored with the Public Library Division).

Dr. Anderson, originally from Montreal, Canada is now an American citizen. His B.A. Degree was earned at Bishop’s University (Canada), M.L.S. Degree from Simmons College, and Ph.D. in higher education at Boston University. For nine years, A. J. Anderson served as junior executive with the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, and for three years as Director of the public library in Andover, Mass. Dr. Anderson has been on the faculty at Simmons College for the past fourteen years. His publications include: Problems in Intellectual Freedom and Censorship (Bowker, 1974) and Problems in Library Management (Libraries Unlimited, 1981). He also edited Lin Yuting: The Best of an Old Friend (Master/Charter, 1975) and compiled E. B. White: A Bibliography (Scarecrow, 1978). In addition to teaching management, censorship, and reference courses at Simmons College, Dr. Anderson regularly consults and conducts management workshops.

Dr. Anderson’s talk focused on stereotypes of librarians based on informal surveys taken by students at Simmons College including “man-on-the-street” suggestions. As to how librarians and library staff might make the library a more inviting place for patrons. Dr. Anderson outlined how we might encourage return visits to the library. He demonstrated how library signage stresses the negative, i.e. “No Smoking”, “No Eating”, etc., and how strict adherence to library policies/rules often reinforces “negative/forbidding images of library services, librarians and library staff in general. An occasional “exception” may win a friend and ultimately a supporter of the library and library services. Dr. Anderson cited amusing examples from his experiences with the public library in Andover, Mass.

Though many of the stereotypes of librarians are humorous, in order to dispel these images and “myths”, we must be aware of the attitudes conveyed to patrons when service or assistance is needed. “Test Your P.R. Wisdom”, a two-page list of common problems/questions at public service desks, was distributed to program participants who voted on the best alternatives for handling these typical situations. Lively discussions followed about public relations, interpersonal communications, and the public service attitudes conveyed by each alternative.

Dr. Anderson outlined the basic ideas of synectics or bringing people into common problem solving. This management approach helps focus on the “good” aspects of change rather than on the “negative/bad” aspects of change — a natural human tendency. Why not involve patrons in the problem-solving process? This philosophy, originally developed by William J. J. Gordon, Synectics (Harper & Row, 1960) has been further studied by George M. Prince in the Practice of Creativity (Harper & Row, 1970). Dr. Anderson cited passages from Henry David Thoreau, William James and Arthur Koestler presenting their differing views on ideas and change. Individuals tend to link themselves personally with the idea’s they-put-forth, hence, rejection of the idea is often rejection of the person. The Synectics approach stresses group problem solving and the pooling of ideas to accomplish common goals thus, assuring acceptance of the change through the participatory decision-making process.

The current non-fiction bestseller In Search of Excellence by Thomas J. Peters and Robert H. Waterman, JKR. (Harper & Row, 1982) focuses on the “whys” of successes in efficient organizations and the valuable role human resources play in
VIDÉO-A-GO

A carefully reviewed assortment of today's most popular home video game cartridges is ready for library shelves, Don Cox, project manager for Video-To-Go, announced today. This addition to library services appeals to many age groups, teenagers in particular. If a nominal fee is charged the 29-cartridge, package pays for itself in a few months.

Parents have said they favor this program because they would rather have their children obtain cartridges from a library than buy a new cartridge every month or so or using costly machines in arcades.

Mr. Cox said that the Video-To-Go package was specially designed for library use and includes promotional material, defect guarantees, and point of circulation displays. An insurance program to cover theft and a subscription program are available for additional fees.

A Video-To-Go survey of over 150 young adults showed that the average teenager would pay up to $5 per week to rent a cartridge for their Atari, Colecovision, or Intellivision home video player. Most felt that renting a cartridge was a superior alternative to buying one for the average price of $31. They also felt that their library would be providing them with a needed service because they usually grew bored with a game after only two or three weeks; under this program they could simply go and check out another one from their library.

Video-To-Go projections show that the package, if rented out, pays for itself within 3 months. (Video-To-Go, Mr. Don Cox, Project Manager, Video-To-Go, 8 E. Alisal, Suite 410, Salinas, CA 93901 (408) 424-2909).

The way you look is an important investment because it indicates how you see yourself and your career.

"In the October 1981 issue of the ODL Source was published a report on "Dressing for Success." The Source stated that a "recent study done for the Texas Library Association revealed that the general public holds librarians in very low esteem." According to the report, "the problem is not one of public ignorance, but of poor image (of librarians) ."

The way librarians dress and conduct themselves gives the public the impression librarians are glorified clerks. As a result claims the report, "librarians are one of the most underpaid groups of people in the United States . . . . this is a classic example of how the perceived socioeconomic image of a group affects its real socioeconomic position." The ODL Source article was reprinted in Whirlpools (Winding Rivers Library System, August, 1982) and again quoted in Library Administrator's Digest, January, 1983. "If your library does not have a dress code you may want to consider implementing one to help improve the "low esteem" opinion the public has of librarians," said the Source. In Prince George's County library "employees are expected to be neat and well-groomed, and wear clothes typical of a business office." Social roles and uniform clothes (may) make the person according to L. Bickman, writing in Psychology Today, April, 1974, p. 48, but it will require more than dress codes to alter the public's perception of librarians. Elsewhere in this issue are related articles on perceptions and salaries. At the recent Annual Conference two major speakers addressed the issue of "How Do We Come Across" (Dr. A. J. Anderson). "Through many of the stereotypes of librarians are humorous, in order to dispel these images and 'myths', we must be aware of the attitudes conveyed to patrons when service or assistance is needed," said Dr. Anderson. Dr. Sara Fine in her address to the conference focused on topics concerning interpersonal relations, the image of the librarians and stressing the introduction of technology into libraries ("Coping with Change").

In the past few years several books and innumerable magazine articles have addressed themselves to the question of what one should wear to work if one is to make a favorable impression with those we work with and for, and how these efforts are necessary if one is to make it to the top. Some of these writings have gone to great lengths to lay down precise principles of acceptable attire, much of it too limited and too dull for certain professionals. Self-styled "wardrobe engineer" John Molloy, one of those who contend that in order to be serious you must dress seriously, advises women to avoid makeup, except perhaps lipstick, on the job. "Clothes do not make the whole person," according to Shafron Hannon (Working Woman's Beauty Book, Scarborough Books, 1979). "The face, the hair, the hands, the body, the overall state of health and fitness are also of great importance." While the principle of looking natural is certainly a good one to follow, it can take more makeup to look like you are wearing less (Hannon, p. 16).

The librarian is not one with limitless funds to spend on oneself nor has the time to spend on personal pampering (see article: "Librarians Not Rich"). Some time needs to be devoted to techniques and routines of putting oneself together so one looks his best from head to toe. Studies on the public's perception of librarians such as the one conducted for the Texas Library Association are valuable stimulants for the profession to take a serious look at the individual who is directly involved with the public. Discussion of dress codes and concern of conference speakers with "how we come across" may be indicative of a more serious problem of how we perceive our work and our public.
Open Meeting Law

Librarians of public libraries may not be aware of the fact that their board actions fall under the Open Meeting Law (25 O.S., Sections 301). Failure to comply with this law could have serious consequences, including legal suits for actions taken during a closed meeting. In order to comply with the Open Meeting Law, boards must give notice in writing by December 15 of each calendar year. This notice must be filed with the appropriate city or county clerk. Notice of meetings and the agenda MUST be posted in a public location in the library at least 24 hours prior to said meetings, and special meetings cannot be held without a public notice being given at least 48 hours prior to said meeting.

In addition, minutes of board meetings must be written and open for public inspection and all board action shall be recorded in the minutes with a yes or no vote. If you would like a copy of the Open Meeting Law, contact ODL's Library Services Branch, 405-521-2502 or In-Wats 1-800-522-8116.

LEE BRAWNER RECEIVES OLA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Executive Director Lee B. Brawner, Metropolitan Library System, received the Oklahoma Library Associations 1983 Distinguished Service Award during the awards ceremony at the Annual Conference in Oklahoma City. The Distinguished Service Award is presented to a librarian in recognition of inspired leadership, devoted service, and unusual contributions to Oklahoma libraries and to the profession of librarianship. The award is not necessarily presented annually.

A native of Sequin, Texas, Lee received his B.A. (Library Science) from North Texas State University (1957) and his Masters of Arts in Library Science from George Peabody College (1971). He has served as Head Librarian, Dallas Public Library's Lakewood Branch (1962-1965) and as Chief of Branch Service of the Dallas Public Library (1965-1967). From 1967 to 1971, Lee was the Assistant State Librarian for the Texas State Library.

Lee moved to Oklahoma in 1971 to become Executive Director of the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma County. The 1970's were difficult times for the Oklahoma City-County library system. While other communities expanded rapidly to the north and south, the financial base for the library system remained at the level established in 1965. Lee was at the center of a statewide effort which culminated in the passage of a state question to raise the permissible level of local property taxes from 2 to 4 mills; and in 1982, in a special election, he saw the results in his dogged determination when voters approved a substantial increase for the metropolitan library. He has contributed much time and talent to the betterment of libraries and the profession in the state, the southwest and nationally. He has been President of SWLA. The year 1982 saw Lee elected to three important positions: Chair of the State Advisory Council on Library Services; Trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation; and to a four-year term on the ALA Council as a Member-at-Large. He is regarded by all who have worked with him as easy going, gregarious, witty and friendly.

HOME COMPUTERS CUT TELEVISION VIEWING

Home computers may be more addictive than television, according to a study of 77 Stanford U. "computer families." Four in 10 families reported their television viewing dropped an average of 1.5 hours a day after they purchased computers. Previously, they watched television 2.7 hours a day.

Average computer use was more than 17 hours a week, with the most common uses listed as entertainment and word processing. Two thirds reported problems with their computers, but said they were "very satisfied" with the machines.
"Coping with Change, The Effects of Technology on Librarians" Dr. Sara Fine, Guest speaker
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY DIVISION, OLA CONFERENCE REPORT
Deborah J. Karpuk, Secretary

The 76th annual Oklahoma Library Association Conference, "If It Weren't for the Patron . . ." focused on topics concerning interpersonal relations, the image of the librarian and stress/anxieties created by the introduction of rapidly changing technologies into the traditional library environment. Consistent with this theme, College and University Division and the Automation Roundtable co-sponsored "Coping with Change, the Effects of Technology on Librarians" with psychologist Dr. Sara Fine, School of Library and Information Sciences University of Pittsburgh as the guest speaker.


Dr. Fine developed further the ideas she presented at the OLA First General Session "Coping with Computers: Fears and Fantasies". The questionnaire "Your Attitude Toward Technology" was distributed to all program participants in order to determine the level of individual resistance to change including questions about stressful life experiences, as well as attitudes/beliefs about the value of technology in our life in general. Two program participants were selected to represent the "traditional" librarian comfortable with the familiar oak card catalogs versus the "new" librarian supporting the CRT computer terminal as quicker access to the same information. These contrasting views provided lively dialogue on how changes could be introduced so as to minimize resistance to it.

Our reaction to the event/change affects the event as much as the event itself affects people. When the personnel who "do the work" are part of the decision-making process with the opportunity to express their feelings "regarding the change, resistance can be minimized. Physiological as well as psychological reactions occur when technology is introduced into a traditional work environment. This incorporates "speed", alien appearance and "inhuman" capabilities which maximize the contrast between familiar work environments/personnel and the introduction of the computer terminal with one keyer. As Dr. Fine humorously reminds us "Something named Edna is less threatening than something with no name at all" - anthropomorphizing technology increases our comfortableness with it.

Dr. Fine listed five attitudes characteristic of library administrators in introducing technology into the work environment: (1) Happy face, (2) Great lie (to serve the patrons better), (3) Act participatory (informing staff of decisions), (4) Provide more training (after the initial training workshop) and lastly, (5) Reorganizing the organization chart. Lively dialogue followed between Dr. Fine and library administrator participants interested in alternative approaches for introducing technology into the library setting.

Dr. Fine assured us that people and technology can live together but because change always occurs before we are ready for it, change always causes stress. Change represents not only the loss of something, but the gain of something new. Change re-stimulates past changes. Talk to resisters - communicators. Encourage upfront involvement in change which increases the possibility of smooth implementation of change (Japanese management style). Involve patrons as well as all staff in the planning process and reward cooperation. Assessment/planning, system design, procedural development, education/training and staged implementation are keys to the successful introduction of change into the library/work environment.

Dr. Fine reminded us that machines are generally viewed as authority figures and as such, make us uncomfortable. Beware of the changing status structure which results from introducing new technology into the library. A group of program participants were selected to offer different approaches involving the introduction of a computer terminal into a non-automated library setting. Dr. Fine urged us to focus on feelings. Be aware of questions - Psychologist Fritz Perls describes questions as "A statement with a hook at the end of it". Identify resistant behaviors and respond to staff resistance. Results of the survey "Your Attitude Toward Technology" are available from Dr. Sara F. Fine, School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15260.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ROUNDTABLE
Karen Curtis Chairperson

The Government Documents Rounbdtable met on Thursday, March 31, 1983. The speaker was Harley Lingerfelt, Director of the State Data Center. The State Data Center has a budget of $270,000. Its main purposes are service and networking within the state in the area of census data. The data is more than the data from the 1980 Census of Population, Population and Housing, and Housing, but also data from the Economic Censuses, Censuses of Agriculture, Construction, Retail and Wholesale Trade and others. The Center does searches for the citizens of Oklahoma on a cost only basis. Harley's talk centered on the 1980 Census. The Data Center has all the census tapes from the 1980 Census, the maps and printed materials. There are 21 affiliates within the state, plus the depository libraries, which are not affiliated with the Data Center. The Center provides specialized training and produces a newsletter entitled Demographics. 95% of the total 1980 Census data is available only on census tapes.

Mr. Lingerfelt explained the geographic hierarchy in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas and then went down the list of published reports from the census telling when they came out or when they would be out, and what sort of data they included. He explained which reports included 100% data and which only a sample response. interspersed with little tidbits of census news (Hailey has just returned from a trip to Washington the night before), the audience was served the latest information available on the 1980 Census and offered ways in which to better utilize the data included within the census. We were all encouraged to contact the Data Center for help.
The Impact of Technology on Libraries

Are libraries and librarians obsolete in this age of new technological advances? Dr. John Rothman of the NEW YORK TIMES assured librarians at the Oklahoma Library Association annual conference that the book is a form of technology far ahead of its time and that it will be around for many years to come.

His presentation, "The Impact of Technology on Libraries — if any," was sponsored by the Reference Roundtable and was presented twice, once on Wednesday, March 30, and again on Thursday morning, March 31.

Dr. Rothman traced various earlier technological "advances" that were supposed to revolutionize the way we live. Back in the 1980s, the phonograph cylinder was supposed to replace the book. In spite of all the rhetoric, there are many more books around today than there are phonograph cylinders.

Educational television was another technological innovation that was supposed to change the classroom as we know it, and change our lives as well. There would be television sets in each classroom, so the scenario went. A master teacher would teach by way of the television screen while the regular teachers acted as monitors, test givers, paper graders, etc. However, the educational system remains much as it was, and SESAME STREET is one of the few examples of educational television that one can call to mind today.

Dr. Rothman went on to discuss how a new technology has to take its place in the marketplace, and meet certain criteria before it becomes a necessary part of society.

There are many technologies available now for which there is little or no need. Dr. Rothman used an example of microfiche. While it is impressive to realize that the contents of the entire library can be reduced in size enough to fit on a sheet or two of microfiche, there really isn't much demand for an entire library on a sheet or two of fiche. One dreamer of the future visualized a library where, if a person wanted information on the Battle of Trafalgar, he would be able to go into a library, and have it reproduced for him electronically. The technology is available. The demand for electronic reproductions of the Battle of Trafalgar is not, however, particularly high.

An example of an invention not being secure against another invention is the home movie camera. These products were quite popular for a while. However, with the advent of the video camera and recorders, these items are now losing popularity.

For years there was talk about the picture telephone where the caller and the person called could see each other while carrying on their conversation. This telephone was developed and tested, but the testing revealed a problem: the creators of the picture telephone had not considered. People did not want to see or be seen by the person they were calling. As a result, even though the technology is available, the picture telephone is not.

Rothman then suggested that we measure the book against the above criteria. There is certainly a widespread demand for the book, and there has been for many years. As for another invention replacing it, the book like the wheel is a technology that is apparently ageless. As for people wanting the book, no one has yet come up with anything satisfying as a book to curl up with. Certainly computer terminals and reels of microfilm do not compare.

Dr. Rothman cautioned his listeners to be wary of the glowing ads that come across one's desk, to be wary of the articles in the journals which foretell of the new world to come. He then read from one such article which described how a modern young couple in the future will live happily with their computer, Frank. The husband will use Frank for the news, for correspondence. The wife who is a fabric designer will use Frank for designing, for paying the household bills, for price-comparison shopping. The two will use Frank in the evenings in order to enjoy a concert, a movie, or a play.

Examples can be given to show that the mechanics of programming certain computers probably have not been thoroughly thought out, how the expense of providing the services will be more than projected, how the idea, while inviting, will probably not stand up under the test of practicality and cost effectiveness. Dr. Rothman's conclusion was that the dreamers and soothsayers have not taken the time to investigate the cost of each of the programs that would be necessary to perform even one of the numerous acts that Frank is supposed to be able to do.

Dr. Rothman talked about the impressiveness of the technology that is available to us today. It is a temptation, in the light of the miracles that are now commonplace, to dream of the new world coming. He used as one example his experiences in Japan when the NEW YORK TIMES opened its Japanese branch of the Information Bank. He described sitting before a terminal in Japan using a telephone, calling up information on a screen just like the screen in his office. The only difference was that his source of information was kilometers of miles away instead of 40 miles away in New Jersey.

In closing, Dr. Rothman said that in his opinion the only technology that is a threat to libraries and librarians in the foreseeable future is nuclear technology.

— Danelle Hall, Reference Roundtable Chair
Oklahoma City University Library

LIBRARIANS NOT RICH

The average beginning level salary for a professional librarian in the southern states in 1981 was between $9,000 and $16,484. (Source: The Bowker Annual, 1982, p. 267). In its annual survey for 1982 of some 100 public libraries in 15 southern states with budgets over $300,000, Library Administrator's Digest (February, 1983) noted that the professional's salary was $12,718 and $23,335 for "top department head." Maybe for some this is not a bad salary but consider these are "averages." "The range of individual salaries shows a wide range between the low and high salaries, differences attributed to such variables as education, experience, geographical location; and probably a little luck." (Bowker, p. 285). There is a lot more to the salary story, and those who work on different sides of the negotiation process — librarians and administrators — say the figures are early signs of a crisis in recruitment, retention and job satisfaction. A librarian with an advanced degree and at least ten years experience in the profession could start all over again at the bottom of another profession and find a job paying the household bills with just a fraction of the income. Other professionals may start out with low salaries but can expect a higher salary in the future. Not so for librarians.

Those who stay with librarianship will never match the income progress of most other professions. In many cases the salaries of librarians never came up to the median family income level. The beginning salary in 1980 was $14,223, a bare existence for someone who may be paying back college loans and trying to accumulate some basic amenities. Other professionals may start out with low salaries but can expect a higher salary in the future. Not so for librarians.

— Oliver Delaney
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT CE IN YOUR INSTITUTION?

Polly Clarke

"Northeastern provides two workshops a year on topics of interest to school librarians. Topics covered in the past included Censorship, Literature for Children about Blacks/Indians, Machinery Repair, Puppets and Story-telling, and AACR II. In addition, elective courses are offered at night in fall and spring terms."

Rosemary DuMont

"Mechanisms to carry out our continuing education responsibility include: specially designed courses, more flexible scheduling available to those who work full time, off-site course delivery, talkback television, individual counseling, and increased interest in conference activity. Examples of current efforts in these directions include:

1) The Sixth Year Certificate Program — a vehicle by which an individual already working in the library field can come back to school and test his or her ideas in an academic setting.
2) The opportunity for people living in the Tulsa area to take courses in Tulsa and over talkback television.
3) The offering of courses at times when already working librarians can take them. Many courses are offered at night and on Saturdays.
4) The offering of specialized conferences. Last fall, the School offered its third annual Festival of Books for Young People under the direction of Dr. Mildred Laughlin.

The plans for the fourth Festival are already under way. The School would be appreciative of comments from any of you about other arrangements and opportunities that might be made available to further your professional growth and development."

John Hinkle

"CLENE is negotiating with ALA to become part of ALA and to have ALA assume its role as prime CE provider for the library information/media community. Also sponsoring workshops for beginning CE providers and exchanges and assemblies for intermediate and advanced level CE providers.

"ODL is developing a CE plan for Oklahoma. One of the major goals is to be able to offer CEU's (Continuing Education Units) as an approved provider from the national council so that Oklahoma library information/media CE events will be assured of following the "Criteria for Quality in CE". Additionally ODL CE is trying to offer enough formats so that every library employee may have CE available, regardless of geographical or situational isolation."

Brooke Sheldon

"The School of Library Science, Texas Women's University, attempts to offer high quality continuing education experiences for library and information personnel in Texas, the southwest region, and sometimes nationally. The challenge that we try to meet is to offer or study the best ideas and techniques of the moment, but always in the context that they will soon be outmoded and replaced. Our approach to providing these experiences has been through a variety of short courses and workshops.

"Over the past eighteen months, we have offered workshops on proposal writing, marketing libraries, telecommunications in libraries, alternate careers, rare books preservation, online data base searching, storytelling, public library planning process, etc. In May, June and July of 1983 we will offer: The Corporate Library; a Simulation; Non-Print Activities for Children and Young Adults; Materials and Services for the Handicapped; Microcomputers in Libraries, and several others. We sometimes use our regular faculty to conduct these workshops, but we also regularly bring in other "stars" with national reputations in their area of expertise. We try to offer these short courses as well as our regular course offerings at nontraditional times for maximum accessibility to practitioners. Both the outside experts and the practitioners who attend these events bring excitement, life and reality to the environment at TWU. We regard our CE program not as a separate project, but as central to the mission of the Library School."
Microcomputers and the Library: A Preconference

by

Beverly Jones, Automation Roundtable President

The preconference presentation by Bob Walton, the Automation Consultant at the Texas State Library was appreciated for its consideration of useful detailed information. The day-long presentation covered microcomputer design and function, how to identify space needs before purchase and how to identify available usable space in a contemplated microcomputer purchase. A brief overview of the more useful reference tools for evaluating hardware and journals for identifying the newest software products followed.

The potential purchaser was urged to begin with a written plan. Such a plan should identify the users, should enumerate the tasks to be done by the equipment and the time available to accomplish these.

To identify the appropriate software package for purchase, the following procedure was outlined: (1) inventory the files on the software package, (2) identify the space requirements for a single record, (3) determine the number of records for your library, (for example, a circulation system might include bibliographic, patron, item and transaction files), (4) multiply the number of records by the number of characters per record for each file to determine the total data needs, (5) presume an additional 75% of the space which was needed for data files to be used for indexing and blocking. Following this procedure should enable the potential buyer to identify the current size needs. Projection of future needs follows the same procedure.

After a written plan and identification of space requirements, a trip to a computer store is in order. Attempt to deal with a member of the new National Association of Better Computer Store Owners. Some specifics to consider in making a purchase: (1) identify expected software purchases and buy hardware with the highest random access memory (RAM) needs from the list, (2) be sure all peripherals are available (a 5¼ disk drive for that 5¼ disk, for instance), (3) understand how any “soft” packages work to identify storage and operation needs (does it duplicate the material in a new sequence, for example), (4) be sure software is compatible with the operating system and with the program languages, and (5) be sure the proper release is available.

For libraries considering public access to their microcomputer, several tips were identified: (1) pay access requires a high priority service, (2) any pay equipment must have a warning buzzer when time is running low, (3) noise problems must be considered, both the noises of equipment and of the users, (4) scheduling is a must if serious users are to be attracted, (5) theft is a problem, especially with some models and some parts, (6) the library staff must be informed enough to serve as resource people. A designed strategy to develop specializations is recommended. (7) if software is purchased for circulation, the potential for that circulation is limited to those persons with compatible equipment. (8) if software is circulated, it must be checked periodically to see if it still works. (9) duplicate manuals should be purchased for software used in the library so one user can read the manual at home while another has access to a manual while using the software program.

As this sampling from the extensive information available at the conference illustrates, the day was packed with useful data, in an understandable format.

Libraries: Because They're Worth It

The College and University Division along with the Public Library Division co-hosted one of the most informative, and as far as I am concerned, one of the most relevant sessions at the recent OLA Convention. The topic was Safety and Security in Libraries, all libraries not just academic or public. The speakers, Lee Brawner of the Metropolitan Library System and Norman Nelson of Oklahoma State University presented a comprehensive overview of the many problems of safety and security. Mr. Brawner, who is not only a library administrator but also a consultant, discussed the actions that should be taken to insure proper safety and security when designing a new building or renovating an older structure. For instance, how many of us considered the danger of burglars, rapists, or vandals when we planted those beautiful trees and shrubs around the library building? While they did doubt add to the aesthetics of the area, lush greenery provides excellent hiding places for people who “are not exactly "friends of the library." How many of us have tested windows and doors in our buildings to determine if they are burglar proof?

Lee Brawner provided a checklist which could be used to gauge the library’s safety and security level. The checklist was broken down into exterior and interior considerations. Norman Nelson distributed a comprehensive package of materials, which together with the checklist, comprise a workbook or guide for total safety and security evaluation. He began his presentation by listing a few of the horror stories appearing in the library press: “San Diego branch library burned by arsonists,” “Boston public hires guards to stem wave of violence,” “Vandalism sniffs out NLW Plan for Putnam Valley, New York,” “Pros snatch OCLC terminal from Illinois Benedictine,” and “New Hampshire thief arrested in Boulder.” Ah, but those kind of things happen in other places! Do they really?

In his presentation Norman Nelson covered the gamut of things that happen in other places: mutilation of serials, theft of library materials, rare books, personal property, equipment, display cases, photocopy and vending machines, vandalism in the library, bomb scares, threats to persons, and destruction of library property. Not only did he discuss the problems, but the “package” contained possible solutions for librarians to consider. Norman also went a step further and provided a guideline for successful planning, that is the formulation and writing of a formal plan.

I would like to congratulate these men for an outstanding program, personally feel that it deserves a wider and more detailed forum such as a day-long workshop such as a workshop for librarians and their security personnel. This was the arrangement of a national workshop that Norman attended in Kentucky. It has been my experience that security personnel would be highly receptive to this type of program and would appreciate the librarians understanding of their problems in security and would welcome a cooperative approach. If you agree, contact your OLA representative or perhaps the ODL Continuing Education department.

The next meeting of the Oklahoma Bibliographic Instruction Council (OBIC) will be held Wednesday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central State University Library in Edmond. OBIC, the newly organized task force of the Oklahoma ACRL chapter, welcomes attendance at its meetings by any one interested and involved in library instruction. The Council's goal is to further the visibility and support of library instruction programs in academic libraries throughout the state; your input is eagerly desired, so please note this date on your calendar now.
SEQUEYAH CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

Over 950 children and adults attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Sequoyah Children's Book Award during the annual conference of the Oklahoma Library Association. The Sequoyah Reception was held on Thursday, March 31, from 2:45-5:00 p.m.

Laura Marx, a fifth grader from Monroe Elementary School and Josh Kershin, a fifth grader from McKinley Elementary School in Norman represented the Children of Oklahoma, when they presented the Sequoyah Children's Book Award to Mr. Bill Wallace, author of the winning book, A DOG CALLED KITTY. Mr. Wallace is a resident of Chickasha, where he is principal of West Elementary School. Only twice in the 25 year history of the award has an Oklahoma author been the winner.

It is interesting to note that in 1959, the first year that the Sequoyah Award was presented, 12,000 children voted for their favorite book. This year 46,924 children voted. The first award was given to Fred Gipson for OL' YELLER, which is a story very similar to Bill Wallace's A DOG CALLED KITTY. Both are stories about a boy and a dog and in both stories the beloved dog dies.

Mr. Wallace entertained all present with the delightful tale of how his book came to be written and published. He introduced relatives and teachers who had encouraged him in his writing career.

Punch and cookies were served in the foyer during the autograph party held immediately following the author’s speech. At this time children had an opportunity to speak to Mr. Wallace. Five copies of the winning book were given away as door prizes and each person attending was given an autographed copy of the book jacket. The Reception was a great success and enjoyed by all.

School Library Media Services

In four years the number of Library Media Improvement programs have grown from 20 in 1978 to 130 in 1982 and students of those programs show a marked improvement of library and reference skills. When one considers the cost, it is a modest amount of money. Over 70,500 school children have access to quality library media services as a result of these grants. Funds have established improved library media programs in 235 school sites and have provided incentives for establishing new centers from local funds. Teachers have increased their use of a wide-variety of materials and equipment in their classrooms as a result of library media services. However, there remain 600 elementary schools without any library media services in the state of Oklahoma. Senator Rozell has introduced S.B. 14 which specifies the number of library employees, full and part-time, that are to be employed by a school district. Section I of the bill reads: “As school libraries have long been recognized as an essential part of quality education; it is the intent of the Legislature that each school site in the State of Oklahoma has an adequate library staff”. That bill is dormant in the Senate Education Committee and may not see the light of day this legislative year. It is possible that the committee will give the bill a favorable hearing next year, but such legislation will need much support if it is to be enacted into law. Our educational system is under challenge as indeed it has been in the past such as when the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957 but this is a different challenge. “Those who do not move into the future,” as James Baker, President of General Electric says, “will be relegated to the past.” A new and exciting American economy beckons. Who will be able to enter it? Millions of Americans will be affected by profound industrial changes as machines begin to replace workers in our economic system. The challenge to our educational system is one of preparing the young today for their future tomorrow and school libraries are an essential part of that preparation.

OLA CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION AWARDED

Seven individuals were particularly recognized at the 1983 Oklahoma Library Association’s Annual Conference with Certificates of Appreciation. This award is presented for contributions of an outstanding nature on one particular project for the Oklahoma Library Association or for one particular type of contribution to the field of librarianship. It is presented to librarians and non-librarians.

Certificates were presented to Millie Audas (Norman), L. L. Blandon (Idabel), James Houston (Hugo), Katy Joachim (Walters), Marcus Salazar (Oklahoma City), and Delores Sumner (Tahlequah). Each was recognized for his or her leading role in planning and implementing a cultural heritage reading materials program for the state’s minorities. These individuals encouraged the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to initiate a pilot program of reading materials available to Oklahoma’s Native Americans, Spanish-speaking Americans and Blacks. They were instrumental in advising on the selection of the twelve public libraries that were involved in the project and in suggesting materials for the collection.

—Norman Nelson, Awards Committee Chairman

PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY: SILVER ANNIVERSARY

April, 1983, marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Pioneer Multi-County Library System, serving Cleveland, McClain, and Pottawatomie counties in Oklahoma. Special events were planned throughout the System during the Silver Anniversary Week, April 16-23, including exhibits, storytelling, book reviews, lectures and musical presentations.

In addition, the System celebrated 25 years of service by its director, William H. Lowry. The Friends of the Norman Library hosted a gala reception and dinner in his honor on April 23. William Least Heat Moon, author of the bestselling novel “Blue Highways,” was the featured speaker for the occasion.

Congratulations and best wishes to Pioneer Multi-County Library and Bill Lowry for 25 years of outstanding service to the community.

Twelve things to remember

1. The value of time.
2. The success of perserverance.
3. The pleasure of working.
4. The dignity of simplicity.
5. The worth of character.
6. The power of kindness.
7. The influence of example.
8. The obligation of duty.
9. The wisdom of economy.
10. The virtue of patience.
11. The improvement of talent.
12. The joy of originating.
Instead of One Aspirin, Take Two Poems

To combat fear and depression and even ease the pain of physical ills, doctors are taking poetry out of the library and into the hospital, office and home. According to Jody Kologezy, writing for Prevention ("Poetry: The Latest Word in Healing," January 1983, pp. 62-68) poetry is "helping the stressed to relax, the stricken to recover and the psychotic to relate. A new breed of psychotherapist, the poetry therapist, is dispensing verses that may work better than Valium. Back in 1976, Margaret Massie Simpson, after two radical mastectomies, wrote of her successful experiences with the healing power of poetry (Coping with Cancer, Broadman, 1976). The poems of Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost and William Carlos Williams have long been a favorite of poetry lovers but may be finding a new group of advocates who consider their works a good substitute for tranquilizing drugs and sedatives for relaxation. "Some of the most powerful verses of our day are being written by hands so stiff they can barely hold a pen," says Sylvia Baron, editor of Expanding Horizons ($4.00 biannual), a literary magazine of poetry and prose that specializes in publishing works of the elderly. How is your library's poetry collection? A few suggestions:

For Insomnia:
Hymn to the Night, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
A Ballad of Dreamland, by Algernon-Charles Swinburne
To Sleep, by William Wordsworth
Oft, in the Stillness, by Thomas Moore
Night, by John Keats
To Sleep, by John Keats
La Belle Dame Sans Merci, by John Keats
Annabel Lee, by Edgar Allan Poe
Tintern Abbey, by William Wordsworth

For Anxiety:
Anxiety, by Paul F. Whitaker
I'm Nobody! Who Are You! by Emily Dickinson
The Road Not Taken, by Robert Frost
The Yeo Old Gypsy Man, by Ralph Hodgson
Ode to a Grecian Urn, by John Keats
The Day Is Done, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Song of Myself, by Walt Whitman
Shelley Among the Untitled Ways, by William Wordsworth
The Lake Isle of Innisfree, by William Butler Yeats

For Depression:
Today, by Thomas Carlyle
Light Shining Out of Darkness, by William Cowper
The Chambered Nautilus, by Oliver Wendell Holmes
The Day Is Done, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
On His Blindness, by Milton
Ode to the West Wind, by Percy Bysshe Shelley
The Celestial Surgeon, by Robert Louis Stevenson
In a Strange Land, by Francis Thompson
The Eternal Goodness, by John Greenleaf Whittier

ALa/RTSD HISTORY-MAKING VIDEO

TELECONFERENCE WILL BEAM TO 117 SITES IN
42 STATES, D.C., PUERTO RICO AND CANADA

With the signing of Elborn College, Ontario, Canada, the pioneering "ALA-TV Conference '83" teleconference has become an international event. The American Library Association (ALA) will broadcast a full range of conference activities—from general coverage to specific instruction—from the 1983 Annual Conference in Los Angeles to 117 different remote receiving sites.

Divided into two segments, the five-hour teleconference will be transmitted 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (EDT), Tuesday, June 28, through the services of Public Service Satellite Consortium. It is ALA's fourth and most ambitious teleconference.

The June 1983 teleconference is ALA's first live remote production. The first segment of the five-hour program, "ALA Connect Time — A Window on the Annual Conference, New Library Development and Technology Nationwide," will feature "conference" highlights and an update on new technology. After the noon break, a specialist segment presented by RTSD/CCS will use one-way video, two-way audio teleconference for a bibliographic institute, "Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat: Rules and Formats." Internationally recognized authorities will discuss and debate the adequacy of the current bibliographic tools in a national and international framework to promote standardization and cooperation. Each local receive site will have a telephone hookup to L.A. for local registrants to question speakers directly. Oklahoma's sites are: East Central University (Ada), Oscar Rose Jr. College (OKC) and Pioneer Multi-County Library (Norman).

Registration for either or both sessions is $30 for ALA members, $10 for student members. Seats at local sites are limited, so early registration is advised. All registrations must be received by May 20, 1983.

To register write or call, ALA-TV, RTSD, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 312/944-6780, ext. 319.

HEARING ON BIBLIOGRAPHIC NETWORKS

To stimulate greater use of and participation in the design of network services to public libraries, the Public Library Association (PLA)'s Task Force on Network Relations will hold an open hearing on the status of public libraries in bibliographic networks at the American Library Association's (ALA) 1983 Annual Conference, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, June 26, in Los Angeles.

Don Sager, PLA president, created the special Task Force when he found that current directories show only 412 public libraries are members of the major bibliographic networks. In his charge to the Task Force, Sager said "public libraries constitute so small a percentage of the membership of these organizations that they have only a limited influence on their goals and services. Unless public libraries take a greater role in the networks, they will be left out of the mainstream and be less capable of sharing resources, providing better service to their patrons and benefiting from a variety of cooperative services utilizing advanced technology."

The Task Force, has scheduled the hearing to gather information from public libraries of all sizes that are members of the bibliographic utilities on how and why they became members and what services they find most useful, and from non-members on the reasons they have not joined and what might encourage their membership. Both users and nonusers will be asked to suggest changes in current methods and services as well as new ones that would make participation more attractive. Representatives of OCLC, WLN and RLG will be present to talk with those who attend.

In addition to the hearing the Task Force also plans a series of case studies and a national survey. From these activities the group will prepare a report for the PLA Board on the current status of public library participation in bibliographic networks and develop recommendations for future action.
INDEPENDENT LIBRARIANS WILL MEET IN L.A.

The newly formed American Library Association (ALA) Independent Librarians Membership Initiative Group (MIG) invites all librarians now working as consultants, independent library services contractors, or in other independent entrepreneurial situations to attend a meeting and coffee at the ALA 1983 Annual Conference in Los Angeles, 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 28.

The Independent Librarians MIG was formed in 1982 to provide a group within ALA where members who are working privately outside the institutional library setting could meet to discuss common problems and interests. The group's focus is primarily on librarians already established in the entrepreneurial setting. At the ALA Midwinter Meeting, several interests were mentioned that might become the function of MIG task-oriented groups, such as compilation of a directory of independent librarians, a survey of costs for specific services, access to the professional literature for the independent librarian, and collection of information regarding insurance, accounting, promotion and other business aspects of the independent situation.

Coordinators of the group are Ilse Moon, Margaret Bennett and Patricia Schumair. Individuals who wish to be on the mailing list for the Independent Librarians MIG should contact Margaret Myers, staff liaison, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

THE PRACTICAL SIDE TO LIBRARY PLANNING

Librarians concerned with the practical skills and issues related to library planning and evaluation will benefit from two programs to be offered at the 1983 ALA Annual Conference in Los Angeles.

The skills necessary for effective library planning was the focus of a program offered by the Planning and Evaluation of Library Services Committee (PELS) of LAMA/ACOM at the 1983 Conference in Philadelphia. Building upon this theoretical coverage of interpersonal relations, management, and quantitative skills provided, PELS and the LAMA/PAS Staff Development Committee will co-sponsor a follow-up program on Tuesday, 28 June 1983 from 2:00-5:30 p.m. in Los Angeles entitled "Skills for Library Planning: a Practical Sequel". Directed toward all levels of library managerial staff, and appropriate for all type-of-library settings, the sequel program will afford practical demonstrations of the relation between specific skills and planning activities.

Participants will be able to attend two out of three group sessions, each of which will focus on a specific skill area and will be lead by a specialist in the field: Interpersonal Relations Skills; Management Skills; and, Quantitative Skills.

Pre-registration is required by 1 June 1983. Persons wishing to register for the program may contact: Meredith Butler, University Library, Room 109, SUNY at Albany, Albany, New York 12222.
Most-banned Book: "Go Ask Alice"

A recent survey of 860 librarians in high schools around the country named *Go Ask Alice*, the anonymous diary of a teenage drug user and suicide, the most frequently censored book.

The *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger was in second place. It was followed by *Our Bodies, Ourselves; Forever* by Judy Blume; *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich* by Alice Childress; *My Darling, My Hamburger* by Paul Zindel; *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut; *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck; and *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Wouldn't you like to hear Twain's comment about that?

The survey reported a sharp increase in the number of complaints from parents and groups. In 54% of the cases, the challenged books were removed from a recommended list, from classroom use, or from the library.

One surprise: the largest percentage of reported challenges occurred in the Northeast.

The survey was sponsored by the Committee Against Censorship of the National Council of Teachers of English and the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English. Lee Burress, Professor English at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, and his son David, an economist, wrote the report.

Books espousing the conservative viewpoint should be available in libraries as are more liberal volumes, according to Cal Thomas, Executive Director for Communication of Moral Majority. Thomas contends that a "back of the bus" mentality has prevailed in the book publishing and reviewing industry. "Censorship is wrong, whether it's coming from the right or the left," said Thomas at a news conference to announce a nationwide campaign against alleged censorship of conservative books. Thomas also took time out to promote his new book, *Book Burning*. Thomas claims that less than 10 percent of the libraries carry the conservative books that are considered essential to the conservative movement. This he considers a form of censorship and believes conservatives have been silent far too long. If this sort of discrimination continues, he said, "I think it is perfectly legitimate to take a page from our minority brothers and sisters of the 1960's, and even today, and begin pickets, and even other kinds of actions." Thomas claimed his research revealed a systematic pattern of discrimination against those conservative books taking positions against abortion, for the family and for a strong national defense.

The Oklahoma Library Association Membership Directory (Current as of January, 1983) was distributed to participants at the Annual Conference. Copies are available. Contact: Dovie Gaither, OLA Executive Secretary, 1747 W. Virgin, Tulsa, OK 74074, ph. (918) 583-1551.