Enthusiasm Sets the Pace for Encyclo-Media XIV

Maybe it was the excellence of the speakers; maybe it was the spirit of the staff; maybe it was the quality of the exhibitors; or maybe it was the overall theme of collaboration in library media, technology, gifted education, and core curriculum that gave Encyclo-Media XIV its pizazz. Whatever the reason, September 8, in a swirl of 130 presentations, 200 booths, and over 2,700 participants, Encyclo-Media XIV blasted into reality and then in the blink of an eye passed on into history along with the thirteen other conferences that have gone before it. To those who had worked and planned it for many months, the conference seemed to take on a life of its own Wednesday afternoon as exhibitors arrived, and work crews began to set up their booths. For the State Department of Education Library Media staff, first-timers at conference “making” (except for Jeanie, a seasoned one-year veteran), it was amazing to watch carefully-constructed plans actually fall into place as those who were more experienced would have expected. Thursday morning when early arrivals made their ways to the Registration Booth, a few glitches in the process became obvious with too many large school districts in the same line and some pre-registrants’ packets missing—all mysteries to be unraveled later!

As the General Session began, however, everyone present was enthralled by the spirit and expertise of Russ Pieken as he challenged us to work together to prepare our “Kids” for life. His presentation seemed to set the pace, as one participant noted that the enthusiasm continued in sessions, exhibits, luncheons, and even receptions. Undoubtedly the adage that “spirit is contagious” was proven true by the reactions to the exuberance and expertise of many speakers.

Throughout the two days, quite a number of the presentations focused upon this theme of collaboration in various ways. The process of working collaboratively was addressed by Carol Fox in “Resource-Based Learning,” Shan Glandon in “Teaching for Multiple Intelligences,” Phyllis Heroy in “Integrating Information Processing Skills,” Russ Pieken in “From Isolation to Collaboration,” Phil Turner in “Helping Teachers Teach,” and Jeanette Harjo in “I Tingle When We Mingle” to mention a few. Other presenters then applied this process to actual curriculum areas such as science, math, and art; information skills and social studies; reading and writing folk tales; and storytelling, movement, and art. This same process was at work in the integration of technology into the curriculum as shown by presentations dealing with the Internet,Mes-oNet, ONENET, computer consortiums, multimedia, OLTN, and the Oklahoma Technology Medley.

As Friday came to a close, tired but still enthusiastic, the presenters and participants gradually filtered out of the hall and headed toward home. Determinedly, the State Department of Education staff, volunteers, and exhibitors collected, boxed up, and loaded onto trucks everything that could possibly be moved—equipment, files, books, and even the signs. All that was left to do then was......THINK TOWARD SEPTEMBER 14-15, 1995. ENCYCLO-MEDIA XV!

—JoAnne Hope

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A few days ago, Mildred Laughlin, retired OU Professor of Library and Information Studies, died. I bring her passing to your attention for reasons that are both professional and personal. At the professional level, Dr. Laughlin's death leaves a great void: she was a most powerful force for the advocacy of services to children and young adults in both school library media centers and in public libraries. She was as focused as a laser beam on the young audiences she served. Her full attention--no, her passion--and considerable energy was always given to ways of bringing children and young adults together with literature. A strong advocate of literacy, Mildred instilled in her graduate students a profound respect for the role and responsibility of those who serve the child and the young adult.

On a personal level, Mildred's death breaks a twenty year tie that started at the University of Iowa's library school in 1974. In my first full time library education position, fresh from the completion of my doctoral program, I was lucky enough to have Mildred down the hall. Among the many lessons I learned from Mildred, I noted that what takes place inside the classroom is but the smallest part of a graduate student's learning. I also learned that the status of a librarian is not related to the age of the librarian's patrons. And I learned that passion for one's content is not a bad thing, and that the ability to laugh at oneself is a strength, not a weakness.

Dr. Laughlin's professional legacy, of course, can be found at least partially, in her lengthy publication record. But in a larger sense that always meant much more to Mildred, the values and enthusiasm of her graduate students are the fuller measure of her legacy. For her graduate students (and workshop participants, and Festival attendees) are the ones who will continue to make the actual connections between literature and children that she professed so long and so well. Thank you Mildred.

--Bob Swisher
Another American Library Association Annual Conference has come and gone with little fanfare. Miami was hot and humid - and attendance was down somewhat, but the City of Miami went out of its way to keep convention-goers safe and happy. In spite of predictions, the association didn’t lose money and plans are now moving forward for the 1995 Midwinter Conference to be held in Philadelphia Feb. 3-9.

At a thought-provoking opening general session, Marion Wright Edelman and Deborah Prothrow-Stith rewarded attendees with comments on their research relating to the causes and results of violence, especially youth violence, in the United States. Both have written books on the topic and had much to say about the role libraries can play in negating one of this country’s growing problems.

A panel of young adult authors and teens themselves addressed library services for this age group at the President’s Program. Authors Patricia McKissack and Laurence Yep, along with moderators Walter Dean Myers and Mary Somerville responded to questions from the young people and the audience in a delightful afternoon focusing on President Hardy Franklin’s year-long theme of “Customer Service.”

At one of the more memorable meetings during the conference, attendees struggled to deal with lack of a quorum at Membership I. Council had voted at the Midwinter Conference to move the first membership meeting to Saturday, hoping to encourage better attendance and more membership participation. Included in this change was a move to require 1% of the membership be present to declare a quorum. A quorum was not attained at Membership I or Membership II, no action items were moved and an informal “chat” resulted. The Membership Committee during its “chat” withdrew its resolution calling for a dues increase. It will be addressed again during the upcoming Midwinter meeting.

ALA Publishing debuted its new name - ALA Editions - at the Miami Conference. The name change reflects the new image of ALA Publishing as it enters its second century and works to reflect the evolving needs of the library profession.

The Miami Conference provided an opportunity to meet the new ALA Executive Director, Elizabeth Martinez, who at that time was serving as city librarian for Los Angeles Public Library. A delightful reception was held for retiring director Peggy Sullivan and all those in attendance were reminded once again of how fortunate the association has been to have Peggy’s leadership during this time of transition. Council received the first phase report of the ALA Organizational Self Study Committee. It dealt largely with matters of procedure, policy and process. Some of the “Actions Recommended” were voted upon and the remaining part of the OSSC report and recommendations will be presented at the Midwinter Conference in 1995.

A resolution was also introduced that would have increased ALA conference registration fees to help fund low-cost or no-cost conference child care services for association members. It failed to pass.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee presented several action items including the rescinding of the Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights entitled Administrative Policies and Procedures Affecting Access to Library Material. This interpretation contained “outdated language.” After the IFC made several attempts to revise the document in the format of an interpretation, it became clear that this subject would best be treated in a document framed as guidelines which are now available from the Intellectual Freedom Office.

One of the few program enhancements funded this year was an Intellectual Freedom Committee Training Institute. Each state chapter will be asked to send one member to participate in a “training of the trainers” workshop to enable them to provide similar training within their respective states.

In other significant actions, the ALA Council passed resolutions presented by the Committee on Legislation addressing LSCA, Copyright Reform and Telecommunications Policy.

In addition to numerous informative and exciting sessions, and a huge exhibits trade show, ALA conference-goers at the 1994 Miami conference were afforded some free-time activities. The international melting pot afforded exceptional dining opportunities. Miami Beach provided the nation’s only Art Deco District with more than 400 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The beach and the sun gave many fair-skinned Oklahomans a chance to soak up some natural rays and return with enviable tans to meet the ongoing challenges of library service in our state.

—Bettie Estes-Rickner
ALA Chapter Councilor
In February 1950, barely a week after Senator Joseph McCarthy's famed Wheeling, West Virginia, speech, a Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Citizens' Committee, composed of segments of local conservative or super-patriotic groups, charged Ruth W. Brown, public librarian of thirty years' tenure, with keeping subversive materials in the library. Specifically attacked were The Nation and The New Republic, both liberal magazines, and Soviet Russia Today, which was explicitly propagandistic.

The attack on the library's holdings, however, actually masked an attack on Brown's integrationist activities. Since 1946 Brown had participated in a local interracial group which had affiliated itself with the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), which was just beginning to acquire a reputation for bringing about change peacefully in northern cities through nonviolent direct action. Not only had Brown begun to provide equal library service to African-Americans, but also early in 1950 she began to bring two young African-American professional women to church with her. Shortly before the attack on the library, she had gone with them to the lunch counter at Hull's drugstore in Bartlesville and asked to be served. This action was clearly deemed outside acceptable boundaries by many Bartlesville citizens.

Brown's library board supported her and attempted to resist the attack, but the committee allegedly with the support of the city's main economic powers, oil giants Phillips Petroleum and Cities' Service, succeeded in getting the City Commissioners to replace the entire library board. The Commissioners also summoned Brown to a closed meeting in which they questioned her concerning not only her professional behavior, but her beliefs about equal rights for African-Americans. Brown refused to answer questions concerning her private life unless submitted in writing; the mayor subsequently fired her for "insubordination."

The ousted board and friends of Brown and the library unsuccessfully challenged the legality of the action. The Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) quickly put together an Intellectual Freedom Committee to investigate the case and to give Brown what support it could; no Oklahoma public librarian, however, could be found to serve on the committee. The inability of the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee to take prompt and effective action provided an impetus to increase the committee's powers. The case was one of the most widely-publicized library censorship cases of the 1950s covered in newspapers and general interest periodicals across the United States and in library journals here and abroad.

Even before her attempt to regain her job was thwarted by an Oklahoma Supreme Court decision, Ruth Brown went in 1951 to be librarian at the Piney Woods Country Life School, an All-Black school in Piney Woods, Mississippi. She left there almost three years later and became librarian of the Sterling, Colorado, Public Library. She died in Collinsville, Oklahoma, in 1975.

The lives of many people in Bartlesville were changed by the Ruth Brown incident. At least one, possibly two Phillips Petroleum employees reputedly lost their jobs, and two were transferred precipitously because of this incident. The African-American principal, Roosevelt Gracey, was fired by the white school board. Many people boycotted the wedding of the daughter of Ruth Brown's supporters. But in 1954, school integration is reputed to have happened peacefully and without incident.

(Excerpted from a proposal written by Louise Robbins.)
1. For those of our members who were not acquainted with you while you were in Oklahoma, please tell us where you worked, your job responsibilities, and your roles in OLA.

My first job in Oklahoma was at Byng School. I worked at East Central University in Ada from 1985-1991 as a cataloger/government documents/special collections librarian who also worked 13 hours per week in reference. I was active in OLA while in Oklahoma and served on the OLA Legislative Committee (known as the Library Development Committee at the time), was chair of the Government Documents Roundtable assisted with a Legislative Committee workshop in Ada, and co-sponsored a Reference Roundtable/Government Documents workshop at Langston University.

2. What is your current position?

I am currently Assistant Professor & Director of the Teaching Laboratory/Library of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I assumed this position in August of 1991. I teach one course per semester and am director of the teaching lab/library of the School. There are 11 full-time faculty at the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies. There are approximately 230 students in the program, 19 of whom are full-time doctoral students. The Masters program is 42 hours and requires 2 years to complete. The SLIS library staff consists of one part-time MLS, 1 full-time library technical assistant, 2 doctoral project assistants, and 8-12 students. I also supervise a microcomputer lab.

3. I heard that your job was rated one of the top library jobs in the country. Have you heard this? If so, who did the ranking and how does it feel to have one of the top twenty jobs in America?

This was a ranking done by Library Journal. They did an informal survey by contacting various librarians and asking what they thought the top library jobs in the country were. One was being on the SLIS faculty. I happened to be the person the interviewer spoke to. My job is a job where you never get bored but you also never get to take a breath. What is the most fun is providing a nurturing environment where good library service can be modeled for future professionals, and in which they can be encouraged to become as resourceful, innovative, autonomous, and creative as possible. My job combines teaching responsibilities with being director of a library of 70,000 volumes. I teach the practicum course, Field Projects in Library and Information Agencies, and this past year I also assumed responsibility for the government documents course which I will teach in the spring of each year. The university has an enrollment of 40,000 students. It is a beautiful campus with more than 100 libraries and reading rooms scattered across a large campus.

4. Tell us about your research project in Oklahoma.

Ruth W. Brown was the library director in Bartlesville from late 1919 through mid-1950. She was fired ostensibly because she had subversive materials in the library. Actually the real reason was related to her interest in integration and equal rights for African-Americans. I did my doctoral work at Texas Woman’s University with my dissertation on the development of the Intellectual Freedom Committee positions of the American Library Association from 1939 to 1969. While doing that research I came across Ruth Brown’s story. The two big intellectual freedom issues in that period were censorship and equal rights so the Ruth Brown case brought together these two issues. Censorship got the big play in this case but no one wanted to deal with the racial issue, not the Oklahoma Library Association or the American Library Association.

I submitted a research proposal to the University of Wisconsin to research Ruth Brown’s story. The University of Wisconsin did fund my research on Ruth Brown by providing two months salary this summer and some travel funds. In addition my proposal was one of three proposals nominated by the University to the National Endowment for the Humanities for summer funding. NEH didn’t select my proposal, but I was very honored to be one of the candidates nominated by UMW.

5. Haven’t you done a paper on Ruth Brown which won an award?

The Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) gave me the Jane A. Hannigan Award for my research proposal. ALISE helps to fund proposed research. I presented my preliminary findings on Ruth Brown at their conference in February just prior to the ALA Midwinter meeting.

6. Tell me about the movie that was made about Ruth Brown.

The Ruth Brown case got a lot of attention at the time. A letter to the editor of Saturday Review of Literature about the case caught the attention of Daniel Taradash, a screenwriter and director, who wanted to do a movie about McCarthyism. "Storm Center" was based on Ruth Brown’s case and starred Bette Davis. Daniel Taradash won an Oscar for his screenplay of "From Here to Eternity" but he identified "Storm Center" as the movie he was most proud of having made. "Storm Center" was not widely shown and has never been shown in Bartlesville, but I have made arrangements to show it on August 9th at the Bartlesville Public Library.

7. Do you have plans to publish your research?

I have had preliminary discussions about publishing a short book about Ruth Brown putting her story in the perspective of...
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IN MEMORIUM
Mildred Knight Laughlin

Dr. Mildred Knight Laughlin, University of Oklahoma Professor Emerita, died September 19, 1994, at her home in Norman.

She was born March 23, 1922, at Glasco, KS, where she graduated from high school. She began her fifty years as an educator by teaching grades 1-8 in a rural school house in Glasco before attending college.

She attended Fort Hays State College where she received an undergraduate degree in English. She later received a master of education degree from Wichita State University and a master's degree in library science from the University of Oklahoma. She earned a doctorate in education at the University of Oklahoma in 1973.

Dr. Laughlin received many honors, including the Outstanding Graduate College Instruction and Service Certificate from the University of Oklahoma in 1984; the Oklahoma Library Association Distinguished Service Award in 1985; and the Oklahoma Library Association Special Merit Award in 1989. In June she was inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame.

The co-author of nine professional books, she was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma, Beta Phi Mu, the American Library Association, and the Oklahoma Library Association. She was the first elementary school librarian in the Norman Public Schools, holding the position at Kennedy Elementary School while she earned her doctorate.

She served on the library school faculties at the University of Southern Mississippi and at the University of Iowa before 1979 when she returned to the University of Oklahoma to oversee the school library media program at the School of Library and Information Studies. She brought with her the traditions of the "Festival of Books" from the Universities of Southern Mississippi and Iowa and established the festival at the University of Oklahoma in 1980.

On August 3, 1947, she married William Allen Laughlin. He preceded her death in May of 1987. She is survived by five grandchildren and two daughters, Barbara Krueger, Kensington, Maryland, and Debra Warren, Norman.

The family has suggested the OU Foundation for the Mildred Laughlin Scholarship, the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies, 401 West Brooks, Norman, 73019, as appropriate for memorial contributions.

Territory Tellers Seeks Other Groups

The Territory Tellers, Oklahoma's statewide storytelling association, would like to be in touch with other storytelling groups or guilds throughout the state.

If you are a member of a local storytelling group or can provide information about such a group in your community, please contact librarian and Territory Teller Valerie Kimble at home, at 700 Rosewood, Ardmore, OK 73401, or 405-226-3980.

Valerie hopes to compile a listing of Oklahoma groups, and to include such information as name, address, phone number of contact person, scope/purpose and activities of the group. Her list will be available to colleagues on request.

OASLMS Awards

This year's Polly Clarke Award for outstanding school library media specialist was presented to Caradith Craven of Edmond Public Schools. Bobbie Frisk of Putnam City Schools was also nominated for the award.

The Barbara Spriestersbach Award for Excellence in Teaching went to Paula Pitchlynn, Jeri Stewart, Karen Venamond, and Don Owen of Bartlesville. Other nominees included Lela Cobble of El Reno; Sandy Dassett of Bartlesville; and Heather McDowell of Enid.

Jeffrey L. Edwards of Edmond Public Schools received the Certificate of Merit for the Promotion of School Library Media Services by an Oklahoma School Administrator. Dr. Merrill Smith of Chickasha, Roy Snow of Anadarko, and Kathy Taber of Norman were also nominated.

Congratulations to these school library media specialists and other educators on being nominated by their peers.

Edmond Educators Attend AASL Workshop

A team of educators from Central Middle School in Edmond recently attended "Meeting in the Middle," sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians. The week-long hands-on workshop was held August 7-12 in Kansas City, Mo.

The Edmond team was one of fifteen selected from across the country. Team applicants were judged on the basis of their ability to articulate a vision of the school library media program as essential to teaching and learning within the school.

The focus of the institute provided library media specialists, principals, and teachers an opportunity to explore collaborative planning using science, math and geography activities. It was designed to help team members view the library media program as a catalyst for change.

Team members from Edmond included library media specialists Caradith Craven, principal Dr. Linda Everett, and teachers Nancy Ward, Phyllis Waits and Cathy Strother. "Meeting in the Middle" was a Higher Education Act Title IIB training institute and was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.
Interview with Louise Robbins (cont. from p. 61)

the country at that time.

8. How could we help?

I am looking for people who knew Ruth Brown or knew about the case in the library community at the time. I would like a perspective on how the incident was viewed in the library community. Roosevelt T. Gracey, principal of Douglas High School in Bartlesville, also lost his job as a result of interracial activities, and I am seeking information about him. I would also like to find Mary Ellen Street, Clara Cooke or their relatives. They were teachers at the separate school. In addition I would very much like to hear from libraries in Oklahoma that have registers of borrowers prior to 1950 that reveal the race of borrowers. I am also interested in periodical holdings of libraries of comparable size prior to 1950. I am trying to compare the situation in Bartlesville at the time to other libraries in Oklahoma at that time.

You can contact Louise at:
Professor Louise Robbins
University of Wisconsin-Madison
School of Library and Information Studies Library
600 N. Park Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
(608) 263-2963 or (608) 263-2105 voice
(608) 263-4849 fax

Public Relations Discussion Group Formed

The OLA Executive Board approved the formation of a Public Relations Discussion Group during its August meeting. According to Jennifer Paustenbaugh, convener of the group, "the formation of this discussion group will help fill a void within the Association. Those signing the formation petition share a common desire with staff in all types of libraries to find effective ways of publicizing and promoting their services to taxpayers and those who would most directly benefit from those services."

Oklahoma joins ten other state library associations that have roundtables, discussion groups, or committees devoted to public relations. Discussion groups may be formed by ten or more members of OLA interested in common concerns which fall within the purpose of OLA, but which are not the responsibility of an existing OLA division, roundtable, or committee. Currently, OLA has official discussion groups for genealogy, directors of small public libraries, and public relations.

Those interested in finding out more about the public relations discussion group or in serving as convener for a one-year term following the 1995 OLA annual conference should contact Jennifer Paustenbaugh, OSU Patent & Trademark Library, (405) 744-7086 or jpaust@okway.okstate.edu.

—Jennifer Paustenbaugh, OSU

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The Technical Services Roundtable will be presenting its annual Fall Workshop in Friday, November 4 at the Stillwater Public Library. This year’s topic will be “Beating Backlogs and Bottlenecks: Improving Workflow in Technical Services.” The workshop is for all librarians and staff needing practical solutions to current technical services workflow dilemmas in medium and large public and academic libraries. A flyer will be mailed out soon with registration information.

The Technical Services Roundtable is planning an exciting Spring Conference program for 1995! Pat Sayre McCoy, Cataloging Supervisor from the D’Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago will be speaking on technical services and the Internet. We are looking forward to meeting McCoy and sharing her ideas on this timely topic.

**So What’s a Nice Girl Like You Doing Editing the Oklahoma Librarian**

When it became known that I had agreed to edit the Oklahoma Librarian, some people’s comments on it surprised me. To tell the truth, I don’t know that I expected any response or any particular response but what I got surprised me. People said things like “Are you a sucker for punishment or what?” or “I can’t believe you agreed to do this.” I find these comments odd. I suppose on reflection I expected people to say things like “What a fun job!” or “I always wanted to do that” or something along those lines. I’ve done a lot of different things in OLA including being President. All of them have involved some work, some stress, but tons of fun, and have provided me with more friends and personal growth than I would have gotten sitting at home. I consider it an honor and a privilege to be asked to work for my professional association even though I may not always be able to say “yes” to the request. There’s work to be done after all. Why shouldn’t I be one of the people to help? Maybe, I thought, the people reacting felt that since I had served as President, I shouldn’t be expected to do anything else. But John Quincy Adams served as a congressman for almost 17 years after serving as President of the United States. Another factor in my decision to say “yes” is related to having been President of OLA. As OLA President you have to ask a lot of people to take jobs so I feel that I’m paying back all those people who said “yes” to me when I asked them for help several years ago. One of the things my professional association has let me do over the years is get the chance to do something new. New challenges invigorate and excite me. Many of us don’t change jobs all that often anymore but new jobs in our professional association let us learn new skills and refresh our enjoyment in our profession. Some of the things I’ve agreed to do have been more successful than others because they were a better fit between me and the job, but I don’t ever regret saying “yes.” They say it’s the sins of omission not commission that we regret. Anyway, the next time someone asks you to do something for your professional association you might think about how much fun it would be to say “yes.”

--Susan McVey

**Oklahoma Law Protects the Confidentiality of Library Users’ Records**

Thanks for reprinting the poster copy, *Oklahoma Law Protects the Confidentiality of Library Users’ Records*, in the May-June issue.

That airing may remind librarians and patrons alike that what they choose to read is their own business unless they want others to know or a court of law compels the lender to divulge the information.

I believe this assurance of privacy should be posted in every library across the state — even in those whose officials or staff refuse to comply with it or who are exempt from its provisions.

As for Dean Herring’s sermon, I have this:

1. The confidentiality-of-library-users’ -records law applies only to those libraries supported in whole or in part by public funds. I hope and I infer from Dean Herring’s mindset as expressed in his letter that Oklahoma Baptist University receives no public funding; therefore, he, his staff and students can tattle all they want to.

2. There are many laws with which I disagree, but I have no pipeline to the Lord so I simply obey them — or try to get them changed.

3. I feel compelled to pray for the students of OBU whose rights of privacy end at the library door.

—Duane H. Meyers

c/o Metro. Library System
131 Dean A. McGee Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

**OU Library Specialists to Help Tribal Librarians Prepare Children in Reservations for School**

Native American tribal librarians will receive assistance in preparing reservation children for school, thanks to a training grant awarded to two University of Oklahoma professors in the School of Library and Information Studies.

Lotsee Patterson, associate professor, and Rhonda Harris Taylor, assistant professor, are the recipients of a $33,158 grant from the U. S. Department of Education.

The two will conduct the “Tribal Librarians’ Summer Institute for School Readiness” May 14 through 20, 1995, at OU’s Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education, 1700 Asp Ave. Fifteen tribal librarians will be selected for the institute.

Institute co-directors Patterson and Taylor both are Native Americans, and most of the library specialists who will assist in the program have worked on American Indian reservations.

Most of the tribal librarians the two OU professors will assist are non-degreed paraprofessionals who have little access to library education. During the OU institute, they will receive help in planning preschool library readiness programs and services and in implementing outreach services and inter-agency cooperation.
Coalition Proposes Plan to FCC to Connect Schools and Libraries to NII

In a move that could have a dramatic impact on the speed with which the nation’s libraries and schools are connected to the National Information Infrastructure (NII), the American Library Association (ALA), together with four major education associations, presented the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with a plan that uses regulatory policy to benefit the public without raising prices.

The proposal was submitted to the FCC as part of a "price cap" proceeding to review how best to set the rates charged by local telephone companies for long distance companies to have access to their networks. Currently, a complex formula requires an annual rate adjustment that includes something known as the Consumer Productivity Dividend (CPD).

However, according to the Coalition filing, "the record is clear that this benefit has not materialized for most, if any, consumers. Residential and small business long distance rates, in fact, have been increasing over the past two years according to the FCC's own analysis. At best, the 'dividend' has disappeared down a regulatory black hole, leaving the vast majority of consumers without any noticeable benefit."

The Coalition urged the FCC to redirect the CPD into a program to pay for investments made by local telephone companies in educational and library infrastructure in their territories.

"The system would work as a significant incentive for (local telephone companies) to meet the urgent universal service needs of education and libraries to be effective users of the information superhighway in the future," according to the filing.

If this proposal is adopted, up to $300 million a year could be made available, every year, for connecting schools and libraries.

"This plan will help make sure that the public is the real beneficiary of this dividend," said ALA President Arthur Curley. "As libraries are wired and begin to offer new services, millions of people will be able to access new and emerging services through their local libraries."

Participating in the joint filing to the FCC with the ALA were the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Education Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National School Boards Association.

OLANOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

It's the time of year to start recruiting people for next year's OLA leadership team. If you're interested in serving or want to nominate someone, please contact the chairs listed below:

OLA - Sandy Ellison, Oklahoma Department of Libraries 405-521-2502 or 800-522-8116
OASLMS - Barbara Rather - Union Public Schools, 918-250-9541
CUD - Pattisue Thoman, Oklahoma Baptist University, 405-878-2259
LED - Rhonda Harris Taylor, OU SLIS, 405-325-7648
PLD - Kathleen Ryan, Seminole Public Library, 405-382-4221
Trustees - Annette Brown, Pioneer Library System

AdRT - John Augelli, Stillwater Public Library, 405-372-3633
ART - Susan Mcevy, Okla. Dept. of Libraries, 405-521-2502
CYPRT - Sue McAlister, Westmoore H.S., 405-691-8000
GODORT - David Kolpin, Langston University, 405-466-3292
NMRT - Charles Brooks, University of Tulsa, 918-631-3489
RRT - David Corbly, SWOSU, 405-774-7074
SRRT - Betty Smith, P.L. of Enid/Garfied Co., 405-234-6313
SSRT - Mary Kirk, Rose State College, 405-733-7403
TSRT - Julie Ligon, Western State College, 405-477-2000

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Federal and State of Oklahoma publications on reference sources and library and information services.

The role of libraries in the electronic information infrastructure that is now emerging is very unsettled. Will the library of the future consist of a room of computers that provides information directly to library patrons via their home or business computers? Will traditional, printed library resources still exist? Who will serve those who can't afford computer access? These three reports examine our future.


The use of Internet by libraries will offer the widest range of information sources to the public that is possible. This survey of Internet found that 20.9% of public libraries currently offer Internet to their users.


If the tradition of free and open access that libraries in the U.S. has maintained is not to be lost, librarians must insist upon equal access to the resources of the National Information Infrastructure. This examines the need to make these resources available in public libraries.
Daniel Tan assumed duties on July 1 as Assistant Science Librarian in OSU's Edmon Low Library. Tan received the B.S. degree in Engineering Science from the University of Florida in 1986 and was awarded the M.A. degree in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida in 1993.

Matthew R. Gullett began duties as Assistant Documents Librarian in the Edmon Low Library on July 1 of this year. He holds the B.S. degree in Economics and History from Illinois State University (1990) and was awarded the M.L.S. degree from Indiana University in May.

Steve Johnson began his new duties as Documents Librarian/Business Liaison at the University of South Dakota in late August. Persons who wish to contact him may do so as follows:

Steve Johnson
Documents Librarian/Business Liaison
I. D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
Tel. 605-677-5371

Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Patent & Economic Development Librarian at Oklahoma State University, Edmon Low Library, has been elected vice-president/president-elect of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association. The Association has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 6 other countries and serves as the professional organization for those disseminating patent and trademark information to the public.

Nan Sturdivant has retired from the Tulsa City-County Library after 35 years of service. Nan began as bookmobile librarian and served as Chief of Branches, Personnel Officer, and Children's Coordinating Librarian. According to the citation issued by the Tulsa City-County Library System she "earned the praise and respect of staff, patrons and colleagues across the country for her extensive knowledge, tireless efforts and unflagging enthusiasm for sharing her love of reading and literature with young people and their parents, teachers and caregivers." She retired August 31st. Kelly Jennings, formerly head of the children's department, is the new Coordinating Librarian for Children's Services.

Pat Weaver-Meyers, University of Oklahoma Libraries, is serving as Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate of the University of Oklahoma.

Susan McVey, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, will be acting Deputy Director as of November 1st. Denny Stephens, Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, is retiring on November 1st.

Kathy Logan is the new Children's Specialist at the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County. Kathy has a background in preschool and taught preschool for 8 years prior to assuming her position with the Enid library. New programs at the library include a preschool outreach program and the formation of a junior Friends group.

Marion Bryant, formerly librarian at the Muskogee public library, is leaving and moving back to Tennessee to be director of a county library system within 50 miles of her hometown.

Doug Dixon, formerly the children's librarian at the Elk City Public Library, has left to return to school.

Carol Albin, librarian at the Checotah and Eufaula libraries, has left Oklahoma to take a job in Iowa.

Tiffany Craig, Miss Oklahoma 1994, was a recent guest storyteller at the Norman Public Library, a branch of the Pioneer Library System. As part of her program, she talks with children about finding peaceful solutions to their problems. Craig represented Oklahoma in the Miss America pageant in September.

### OLA Welcomes New Members

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<tr>
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<th>Institution</th>
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<td>MLS-Edmond</td>
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<td>Sharon Brown</td>
<td>Broken Arrow P.S.</td>
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<td>David C. Buhler</td>
<td>student, OU</td>
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<td>Ebrahim Ejtehadi</td>
<td>MLS-Edmond</td>
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<td>Rita Goodman</td>
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<td>Terrence Heeney</td>
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<td>Mary M. Helt</td>
<td>Duncan P.S.</td>
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<td>Sharon Jackson</td>
<td>Woodward P.S.</td>
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<td>Rosemary M. Lambert</td>
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<td>Sharlett Riggle</td>
<td>student, OU</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Robinson</td>
<td>Edmond P.S.</td>
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<td>Lynn E. Rohrs</td>
<td>Stillwater P.S.</td>
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<td>Lesa G. Ross</td>
<td>Broken Arrow P.S.</td>
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<td>Denise Schuler</td>
<td>Owasso P.S.</td>
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<td>Mike Shehi</td>
<td>NESU</td>
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<td>Karen Stapp-Robbins</td>
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<td>Mary A. Tello</td>
<td>Shawnee P.L.</td>
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<td>Gerta Wisdom</td>
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