OKLAHOMA'S FISCAL CRISIS
NOBODY LIKES TAXES — BUT... IT'S TIME TO PAY OUR OWN WAY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS POSITION PAPER

Let's be honest about Oklahoma State funding — we get by. Get by on one of the lowest tax rates in the nation, get by on our oil and gas wealth. Oklahoma has relied heavily on oil and gas revenue to fuel the state's operating budget. Now we are running on "about empty." Rather than paying our own way we have let someone else provide the revenue — be it outsiders who buy our underground wealth or the federal government which has given back to Oklahoma more than the state has paid in. Right now Oklahoma has the second lowest income tax rate of the 38 states which levy one. Our state sales tax is the lowest of any state levying a sales tax. Exemptions from the sales tax abound, there are 34 of them as diverse as newspapers and advertising, natural gas, casing head, certain farm products, ticket sales by Scouts, and materials for raising worms. The state gasoline tax hasn't changed since 1949 while the amount of roads and bridges has vastly increased. The good oil and gas revenue years also encouraged reduction/abolition of 16 taxes. We have permitted the tax base to shrink dangerously. We rank 47th nationally in tax burden. It is time Oklahoma acted more responsibly.

Nobody really likes paying taxes, yet we do like the services that taxes provide. Premises of taxation are: That people should pay taxes according to their ability; that taxes should promote social objectives; and that benefits received from taxation should equal the burden of taxes. A broad tax base is necessary to accomplish the foregoing and still not overburden any one group. It also is foolhardy to be over dependent upon a single source of revenue to fund government. The League of Women Voters of Oklahoma believes that a tax system should provide adequate funds for essential government services without creating inequities in assessing taxes according to ability to pay.

Oklahoma for far too long basked in the good fortune created by revenue from oil and gas taxes — increased just before the boom of the nineteen seventies. This bonanza encouraged substantial tax cuts. Economists Ray Grimes and Don Kash note that reliance on oil and gas revenues means Oklahoma is still subject to uncertainties in the energy industry and it is in the state's compelling interest to diversify Oklahoma's economy. The LWVOK concurs.

Government exists to meet the needs of a corporate society. It takes care of what the members of the community, because of communal living, cannot do efficiently for themselves — provide health, safety, welfare, education and protection from the criminal element. How well this is done creates the quality of life for citizens. Citizens also determine that quality by the goals they set, dreams they dream for themselves and their children, and demands for excellence they require from their government. Tax dollars pay for the dreams, goals, and demands.

For too many years Oklahoma had only the dreams, it was held back by a reluctance to fund them. Courageous action a decade and a half ago in raising taxes indicated the state was finally willing to put money behind desires. The timing proved excellent. Good fiscal years followed and the money rolled in. We pointed with pride to the vast improvements Oklahoma was making in education funding and programs, juvenile justice, mental health, and in our corrections system, the latter done with healthy prodding from the federal government.

Now the good times are gone, it is not as easy to hand out the dollars. Our riches have evaporated. Revenue downturns necessitated budget cuts of ninety million dollars in FY83 and one hundred fifty million dollars in FY84. More reductions can be anticipated in the next few years. The state has some hard choices to make: Does Oklahoma want to continue with the agenda we have embarked upon to improve our state or do we abandon it as unattainable — nice goals for other states but not for Oklahoma. We are at a critical juncture; failure to adequately fund the state means losses that will take a decade to make up.

The LWVOK believes in the potential of Oklahoma. Achieving that potential takes work. We believe that an efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibility, and

(Continued on page 14)
adequate financing. The system of taxation must be adequate and flexible. This means reevaluating how we raise and collect taxes, determining if the state invests its revenues wisely, and doing away with waste and inefficiency. It also means increasing taxes if necessary in order to meet state needs.

Oklahomans throughout the state indicate opposition to tax increases, yet they are quick to state appreciation for and desire to maintain good schools, law enforcement, and good roads. We've played catch-up. Without adequate revenue even maintaining the status quo is impossible.

ITEM: Oklahoma education has been a major commitment of the state for the past fifteen years, receiving the majority of state revenue. It is just barely showing progress in the greatest investment in the state's economic future, both for leadership and a work force. Industry in looking for sites looks at the commitment to education at all levels; hi-tech especially judges the research caliber of state universities. The quality of voc tech schools available to train employees in specialized areas is also a factor considered by industry. Oklahoma has created a premier voc tech system; it won't stay that way without adequate funding.

ITEM: During the past decade vast sums of money have been spent upgrading a badly outmoded corrections system. The improvement was not by choice or compassion but by federal coercion. We are still experiencing rapid growth in incarceration and we could again reach the flash point without commitment to improving the system. Genuine concern exists that now, without federal supervision, corrections will be downgraded. There will be fewer people to supervise the system and less money to address the problems.

ITEM: Our juvenile justice system is in a transitional status, moving from institutional to community/ regional-based care programs. The improvements are in jeopardy without adequate funding.

ITEM: County road systems in Oklahoma are a disgrace, not to mention dangerous. We have failed to provide adequate funding for them. We allowed poor assessment practices to continue that failed to fund county government adequately.

Times must change. Our goals, dreams, and needs are so many. They require money to be fulfilled. It is time we paid our own way. Oklahoma is bound by a constitutional requirement to live within its means. In good times with the treasury overflowing, it is easy to address all needs generously. When times are lean choices have to be made. Do we abandon or defer needs we have barely caught up with, or do we say the task is begun? We have much left to do; let us find the resources to press onward.

The League believes we must find the resources. We must find the money to provide adequate funds for essential government services. The state must broaden its tax base to lessen its dependence on oil and gas revenue and on federal funds. Both are too subject to economic and political vagaries. We encourage examination of exemptions to the sales tax and repeal of many of them, collection of all taxes due to the state, some enforcement powers for the Tax Commission in order to address laxness in ad valorem assessment practices, and an increase in the sales tax.

We must pay our fair share for the state's needs, not rely on others or upon get rich quick schemes.

—Diane Brown
Legislative Chair
January 26, 1984

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PROMOTING EMPLOYEE MORALE

* Ensure employees are informed of events, policies and conditions affecting them.
* Encourage and provide for feedback from employees.
* When employees do a good job, tell them.
* Delegate authority with responsibility.
* Clarify expectations.
* Foster the establishment of specific goals.
* Reward productive efforts.
* Provide periodic changes in environment, schedules, and tasks.
* Be concerned for your employees' welfare.

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR:
STATE MUST TAKE A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

In my message to the Legislature, I stressed the three R's, plus excellence.

The three R's — reduction, reform and revenue — are all necessary to meet the funding crisis.

The Legislature moved swiftly in passing HB 1451 to reduce current fiscal year appropriations by $150 million. We have reduced.

I have asked 100 Oklahoma men and women to volunteer their services to the Reform Committee of 100. They began February 9 to study all phases of state government and to recommend areas of improvement. We are moving toward reform.

Revenue — the third R — is equally important. Without adjustments to the tax base, we must reduce next year's budget by another $250 million and that cannot be done without seriously affecting the programs and services which state government provides for the public. We are asking the Legislature — and the public — to support necessary tax laws to generate additional funding to avoid a crisis in services and further revenue shortfalls next fiscal year.

At the same time we ask the public for additional revenue, we ask your commitment to excellence. Help us stress to each and every employee of state government that we are all here for one simple reason — service to the people of Oklahoma. That is the only reason any of our jobs exist. We must adopt that purpose, and strive to serve the people of Oklahoma in the most effective, most efficient, most excellent manner. It all depends on you and me, each and every one of us doing our part.

—George Nigh
STATE CAPITOL
HEADLINES

by
Oliver Delaney

The 1984 legislative session began with a bluster of editorials — front and inside — against any and all tax increases, despite mounting evidence that state programs and services were already in serious trouble. Governor Nigh issued his State of the State message, calling on all to make a commitment to excellence, stressed the need for three R's — Reduction (in state expenditures). Reform (he has appointed a Reform Committee to study all phases of state government and to recommend areas for improvement), and Revenue (where he requests adjustments to the tax base).

The legislature moved swiftly in passing HB 1451 to reduce current fiscal year appropriations by $150 million. State agencies have continued the freeze on hiring, curtailed travel and seek ways to cope with reduced revenue. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries appropriation for FY84 was cut by $318,000.

A number of bills of library interest were carried over from the last session. Of particular interest was SB 14 (Rozell), which specified the number of library employees (full and part-time) that were to be maintained by school districts. This piece of legislation, which has been introduced before, failed to be considered by the Senate Education Committee and is now dead. SB 227 (Howell) was of interest to public library systems for a while, since the bill attempted to remove school districts from having to pay the costs of county property revaluations. Since the cost must be borne by those who benefit, an exempt organization would have placed a greater burden on the rest. The bill has passed the Senate, but not before the Senate Education Committee had reworked the bill to remove the exemption. SB 227 now before the House of Representatives is very different than first introduced. Of related interest is SB 546 (Ford), which would establish a State Revaluation Board, which is to institute a comprehensive statewide revaluation program of all taxable property beginning in 1986 and be completed by 1989. Bills appropriating funds to the State Board of Education, State Regents of Higher Education and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries are still in the Appropriations Committee, and will not be considered until late in the session.

A few bills introduced were of interest in light of what may be concerns among constituents. Oklahoma City legislators, Representatives David Porter and Bill Graves, introduced HB 1677 and HB 1762, companion bills that would have prohibited the distribution of indecent material within the state over any cable television system. Known as the "Cable TV Programming Decency Act," both bills died in committee, but would have made the provisions of the Oklahoma Law on Obscenity (Title 21, Sections 1040.8-1040.53 applicable to cable television. The issue of cable television content, particularly so-called indecent material, is one that is growing in national concern and various groups are considering it a matter for their campaigns. The issue of who has the authority to regulate cable television is a complicated one and bears close watching nationally and on the state level.

Textbooks and the State Textbook Committee were again of interest to two legislators: Representative Bill Graves of Oklahoma City introduced HB 1912, which would have required "all textbooks used in the schools (common) to be up-to-date and accurate to within two years of the state of knowledge on a given subject." The House Education Committee did not consider the bill, but the committee did study and pass HB 1817 by Representative Ross Duckett of Muskang (with Helen Cole and Dorothy Conaghan), which changes the bid procedures used by the State Textbook Committee to be more competitive. It also requires a copy of each textbook on the bid list be available in at least one library or institution of higher education within each Congressional District. It has passed the House and is now in the Senate. HB 1203 by Don Ross of Tulsa, "The Oklahoma Freedom of Information Act," did not get a hearing in committee and is dead. Oklahoma has various laws dealing with access to records, files, and confidentiality, but the one most often cited as the state's freedom of information is found in Title 51, Section 24, "Records Open for Public Inspection."

The state has recently passed the temporary sales tax increase of one percent and is considering an increase in the gasoline tax. Both measures provide only temporary relief of a chronic situation and only some relief at best. Growth and development depend, to a large extent, on when the economy of the state improves and how well it improves, in addition to needed adjustment in corporate and personal income taxation.

Most of the newspapers of Oklahoma have yet to report adequately the full story of the state's economy and what it means for the state's future. Newspapers, which enjoy at least five exemptions from the state sales tax (efforts to remove those exemptions this session failed in the House and in the Senate), have reported to farfetched editorials and at times misinformation. What the public needs are the facts. Oklahomans want to know how the state can be in such a financial crunch when recently the state's newspapers filled their headlines with reports of fat surpluses. The growth in state revenue in recent years was directly related to the booming oil business and to the severance tax on oil and gas. "Individual tax rates were lowered and further exemptions made to sales and other taxes. When the oil and gas revenues dropped, the weaknesses in the structure of individually paid taxes were revealed. This is what happened." (Oklahoma Observer, January 10, 1984).

Oklahomans need to know who pays and who does not pay the major taxes in Oklahoma and why. Some newspaper reporting has confused the public. The truth is that Oklahomans are not overburdened with taxes where state and local taxes are concerned (see related article on "Library Statistics"). The state is in a financial dilemma and a responsible press that honestly reports what is going on can provide vital information to the public on which they can base decisions.
FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Legislative Day on February 29 was a real success. More than 140 OLA members met at the Capitol and made librarians and library needs in Oklahoma more visible to our legislators.

Displays placed in the rotunda were a new addition to Legislative Day activities. Graphic presentations emphasized the variety of library services offered in different library settings across our state. All of you who contributed to the displays made a positive contribution.

Many of us visited with legislators, shared lunch with them, and left them folders containing information sheets concerning public library and school media services. We also gave them buttons promoting school media programs and mounted and laminated copies of the lovely poster which received nationwide publicity when it appeared on Library Journal's cover (laminating was done — at no state expense — through the efforts of Becky Mann).

The Library Development Committee is to be commended on its super job of planning and coordinating of the day's activities! Thanks goes to those of you who couldn't join us at the Capitol but who paid for lunches for some legislators. That enabled us to see that all legislators had lunch that day courtesy of OLA. We appreciate all the membership efforts which made this activity a success.

We have a new group of OLA leaders who were recently selected to direct our 1984-85 organizational activities. We are at the point now of winding down this year's activities and beginning to look toward next year. The leaders we've chosen are very capable people, but they will need help from all of us as they perform their duties. I urge each of you to consider ways in which you can contribute to OLA. I hope that you have already submitted an evaluation sheet concerning the Tulsa conference and sent in a committee preference. If you haven't, please do so. If you do not have the forms provided at the conference, please simply write your comments and committee preferences in a note and send it to OLA through our Executive Secretary's address.

OLA is an exciting professional organization of which to be a part. It is that type of organization because it is made up of members who care about growing professionally, and I'm sure it will continue to improve because of that.

—Frances Alsworth

OLA 1984-85 ELECTION RESULTS

The elections have been held. The ballots have been counted and Lee Brawner and Clarice Roads head the list of persons elected to OLA offices for 1984-85.

Brawner, Director of the Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, was elected Vice-President/President-elect of OLA for the 1984-85 term, and Mrs. Roads, Library Coordinator of the State Department of Education, was selected as OLA's Secretary for 1984-85.

Ray Lau, Library Director and Head of the Department of Library Science at Northwestern State University in Alva, will serve OLA as ALA Councilor for the 1984-85 term.

Division officers elected for 1984-85 are:

OASLMS — Barbara Rather, vice-chair/chair-elect; Linda Chapman, secretary, and Barbara Carol Casey, treasurer.

College and University — Susan McVey, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Betty Bowes Aldridge, secretary.

Library Educators — Elizabeth Max, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Anne Hoyt, secretary-treasurer.

Public Library — Glenda Collins, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Carol Kochman, secretary.

Trustees — Warren Fossett, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Lori Kirtley, secretary.

Persons selected as Roundtable Officers for 1984-85 include:

Automation — Dell Hewey, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Laurie Stein-sieck, secretary.

Children and Young Peoples — Susan Silva, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Dorothy Jeffers, secretary.

Government Documents — Steve Beleu, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Betty Smith, secretary.

Junior Members — Peggy Royster, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Barbara Becker, secretary.

Reference — Judith Clarke, vice-chair/chair-elect, and Judith Ann Walden, secretary.

Social Responsibilities — Midge Lindsey, secretary.

Technical Services — Jean Mackey, vice-chair/chair-elect.
THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

The DAILY OKlahoman featured the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped during the week of March 1 on its front page. This library serves the entire state and does a splendid job under extremely adverse circumstances — i.e., the building and the location of the building.

Mr. McIlvain, Director of the library, is a most capable man. He is a competent librarian who gives richly of himself for others. He must use his staff and himself to drape the shelves of the library every time that it rains hard because the roof leaks. Water stands on the floor, tiles are loose, and material on the shelves have a damp environment which leads to mildew and loss of the material. Tapes that have been made are lost and this loss is irreparable.

Do you know how difficult it is to read formulas in a math into a tape so that a high school student may learn math or physics? It takes hours and the service to the blind is something that our state must have available. EVERY LIBRARY IN THE STATE MAY CALL ON THE SERVICES OF THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED. When materials in this library are lost, every library in the state of Oklahoma has suffered a loss.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is located in a ghetto. One by one, the business establishments have left the shopping center where it is located. There is high crime in the area. Handicapped people are easily preyed upon. They need to have a safe place to park and to walk. Those using the library fear to go to it. The library employs a good many handicapped persons. Those working there have fear to go to work because of the location and the crime in that area.

This library needs to be relocated at a better, safer location in a building that does not leak. Oklahoma deserves better for this important library.

— Mrs. Sheila Wilder Hoke
Library Director
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

CHANGES IN OLA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The following recommendations of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee have been presented to and accepted by the Executive Board of the Oklahoma Library Association. They were submitted to the OLA Membership for approval at the FIRST GENERAL SESSION of the OLA Annual Conference, March 22-23, 1984.

1. Article IV, Section 1(B) of the Bylaws should be changed by deleting "who are also members of the American Library Association." Article IV, Section 1(B) presently reads: "Oklahoma Library Association members who are also members of the American Library Association shall elect, at the appropriate time by mail ballot, an Oklahoma Library Association Chapter Council to the American Library Association Council. The Councilor shall be a personal member of both the Oklahoma Library Association and the American Library Association and serve a four year term. Should the duly elected councilor be unable to complete his four year term in office, the President, with the consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint a successor to serve until the next election of the Association, at which time a councilor to fill the unexpired term shall be eligible for nomination to a regular term of office."

2. Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws should be deleted in its entirety.

Article IV, Section 2 presently reads: "Section 2. Southwestern Library Association,
A. The Association shall maintain its affiliation with the Southwestern Library Association in accordance with the Southwestern Library Association's Constitution and Bylaws.
B. The Southwestern Library Association representative from the Oklahoma Library Association shall be the President who will serve as the Association's representative on the Executive Board of the Southwestern Library Association."

3. Section 1(E) should be added to Article III of the Bylaws which outlines procedures for Nominations and Elections.

The proposed Section 1(E) reads: "Nominees for President, President-Elect must be members in good standing of the Oklahoma Library Association and shall have served as either an elected officer of the Association or as chair of a division or roundtable, and shall have served on at least one committee of the Association."

4. The following two sentences should be added to Article III, Section 2(B) of the Bylaws: "No person shall accept nominations for more than one office in one division or roundtable of the Association during the same term of office. The Executive Secretary will notify the appropriate party of any conflict concerning the slate of candidates."

Article III, Section 2(B) presently reads: "At least sixty days prior to the Annual Conference the chairman of each division or roundtable shall appoint not fewer than three members of the division or roundtable to serve as a Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of each Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of two nominees willing to serve for the office of Vice-Chairman/Chairman-elect, and Secretary, and other officers as deemed necessary by the division or roundtable.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
Jon Suter, Chair
Caudette Hagle
Johnese Petty

Kevin Elizabeth Kennedy began duties earlier this month as assistant physical sciences librarian and instructor at Oklahoma State University's Edmon Low Library. Ms. Kennedy received her B.A. degree in 1979 from Hanover College (Indiana) and was awarded the Master's Degree in Library Science in 1982 from the Indiana University School of Library and Information Service.
EXHIBIT REACHES THOSE WHO CAN'T READ

"Oklahoma, Do You Read Me?" is the name of an exhibit on display at Muskogee Public Library. Developed by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to focus on the problem of functional illiteracy, the colorful exhibit combines street signs, exit signs, public notices and other written messages that Americans encountered from day to day. A person who is functionally illiterate is not able to read even the simplest signs, and thus the purpose of this literacy exhibit is to make those who can read aware of what a handicap it is to be illiterate.

One out of every five Oklahomans is functionally illiterate, compared to a national average of one out of every seven. Moreover, one half of all 16 to 21-year-old youths in Oklahoma are functionally illiterate, proving that much is yet to be done to improve the situation, said Charlotte Crank, director of the library's literacy program.

It was these facts and others that led the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to do something to alleviate the problem of functional illiteracy in the state.

Charlaine Ezell and Marilyn Vesely of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, along with Barbara Proctor of the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System in Muskogee, joined their efforts to produce the literacy exhibit. It is one of a three-part program to combat illiteracy. This exhibit is geared toward people who can read. Part two is to reach the non-reader. Part three will involve working with co-sponsoring agencies to provide direct reading instruction on a one to one basis.

This is being practiced in Muskogee through the Laubach Literacy program sponsored by the library. Volunteer tutors instruct others in fundamental reading skills. Anyone who knows how to read can be a tutor by donating at least one hour per week.

Many of the functionally illiterate are often fearful of school situations, timid and unemployed, and from a low socio-economic background.

(The above article and exhibit was one of the many interesting exhibits seen at the State Capitol on Legislative Day. — Editor)

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE PRINTING ARTS ROUNDTABLE

The officers of the Printing Arts Roundtable are recommending to the association that the purpose and function of this Roundtable be extended to serve a broader constituency within the Oklahoma Library Association.

The present purpose and function of the Printing Arts Roundtable is "the promotion of interest in the history and craft of the Printing Arts with particular attention to activity in the state of Oklahoma. . . . the term printing arts includes but is not limited to printing, paper-making, illustrations, binding, publishing, and preservation activities." The craft of private press printing or fine printing is not practiced or collected widely in Oklahoma. The narrow focus of the Roundtable does not attract many members because it does not address a spectrum of needs and interests.

There are OLA members who have not joined this Roundtable, whose full-time or part-time responsibilities are devoted to collections that contain many types of specialized materials as well as aspects of printing history. Therefore, we should broaden the purpose and function of this Roundtable to address the interests and needs of those people involved in special collections, rare books, archives, and other related fields of library and archives work. A new organization — OSCAN (Oklahoma Special Collections and Archives Network) — has recently emerged that reflects this growing interest on an institutional basis; however, this proposal would permit personal involvement through our statewide professional library association.

Thus, the officers of the Printing Arts Roundtable recommend:

1. The Printing Arts Roundtable be renamed the Special Collections and Archives Roundtable.

2. That its primary purpose be the promotion of interest and the development of skills in relevant aspects of special collections, archives, and rare books work within libraries in the state of Oklahoma.

For purposes of the redefined Roundtable, the terms special collections, archives, and rare books would include but not be limited to the collection, description, and management of historical and literary papers, books, and other materials, including records of corporate entities, materials devoted to the printing arts, and preservation activities significant to these specialized areas.

—David Farmer, Chairman
Printing Arts Roundtable

UPDATE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS COSTS

In her opening remarks at the Oklahoma Library Association's Leadership Conference last June, President Francis Alsworth expressed concern for two problems needing our immediate attention: functional illiteracy and the threat of drastically increased costs associated with telecommunications (see: Oklahoma Librarian, V. 33 No. 4, Jul/Aug., 1983, p. 35). Last May Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBTC) was granted an "interim" rate hike of $43.7 million by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. During November the Commission held hearings for and against increased telephone rate increases. The hearings were concerned with the possible establishment of "access" charges for both customers and long distance phone companies and Ma Bell's request for a new $233.6 million rate increase. Southwestern's business — after being split off from AT&T on January 1, 1984 — is perceived by the investment community as more risky than AT&T's. Thus Bell's earnings must be high enough to give investors a high rate of return on their investment in Southwestern stock. The company wants profits enough to earn up to 17 percent return on stockholder investment. The Commission must rule on what access fees the entire Oklahoma phone industry will be allowed to charge customers and the Commission was under a federal order to get the ruling out by year end. Libraries can expect a sizeable increase in their telephone rates if the expected rates are approved.
Any ALA conference can be an exhilarating and stimulating experience, even the midwinter meeting. Oklahoma librarians who are not card-carrying ALA members just may not know what they are missing in the excitement of being on the forefront of our developing profession as we move out of the twentieth century into a futuristic world that is certain to come with the twenty-first century, only sixteen years away. The changes are really not that far away — many are here and more are coming fast. Examples include cable television with all the implications it has for libraries (copyright, patron preference, in-home service), electronic information service, non-book "libraries," telecommunications, facsimile transmission of data, and many other new techniques that are discussed, previewed, demonstrated and argued over at ALA meetings.

The Washington midwinter meeting this year was replete with meetings and sessions in which the target of the day was the method by which libraries and librarians should deal with some new product, idea, or even a threat. One example was the idea imported from England wherein libraries pay authors a "royalty" each time his/her book is checked out. The plan went into effect in that country on January 1. Certain interests in the United States are pushing the plan and they have caught the attention of our Congress. The so-called "Mathias Bill," if passed, would initiate a study of the merits and demerits of the issue. The caucus of state chapter representatives held early in the week gave much time to a discussion of this matter.

Arguments pro and con about an ALA dues increase held sway over a long period in one of the sessions. Despite the fact that the treasurer's report indicated the organization to be in a very stable and sound condition, that AASL, whose membership opposed the dues increase, was giving consideration to move out of ALA, and arguments that there seemed little justification for the increase, the Council passed the issue about five to one. It will now go to the membership for action on the spring ballot. Your representative voted against the dues increase.

Word was received in ALA headquarters that the ALA library symbol was rejected by the Federal Highway Administration as a sign to be used along the nation's highways because it does not sufficiently convey its meaning. The word "library" in white letters on a green background would be acceptable, FHA said.

In other action, Council voted to:

- Advocate a second White House Conference on Libraries to be held in 1989.
- Assist congressmen as they attempt to revise and extend LSCA and HEA.
- Request federal agencies to provide for "equal and ready access" to federally produced information.
- Ask Congress to reject access charges for library telecommunications.
- Support the concept of equal discounts on equal volume orders from trade book publishers.
- Amend the bylaws, pending final vote of membership, to reflect the dues increase voted by Council ($5 increase per year for a five-year period to $75).
- Recommend that ALA go on record as supporting continued membership in UNESCO by the United States.
- Establish a roundtable known as CLENE (Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange).

Some chapter representatives rose, following the report of the ALA Washington office, to make contributions to the work of that office. The donations were as follows: West Virginia, $200; Florida LA, $200; Oregon LA, $500; New Jersey LA, $200; Minnesota LA, $300; Missouri LA, $200; Alabama LA, $100.
CONCERN OVER DODD, MEAD CANCELLATION OF BOOK TITLES

The Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the American Library Association (ALA) have prepared an "open letter to the library community" regarding Dodd, Mead and Company's refusal last September to publish three books due to language offensive to Thomas Nelson, Inc. of Nashville — Dodd, Mead's parent company and the world's largest Bible publisher.

The three works include TIP ON A DEAD CRAB, by William Murray and SKIM, by Thomas Henage — two novels advertised in the publisher's fall 1983 catalog; and THE DEVIL'S BOOK OF VERSE, edited by Richard Conniff, a poetry volume already in print.

It was reported that Thomas Nelson had insisted that certain "four-letter words, excessive scatology and language that took God's name in vain" had to be eliminated before the books could be published. William Murray was asked to change twenty words in TIP ON A DEAD CRAB. Henage was directed; but refused, to remove "god-damn" from SKIM.

THE DEVIL'S BOOK OF VERSE, a collection of poetry ranging from John Dryden to Cole Porter, contained two objectional poems, one by Ezra Pound, "Ancient Music," uses "god-damn" ten times; the second, by an unknown author, contains four-letter words — to which Nelson raised no objection — but also contains "god-damn," to which it did object.

This enforcement of a publisher's point of view upon the authors of trade publications of one of the nation's most respected general list publishing houses is fraught with danger to the free flow of information. To quote Thomas Henage, author of SKIM, "This augurs ill for Dodd, Mead's authors and for writers everywhere who are under contract to the publishing subsidiaries of conglomerates that claim to, but do not, grant editorial independence. When the accountants or salesmen who head conglomerates can tell an editor of a publishing subsidiary what he cannot accept for publication because the book might interfere with the stream of revenues from another part of the business . . . then I fear for the future of independent thought in the United States."

On October 26, 1983, the Association of American Publishers Freedom to Read Committee issued a statement regarding the controversy through its chair, Heather Grant Florence. It read in full: "In a free society, authors and publishers select one another without governmental or other outside interference and freely enter into agreements to publish when their intentions coincide. The Freedom to Read Committee, in keeping with its founding principles, believes that the First Amendment assures authors and publishers of the right to freely to agree to publish — or not to publish — such books as they see fit. But the Committee is disturbed by the reported circumstances that led Thomas Nelson, the new owner of Dodd, Mead, to require Dodd, Mead to suppress a book in progress — indeed one that had been completed and accepted for publication — unless the author agreed to certain alterations of its contents.

"Legal proceedings may determine whether there has been a breach of contract, but what troubles the Committee is the potential abridgment of the freedom to read by the cancellation of the book — in the absence of any new information regarding the validity of the work — after it has been accepted, printed and readied for distribution. The Committee is convinced that such a practice, rare as it may be, is contrary to the best interests of author, publishers, readers and indeed of our culture as a whole."

The intellectual freedom units of the American Library Association strongly endorse the AAP/FRC statement and further, alert all librarians and others concerned with freedom of thought to be aware of the dangerous implications of such conglomerate impositions of editorial policy and to protest such impositions in every possible way.

IGNORE EVOLUTION RULE, LEADERS TELL PUBLISHERS

A group of eminent scientists, educators, religious leaders and citizen organizations has asked textbook publishers to resist Texas' rules on the treatment of evolution in textbooks. The Texas state board voted last month not to require that evolution be mentioned in biology texts adopted for the public schools. Since 1974 the state board rules have required evolution to be presented as a theory, and not detrimental to other theories of the origin of the species.

Since this rule went into effect, textbook publishers have reduced their coverage of evolution from 29% to 80%, depending on the text, according to People for the American Way, which prepared the statement. Because Texas adopts textbooks statewide, its volume purchasing greatly influences the content of textbooks nationally.

The statement urges publishers of science texts to "reject those aspects of the Texas Rules which clearly distort the integrity of science . . . ." It also petitions the state board to appoint a panel to evaluate the impact of its new rule. Those signing the statement include Carl Sagan, Nobel Laureates Steven Weinberg and Arthur Kornberg, and various religious, education and professional organizations.

"If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all — except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms. Let us welcome controversial books and controversial authors. For the Bill of Rights is the guardian of our security as well as our liberty."

—John F. Kennedy
DEALING WITH CONCERNS
ABOUT LIBRARY
RESOURCES

As with any public service, libraries receive complaints and expressions of concern. One of the librarian’s responsibilities is to handle these complaints in a respectful and fair manner. The complaints that librarians often worry about the most are those dealing with library resources or free access policies. The key to successfully handling these complaints is to be sure the library staff and the governing authorities are all knowledgeable about the complaint procedures and their implementation. As normal operating procedure each library should:

1. Maintain a materials selection policy. It should be in written form and approved by the appropriate governing authority. It should apply to all library materials equally.

2. Maintain a library service policy. This should cover registration policies, programming and services in the library that involve access issues.

3. Maintain a clearly defined method for handling complaints. The complaint must be filed in writing and the complainant must be properly identified before action is taken. A decision should be deferred until fully considered by appropriate administrative authority. The process should be followed, whether the complaint originates internally or externally.

4. Maintain inservice training. Conduct periodic in-service training to acquaint staff, administration, and the governing authority with the materials selection policy and library service policy and procedures for handling complaints.

5. Maintain lines of communication with civic, religious, educational, and political bodies of the community. Library board and staff participation in local civic organizations and presentations to these organizations should emphasize the library’s selection process and intellectual freedom principles.

6. Maintain a vigorous public information program on behalf of intellectual freedom. Newspapers, radio and television should be informed of policies governing resource selection and use, and of any special activities pertaining to intellectual freedom.

7. Maintain familiarity with any local municipal and state legislation pertaining to intellectual freedom and First Amendment rights.

Following these practices will not preclude receiving complaints from pressure groups or individuals but should provide a base from which to operate when these concerns are expressed. When a complaint is made, follow one or more of the steps listed below:

a. Listen calmly and courteously to the complaint. Remember the person has a right to express a concern. Use of good communication skills helps many people understand the need for diversity in library collections and the use of library resources. In the event the person is not satisfied, advise the complainant of the library policy procedures for handling library resource statements of concern. If a person does fill out a form about their concern, make sure a prompt written reply related to the concern is sent.

b. It is essential to notify the administration and/or the governing authority (library board, etc.) of the complaint and assure them that the library’s procedures are being followed. Present full, written information giving the nature of the complaint and identifying the source.

c. When appropriate, seek the support of the local media. Freedom to read and freedom of the press go hand in hand.

d. When appropriate, inform local civic organizations of the facts and enlist their support. Meet negative pressure with positive pressure.

e. Assert the principles of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS as a professional responsibility. Laws governing obscenity, subversive material and other questionable matter are subject to interpretation, by courts. Library materials found to meet the standards set in the materials selection policy should not be removed from public access until after an adversary hearing resulting in a final judicial determination.

f. Contact the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom and your state intellectual freedom committee to inform them of the complaint and to enlist their support and the assistance of other agencies.

The principles and procedures discussed above apply to all kinds of resource related complaints or attempts to censor and are supported by groups such as the National Education Association, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Council of Teachers of English, as well as the American Library Association. While the practices provide positive means for preparing for and meeting pressure group complaints, they serve the more general purpose of supporting the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS, particularly Article 3 which states that: “Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”

A medical literature reference list covering Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, commonly known as AIDS, is available from the Archives Committee of the AIDS Project/Los Angeles, a non-profit organization, formed to educate the community about the deadly disease in southern California.

Because AIDS is apparently an entirely new disease, having been identified only in 1981, many are essentially unfamiliar with the disease. The reference list includes most of the medical journals in the United States and some from other countries from 1979-1982.

The reference list is available without cost and may be obtained by contacting the following: AIDS Project/Los Angeles, 937 N. Cole Ave., Suite 3, Los Angeles, CA 90038. The telephone is (213) 871-1284.
FUNDRAISING: PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM AT ALA CONFERENCE

Helping libraries gain their share of the $60 billion in private funds awarded annually to worthy causes will be the focus of the President's Program at this year's American Library Association Annual Conference in Dallas. "Raising Funds for Libraries: Paths to the Private Sector," will be presented from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 24, 1984.

The program, a major part of ALA President Brooke Sheldon's year-long project to assist libraries in supplemental fund-raising, will illustrate successful techniques through video taped segments and live presentations.

While recognizing that local, state and federal government bear the major responsibility for funding public libraries, Dr. Sheldon stresses that libraries raising private-sector funds successfully both enrich their own programs and gain powerful allies when budgets are threatened.

For the first time this year, the President's Program will be supplemented by one-day workshops held nationally during conference week. Jointly sponsored by ALA, state libraries and library associations, the workshops are a continuing education opportunity for librarians unable to attend the conference.

To find out whether your state is sponsoring a local workshop during ALA conference week, contact your state library. If it is not, you may wish to encourage participation or sponsorship at a future date.

Workshops will present a video tape of the President's Program, plus a live, 3 1/2 hour session run by local trainers and designed by members of the President's Program Task Force. Participants will receive brochures on specific aspects of fund raising, including how to plan a campaign. How to hire a fund raising firm, using direct mail and other pertinent issues.

The President's Program is being planned in cooperation with the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), the Library Administration and Management (LAMA) Fund Raising Section, the American Library Trustees Association (ALTA) and ALA chapters.

In addition to the President's Program, fundraising will also be the subject of two major meetings sponsored by LAMA. "Fund Raising for Libraries," a preconference limited to 100 registrants, will take place on June 21-22. A two-hour program on "Special Events: An Alternative Source of Revenue," also sponsored by the LAMA Fund Raising Section, will be presented on Monday, June 25th, 2-4 p.m.

PUBLIC SPEAKING, MEDIA WORK: ASCLA PRECONFERENCE

"Dealing with the Media, Political Officials, and Other Often Hostile Audiences" is a 1984 ALA Preconference for anyone who speaks for libraries — in public, on television and radio, and before legislative and funding bodies (state, federal and local). The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) State Library Agency Section will sponsor the one-day training session Friday, June 22, 1984, at the Hyatt-Regency Dallas.

Arch Lustberg, the preconference trainer, is director of media education at the United States Chamber of Commerce, and is best known for "Communicator Workshops" that train executives to meet today's communications challenges. Lustberg is a former faculty member of the Speech and Drama Department, Catholic University (Washington, D.C.) and has privately coached members of Congress, the Cabinet and network broadcasters. His most recent book is TESTIFYING WITH IMPACT.

The preconference will help participants learn how to create a positive image for themselves and their libraries, overcome fear, sell their point of view, testify and control interviews. Lustberg will also discuss the basics of good communication in an informative, entertaining format.

For more information and registration materials, write or call the ASCLA Headquarters Office, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 312/944-6780, x. 310.

* * * * *
The Facts of the Case:
- **LIBRARY MEDIA IMPROVEMENT** funds have established or improved library media services at 278 schools.
- **SINCE 1977**, there has been a 21% increase in the number of elementary schools that have a centralized library media center.
- **MORE THAN 82,000 boys and girls** now have access to quality library media services as a result of the grant program.
- **STUDENTS ARE READING more because of the greater** abundance of well-selected materials.
- **LIBRARY AND REFERENCE skills** on standardized tests shown a marked improvement in project schools.
- **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS** are improved by having access to a greater variety of materials and equipment.
- **PARENTS AND OTHER community members** are becoming involved in the school by giving time and money to help support library media improvements.
- **COMPUTERS ARE BECOMING** a vital part of the library media program both for instruction and management.
- **IMPROVED LIBRARY MEDIA services** at the elementary level help to improve academic success at the secondary level by providing students with the reference and research skills needed for independent study.

Current Library Media Program:
- A TOTAL of $1,967,998 was available to fund projects for 1983-84. There are 40 new projects and 130 continuations.
- **ALMOST ALL THE 76 projects** funded between 1979 and 1981 have continued at some level. Some have made significant improvements in materials, facilities, personnel or services. A few have been forced to make reductions but have maintained the program.
- **LOCAL DISTRICTS are having difficulties but making every effort to honor their commitment** to current library improvement programs in spite of budget cuts.

Future Needs:
- **THE BUDGET REQUEST** for the 1984-85 school year is $2,500,000 to fund 128 new programs and 89 continuations.
- **OVER 450 ELEMENTARY schools still** have no centralized library and hundreds more are inadequate in materials, space and personnel.
- **ALTHOUGH MOST SECONDARY schools have a centralized library media center**, many are far below minimum standards and need help to provide even a minimum level of services.
- **FUNDS ARE NEEDED** now more than ever because a library media program is as basic as the 3R's. We can teach our students the fundamentals of learning, writing and arithmetic, but unless we teach them how to find and use information, their education is incomplete.

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**LIBRARY STATISTICS**

Librarians who participated in Library Legislation Day (February 29, 1984) at the State Capitol received an interesting pamphlet prepared by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries entitled "Public Library Statistics at a Glance." According to the report, Oklahoma state aid for public libraries was $125,725 in 1978. That amounts to 5 cents per capita. This year's appropriation is $1,335,086, more than a tenfold increase. That amounts to 44 cents per capita. The most money appropriated was $1,761,000 in 1983. Governor Nigh took office in 1979 and is well known for his strong support of state aid to public libraries. From the state aid dollar 53.3% was spent on library materials; 10.2% for equipment, 11.6% for operations and 20.6% for other services. While that is the good news, the bad news is that Oklahoma still has a long way to go in receiving local support. Local per capita public library support averages $7.91 nationally, but Oklahoma's is only $4.76.

**OK Vacation Guide**

A new Oklahoma Vacation Guide is available from the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation.

Included in the guide are **chambers of commerce** in most Oklahoma cities; attractions and events by date and available lodging, restaurants and transportation. The state's resorts, state-operated and privately owned, are listed.

There is a special section on Oklahoma's "Great Outdoors," including trails, forests, lakes, state parks, recreation and wildlife management areas and fishing and hunting information.

Of particular interest to vacationers will be the eight self-guided tours. These list points of interest, museums and special events for eight different areas of the state.

The book should help in planning an Oklahoma vacation at any time of the year, complete with lodging, sightseeing and outdoor recreation.

The book is $2 and can be ordered by mail from the Literature Distribution Center, 215 NE 18, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

**AMIGOS DIRECTOR NAMED**

Louella V. Wetherbee has been named executive director of AMIGOS Bibliographic Council.

She is currently director of libraries at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Previously, she was AMIGOS associate director for member services and assistant to the director.

Ms. Wetherbee said she will strive to broaden the AMIGOS membership to serve more libraries and information centers in the Southwest and cooperate closely with state library agencies and local and regional consortia.

AMIGOS is a non-profit network of 256 libraries in the southwestern United States and Mexico designed to provide bibliographic and other computer-based services to member libraries.
Drs. Robert Swisher and Rosemary Ruhig De Mont would like to report on progress made on their Council on Library Resources grant to examine sex structuring in academic libraries. A special data collection and analysis effort is being conducted to investigate the relationship between sex of library employee and incidence of library administrative activity. There is theoretical justification to hypothesize that the relationship seen between sex and administrative positions in academic and research libraries varies at least partially with different levels of administrative expectations.

Swisher and Du Mont are surveying males and females at three specific and progressive stages in their developing careers: 1) the point at which individuals are accepted into library school programs leading to the first professional degree, 2) the point at which students have finished the first professional degree and are seeking or have just obtained employment in an academic or research library, and 3) the point at which professionals have completed the first two years of work in these libraries.

The following possible scenarios are being examined and tested for validity: 1) library schools are forwarding proportional numbers of males and females into academic/research librarianship holding administrative expectations, only to find that the socialization of new professionals leads to an increased differential between males and females in administrative expectations. 2) Women are entering library schools with professional expectations that are not administrative, suggesting that major emphasis should be placed on recruitment and changes of library school curriculum. 3) There is a consistently decreasing pool of women with administrative expectations, which would suggest the application of affirmative action strategies at all three stages of the career process listed above.

The project is taking one year to complete through the data analysis phase. An article on the sex structuring phenomenon is authored by Swisher and Du Mont and appears in the April 1984 issue of Library Quarterly.

JMRT/Baker & Taylor Grassroots Grant

The Grassroots Grant Award winner for 1984 is Sharon Jane Taylor. Junior Members Round Table, a division of the Oklahoma Library Association, chooses the grant recipient, explained Michelle Lovelace, JMRT Affiliates Council Representative. The $250 award is granted by the Baker and Taylor Publishing Company and enables one library science student from each state to attend his/her state library association conference.

Concurrently with attending school, Taylor is working in the University of Oklahoma Library's Government Document Department, a position she has held for over two years. She is especially interested in attending the Documents Round Table's program on access to government publishing being held during the conference, March 22-23, 1984, in Tulsa.

After completing a degree in Women's Studies at OU in 1979, Taylor began the library science program which she intends to complete this July. Upon graduating, she would like to continue working in the field of government documents.

Baker and Taylor representative Pam Walton presented the Grassroots Grant at the First General Session of the OLA conference.

"The Selection Committee for JMRT wants everyone to meet Jane," said Lovelace. "She admirably fulfills our criteria since we want to get library students involved in OLA and want to spot potential leaders in the field. Jane was very impressive to us since she had very specific reasons for wanting to attend the conference due to her interest in government documents and could not go unless she won the grant."

"The committee appreciated that and next year the application forms are going to attempt to encourage this kind of honest evaluation," said Lovelace.

In honor of Black Heritage Month, the East Central University Linscheid Library exhibited two photographic collections. The first collection, courtesy of the State Archives, Okla. Dept. of Libraries, featured Blacks in Oklahoma and was compiled from a selection of the Oklahoma Image photographs. The second collection, courtesy of Ft. Sill's Museum, highlighted the "Buffalo Soldiers," the famous all-Black cavalry unit created in 1866. These exhibits, plus a display of ECU Library books and articles on Black history and culture, joined the Black Peoples' Union Arts Festival on Feb. 23 in the ECU Student Union. An oral history tape of the founders of a nearby Seminole Freedmen community was playing during the festival, courtesy of the ECU Special Collections. Free copies of a brief narrative on the Buffalo Soldiers written by the Oklahoma Historical Society and of a select bibliography on Black heritage compiled by the ECU Library staff were made available.

—Betsy Aldridge
Assistant Professor—Librarian

Lu Celia Wise of Tulsa (Oklahoma's Blending of Many Cultures and many more) is the author of Oklahoma's First Ladies, published by Evans Publications (Perkins, Oklahoma). The Omniplex (Kirkpatrick) Center in Oklahoma City has an extensive collection of gowns worn by the state's first ladies. This is a pictorial book of the collection. A companion book — an activity color book for children — includes biographies, photographs, and descriptions of inaugural gowns.
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES
UNION HANDBOOK SERIES
PUBLISHED 1984

Three new titles were added to Bantam Books' American Civil Liberties
Union Handbook Series. Those titles are THE RIGHTS OF AUTHORS AND
ARTISTS by Kenneth P. Norwick; THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES by
Wayne N. Outten; and THE RIGHTS OF TEACHERS by David Rubin. All
three, dealing with the rights of people, seek to raise the major issues and
inform the nonspecialist of the basic law on each subject. The authors of
these books are themselves specialists who understand the need for informa-
tion at the "street level."

THE RIGHTS OF AUTHORS AND
ARTISTS ($3.95) explains in detail
how authors and artists can protect
themselves and their works under
present law. Included in the book is
information on copyright laws, con-
tracts involving authors and artists, lib-
el and privacy, obscenity, and busi-
ness and tax matters affecting authors
and artists. The book helps to ensure,
that authors and artists will know what
laws protect their work and enhance
their income, as well as what to do
when abuses occur.

THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES
($3.95) is a thorough, authoritative
guide to the wide range of laws that
protect an employee during the hiring
process, on the job, and even after
being laid off, fired or reaching retire-
ment. Specific subjects covered in
the book are employment discrimination
(as it relates to race, sex, religion, age,
etc.), labor laws and income substitu-
tes such as pensions, worker's com-
 pensation and social security. In
addition, the book provides a detailed
listing of legal resources for victims of
employment discrimination.

THE RIGHTS OF TEACHERS
($4.95) deals with those rights which
the Constitution of the United States
covens upon teachers in their rela-
tionships with the public educational
institutions which employ them.
It focuses specifically on activities in
the classroom, with parents and stu-
dents, and outside the school. Subjects
covered include the teacher's
right to strike, the legalities of a
school day, and to what extent teachers can
determine the content or manner of
their teaching, free of control by
school authorities. In addition, the
book includes vital information on
suing under civil rights acts for mone-
tary and injunctive relief when a
teacher's rights are violated.

Previous titles in the American
Civil Liberties Union Handbook
Series published by Bantam are THE
RIGHTS OF WOMEN, THE RIGHTS
OF GAY PEOPLE, THE RIGHTS
OF THE CRITICALLY ILL, THE RIGHTS
OF PRISONERS and THE RIGHTS
OF INDIANS AND TRIBES.

THE BEST OF BEST BOOKS
1970-1983 NOW AVAILABLE
IN BOOKLIST

THE BEST OF THE BEST BOOKS
1970-1983, an attractive, annotated
booklist brochure, is now available
from the Young Adult Services Di-
vision (YASD) of the American Library
Association (ALA).
The list includes many titles from
YASD's annual "Best Books for
Young Adults" lists from 1970-82, and
other titles previously overlooked.
Selections were made at the 1983
YASD "Best of the Best Books" pre-
conference where earlier lists were
reevaluated to identify popular titles
relevant to today's teenagers.
Single copies of BEST OF THE
0-8389-5658-0) are available for 50
cents each from the YASD Office, 50
E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.
Quantity orders are available from
the ALA Order Department at the fol-
lowing discounts: 25-50 copies, 10%;
51-250, 20%; 251-1000, 30%; 1001-
5000, 40%; 5000+, 50%. All orders
under $20 must be prepaid.
Preservation and the Library of Congress

By Donis A. Casey

It is only natural that the largest library in the world, the Library of Congress, should be in the forefront of library preservation activities and research. The Library of Congress houses 80 million items, including many rare and priceless books and documents, photographs and films, maps, recordings, and manuscripts. In order to maintain these irreplaceable materials as long as possible and in the best condition possible, the Library of Congress established the Office of Collections Maintenance and Preservation in 1967, which evolved into the present Preservation Office. In 1976, following a planning conference held at the Library of Congress, a National Preservation Program was created to be administered through the Preservation Office. The charge of the National Preservation Program Office is to plan, organize, develop and manage a national program for the preservation of all types of library materials.

The Preservation Office and the National Preservation Program Office carry on conventional preservation efforts such as binding, cleaning and repairing, and protection of fragile materials. They convert deteriorating recordings onto magnetic tape and transfer nitrate-based motion picture film to safety-base film, as well as microfilm ten of thousands of brittle books a year.

In addition to traditional conservation and restoration, the Preservation Office also conducts ongoing research in the field of preservation. The Library of Congress developed the technique of polyester film encapsulation, which protects fragile materials by enclosing them in an envelope of polyester film. The item can be removed from the envelope, and is not damaged in any way by encapsulation. Presently, the Preservation Office is engaged in two massive preservation experiments. The first experiment was designed by library specialists along with scientists at Goddard Space Flight Center. Five thousand volumes were placed in a vacuum chamber where they were treated with diethyl zinc solution. The aim of the test is to see effectively decrylize the book paper that the life of the paper is extended by hundreds of years. The current method of making paper with wood pulp produces a book with a natural shelf life of only fifty years, due to acid deterioration.

The second preservation project currently underway at the Library of Congress is the Optical Disk Pilot Program. A contract was awarded in 1982 to Teknekon Controls, Inc. (now Integrated Automation), of Berkeley, California, to provide a system which will use digital optical disks for computerized mass storage, retrieval, and preservation of printed material, including books, periodicals, and architectural drawings. SONY Video Communications Products Company was awarded a contract to produce analog optical disks for films, graphics, and video tapes. The Library plans to produce eight disks. The first six disks will be laser video disks, and the last two will be digital audio disks for sound recordings. The high-quality reproduction on disks will help preserve materials by reducing the need to handle them, thus reducing the wear and tear on the original. Some items can be reproduced for their intellectual content only, and the originals discarded when they become unusable.

The Library of Congress and the Preservation Office provide services to librarians and conservators who need information on preservation. The Library of Congress sponsors programs and conferences, the proceedings of which are printed and distributed through Federal depository libraries. Also available through the depository program are many other books and pamphlets on the technical aspects of preservation and restoration. The Preservation Office issues a series of "Preservation Leaflets", each on a different topic related to preservation. Five Preservation Leaflets have been issued to date. They are updated periodically, and are available free of charge from the Preservation Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 20540. The telephone number of the Preservation Office is (202) 287-5213.


The following items are available at Federal depository libraries. Copies may be acquired from the Library of Congress Preservation Office or the Government Printing Office. Contact your local depository library for loan or purchase information.

SUDOCs call #


LC 1.8/4:B64 — Specifications for the Microfilming of Books and
A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
FOR EDMON LOW,
1902-1983

WHEREAS Edmon Low served ably and in an exemplary manner as library director at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, and at New College, Sarasota, Florida, over a period of thirty-five years, and
WHEREAS he was a national leader in library legislation, having had great influence in the passage of the library bill in the U.S. Congress, the results of which are benefiting libraries and people today, and
WHEREAS during twenty-three summer sessions followed by five full years as a Professor of Library Science at the University of Michigan he taught, inspired and endeared himself to scores of students, and
WHEREAS his presidencies of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Southwestern Library Association and the Oklahoma Library Association and his tenure as director of the American Library Association are examples of his enduring commitment to professionalism and service, and
WHEREAS he was called upon on innumerable occasions to assist in the design of library buildings as a planning consultant, there now being many well planned library buildings whose success is due to his expertise in this field, and
WHEREAS colleagues and admirers will long remember his gentle kindness and sense of humor, his old fashioned courtesy and common sense, his integrity, his convincing analysis of a controversial issue, his unfailing devotion to the library profession, and
WHEREAS the American Library Association acknowledged during his lifetime its indebtedness by conferring upon him its highest honors, the Joseph W. Lippincott Award in 1967 and Honorary Membership in 1976, and
WHEREAS other honors include the Oklahoma Library Association Distinguished Service Award, the University of Michigan School of Library Science Edmon Low Award, the naming of the Oklahoma State University Library the Edmon Low Library, and the Eastern Michigan University degree of Litt.D., therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the membership of the American Library Association now expresses its sorrow and sense of loss in the death of this library leader in Tulsa, Oklahoma on December 2, 1983 and extend to his family its heartfelt sympathy.

Submitted by Roscoe Rouse,
Oklahoma Chapter Councilor
Russell Bidlack, ALA Member

The Annual Meeting of the South Central Regional Group of the Medical Library Association will be held at the Williams Plaza Hotel in Tulsa, OK, October 2-5, 1984. The theme of the meeting is "The Complete Librarian." For information contact Janet Minnepath, Local Arrangements Chair, OU Tulsa Medical College Library, 2808 S. Sheridan, Tulsa, OK 74129 or at (918) 638-3464, ext. 235.

Executive Responses
Translated by John W. Shrum

If the Boss Says:
1. "Let me give that some thought.
2. "Interesting idea! I've been thinking along the same line.
3. "I'll appoint a study committee.
4. "I'll appoint a committee with wide representation.
5. "I'll get suggestions from all the department heads.
6. "I'll refer your request to...
7. "Why don't you write a proposal?
8. "You've earned a tribute of respect and admiration.

Translate It as:
1. "Forget it.
2. "I'll do it, but it's going to be my idea.
3. "I need a back-up for my decision.
4. "Let's kill that idea.
5. "If I goof, it's their neck, not mine.
6. "Forget it.
7. "The monkey is on your back.
8. "Don't expect a merit pay raise.

JOHN W. SHRUM (University of Georgia Chapter) is a professor of science education, University of Georgia, Athens.
BRIEFLY STATED

If you should wish to contact your state representative or senator for any reason, they can be reached during working hours at the state Capitol during the legislative session.

State representatives can be reached at (405) 521-2711.
State senators can be reached at (405) 524-0126.
Mail can be directed to individual members of the Legislature while they are in session by addressing the correspondence with the name of the legislator at the State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

The Public Library Association will hold its second National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, April 2-5, 1986. The National Conference Committee Chair is Pat Woodrum, Executive Director of the Tulsa City-County Library System.

Joan Brichacek Wilson, formerly librarian at Olive Public Schools near Drumright, Oklahoma, is now librarian at Holy Family Center and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Wichita, Kansas. Joan received her B.S. at Oklahoma State University in 1980 and her MLS at the University of Oklahoma in 1982.

- The Fourth Annual Booksale of Friends of the Library for the Metropolitan Library System grossed $49,700. Last year's sale grossed $23,000. An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 people shopped at the book sale.
- Executive Secretary Kay Boles reports the Association now has 751 personal memberships and continues to grow. The Executive Board has appointed John Hinkle Interim Federal Relations Coordinator.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Kirkpatrick have donated $25,000 to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in the name of the Friends of the Library. It is the first such contribution to the city-wide fund for the library support group.
- Congress has imposed a moratorium (until April) on the Administration's new censorship program for federal officials (see: Oklahoma Librarian, v. 34, p 1, Jan./Feb. 1984). That program would require signing a complex secrecy agreement subjecting writings to a prior censorship system for life. The requirement that a secrecy agreement be signed would be a condition of employment.

Oklahoma Library Association

Calendar

1984

April
2-7 — Texas Library Association Conference
4-7 — ALA/ACRL Conference (Seattle)
8-14 — National Library Week
20 — Executive Board and Program Committee (CSU)
— OLA Handbooks due to Executive Secretary

May
2-5 — Mountain Plains and Wyoming Library Association (Joint Conference), (Cheyenne)
18 — Executive Board and Program Committee (OSU)
25-31 — Medical Library Association, (Denver)

June
9-14 — Special Libraries Association (New York)
15 — OLA Leadership Conference
22-27 — American Library Association Convention, Dallas

July
1-4 — American Association of Law Librarians (San Diego)