What do you do when you turn 25? The options are endless unless you’re a library system. Then, the only choice is to celebrate, which is exactly what the Metropolitan Library System—20 libraries serving Oklahoma County—did when it turned 25 in September.

The library system was formed in 1965 after passage of the Metropolitan Library Act, which maps out the method for organizing a city-county library system and provides for the creation of a Metropolitan Library Commission. Initially, the system was named the Oklahoma County Library System; it consisted of seven already established libraries. Since that first year, the library system has grown to include 11 full-service libraries, four extension libraries and five bookmobiles. In 1977, its name was changed to Metropolitan Library System.

"Formation of a county-wide system opened the doors of every library to all Oklahoma County residents. It also streamlined the operation of each library and improved the service each could provide," said MLS executive director Lee B. Brawner.

The Midwest City Library was one of the seven original libraries. Library head Avis Hemmer recalls being apprehensive then thrilled about the new countywide system. “There were only three people at the Midwest City Library. We didn’t know what to expect. Would we be replaced? Would we get more books? We did start getting more books and more furnishings. It was marvelous getting new sets of encyclopedias and children’s books that weren’t dog-eared. Soon a room formerly used for storage was attractively decorated with carpet, draperies and handsome coral colored steel shelving for a youth area,” she said.

During all the growth, many changes have occurred in services and in methods of operation. Paul Little is chief of Planning Services and a 31-year veteran of MLS. He notes that one of the most remarkable changes is in Outreach Services, which provides library materials to nursing homes, senior centers and shut-ins. “The only outreach done by the Oklahoma City libraries was done by me. We had two book centers. I delivered books to them using my Volkswagen. We didn’t have Books by Mail. Now, they have 123 book centers served by a van and a full-time staff member, plus Books By Mail.”

Loretta Springer, Technical Processing supervisor, recalls that years ago the processing of new books was so slow there was a backlog of one to five years. “Under the old system, all duties were performed manually, that is cataloging and processing. The spine tab information was hand-lettered using white ink. Under our current automation system, most books are received, cataloged, processed and routed to the libraries within 24 to 48 hours,” she said.

The First Library
Library Service actually came to Oklahoma County in 1898 when two women’s study groups, Philomatheia and San Souci, collected 600 books, obtained a charter and persuaded local businessmen to buy $500 worth of stock.

By 1901, a Carnegie Library was built at what is now the corner of Dean A. McGee and Robinson. Library philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated $25,000 for the building, with the stipulation that Oklahoma City provide $2,000 for the library’s operation. In 1909, the library was enlarged.

A second library, the Dunbar Branch, opened in 1921 and moved into a new building in 1925. That same year the Wright Branch began service in the Stockyards City area.

1945 and 1950 proved to be pivotal years in Oklahoma County’s library history. Both years bond issues were approved and their approval fostered plans for two new libraries. The Capitol Hill Library was completed first and dedicated in 1951. The Main Library (now called the Downtown Library) was opened in 1954.

Close on the heels of the Main Library was the Midwest City Library, which began serving the patrons of (continued on page 51)
OLA President's Message

OLA is working for you and dozens of you are working for OLA.

Donna Morris and the Program Committee have already made substantial progress in planning for an excellent annual conference next April at the Hilton Inn West. Most of the divisions, roundtables and committees are singly or cooperatively planning workshops and other continuing education opportunities. Beth Freeman and the Continuing Education Committee members are assisting in this planning and lining up poster sessions, table talks and mini-conferences for the conference. Nominating committees are working on the 1991-92 OLA year.

Both Sequoyah committees are reading, reading, reading. The Automation Committee is updating the Automation Directory and the Intellectual Freedom Committee is publishing the IF manual. Lee Brawner and the Legislative Committee are planning for Legislative Day at the Capitol March 5, preceded the night before by an orientation dinner with "key" legislators. Meanwhile, Carol Casey and the Long Range Planning Committee are grappling with OLA reorganization.

The Membership Committee, under the leadership of Wayne Felts and Rosemary Moran must be doing something right — membership statistics are above previous levels. With the assistance of OASLMS, they have had a booth at Encyclomedia and plan to have some "treasures" for sale at the conference.

Betty Estes-Rickner and the Awards Committee are developing a new nomination form. Joan Jester and the Audit Committee have found OLA, OASLMS and "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma" to be financially in order. Patsy Stafford and Karen Morris, ably assisted by Kay, have produced two excellent issues of the Oklahoma Librarian. As our Councilors, Mary Sherman has spent many hours in ALA meetings in Chicago and Steve Skidmore "suffered" through a trip to Denver for MPLA. Treasurer Annette Duffy has done such a good job there is reportedly a "draft Duffy" group pushing for her to serve another 2-year term. The Board and others have been faithful to the business of the association.

Kay, at last a "full time" Executive Director, continues to perform in her uniquely capable way to "provide the oil that keeps the machine running."

Yes, OLA is working for you. Thank you for working for OLA.

Celebrate Oklahoma Libraries!!

—Joel Robinson

OLA SCHEDULE/HOLIDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Sequoyah YA Book Award Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>Membership Committee, Enid Public Library - 10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>GODORT/Reference RT Workshop, Langston University ODL Workshop on Reading Aloud, ODL</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Festival of Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Awards Committee, SDE - 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Executive Bd./Program Comm., Shawnee Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18-19</td>
<td>Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee, ODL-10 a.m.</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>OK-ACRL</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>*OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN deadline</td>
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<td>November 9</td>
<td>Membership Committee, Shawnee Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Sequoyah YA Book Award Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>Intellectual Freedom Committee Workshop, Shawnee P.L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee, ODL-10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>Reference Roundtable, Sparta School, Tulsa - 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Executive Bd./Program Comm., Martin East Reg., Tulsa</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>*Submit items for Bulk Mailing to be mailed Dec. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>New Members RT - Martin East Reg. Br. Lib.-12 Noon</td>
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<td>November 23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>Nov. 30-Dec. 1</td>
<td>Governor's Conference on Library &amp; Information Services</td>
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<td>December 6</td>
<td>Membership Committee, Stone Lion Inn, Guthrie</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>Legislative Committee, OKC - 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>December 8</td>
<td>*Mail Ballots to Executive Director</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Ethics Committee Workshop</td>
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<td>December 12-19</td>
<td>MPLA Board Meeting, Denver</td>
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<td>December 14</td>
<td>Hanukkah</td>
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<td>December 15</td>
<td>Executive Board/Program Committee, Guthrie</td>
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THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN is the official bulletin of the Oklahoma Library Association. It is published bi-monthly. The inclusion of an article or advertisement does not constitute official endorsement by the Association. It is mailed to each member of the Association upon payment of his annual dues.

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eastern Oklahoma County in 1955. Three years later the Del City Library opened.

In 1964, Oklahoma County voters approved a 1.9 mill ad valorem tax to establish the city-county library system. In the meantime, the Belle Isle Library had opened.

In 1965, the Bethany Library opened and quickly joined the newly formed Oklahoma County Library System.

The ensuing 10 years were busy: The Del City Library moved into new quarters; Southern Hills, The Village, Edmond and Northeast libraries were established in storefronts; the Warr Acres Library opened in a new building; and Urban Renewal closed the doors of the Dunbar Branch. In 1970 Oklahoma City voters approved a bond issue which resulted in the construction of the Ralph Ellison Library and the Southern Oaks Library to replace storefront libraries. In 1973, the citizens of Edmond provided the library with a permanent site.

Also important was the passage in 1976 of a state question which raised the mill levy ceiling from 2 mills to 4 mills. Since then, the years have been mostly prosperous. The Choctaw Library opened in 1978. The Friends of the Metropolitan Library System formed that same year and dedicated themselves to raising funds for the library system. Each library's card catalogue was computerized so now everyone in Oklahoma County can stand before a computer terminal in any MLS library and access all its materials. Recently, other computer services have been added.

The library system's most recent expansion is The Village Library, from a storefront to a 14,000-square-foot building.

--Julia Fresonke

**Correction**

Credit for the "Guide to Workshop Production" from the Continuing Education Committee (last issue) should go to Jean P. Mackey, University of Tulsa Library, past chair of CEC. Beth Ann Freeman is the current chair.

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**Star Summer Readers Celebrate**

The mood was light and lively as star summer readers, family members and friends packed All Sports Stadium at the State Fairgrounds Aug. 12 to bring to a festive close to the Metropolitan Library System's 1990 summer reading program, Reach for Reading and Catch a Rising Star.

The evening began with MLS executive director Lee B. Brawner, Dairy Queen owner Charles Dunn and KOCO-TV television personality Jerry Adams at homeplate congratulating approximately 7,000 summer reading celebrants. Readers completed the program by reading 45 books during June and July. The ceremony honors the readers, their parents, the librarians, and volunteer teen "reader leaders."

Brawner and Dunn, assisted by Robo Niner, the 89ers mascot, awarded the bike (donated by Dairy Queen) during a drawing. The lucky winner was Trey Hansen, son of Brenda and Hal Hansen and a Southern Oaks Library patron, who at age eight is an avid reader with a definite affinity for the Hardy Boys.

The program, now in its sixteenth year, encourages preschoolers through sixth graders to read books and earn prizes. This year's sponsors were the library system, Dunn's Dairy Queen, KOCO-TV Channel 5, the Oklahoma City 89ers and Auto Zone. A total of 11,770 children participated, with 3,604 finishing. These 3,604 qualified for grand prize drawings held in their individual library on July 31; and the winners of the grand prize drawings were eligible to win a bicycle at the Aug. 12 party.

A special part of the festivities was a "reader leader" recognition congratulating five regional leaders who donated many hours of their summer vacation.

--Julia Fresonke

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Trey Hansen (second from left, front) won a bicycle during the summer reading grand finale sponsored by the Metropolitan Library System. Shown with Trey (from left) is Lee B. Brawner, MLS; '89ers mascot "Robo Niner;" Jerry Adams, KOCO-TV; and Charles Dunn, Dairy Queen.
3 Documents Interpreting "Library Bill of Rights" Amended

Three documents from the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee were approved June 22 by the ALA Council. All are interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.

1. "Exhibit Spaces and Meeting Rooms" (revised)
2. "Statement on Labeling" (revised and augmented)
3. "Library Initiated Programs as a Resource" (revised and reordered)

The ALA Council also approved a revision of the "Circulation of Motion Pictures and Videotapes" document which has been superseded by "Access for Children and Young People to Videotapes and Other Nonprint Formats".

Exhibit Spaces and Meeting Rooms

As part of their program of service, many libraries provide meeting rooms and exhibit spaces for individuals and groups. Article VI of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS states that such facilities should be made available to the public served by the given library "on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use."

In formulating this position, the American Library Association sought to accommodate the broad range of practices among public, academic, school and other libraries, while upholding a standard of fairness. Libraries maintaining exhibit and meeting room facilities for outside groups and individuals should develop and publish policy statements governing their use. These statements can properly define and restrict eligibility for use as long as the qualifications do not pertain to the content of a meeting or exhibit or to the beliefs or affiliations of the sponsors.

It is appropriate for a library to limit access to meeting rooms or exhibit space to members of the specific community served by the library or to groups of a specific category. The library may properly limit the use of its meeting rooms to meetings which are open to the public, or it may make space available for both public and private sessions. It is not proper to apply such limitations in ways which favor points of view or organizations advocating certain viewpoints.

Exhibits and meetings sponsored by the library itself should be organized in a manner consistent with the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS, especially Article II which states that "libraries show, provide materials and information presenting all points of view." However, in granting meeting or exhibit space to outside individuals and groups, the library should make no effort to censor or amend the content of the exhibit or meeting. Those who object to or disagree with the content of any exhibit or meeting held at the library should be entitled to submit their own exhibit or meeting proposals which should be judged according to the policies established by the library.

Statement on Labeling

Labeling is the practice of describing or designating materials by affixing a prejudicial label and/or segregating them by a prejudicial system. The American Library Association opposes these means of predisposing people's attitudes toward library materials for the following reasons:

1. Labeling is an attempt to prejudice attitudes and as such, it is a censor's tool.
2. Some find it easy and even proper, according to their ethics, to establish criteria for judging publications as objectionable. However, injustices and ignorance rather than justice and enlightenment result from such practices, and the American Library Association opposes the establishment of such criteria.
3. Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections. The presence of books and other resources in a library does not indicate endorsement of their contents by the library.

A variety of private organizations promulgate rating systems and, or review materials as a means of advising either their members or the general public concerning their opinions of the contents and suitability or appropriate age for use of certain books, films, recordings, or other materials. For the library to adopt or enforce any of these private systems, to attach such ratings to library materials, or to include them in bibliographic records, library catalogs, or other finding aids, or otherwise to endorse them would violate the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS.

While some attempts have been made to adopt these systems into law, the constitutionality of such measures is extremely questionable. If such legislation is passed which applies within a library's jurisdiction, the library should seek competent legal advice concerning its applicability to library operations.

Publishers, industry groups, and distributors sometimes add ratings to material or include them as part of their packaging. Librarians should not endorse such practices. However, removing or obliterating such ratings — if placed there by or with permission of the copyright holder — could constitute expurgation, which is also unacceptable.

The American Library Association opposes efforts which aim at closing any path to knowledge. This statement, however, does not exclude the adoption of organizational schemes designed as directional aids or to facilitate access to materials.

Library Initiated Programs

Library initiated programs support the mission of the library by providing users with additional opportunities for information, education and recreation. Article 1 of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS states: "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves."

Library initiated programs take advantage of library staff expertise, collections, services and facilities to increase access to information and information resources. Library initiated programs introduce users and potential users to the resources of the library and to the library's primary function as a facilitator of information access. The library may participate in cooperative or joint programs with other agencies, organizations, institutions or individuals as part of its own effort to address information needs and to facilitate information access in the community the library serves.

Library initiated programs on site and other locations include, but are not limited to, speeches, community forums, discussion groups, demonstrations, displays, and live or media presentations.

Libraries serving multicultural communities make efforts to accommodate the information needs of those for whom English is a second language. Library initiated programs across language and cultural barriers introduce otherwise unserved populations to the resources of the library and provide access to information.

Library initiated programs "should not be proscribed or removed (or canceled) because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval" of the contents of the program or the views expressed by the participants, as stated in Article 2 of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by the participants, any more than the purchase of material for the library collection constitutes an endorsement of the contents of the material or the views of its creator.

Library initiated programs are a library resource, and as such, are developed in accordance with written guidelines, as approved and adopted by the library's policy-making body. These guidelines included an endorsement of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and set for the library's commitment to free and open access to information and ideas for all users. Library staff select topics, speakers and resource materials for library initiated programs based on the interests and information needs of the community. Topics, speakers and resource materials are not excluded from library initiated programs because of possible controversy. Concerns, questions or complaints about library initiated programs are handled according to the same written policy and procedures which govern reconsiderations of other library resources.

Library initiated programs are offered free of charge and are open to all. Article 5 of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS states: "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."

The "right to use a library" encompasses all of the resources the library offers, including the right to attend library initiated programs. Libraries do not deny or abridge access to library resources, including library initiated programs, based on an individual's economic background and ability to pay.

--Mary Sherman

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OLA Nominations Sought

The 1990-91 OLA Nominating Committee invites recommendations for candidates for the following offices: Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer (2-year term). Make recommendations by October 29 to:

Norman Nelson, Chair
OLA Nominating Committee
Edmon Low Library, Room 216
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078-0375
Tel. (405) 744-6322

Chairs of Nominating Committees for OLA Divisions and Roundtables are:

Administration RT-Beth Freeman, University Center at Tulsa, 918-631-0740.
Automation RT-Donald Smith, University of Tulsa, 918-631-2871.
Children and Young People's RT-Carol Fox, Walters Public Schools, 405-875-3841.
College and University Division-Deborah Williamson, The Village Library, 405-794-7946.
Reference RT-Melissa Huffman, Metropolitan Library System, 405-721-2616.
Special Collections and Archives RT-Judith (Robin) Overmier, OU School of Library and Information Studies, 405-325-3921.
Support Staff RT-Pauline Rodriguez, Metropolitan Library System, 405-631-1149.
Technical Services RT-Jane Mills, University of Tulsa, 918-631-2869.
Trustees Division-John Cochenour, OU School of Library & Info. Studies, 405-325-3921.

Federal Relations Coordinator Report

Funding Libraries

August

OLA Nominations Sought

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LSCA & WHCLIS - The House passed the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill (now HR 5257) on July 19 by a vote of 359-58. A major disappointment is the lack of any remaining funding needed for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The committee report does not mention the WHCLIS or give any reason for not including funding.

Funds would enable state preconference activities and support the July 1991 WHCLIS as planned. The Senate subcommittee may not make its recommendations until Congress returns from recess after Labor Day. Contact the Senate subcommittee to urge at least $1 million for LSCA V and the full amount requested by the President for LSCA VI.

Postal Rates - The House passed the Treasury-Postal Service Appropriations Bill for FY 1991 on July 13. HR 5241 would provide $484,592,000 for postal revenue forgone, the full amount needed to maintain current levels for the preferred postal rates used by libraries, schools, colleges, and nonprofit groups. All of these would face increased rates when the pending general postal rates increase is implemented, probably in February.

Arts and Humanities - House debate on HR 4825, a five-year reauthorization without restrictions of the enabling legislation for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, was postponed until after Labor Day. Contact your Representative and Senator in support of a five-year reauthorization bill without restrictions and a fiscal 1991 appropriations bill without restrictions. Even if you have written before, write again and enclose a copy of the ALA resolution.

September

On September 12, the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee recommended $1 million for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and would increase Dept. of Education library programs seven percent. The Senate subcommittee also included $1 million in first-time funding for LSCA V foreign language materials for public libraries, as the House had done. The full Senate Appropriations Committee was scheduled to take up the bill (no number yet) very shortly.

Meanwhile, White House/Congressional leader budget summit negotiators are reported to be making progress, but so far no final agreement is imminent. Because of the real possibility of cuts to all programs at a later stage, it was especially important that funding levels start out at a decent level which appears to be happening.

Leaks about proposals being considered by the summiteers to reduce the deficit and meet the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings targets have included capping the amount of deductions taxpayers could claim, including state and local taxes and charitable contributions. Because of the potential impact on libraries, the ALA Washington Office has been working with coalitions to oppose them — with a revival of the Coalition Against Double Taxation on the deductibility of state and local taxes, and with Independent Sector on the deductibility of charitable contributions.

Thanks to all of you who helped through contracts with Congress. Stay tuned for future action alerts on short notice during the very busy period before Congress adjourns to campaign. There is a real possibility of a lame-duck session, following elections, to allow Congress to complete its business.

--Donna Skvarfa
Impressions at Encyclo-Media X

OPENING SESSION
SANDY GARRETT
Secretary of Education (OK)
... focus on partnerships between schools and communities ... the third wave of education is the increase of productivity and innovation in education ... better access to information ... more selective about information ... media specialists as key to information access and selection.

ADAM MOORE
11-year-old author of Broken Arrow Bay ... presented copies of his book to Garrett and to Gerald E. Hoeltzel, State Superintendent.

FROSTY TROY
editor, Oklahoma Observer ... “1317 is a wonderful bill. Anyone not for it is not for progress and our children ... 20% of the elementary schools in Oklahoma have no libraries ... Even an elementary school ought to be built around a first-rate library ... 58 cents per capita spent on libraries in Oklahoma, while the national average is $1.18 ... 1017 means $162.00 per family per year increase in taxes ... Teach to the whole community ... today's mechanic has to master 244,000 pages — that's 50 city telephone books ... Libraries are the soul of humankind.”

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
MAKING MAGAZINES MATTER
Judy Balsamo, editor, Children's Magazine Guide

Getting children (and teachers) to use magazines ... good for updated and current information — what books cover the demise of the Berlin Wall or California's latest earthquake? ... high graphic appeal, usually without advertising ... wealth of interactive material, such as games, puzzles, experiments, recipes ... may come with teacher's manuals ... Penny Power now Zillons ... still need good magazines for girls and for ethnic kids ... send ideas for her column "Making Magazines Matter."

WHAT TO DO WITH WHAT'S NEW
Kathy Latrobe & Mildred Laughter, professors of library science, OU
Not-to-miss fiction and nonfiction K-12.

OU STATEWIDE INFORMATION SERVICES
Steve Dile, OU Telecommunications Lab, & Bob Swisher, OU School of Library & Information Studies;
Wilbur Stolt, OU Bizzell Library ... dialing up the School's new electronic bulletin board system, registering as a new user, downloading templates and shareware for Apples, Macintoshes, IBMs ... dialing into OU's online catalog, borrowing books via interlibrary loan.

MAGICAL MISCHIEF WITH MULTIMEDIA
Chris Peters, professor of education, Clemson University
"The definition of multimedia keeps changing" ... demo of Macintosh tools such as Soundedit, Hyperscan, MacVision, and Interface for recording and editing speech, scanning photos or capturing video images, and creating simple animation ... !!! An Alarming Revelation !!! edited his own digitalized voice saying "I'm Chris Peters and I'm NOT from Oklahoma" until it came out "I'm NOT Chris Peters and I'm from Oklahoma" ... Will I ever again believe another TV soundbite? ... "As our ability to manipulate information grows, so does the ability that some may misuse information."

SCHOOL LIBRARY DESIGN AND STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Jim Bennett, LMS, Shoreham-Wading River High School, NY
Effects of physical layout, correct color, lighting, furnishings, noise zones or noise barriers to create desired mood and student response.

USING LINKWAY IN THE CLASSROOM
Joanne Troutner, coordinator for instructional support, Tippecanoe School Corp, Lafayette, IN
Using Linkway hypertext software (IBM) to create or enhance curriculum.

WRITING THE CHISHOLM TRAIL
Debbie Schimmer, teacher, Shedeck Elementary School, Yukon
Involving 5th graders in whole language writing activities that include community leaders and result in creating their own "big books."

—Karen Morris

Would you like to see more on Encyclo-Media in the next issue? Send us your brief comments or "soundbites" on your favorite events! --The Editors
Ethics Committee
ETHICS IN LIBRARIANSHIP

The Ethics Committee of OLA has as its mission “to increase the awareness of ethical practices and professional conduct for members of the Oklahoma Library Association.”

To provoke thoughts on issues, case studies of situations that present ethical questions for librarians are presented as a means of acquainting our Association with the importance of ethics in our daily work lives.

Case Study: Personnel Reference

Joe Spicer sat in his office and stared at the papers on his desk. He was discouraged. Since his arrival as the director of the Downtown Public Library three years before, the one goal he had made little or no progress towards was improving the business reference services offered by the library. He had just finished another adversarial conversation with Gerald Lackey about the complete lack of progress on this project. He had given Gerald, the head of public services, the responsibility for developing this service, but Gerald seemed determined to thwart any changes in the present services and programs.

Joe had found Gerald to be a knowledgeable librarian who put in extra time on his job, but he was also disagreeable, hard-nosed and a laggard when it came to new technologies and developments in the field. Few of the other staff got along with Gerald, and in spite of his technical competence he was a damper on the otherwise collegial atmosphere of the library. All things considered, Joe had to put Gerald in the minus column in his contributions to the library’s effectiveness. As Joe ran through his mind a pleasant dream of what it would be like to do the business reference project without Gerald’s negativity, the phone near his elbow rang. It was Mary Drake, the board chairperson of a middle sized public library about two hours down the road.

“Joe, do you have a minute? I want to talk with you about Gerald Lackey. He’s applied for the director’s position that we’re advertising here, and I want to know if you think he’s ready for a job with this responsibility.”

Joe felt a pleasant rush. Gerald was thinking about leaving! Joe quickly ran through his mind the pluses and minuses of Gerald’s abilities and wondered about what he should say. How much should he offer about what he felt? After all, the situation there could be much different and maybe Gerald would fit in better. Why should he be the one to prevent Gerald from bettering himself? Let the buyer beware!

One Response: Whose dilemma is it?

Any response to Joe’s immediate dilemma requires a consideration of the situation as viewed from each of the participants—employer (Joe), potential employer (Mary) and employee (Gerald)—something only we non-participants can do objectively.

Joe can’t accomplish his main objective since becoming director because Gerald doesn’t share it as top priority. Gerald has his own ideas about why it’s not important, which may be more valid than Joe’s. Nevertheless, positive discussion has ended and Joe has a chance to fill a vacancy he should have created during his first year “honeymoon”.

For Mary’s part, she’s “2 hours down the road” and Joe probably will only see her once a year at conference, unless he sees her first.

Gerald’s the one with the problem. Joe only has to be concerned with ethics and goals. Gerald faces continued unhappiness and loss of gain. He’s not well liked and can’t communicate with his boss at Downtown and if Joe says the wrong things his chance to become his own boss doesn’t stand much of a chance. Give Gerald credit for knowing it’s time to move on. Why not give him the chance?

Gerald and Mary are the only participants who could get burned in this situation. Joe only has to tell the truth to respond ethically to Mary’s questions. At worse, Joe still has to try to work with Gerald, but from a position of power.

Many libraries and other institutions practice only responding with dates of employment, positions held and, perhaps, salary data. Mary should be interested in this information as well as attendance record and any other objective measures of Gerald’s performance which may indicate his potential to succeed as the director of their library. She shouldn’t care whether Gerald was “liked” by the other staff or any of Joe’s subjective opinions of Gerald. She and the rest of the board can form their own subjective opinions of him during his interview. It’s the board’s task to decide if “he’s ready for a job with this responsibility,” not Joe’s. If they’re wrong, they get to try again and Joe shouldn’t receive the blame.

Comments are invited and should be sent to Ethics Committee Chair Susan McVey, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, 200 NE 18, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Economic Development Workshop Held

“Getting Down to Business: Using Documents, Databases, and Other Tools for Economic Development” was the title of the Oct. 5 workshop co-sponsored by the Government Documents and Reference Roundtables. Held at Langston University, the workshop was designed to help librarians provide reference which can contribute to economic development.


Participants browsed Cafe Oklahoma and patent information on CD-ROM. Cafe Oklahoma is a project of the State Department of Agriculture designed to promote Oklahoma Food Products.

Another session explained the ORIGINS database of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, which provides free online access to Oklahoma economic development statistics.
The following government publications are of special importance to librarians. They are available in many U.S. or Oklahoma depository libraries throughout the state, or may be borrowed on interlibrary loan. For State of Oklahoma publications, contact the issuing agency. Key: “Sudocs” refers to the U.S. Superintendent of Documents classification number; “OPC” refers to the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse classification number.


Congressional hearing on current legislation to mandate inclusion of U.S. government information in electronic formats within the Depository Library Program and GPO Sales Program.

**Guide to Records in the National Archives, Southwest Region.** Sudocs: AE 1.108:F 24/3/South. Guides for 10 other regions are available also.

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. 20408, for $2.00 each plus $3.00 postage per order. Invaluable guides to records that are held in regional offices of the National Archives. Indicates records held, notes on any extraordinary records held, and notes about finding aids. Includes information about researching within the Archives facilities.


Compilation of conference papers, examining some of the main issues in library evaluation, including a comparison of eight evaluation models, the impact of Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data Collection (FSCS), and how accreditation can assist the evaluation process.


Has numerous maps, charts, and photographs. Provides historical, geographical and statistical information. Legal descriptions are used to locate state lakes and rivers. Includes an index to public and private lakes, arranged by county.


A revised edition of the Oklahoma AIDS Resource Guide. Contributors include representatives from the Oklahoma Health Planning Commission, the State Department of Health, of Human Services, and of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; the AIDS Support Program; and the AIDS Services Network of Tulsa. Topics include HIV counseling and testing sites; information sources; medical services; counseling services; Oklahoma Department of Human Services assistance programs and services; social security; community services; legal services; care giver assistance and information. The focus is on education and prevention, with more emphasis on a central referral point for locating appropriate service providers.


Report on public library services for youth aged 14 and under. Includes availability of children's services coordinators, percent of weekly users, use and availability of selected services, and cooperative activities with schools and preschool center.


Overview of the nine state questions to be voted on in fall elections. Background information on these questions enables readers to make more informed decisions. Organized by election date, each item has the official ballot title, background and explanation, primary authors, authorizing legislation, and time of introduction.
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Public Library Affiliates Network at ALA

The Public Library Affiliates Network (P.L.A.N.) met during the ALA Annual Conference. The general discussion centered on two main topics: 1) How does your state association handle legislative activities? and 2) How are regional services provided in your state?

There are many differences in the handling of legislative activities among the 13 states represented. Minnesota, Washington, New Jersey, Nebraska, Iowa, Texas, Illinois, and Michigan all reported that some type of paid lobbyist or legislative consultant monitored legislative activities and reminded lawmakers of the impact of any bill on libraries. They also promoted legislative efforts of the state association or state library agency.

There was general agreement that there is no difficulty finding a lobbyist if you have the money. Many of these states reported raising the institutional dues to provide sufficient funds. The next consideration must then be education for the lobbyist so he/she will know the details of what is good or not good for the library community. A big task is for the library community to learn to speak with consensus.

In the discussion on regional services, there was again great variety in the way states have dealt with regional organization and what services those regional libraries provide and to whom. Some states have regions totally funded by state funds. Others have the regions set up with the majority of the funds coming from local sources. Services are as varied as the needs of the participants, but generally include: Interlibrary Loan, Continuing Education, Consultant Services, Delivery, Reference Back-up. Where there is state funding it usually includes both per capita grants and square mileage grants, although other formulas deal with percentage of local support, percentage of local budget for materials, and rural vs. urban support.

There was a report from the PLA Board. The flap over Kathleen Heim's resignation as Editor of "Public Libraries" seems to be over. The ALA Executive Board report on the publications policy stated that PLA had acted well within its rights in delaying an article of one of the candidates for ALA President until after the election. The ALA Executive Board confirmed that each individual unit in ALA can set policies covering its publications.

This was my first meeting with this group. I was elected last year by the members of the OLA Public Libraries Division to serve a two year term as the Oklahoma representative. P.L.A.N. has been in existence for two years. It was started as an off-shoot of the PLA membership committee which wanted a contact person in each state to promote PLA membership activities. However, the state representatives felt they had a lot to share besides promoting membership.

—Sandy Ellison

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People & Places

Stillwater Middle School librarian Charlie Lou Rouse returned recently from New York, where she met with the national advisory council of Scholastics, Inc.

Rouse has served four years as one of ten members of the council, a consulting body for the publishing company. Matters under consideration at the meeting this year included a study of President Bush's goals for education and the educational objectives named by the nation's governors.

Rouse presented a paper, "Reading and the At-Risk Student," to the council, the management and the editors of the company. The paper will be published in the journal of the school libraries division of the International Federation of Library Associations. Rouse, a committee member in IFLA, attended the annual IFLA conference in Stockholm, Sweden in August.

Scholastics is the world's largest publisher of school materials. Founded in 1930, it publishes 31 classroom magazines and six professional magazines in addition to issuing more than 50 million books a year. The company also publishes more than 125 software titles, video, cassettes and other educational items.

Oklahoman selected as first ALA Minority Fellow

Selected from a field of 37 candidates, ALA's first Minority Fellow is Robin Kickngbird from Oklahoma. Kickngbird, who is half Kiowa and one-eighth Citizen Band Potawatomi, said in an interview in the September American Libraries she was "really glad the first fellow was an American Indian because we need to do something quickly to get the resources that affect our sovereignty under control."

Kickngbird will be working with LAMA (Library Administration and Management Association) and ASCLA (Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies) and hopes to devote part of her time to learning to design a network of tribal libraries in Oklahoma.

Previous to her one-year appointment at ALA Headquarters, Kickngbird was an archivist for the Oklahoma Historical Society. She received her BS in psychology from the University of Science and Arts in Chickasha and her MLS and certificate of advanced study from the University of Oklahoma. She has worked with the Kiowa, Delaware, Citizen Band Potawatomi, and Chickasaw tribal complexes advising on the preservation of tribal records and archives and as a public service librarian in the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma City.

OlA Awards Prizes for Early Renewals

Winners of prizes for renewing their OLA membership prior to July 1 were selected at a drawing at the July Executive Board meeting. Those names selected and their prizes were:

Mary Elizabeth Webb, retired librarian from Tulsa won a free hotel room (Thursday and Friday nights) for the 1991 Annual Conference at the Hilton Inn West in Oklahoma City.

Barbara Stubblefield, Bridge Creek Elementary School, Blanchard, won free registration for the 1991 Annual Conference.

Mary Sander, Eastern Oklahoma District Library System, Muskogee, won a $15 gift certificate at the OLA Store at the 1991 Annual Conference.

Also, the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists (OASLMS) awarded free registration to OU's Festival of Books to Karen Lee Litteral, Central Elementary School, Oklahoma City.

Coming or Going

Central State University
CSU has added two new librarians.

Habib Tabatabai is Automated Reference Services/Reference Librarian, and Shirle Hardesty is Library Instruction/Reference Librarian. Both received their MLA degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma State University
Joann Bierman is now an assistant documents librarian. She came to OSU from the Tucson Public Library, where she served as adult reference librarian. Bierman has worked for the Metropolitan Library System (OK) and for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Her BA, in religion, is from Oklahoma City University and her MLA is from the University of Oklahoma.

Daniel E. Burgard and Maryann T. Seaver are assistant science librarians at OSU. Burgard has a BA in political science and an MLS, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Seaver graduated from the University of Iowa with degrees in English and Library Science.

April (Lynn) Stewart began as an assistant cataloger in Sept. Her BA in English is from Dartmouth, and her MLS is from the University of North Carolina.

Kevin Harwell, patents librarian, is LEAVING for new horizons at the Pennsylvania State University Library.

Oklahoma State University-OKC
Vicki J. Buettner became head librarian on Oct. 1. She came from Southwestern OSU, at Weatherford, where she was head of circulation and the Sayre campus library consultant.

Bartlesville Public
Denise Peterson has left to become the assistant director of public service at the Wake County Library System in Raleigh, NC.

ODL-Southern Nazarene University
John Cochenour, ODL continuing education consultant, will be moving to Colorado. Wife, Donice, left her position at Southern Nazarene University, Media Resources, and is now Head of Serials at Colorado State University.
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