The Oklahoma Library Association has long recognized the need to advocate a legislative program. Its Legislative Committee meets monthly and sponsors three important membership activities annually. A legislative workshop is held each fall to prepare librarians for the coming state and national legislative sessions. A legislative day is sponsored in February at the state capitol where the state legislative program is reviewed and a time is set aside for librarians and their friends to visit their legislators. Finally a legislative breakfast is held during the annual conference, usually featuring a state or national political figure. The Association also participates in National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. by sending representatives to visit with the Oklahoma legislative delegation and participate in the Day's other activities.

Despite this somewhat ambitious legislative program, there has been a lack of activity at the local level and a need for greater participation by the entire library community. These needs have been emphasized by the Association's new and effective lobbyist, Richard Wheatley, who has recommended that legislative activity in local communities be coordinated with his work at the state capitol. He has asked that legislators be invited to coffees held in libraries throughout the state; and, several communities have responded with receptions this year.

Another opportunity, really a starting place for legislative activity, will occur this late summer and fall at election time. Primary elections are scheduled for August 23, runoff elections on September 20, and the general election, November 8. This is an ideal time, when candidates are running for office, to begin working for good library legislation.

A first step is to review the records of incumbents running for reelection. Did they support a positive program for their constituency during the past two sessions of the 41st Legislature? Did they work for increased appropriations for libraries, common schools and higher education? Did they vote for the confidentiality of library circulation records and penalties for library theft? Did they oppose increasing the maximum number of three-year terms a multi-county board member may serve from two to four? Did they vote for ad valorem tax reform? Discuss the incumbents' voting records with them. Express appreciation or disappointment, whichever you feel is appropriate.

It is important, in this process, that you become identified as a

Continued on Page 22
library supporter. You've succeeded when the legislator volunteers comments on libraries when you meet, or when he sees you in an audience.

Be sure that you discuss library concerns with all the candidates, regardless of whom you intend to support. This can be done at candidate forums or in informal discussions. Invite them to your library. They may surprise you by asking permission to have their picture taken in the library for their campaign literature or newspaper advertisements. Let them do it!

When you decide to support a candidate, don't hesitate to contribute to the campaign. Donations of money are always appreciated but donations of time are equally valuable. Candidates need volunteer clerical help, assistance in telephone banks, and in literature distribution. Volunteer your property for yard signs and recommend your candidate to friends and neighbors. Do it diplomatically and never argue. You may even decide to hold a coffee or reception.

Sometimes your candidate loses. That's unfortunate, but it happens. The winner will still welcome your support, particularly if you have worked in a campaign free of bitterness and recrimination. So, press on with your library advocacy just as though you'd voted for the winner. After all he or she is your legislator now.

National representatives and senators are not as accessible as their state counterparts but they visit their districts for meal functions, receptions and money raising events. Be sure to attend.

Congressmen and senators maintain staffs both in Washington and in their districts. Become acquainted with the district staff. They are very approachable, helpful, and interested in talking to you. They will speak to local groups and are willing to have their Washington office call you, saving the price of a long distance telephone call. Every representative and senator maintains a staff of legislative assistants in Washington. These are assigned specific areas, frequently becoming more knowledgeable in these areas than their legislator who carefully considers their recommendations. Identify the legislative assistant who deals with library and education issues. When you telephone the Washington office, ask for that person rather than the legislator whom you probably can't reach. If you visit Washington it may be more important to see the legislative assistant than the legislator, although it is better to see them both. Notice that when they are together it is the assistant who takes the notes. ALA's WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER keeps you informed about national issues and recommends action to be taken.

Despite an initial reluctance and occasional frustrations, you will find that participating in the political process can be very satisfying. Be a confident library advocate. Libraries are a good cause and in the "Information Age" they have become vitally important.

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING TO HELP!

Alumni of the various Oklahoma colleges and universities are asked to write their institutions' President, urging adequate funding for the library. The goal is 6% of the General and Education budget at state schools, or 6% of the Instructional budget in private schools. (The terms differ somewhat from place to place.) This 6% figure is the national standard.

The OLA Legislative Committee is requesting that you write right away, while budgets for the next fiscal year are being planned and while the idea is fresh in your mind. Let's let university officials know that alumni are supportive of more than the athletic programs!

Jan Keene
Legislative Committee

AMERICA AS STORY: HISTORICAL FICTION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

America as Story: Historical Fiction for Secondary Schools is designed to assist teachers planning history units and librarians preparing classroom collections select novels which will stimulate students' interest in history. Too many junior high and high school students think of history as a dry, dull string of events. Author Elizabeth F. Howard believes that textbook narratives can come alive for students who have first experienced a historical period through fiction.

America as Story identifies more than 150 novels, most published in the last 20 years, which portray the experiences and feelings of ordinary people living through key periods in American history from the first colonies to the Vietnam era. Titles were selected and reviewed for historical accuracy and literary merit by Howard and a panel of instructional and curriculum specialists. Each annotation systematically describes both the setting and plot of the novel and the historical insights it provides; suggestions are given for reports and follow-up activities. The reading level for each title also is indicated.

America as Story will help teachers and librarians bring the social studies curriculum to life by showing students that history is the story of real people's lives.

Elizabeth F. Howard is associate professor in the department of library science at West Virginia University, where she teaches courses in children's and young adult literature. As an active member of ALA, Howard has served on numerous committees including the Caldecott Award Committee, the ALA-Children's Book Council Liaison Committee, and the Teachers of Children's Literature Discussion Group.
This well-known engraving by Edward Savage, from the collection of the New York Public Library, depicts members of the Second Continental Congress declaring American independence on July 2, 1776, in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia. On view in "Are We to Be a Nation? The Making of the Federal Constitution," a traveling exhibition funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM HOSTS BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT**

"The U.S. Constitution, which is 200 years old, is as young as today's newspaper headline or Supreme Court decision on the freedom to read," says Duane H. Meyers, the Oklahoma Library Association's representative to the national We the People Commission on the celebration of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

To celebrate the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma County is giving the people of Oklahoma an extended Independence Day present: a nationally-acclaimed, traveling exhibit called "Are We to Be a Nation?: The Making of the Federal Constitution."

It will be held at the Midwest City Library, Reno at Midwest Boulevard, July 19 - August 27. The exhibit uses photoreproductions of prints, maps, manuscripts, portraits and cartoons to tell the story of how the Constitution was created.

This national exhibit will give school children and adults of all ages a chance to see history presented in an exciting fashion and to gain a better appreciation of the magnificent work done by the Founders in producing a revolution in politics as momentous as the Revolutionary War, which won our independence from Great Britain.

The Metropolitan Library System is one of only 30 libraries across the country to host this exhibit. The tour and related materials have been jointly developed by the American Library Association and the New York Public Library, and made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C., a federal agency.

Local sponsors, besides the library system, are the Friends of the Metropolitan Library System and the Oklahoma Bar Association.

In addition to the 32-panel, print-and-photo exhibit, viewers will see a video tape and a slide presentation on the Bicentennial of the Constitution.

Viewing will be during library hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Although 1987 was the bicentennial of the drafting and signing of the U.S. Constitution, there was much exciting business yet to be handled as the original states struggled with ratification 200 years ago.

The drafting of a Bill of Rights, which became the first ten amendments to the Constitution, was done by James Madison. His efforts proved to be crucial in getting the required number of states to endorse the document. This was finally accomplished in 1791.

Meyers, who is also associate director for management services for the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma County, adds, "Libraries across the country are especially interested in promoting the First Amendment to the Constitution because of what librarians believe to be the necessity of free access to materials. "Without the right to read and view, Americans' vaunted free speech and press would be meaningless words on paper. The Founders and those who followed in their footsteps fought for these rights and freedoms. 'Are We to be a Nation?' The traveling exhibition gives a resounding 'YES' to that question."

Don't take the First Amendment for granted!
General Guidelines:
1. National Library Week begins on Sunday, ends on Saturday.
2. Use second full week in April whenever possible.
3. Avoid Holy Week (week before Easter), Spring Break week (week after Easter) and Passover.

SLA TO DISTRIBUTE $6,600 IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS FUND GRANTS IN 1988

Original research, surveys, and studies are among the projects eligible for funding through the Special Programs Fund Grant of the Special Libraries Association (SLA). A total of $6,600 will be awarded to support projects which advance the scientific, literary and educational goals of the Association.

The international professional Association has funded a wide range of projects through the program. In 1987 two applications were funded. James M. Matarazzo, Simmons College, was awarded a grant for continued study on the “Value of the Information Professional.” Fred W. Roper and Robert V. Williams, University of South Carolina, received a grant for a “Study on the Management Services of Special Libraries in the U.S. and Canada.”

An application package for the 1988 Special Programs Fund Grant is available by contacting Sandy Morton, Director, Government Relations and Fund Development, SLA, 1700 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 or by calling (202) 234-4700.

Both individuals and groups are eligible for grants. Applications are now being accepted for the program. All applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, August 19, 1988.
There is no U.S. national standard for CD-ROM equipment. A representative of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) recently told me that ANSI may or may not issue a national standard during 1988. Meanwhile, many libraries that contain U.S. government publications collections, or utilize Federal information sources, need to know that the U.S. Census Bureau has released their first two Census CD-ROMs manufactured to the "High Sierra Group" standard. A representative of the U.S. Government Printing Office has informed me that they expect the Census Bureau to be the largest U.S. government originator of CD-ROM information products. If this proves to be correct, then depository libraries may wish to purchase CD-ROM equipment that can operate CD-ROMS according to the "High Sierra Group" standard.

NEWSLETTERS

The U.S. Documents Division Department of Libraries publishes several bibliographic newsletters that any library in Oklahoma can receive. Many Oklahoma libraries are already on the mailing list for the following publications. If your library is not, and you would like to receive any of them, please contact Steve Beleu or Njambi Kamoche, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, U.S. Documents Division, 200 N.E. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3298, or call 1-800-522-8116. There is no charge for these, and if you do not find them useful, you may request that your library be dropped from our mailing list at any time.

Biodex Quarterly bibliography of U.S. government publications on all industrial and medical aspects of biotechnology.

GPO: Government Publications for Oklahoma Bimonthly bibliography of U.S. government publications on all topics for public libraries; includes health and medical publications written on a simple patient level.

Healthdocs Monthly bibliography of U.S. government publications primarily written for healthcare professionals and medical students.

Hispanodocs Quarterly bibliography of U.S. government publications in English on Hispanic concerns; and in Spanish and English/Spanish on all topics.

Lawdocs Quarterly bibliography of U.S. government publications on legal topics.

DOCLIBS

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST TO LIBRARIANS

This column identifies government publications that are of special importance to librarians, i.e., those that discuss library problems, reference works, etc. These publications may be available in any of the U.S. or Oklahoma depository libraries throughout the state or may be borrowed on interlibrary loan. U.S. documents that are for sale may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. For State of Oklahoma publications you must contact the issuing agency. Key: "Sudocs" is U.S. Superintendent of Documents; "OPC" is the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse. Annotations for State of Oklahoma publications are written by Vicki Sullivan, OPC.


Directory of biomedical investigative institutions and their information products and services. It also lists what the research emphasis and applications are for each institution.


Directory of museums, research centers, archival centers, libraries, and other institutions that provide services, undertake historical research, and conduct programs on the Holocaust. For each institution it lists not only basic information such as address and phone number, but also information on their services and publications.


Directory of energy-conservation techniques and technologies in the building and utility sectors. It includes information on research centers, associations, bibliographies, data bases, directories, periodicals, and software.


Examination of the continued usefulness of Federal copyright law in light of new information and communication technologies. It is essentially a discussion of the U.S. Office of Technology report Intellectual Property Rights in an Age of Electronics and Information.
FESTIVAL OF BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The ninth annual Festival of Books for Young People will be presented by the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies on Saturday, September 24, 1988. Dr. Mildred Laughlin, Professor, and Kathy Latrobe, Assistant Professor, are coordinating this annual event. Sessions will be held in the Oklahoma University Memorial Union Ballroom, Norman, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 3:00 p.m.

This year's theme is "Poetry, Prose, and Pictures." The morning program will include a speech by Paul Fleischman, Pacific Grove, California, poet and author of over ten books for young people, including *Half Moon Inn*, 1982-83 California Young Reader's Award, and *Katherine Paterson Collection*, 1983 Newbery Honor Book. His most recent book is *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* (1988).

The program will also feature a talk by Katherine Paterson, Barre, Vermont, and winner of Newbery Awards for *Bridge to Terabithia* (1978) and *Jacob Have I Loved* (1981). Her most recent books include *Yours Brett* (1988) and *Park's Quest* (1988).

The afternoon session will focus on a visual presentation by Susan Jeffers, Croton on Hudson, New York, illustrator of over twelve books for young people, including *Three Jovial Huntsmen*, 1974 Caldecott Honor Book. Copies of books by the festival authors will be available for purchase and autographing.

Librarians, teachers, parents, and those interested in literature for children and young adults are invited to attend. The festival preregistration fee of $31.00 (if received by September 17) includes all sessions and the morning coffee hour. For a program brochure and registration form, write or call:

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
1700 ASP
NORMAN, OK 73073
PHONE: 405/325-5101

S.E. HINTON RECEIVES AWARD

S. E. Hinton is the first recipient of a new award developed by the Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association. The $1,000 award, funded by School Library Journal, will be presented biennially to an author whose "book or books, over a period of time, have been accepted by young adults as an authentic voice that continues to illuminate their experiences and emotions, giving insight into their lives," according to Susan Tait, chair of the award committee.

The books cited in this award will enable young adults to better understand "themselves, the world in which they live, and their relationship with others and with society," according to Susan Tait, chair of the award committee.

Hinton began writing *The Outsiders* at age 15, drawing her characters from her observation of the teenagers around her. They were members of gangs, losers, without parental guidance, whose loyalty and love for each other supported and sustained them in a hostile world.

"Her book was an enormous change from the settings and themes of literature for teenagers at that time," Tait explained, "and her work has enormous impact on the kinds of books written for young adults."

More than 20 years and three books later, her characters and their worlds still speak to young adults. There are still "outsiders," loners who identify with Ponyboy and Rusty James and Tex and who find support and validation in them. There are still "insiders" who find insight into and understanding of situations and people unknown from personal experience.

Hinton's books, widely read by young adults across the country, all have been made into movies, with Hinton's input into the screenplay and filming. They are *The Outsiders*, 1967, Viking, Dell; *That Was Then, This Is Now*, 1971, Viking, Dell; *Rumble Fish*, 1975, Delacorte and Dell; and *Tex*, 1979, Delacorte and Dell.

MARGARET MAHY CHOSEN FOR ARBUTHNOT HONOR

Margaret Mahy, New Zealand author of over 40 books for children, has been selected as the 1989 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecturer.

Mahy's work has won critical acclaim for its exuberance, imaginativeness and brilliant use of language, according to Elizabeth Watson, chair of the May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Committee. She has twice won the Carnegie Medal, given in England each year for the most distinguished book for children. Her work has been honored in this country by the Association for Library Service to Children in the selection of two of her books ("The Haunting" and "The Changeover: A Supernatural Romance") for the annual list of Notable Children's Books and two ("Catalogue of the Universe" and "The Changeover: A Supernatural Romance") for the Best Books for Young Adults list.

In describing her writing, Mahy has said, "I try to tell an exciting story, something which children enjoy reading. For older children I try to suggest the world is not a rigidly defined place, that they can allow their imaginations to move and have a lot of freedom."

Trained as a children's librarian, Mahy has worked with schools and in public libraries until recently. She now works full time as a writer, and her books have been published in 13 languages in the United States.

"The committee is very pleased to announce that the 1989 May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture will be Margaret Mahy, an author who has made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. Her books speak directly to the child in all of us," commented Watson.
The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology

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Produced by American Scholarship

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The first biography of Jacob Shallus, the clerk who lettered the original United States Constitution was published on the Fourth of July 1987 by the National Archives, the federal agency that houses the handlettered parchments. Librarian and journalist Arthur Plotnik, who authored The Man Behind the Quill, credits his library training for the tenacity that enabled him to complete what a national funding agency suggested could not be achieved.

"Never tell a librarian that information can't be found," says Plotnik, who earned his graduate library degree and studied advanced reference at Columbia University. He cites a reply he received from a national funding agency in 1985, denying support for a biographical study of Shallus. "It is doubtful," said the agency, "that sufficient information for a full biography can be uncovered."

Having already completed more than two years of part-time research on Shallus, Plotnik was confident he had enough background for exploiting key primary sources — if he could get to them in locations on the East Coast. But, working out of Chicago, where he is editor of American Libraries magazine, Plotnik had to first use long-distance resources available to any independent researcher. Among them were the union catalogs and printed library-catalog sets at Chicago's Newberry Library, the duplicate microforms at the National Archives; Chicago Branch, and copies of material requested from Harvard's Houghton Library and elsewhere.

Plotnik was thus prepared to make the most of brief visits to Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pa., where, "with frantic dependence on the kindness of many talented Pennsylvania librarians and archivists," he found information that no historian had yet gathered for publication. The result, The Man Behind the Quill: Jacob Shallus, Calligrapher of the United States Constitution. Leonard W. Levy, Pulitzer-Prize-winning editor of Encyclopedia of the American Constitution called the book "an original work of scholarship that anyone interested in constitutional history and the bicentennial should find quite useful, because of the special fact that we have known nothing of the calligrapher of the Constitution."

James Hutson, chief of the Library of Congress Manuscript Division, wrote Plotnik, "you have performed small miracles of research."

Plotnik became interested in tracking Shallus while researching the physical preservation of the Constitution for a magazine article. Unable to find the identity of the penman in any standard reference source, he located one brief 1937 study that identified Shallus as the clerk whose handwriting matched that of the Constitution. Shallus was employed by the Pennsylvania Assembly, which was meeting upstairs in Philadelphia's State House when downstairs, in September 1787, the Federal Convention completed its draft of the Constitution. Shallus did freelance work, and apparently got the call on Saturday, Sept. 15, for a "rush job" due Monday.

Plotnik felt that America's "founding scribe" deserved more attention, and that his story was significant in the history of human endeavor. "In knowing Shallus, we know better the human context in which the Franklins, Madisons, and Hamiltons made history. Beyond that, Shallus's story evokes a feeling we all share: that small yearning to somehow leave our mark upon the world."

A Revolutionary War veteran, entrepreneur, debt-ridden taxpayer, and father of eight children (including engraver and librarian Francis Shallus), "Shallus led an interesting life," says Plotnik, "but, like most of us who serve as support staff, left no mark of his own — until now."