LIBRARY STATE QUESTION PASSES!

After three years of hard work, networking, and persistence, the library community realized its goals of increasing funding options for public libraries with the passage of State Question 666. Many people were involved in the statewide effort to get the State Question passed, and some of those are pictured below. OLA played a vital role in the passage of this question through the work of the Legislative Committee and by donations to the Statewide Citizens for Libraries Committee. The committee's campaign theme was "Libraries? Yes!" and the citizens of Oklahoma agreed. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to realize the dream of a better financial future for Oklahoma's public libraries.
OLLA President's Message

As the discussion and planning for networked access to electronic information resources continues to heat up both nationally and at the state level, there are further signs that policy makers, regulators, and telecommunications corporations do not necessarily share our profession's assumption of the centrality of libraries for the delivery of the promises of the Information Age. Does that matter? Yes, it does. Just as access to waterways and later rail lines defined the economic and social patterns of the Industrial Age, and just as highways still mean so much about what survives today and where services must be located in order to offer access to potential customers and clients, so too the developing National Information Infrastructure, and libraries access to it, will, as night follows day, define the boundaries within which information professionals will be allowed to compete for our users. So maybe the better question is: will our policy makers and regulators see the need to build an infrastructure that actually promotes universal access and declares that effective access in the complex Information Age means, to a great degree, the services of information agencies—libraries?

The answer, if we do not intervene more forcefully and more frequently in the process, is no, especially at the state level. Nationally, we took our latest setback when the U. S. Postal Service announced its “Citizen Kiosk” Pilot Program in October, a service to provide basic information about postal and governmental services, applications for local, state and federal services, etc. ALA President Curley, with the support of the ALA Executive Board, was quick to point out that public libraries already collect, organize and distribute information at more than 18,000 cities, have more outlets than McDonalds, and have staff who are professionally trained, to assist the public with their information needs. Yet, the U.S. Postal Service was quick to respond that they "expect to consider libraries as sites in early tests of their citizen kiosk program for delivery of government services and information." But that isn't the point: the point is, even the Administration's Information Infrastructure Taskforce didn't seem to see the requirement to make government information available to the public as anything more than essentially a mass distribution problem.

At the state level, we still watch with frustration that state's slow response to its citizen's information futures—their ability to compete in an Information Economy. OneNet is a 16 month old bandwagon that has yet to start rolling; and private Internet service providers are just beginning to develop in the state, and then in just the two largest metropolitan wide dialing areas: Oklahoma City and Tulsa. On the positive side, though, it seems that the state’s library leadership are focused on the problem and fully cognizant that failure to affect policy and regulation now will assuredly cost them a most costly future for Oklahoma libraries. For the question is not if your library's connectivity to a National Information Infrastructure will happen; the question is when, and how much it will cost you.

---Bob Swisher

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OLLA Schedule/Holidays

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NCLIS Hearings Held at MPLA

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) conducted a public hearing on the Federal Role for Libraries: Planning for the Reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) during the Nevada Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Conference held at Incline Village, Nevada, on October 26. I attended this hearing, and although I had planned to only listen, I spoke on behalf of Oklahoma’s libraries, since there were no other Oklahomans in the crowd.

The Commissioners were interested in hearing from “front line” librarians, who had worked with LSCA and who had some opinion of what local needs were. Other speakers during the hearings included the librarian for Oakland (CA) Public Library, representatives from the state libraries of Arizona and South Dakota, and others.

Each panelist presented the ways in which states had used LSCA monies, particularly to meet inter-library loan programs. For example, among other thoughts, I shared Oklahoma’s OLTN project with them, indicating that this was a program which should not be allowed to simply fade away.

The Act as reinvented contains two titles, Title A: Access/Technology and Title B: Access/Special Services. The purpose of Title A: Access/Technology, is to improve library services so that all people have convenient and appropriate access to information delivered by libraries through new and emerging technologies, whether it originates locally, from the state, nationally, or globally. The purpose of Title B: Access/Special Services is to improve library and information services targeted to those of all ages and cultures who have difficulty getting to a library, who need special materials or services, or who would benefit from outreach services for equity of access to library services and information technologies, including children (from birth through age 17) living below the federal poverty level.

Each Part carries with it the usual maintenance of effort and/or matching requirements; however, these are simplified. Compliance with federal accountability requirements would also be enforced. Each state library, through a collaborative process, sets performance measures for their own state, based on the performance goals in the statute.

Title A includes projects emphasizing linkages between libraries, library connections to the National Information Infrastructure, library networking and resource sharing across jurisdictions, preservation, access to library and information services regardless of geography or financial ability, acquisition of cost-sharing program for computer systems and telecommunications, facilitation and equalization of information delivery to the public, development of local, regional, and statewide databases, and digitization of library holdings. Authorized level of funding would be $150 million in the first year, such sums as necessary for the four succeeding years.

The Commission passed a resolution that states that it agrees in principle with the proposals in the LSCA reauthorization consensus document, and asks the President and Congress to consider these proposals in shaping the reauthorization of LSCA.

I had an opportunity to visit informally with many of the commissioners following the hearing and throughout the rest of the Conference, and found them to be genuinely interested in getting ideas and impressions from those of us in the field. If any of you have concerns or comments to forward, please let me know and I will get you addresses, etc.

—Jan Sanders

Libraries: The Peak Experience
Tahoe—Oct. 26-29, 1994

Mountain Plains Library Association’s joint conference with Nevada was held in Incline Village at Lake Tahoe. The beautiful setting was matched by enthusiastic participants, excellent programming and beautiful weather.

At this conference there was a gathering of some of the most appealing, versatile librarians, authors and historians and as the conference chair exhorted us to do, I enjoyed it “like a breath of fresh mountain air.”

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) met in conjunction with the NLAMPLA. The Commission conducted a hearing on the reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and several attendees were able to testify. Chairperson, Jean Hurley Simon addressed the conference at the opening session.

There were programs to meet everyone’s interests and education needs, such as Cd’s, ILL, legal reference, disaster preparedness, Internet, communication technology, literature, training the trainers, intellectual freedom (Joy of Censorship), technical series, library planning, multimedia.

The featured key note speaker was Leo Buscaglia (“Dr. Hugs”). He told how when he moved from the University of Southern California to Incline Village he was concerned about whether a small library could meet his needs. He expressed his delight in finding the staff and service was wonderful and that he was able to get any information he needed promptly. And in appreciation of “his” librarian he was delighted to speak at the conference.

Social highlights included a dinner with Mark Twain, a BBQ dinner at the Ponderosa Ranch, Chautauquas; and Stories of the Supernatural. They seemed to have a knack for entertaining and broadening your knowledge too.

Will Manley and Richard Lee gave an interesting presentation on “Humor in the Workplace.”

The next MPLA will be in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, October 4-7, 1995. “Libraries: Blueprint for the Future” is the theme for the Tri-Conference sponsored by North Dakota, South Dakota and MPLA. You can expect it will also be excellent and should start planning now to attend (I am!).

—Patsy D. Stafford
OLA/MPLA Representative
The Lighter Side of MPLA

Not too long ago, I once again took out my worn, weary luggage, put out food for the cats, and set off for yet another library conference. Although I was mildly excited about this one since it was being held in beautiful Lake Tahoe, Nevada, I held little hope for the meetings themselves or for their relative worth. Boy, was I wrong!

Keynote speaker was Leo Buscaglia; a man whose name no one can pronounce, but whom everybody loves to hug. He was a trip. He talked all about his 13-member Italian family and how he was raised to know that refusing to rise and hug an adult who entered the room was tantamount to treason. His mother was often wont to “slap-pa your face” any child who refused to give proper greetings. We all started the conference in a great mood and would never ride an elevator with exactly the same attitude again (ask someone who was there).

Next was Jean Simon, wife of Senator Simon of Illinois and member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences. She talked long and hard about libraries and how they MUST be integral in the development of the Information Superhighway; although that has not happened yet, she hastened to add. “Libraries,” she said, “supply the context for civilization . . . . The future belongs to those who filter and guide.” I sort of like that way of looking at things: If I can guide folks through the context of civilization, that’s a pretty important job. Color me impressed.

While wandering through the lobby to get to the exhibits, who should I see but Ben Johnson, famous Oklahoma Son and movie/television star! He, along with Leonard Nimoy, Jack Elam, and others, was in town to film up-coming episodes of the new “B Ga nza” series at the near-by Ponderosa Ranch. Ben invited me and some others out to watch him film for the day, but, of course, we were totally responsible to our duty and refused. I mean, we were out here to attend meetings, share ideas, network, weren’t we? Of course.

Speaking of “networking,” I went to a session led by a young man who had first become interested in the “information highway” as an out-of-work carpenter in Cody, Wyoming. He wanted to see if there was any way he could get job or interview tips online. Many hours and much creation later, he looked up from his screen to discover that he had mutated (perhaps the wrong word) into a computer/telecommunications guru, supplying many other communities with low-cost options for getting their populations onto the ramp. It was fun to see how it can be done and what economic impact such a local-area-network just might have.

I suppose I should tell you that the rumors are true: there is gambling in Nevada. I tried really hard not to succumb to the temptation, but I must admit that I did “drown a few quarters.” I only let myself lose up to my own approved limit, however, so it was OK. Others in my group did about the same: some better, some worse. The most fun was simply watching the regular casino cast. We saw an entire formally-attired wedding party come through, lots of cowboys, lots of gold lame, lots of really fast card-shufflers, and lots of faces that seemed to say, “If only . . . .”

But back to the Conference . . . The Intellectual Freedom Committee sponsored a presentation by Joe Raiola, associate editor and satirist of MA D Magazine. What a hoot! He talked about censorship issues (no pun intended) that they have had to face and how their reactions have been perceived. Having both grown up on MAD and always had it around the house when my own were growing up, I was surprised that negative comments were so strong. Oh well, it takes all kinds. His showing of historic covers alone was worth the price of admission.

This conference was also a great place to see and get to know people. With only about 700 in attendance, you were always running into someone you knew or had just met. That made conversations easy and relaxed. Sharing ideas just seemed to come naturally.

Speaking of sharing, about eight of us shared a ride late one night to visit the Tahoe Biltmore and take in a little dancing. As usual, the band was surprised to hear that we were a congregation of librarians, but they quickly warmed to the task. Members of our group (representing Montana, Utah, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota and North Dakota) chose most of the 400 songs listed on the band’s request sheet, and we literally danced the night away. What a great way to burn calories!

By the way, did you know that there is a place off the coast of Lake Tahoe where you could literally drop the Empire State Building with the Washington Monument setting on top of it and still have 20 feet of water over the top. Now, that’s deep!

There was much too much to see and do; many too many people to see, talk to and hug; and miles too much information to absorb. If you didn’t go, you should kick yourself—HARD! At the very least, to help make it up, you should start planning to attend the next MPLA. True, it will not be held in such a breath-taking site, but it will be just as much fun. I have already been assured that there will be eating, laughing, talking, and lots of rock and roll. Besides, you’ll need the practice for when Oklahoma is the host. So, put it on your calendar for October, 1995. See you there!

—Jan Sanders

OU SLIS Alums Seek Nominations

The Honors and Awards Committee of the Alumni Association of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies is soliciting nominations for its Award of Merit. Any person who has received a Master’s degree in Library Science from OU may be eligible for this award if:

1. The person has generated an active interest in the School and/or,
2. The person has made an effective and innovative contribution to the library profession and/or,
3. The person has contributed to the professional literature.

Please contact Annette Duffy, Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, 1141 N. Lincoln, Okla. City, OK 73104, (405-521-6436 (w), 405-341-7430 (h), Fax 521-6442, for a nomination form. Nominations are due by February 1.
News From the Intellectual Freedom Committee

The Intellectual Freedom Committee held its first meeting on September 29. On this year’s Committee are: Theresa Dickson (Chair), Kay Bauman, Carma Cruce, Holly LaBossier, Julie Ligon, Anne Million, Christine Mueller, and Erma Stewart. The role of the Intellectual Freedom Committee is to provide information on intellectual freedom issues, monitor censorship attempts, and assist librarians in dealing with challenges to intellectual freedom. The Committee plans to put regular news items in the Oklahoma Librarian and in bulk mailings—so be sure to look for them. An Intellectual Freedom Manual was published by OLA a few years ago. If your library does not have one, please contact Kay Boies.

OLA Annual Conference. IFC plans for the OLA annual conference, April 27-28, include a program on censorship featuring as speaker Dennis Day. A panel discussion/visual presentation on Banned Books Week is also in the works.

Challenged Materials Clearinghouse. The Committee with OLA approval is setting up a Challenged Materials Clearinghouse and invites librarians statewide to send information on any library materials that are being or have been challenged (feel free to report any library services which have raised similar controversy). Send reports and information directly to OLA headquarters, c/o the Executive Director Kay Boies, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013. ALL REPORTS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL! Help and specific information is available from IFC and OLA for any librarians targeted by intellectual freedom challenges.

Banned Books Week. IFC would like to encourage activities and exhibits during Banned Books Week, which is scheduled nationally in September of each year. Therefore, the Committee welcomes any reports on Banned Books Week activities which librarians conducted this past year. Pictures and news clippings are especially welcome. ALA annually makes available, at a moderate price, packets of information, including posters and clip art, for Banned Books Week, which has a new theme each year. Ideas will be shared at the OLA conference.

If you have stories, comments, interesting tidbits, or questions, please contact Theresa Dickson, IFC Chair: Pioneer Library System, 225 North Webster, Norman, OK 73069. 405-321-1481. Thanks!

OLA Quilt Postponed

The OLA quilt will have to be postponed until next year due to a lack of volunteers. The July/August issue of the Oklahoma Librarian had requested volunteers to contact Donna Skvarla if they wished to participate. Since no one volunteered, the quilt will be postponed until next year when more people may be able to contribute.

Charles Hildreth Appointed to Faculty

The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies is pleased to announce the appointment of Charles R. Hildreth as assistant professor. He comes to the University of Oklahoma from positions as visiting lecturer and visiting assistant professor at the University of Washington, the University of Illinois and Kent State University. He teaches courses in information systems and networks, information retrieval, reference services and research methods.

Dr. Hildreth holds a master's degree in philosophy and library science and earned his Ph.D. in Information Science from City University in London. He began his career in library and information services at the Chicago Public Library in public information and cultural programs and served in the Office of Technical Services and the Commissioner's Office as Chief Methods Analyst. He later worked at OCLC as a systems analyst, program manager and senior research scientist. As the owner and chief consulting scientist for READ Limited (Research, Education, Analysis and Design), Dr. Hildreth provided consulting services for library operations and information systems in the United States and in Europe.

Dr. Hildreth conducts research on information retrieval and the design, use, and has published several books and articles on this topic. Dr. Hildreth is currently drafting a report on features and functionality of the next generation of online library retrieval systems.
England, July 1994

"A thing long expected takes the form of the unexpected when at last it comes." Mark Twain said that. I'm sure he wasn't referring to my recent trip to England, but the words resound with familiarity.

I'm a librarian. What can I say? Before the trip my desk at home was piled high with books, brochures, maps, and tourist packets as I researched England. The trip itself was, of course, totally different from any of my imaginings.

So what did I find on my travels?

My purpose in going was to visit British libraries which had installed the ORACLE Libraries automated system, and I did that, travelling from Colchester to Wales to Scotland and back again.

During my three weeks I visited East Anglia, the Midlands, the Peak District, the Highlands. I straddled the Prime Meridian at Greenwich. I even took a cruise on Loch Ness (not a monster to be found) and had lunch with the Mayor and Mayoress of Rhondda Valley, Wales who had only the day before returned from a garden party in London with the "Royals".

On a tragic note, I visited the Second Air Division Memorial Room in the Central Library in Norwich, a memorial to the American airmen who died in Britain during World War II. The library and the Memorial Room were destroyed by fire on August 1, after my visit there on July 15.

Snapshots of the trip live in my mind. There was Mary Taylor at the train station in Stoke-on-Trent, on her way to Birmingham with her husband to buy a dress for a wedding. Because of living on a fixed income, ordinarily she just repaired and remodeled her clothing, but this was a special occasion. They didn't ride on my train, however, because by waiting an hour, the ticket would cost five pounds instead of ten.

At a fair in Cambridge, I watched with horrified fascination my first bungee jumping exhibition. One big strong man rode the cage on the crane to the top three times and was never able to get his courage up to actually jump. A tiny quadraplegic girl was lifted out of her wheel chair, and fitted with the harness. She rode to the top of the crane and cast herself out into empty space with a glorious disregard of fear, a very impressive refusal to accept the restrictions of her situation.

I found that the world is indeed a very small place. The British librarians live with many of the same problems that we face in this country.

Meline Nielson from Selly Oak Colleges Library has to cope with automation with very little support, either financial or technical. Her automated library system is installed on a LAN of PCs. Her library is the result of cooperation between three small colleges in Birmingham. Rather than three libraries, the colleges support the one library and it, in turn, provides library services for the three institutions.

The library staff at Keele University had just taken a body blow with the reorganization of the campus to combine the library and the computer services department into one unit. None of the librarians were sure yet just what the future would hold or what the reorganization would mean to the library over the long term.

This year is the last year there will be a Mayor and a Mayoress of Rhondda Valley, Wales. The British government has mandated that local governments be collapsed and combined into fewer units. Over the next couple of years, three government units in Rhondda Valley will have to combine into one unit. This will affect Sue Scott, the librarian at Rhondda Valley. She may become the librarian over the three units. She may be out of a job.

The purpose of my trip, as I mentioned earlier, was to see ORACLE Libraries in its fully installed state. Our installation experience has been a long and somewhat difficult process for a variety of reasons. ORACLE Libraries is a British library system built on a relational database. While the relational database has real potential for future expandability and for future interaction with new technology, there are still some problems with it in terms of the relevance of search results. The setting of parameters and the fine tuning of the system have to be done very carefully to get the maximum accuracy. There are subtle differences between MARC US records and MARC UK records. These differences have had to be dealt with through some modifications of the original ORACL Libraries software. There were problems with the format of AMIGOS tapes in relation to the ORACLE software. A strategy had to be devised to allow the AMIGOS tapes to be set up in a manner that the software could handle. In view of all of these difficulties, I felt it was important to see what we would have when the system was installed completely and correctly and with all problems solved.

The system was developed by Fretwell-Downing Corporation of Sheffield as an inventory control program and was expanded into a library system. One of the major features of the system is its potential for customization. It can be designed to work in whatever manner the specific site needs. The Cambridgeshire Central School District in Cambridge uses ORACLE Libraries as an inventory control system to track the collections of books which they place in the various schools in their district. British Airways uses it as an inventory control system and a document delivery system, tracking their publicity brochures and pamphlets, and sending the necessary publication to whatever branch office might need it. Rhondda Valley is using it for cataloging its "stock". The OPAC is unveiled at the branch libraries only after the collection is processed into the system. Colchester Institute and Keele University use it in much the same way we will use it at Oklahoma City University.

The differences between the British and the American way of dealing with library processes by the system was not solved by my trip, but I was pleased and interested to see the potential of the system. During my visit to Fretwell-Downing the staff also showed us some of the products currently in development which will enhance the system in the future.

My trip taught me a lot about travelling. Travel light. Everything you carry with you will have to be carried with you by you. There were very few luggage carts or porters. There were a lot of stairs. All magazine articles which give advice on the subject say, "Pack and then leave half of what you've..."
selected behind." I say leave more than that. I took far too much with me, ended up mailing back things that I was not using.

Bed and Breakfast establishments are the only way to go for a woman travelling alone in England. I can heartily recommend the Elizabeth Hotel in London and the Parkside Guest House in Cambridge. The Oakley Hotel in London, on the other hand, has too many stairs, no elevator or "lift" and is too far from a "tube".

The BritRail pass gives a wonderful freedom. I was able to hop on a train and go wherever I wanted. The rail lines in Great Britain have been privatized, however, so this may cause changes in the availability of the pass in the future. Things are not sorted out about that yet. While I was there, they worked on the train tracks every Sunday and every Wednesday there was a train strike. The last week I was there, they got serious about making their point. The strike started at noon on Tuesday and ended at noon on Thursday.

England lives in my mind now as a series of images—castles matter-of-factly co-existing with twentieth century nuclear power plants, the rich architecture of London, the iron work on the park benches and lamp posts along the Thames, the pottery chimneys of the row houses in Chelsey, the hay fields to rival Kansas, champagne in a delicate stemmed glass with caviar, a true scone with clotted cream served at an English high tea out over the blue Atlantic as I flew home.

"Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind." Seneca said that back in 60 A.D. I have to agree.

—Danelle Hall

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Sue Scott and Roy Harris of the Library Headquarters, Treorchy, Rhondda, Wales.
New Multi-Type Library Network

This is a tremendously exciting time for SWAN, the newest multi-type library network in Oklahoma. After two years of planning the Southwest Area Network of Oklahoma has been officially incorporated and has received a $15,000 LSCA grant through ODL.

Special thanks for assistance in starting this network are given to ODL, Metronet and TALC. The two established networks have led the way in developing cooperative projects, and both have been very generous in relating how they organized and how they became so successful.

Background of SWAN

The idea for southwest library network started with Eisenhower High School Librarian Martha Humbel and Marion Donaldson, Lawton Public Library Director. After gaining the support of their agencies, the two librarians were successful in obtaining an LSCA planning grant. An informational meeting was attended by librarians from public schools, public libraries, museums, a university, a hospital, and a military base.

Librarians at this first meeting discussed their needs and listed the following as most important: communication, a directory of libraries, an interlibrary loan delivery system, continuing education, collection development, the linking of libraries, and cooperative purchasing. The first four were selected as top priorities.

In successive meetings, network librarians worked on by-laws and goals and objectives. The main goal is to provide accessible and adequate library and information services for all communities in the area as effectively and efficiently as possible. By-laws outlined an up to seven-member board of directors with a chair, chair-elect and secretary-treasurer. At all times there will be at least one representative on the board of directors from each type of library (academic, public, school, and special) with up to three at-large members.

During the planning period, the network invited Rose Ann Perez, Director of the Herrington Library Cooperative, in Amarillo, TX, to present a workshop. Perez outlined valuable information on how the Texas Panhandle libraries operate a consortium and the many advantages it offers to members.

In April 1994 SWAN was incorporated and became eligible for and obtained LSCA network grant funds in the amount of $15,000. This grant money will make it possible to carry out many of the objectives of the network and through cooperation will bring better library service to all southwest Oklahoma residents.

Present

Chair: Marion Donaldson, Lawton Public Library
Chair-Elect: Victoria Swinney, Cameron University Library
Sec-Treasurer: Patricia Treadwell, Lawton Public Schools Board of Directors Member: Carolyn Pate, Fort Sill Nye Lib.

Invitations are now being sent to all southwestern Oklahoma libraries inviting them to join the new library network. Since there is no membership fee at this time, it is hoped that a large number of libraries will join. Associate members (individuals) are also welcome.

A survey will be taken to determine what equipment libraries have and also what special reference items such as Pro-Quest, telephone directories on CD Rom, etc., are available. These will be listed in the directory of libraries which will be sent to all members. A newsletter will be published to help keep the directory up to date and to keep members informed of new projects.

Currently under study is the question of a southwestern library computer bulletin board or the possibility of e-mail and internet connections for all members. A workshop will be held in November with a guest speaker outlining the advantages and disadvantages of both and also the equipment and software needed. Also under consideration is an interlibrary loan courier system. Lawton Public Schools and Great Plains Area Vocational Technical School are good possibilities to assist with this need to transport materials among libraries.

Future

There are so many possibilities for library cooperation that it is difficult not to attempt everything at once. However, the SWAN Board believes a good communication system is essential and will develop that first. In addition to projects already listed the network will also seek to develop the quality of personnel in area libraries. Workshops will assist library personnel in certification as well as offering them information and training in the latest technologies. SWAN will also serve as a link to library networking in the state and outside the state.

Please Join Us

SWAN invites libraries and individuals interested in networking to join us in planning some very exciting cooperative projects. With today's limited funding, we can all benefit from sharing our resources and working together.

For further information, please call or write to:
Marion F. Donaldson, Chair
Southwest Area Network
Lawton Public Library
110 SW Fourth Street
Lawton, OK 73501
Phone: 405-581-3450 FAX: 405-248-0243
GODORT MEETING

On Nov. 3, the Documents Department at Oklahoma State University sponsored a workshop-training session in the library's new computer facilities. The session featured the Congressional Information Service, Inc. (CIS). Jim Drummond, Oklahoma's representative, and Jeff Strandberg from the Washington, D.C. area, gave an overview to CIS, a leading publisher of commercially produced catalogs and indexes for locating government publications. They followed this with hands-on training and search tips for the company's CD-ROM products: the Congressional Masterfile, both historical and recent, the Statistical Masterfile which includes the American Statistics Index (federal), the Statistical Reference Index (state and private), and the Index to International Statistics, the U.S. Government Periodicals Index, and the Environment Abstract, their newest product.

After a break at noon, depository librarians returned to the training room for a Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) meeting. After an introduction to Internet access capabilities at OSU, the group then explored some Internet sites offering electronic access to government information.

John Phillips, head of Documents at OSU, followed with a report of the Depository meeting he attended in Oregon in late October. The meeting closed with its regular business. In the future, GODORT plans to continue to have similar training sessions during its regular meetings.

Please contact OSU Documents for further information.
—Suzanne L. Holcombe
Assistant Documents Librarian, OSU

Censorship Or Political Correctness

Recently a protest note was deposited into the book drop of an Oklahoma library. The note is unsigned, but purports to come from an organization called Equal Opportunities in Education and protests the example appearing on the help screens of the library online catalog. It reads:

"It is an intolerable bias in favor of the THEORY of evolution that has led to the sample in the (online catalog) guide. By using Charles Darwin as a sample topic, (the library) has apparently endorsed the RELIGION OF EVOLUTIONISM. This cannot be permitted. It is offensive to the sensibilities of those students who believe other, equally provable theories of the origins of life. By endorsing the RELIGION OF EVOLUTIONISM, (the library) puts itself in the awkward position of defending a particular set of beliefs, and opposing others. Such a stand would be disastrous if pressed into controversy.

There are many other topics which could be used in the (online catalog) guide, which would not INFRINGE on the ideals of other people. For example, a non-controversial topic may be: Thomas Edison.

Please remove the biased sample from the ... guide. If there is an offensive topic to any ethnic or religious group, it should be removed in good faith. Anything else is a hypocritical breach of politically correct etiquette.

Thank you."

This is the first instance we have encountered of an objection to the language on an online catalog. We know that there is more than one library using the Darwin example of how to search online. The Intellectual Freedom Committee would be interested in other examples or any attempt at censorship or to impose political correctness would make an interesting topic for discussion.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee would be interested in a discussion of this topic, which has not been as fully explored as other intellectual freedom issues.
—Anne Million
Intellectual Freedom Committee

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OKLAHOMA LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY NETWORK
Barbara Spriestersbach has been named Coordinator of the Oklahoma Library Technology Network (OLTN) by Sandy Garrett, Oklahoma Secretary of Education. Barbara describes herself as a "foster mother" for the project. She is already busy on reactivating committees and getting the project back on track. She is based in her home and can be reached at the following numbers:
405-722-5364 (voice)
405-722-1247 (fax)
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The ACRL/OK Fall Conference

Is multiculturalism in libraries an essential service or is it a philosophical stance which impedes service? This question was addressed by Althea Jenkins, Executive Director of the Association of College and Research Libraries, and Dinesh D'Souza, John M. Olin Fellow, American Enterprise Institute and author of ILLIBERAL EDUCATION: THE POLITICS OF RACE AND SEX ON CAMPUS at a conference held on October 28.

Receiving the comments of the two main speakers was a panel which included Dennis Arrow and Andrew Spiropoulos, both professors of law at Oklahoma City University, Lotsee Patterson and Rhonda Taylor, professors in the OU School of Library and Information Studies, and Ed Johnson, Dean of Library Services, Oklahoma State University, and Tom Leonhardt, head of technical services, Bizzell Library, University of Oklahoma.

A joint effort of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries and the College and University Division of the Oklahoma Library Association, the conference was held in the Tom Steed Center at Rose State College.

ALP-sponsored "The Many Realms of King Arthur" Exhibit Begins Library Tour


The exhibition, organized with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), explores the legend of King Arthur from its origins in the early Middle Ages to its appearance in 20th century novels, films and video games. It is based upon Arthurian materials in the collections of the Newberry Library and the New York Public Library.

"Stories about King Arthur and his court have been told for nearly 1,500 years in different countries, languages and centuries with a vigor and freshness few other tales can match," said Ruth Hamilton, exhibits officer at the Newberry Library and curator of the exhibit. ALA has also developed "The Many Realms of King Arthur," a Let's Talk About It reading and discussion theme about the Arthurian legends. Books in the series include "The Once and Future King" by T. H. White and "The Lyre of Orpheus" by Robertson Davies.

For more information, contact ALA Public Programs at 800-545-2433, ext. 5056, or 312-280-5056.
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