Library Managers and Local Support
by Carol S. Ihrig

Managers of public and university libraries have a group of underutilized supporters—their own employees. This ready resource can be made available with a few simple actions. These employees can be kept informed of pertinent library activities and those decisions which affect all levels.

This open communication proves necessary when interacting with groups inside or outside the workplace. These employee supporters can be promoters of their organization without realizing it.

A single misinformed individual can cause a lot of damage when making speculative comments. In these situations the informed employee can keep misinformation from spreading in social or professional atmospheres. Any negative or resentful comments can easily be refuted. The problem is that often employees in these exchanges are not privy to the daily responsibilities or their managers or their management team. Their managers could be succeeding at everything but if upgrades are not filtering down through the ranks their success is unrecognized. Details of successfully completed tasks do not get out. Information of motivational interest to all levels isn’t made available. This lack of communication promotes a sense of being outside looking in, for would-be supporters. Most motivated employees included in these communication channels eagerly spread any good news supplied.

An example might be library employees interacting on a university campus. Negative comments are sometimes made that reflect badly on the library and its employees. Informed employees can thwart these sad statements. Ultimately, an informed staff can change many people’s attitudes about the state of affairs on campus, as well as be excellent representatives off campus.

Anyone who’s ever worked or gone to school has had to deal with incorrect statements on sensitive issues. Listeners start to speculate. Often the issue is so sensitive that chunks of work time are lost while several employees dash around trying to find someone that will tell them if the statement is true—as most times it is not. The number of these incidents can be reduced by establishing an open communication policy for the organization. Then employees can better trust their chain of command to keep them informed, especially of

Dear Librarian...
by Danelle Hall

Are we librarians or information specialists or something else entirely? What is our role in this new world we are entering? What qualities and imperatives do we need to safeguard and protect? Perhaps before the winds of change blow us completely off course, we need to take our bearings for the future from the path of dedication and service charted by those who came before.

The career of Dorothea Dale, the first secretary of the Oklahoma Library Commission, can be one example. Below are excerpts from letters from her files written through the years from people out across the state who benefited from her dedication and her fierce commitment to service.

"Dear Librarian," writes a settler from Woodward, "I suppose you have forgotten me and my family, but I have not forgotten your kindness to us over many years. You sent us traveling librarians of 30 books at a time to our lonely little Prairie Home."

Anyone who grew up in rural Oklahoma between 1919 and 1950 may share my memories of waiting for the mail on a hot summer day. They too may remember the excitement at mail time to find that the package was there. Bulky. Almost too large to fit in the mailbox. Wrapped in heavy brown paper like the bags from the grocery store. Books from this friend we didn’t know poured out of old silver mailboxes all over Oklahoma like jewels from a treasure chest, breaking the loneliness and opening windows on other worlds.

Dorothea Bishop Dale accompanied her physician husband, Dr. J.R. Dale, to Hobart in western Oklahoma early in the century. They left Minnesota to help Dorothea recover from a lung ailment.

Dorothea served as the librarian at Hobart for two years without salary with the understanding that the library board would allow her to use the sum budgeted for her salary for her plans for the library’s expansion. She also served as the superintendent of the Hobart schools for one year.

"Dear Librarian... We had a long and fatal illness in our family this summer, and the books have enabled us to pass those long nights when we sat by the bedside and watched." Dorothea sat by the bedside and watched through a long and fatal illness also as her forty-eight year old husband died

cont. on p. 60
At the August Board meeting, the budget for next year was accepted. Next year’s budget, as approved, will be somewhat constricted due to the Association’s growth and the additional funds needed to support this growth. There are basically four ways for an association to raise funds: membership dues, conferences, donations, and workshops. The most prosperous organizations usually raise the revenue to sustain activities throughout the year by holding conferences. This is not the method currently used by OLA. In recent years, OLA has relied on membership dues and workshops as a source of funds. OLA is not currently facing financial difficulty, however, the membership needs to begin considering alternate methods to raise funds in order to meet the increasing needs of the organization. This is a healthy statement because it says that OLA is growing and therefore members need to begin planning for the future to insure that OLA continues to maintain financial stability.

The Program Committee meetings continue to make the conference look more exciting and beneficial. Each meeting produces new ideas and programs that should make this conference very memorable for OLA. I encourage each of you to continue providing ideas for programs and speakers to Program Committee members.

During the Leadership Retreat each division and roundtable was asked to provide a continuing education activity during the year for its members. I hope that each of you are working with others to plan workshops throughout the State. During Jan Sanders’ reign as OLA President, there were several excellent workshops and I hope we will build on that success this year!

In this month’s publication, I would like to mention another active OLA member whom I had the great pleasure to work with for several years prior to her retiring. Joanne Callard was one of those “quiet librarians” who never failed to congratulate others on their accomplishments while she went about doing so many marvelous things herself. She had a special way of getting everyone involved in projects she was working on like bringing MetroNet into existence and establishing an active Alumni Association for the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies. She is a remarkable librarian who never stopped amazing me with the energy she exuded and her desire to be the best.

—Marty Thompson
ALA Annual Conference 1996  
reported by Oklahoma Chapter Councilor, 1992-1996  
Bettie Estes-Rickner

ALA in NYC— a better conference than most experienced ALA conference-goers expected when a late move was made to the "Big Apple" from Orlando, FL. Attendance was only one-third of last year's meeting in Chicago. Many reported that exhibitors and other natives were friendlier than usual, the weather cooperated, outstanding exhibits helped spend library dollars—dining and entertainment were top-notch. Perhaps the only unexpected event was the resignation of ALA Executive Director, Elizabeth Martinez after the conference had ended.

In her executive director's report during Council I Martinez seemed to lay the groundwork for what was to come as she gave Council a firm tone-lashing following weeks of criticism on the Council listserv. The resignation, however, was a surprise even to ALA leadership. Incoming president Mary Somerville said that Martinez "had provided a strong vision for the future of the profession" and was a "perfect leader to move the association forward." At the New York City conference, accomplishments were again evident as the association, under her leadership, continued on toward the key objectives of Goal 2000. She will continue to fulfill contract agreements until August 15, 1997.

Other highlights included a celebration of ALA's role in the challenge to the Communications Decency Act. The case is on a fast track to the Supreme Court after the Justice Department announced it will appeal. Negotiations continue in the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 after libraries were designated, for the first time, as universal service providers. ALA "East" continues to expand and provide a strong voice for libraries in Washington. And— at the end of its first year—The Fund for America's Libraries reported ALA grant revenues totaling $13 million.

Once again, lack of a quorum at membership meetings turned them into "chats" and challenged Council and the executive board to make them more appealing to the general membership. However, attendants at the opening general session and the president's program were enthusiastic and appreciative of comments on the importance of libraries and electronic equity.

Actions of Council included the raising of ALA's Minority Scholarship Fund to $1,000,000. Yet to come is a check-off on the membership form. The promised "Questions and Answers" for the "Access to Electronic Information: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" are not yet complete but are expected in the near future. A resolution from the Membership Committee regarding scheduling of membership meetings at times and places that will permit the largest number of members to attend will be one of the first issues addressed by the new ALA Conference Committee.

A resolution to reaffirm the relationship of ALA and its divisions as expressed in the Operating Agreement was brought for approval, but did not pass.

Oklahoma librarians were privileged to hear then ALA President-elect Mary Somerville speak at our annual conference last spring and got a preliminary hint of what was to come during her term of office. In New York City she officially announced presidential themes focusing on youth issues and the training of emerging leaders. A leadership institute will take place as a preconference to the 1997 annual meeting in San Francisco. A "presidential paper" has been prepared by longtime youth advocate and ALA member Virginia Mathews. "Kids Can't Wait: Library Advocacy Now!" suggests activities to promote library services to children and promises good things to come for librarians and our patrons during the next year.

As I complete my four-year term as Oklahoma's representative on the ALA Council, I wish to say "thanks" for your support as I have served in an office that is at times regarded with chuckles and rolled eyballs. The four OLA executive boards with whom I have worked are serious advocates for librarianship and our national parent organization. I see more Oklahoma leaders developing on the national scene every year and encourage each state member to consider the benefits as well as the service you can provide through active participation.

Library advocates are urged to intensify their support for discounted telecommunications rates for libraries as part of rulemaking being conducted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal-State Joint Board.

The next few weeks are critical for library supporters to make their case for discounted library rates as part of the FCC's universal service proceedings. The Joint Board will finalize its recommendations in October and make recommendations to the full FCC before November 8. FCC should reach a final decision in January, 1997.

"This is an historic opportunity for libraries and other eligible institutions to participate in assuring that all Americans have access to electronic information at their libraries and schools," said Carol Henderson, executive director of the ALA's Washington Office.

Libraries were designated as universal service providers eligible for discounted telecommunications rates under the new Telecommunications Act of 1996. ALA and other educational institutions are seeking a special "equity rate" to provide significant discounts for libraries and schools for all telecommunications services available commercially. The potential savings is estimated in the millions of dollars.

A sample letter endorsing the "equity rate" and other background materials are available on ALA's Web site on Universal Service at http://www.ala.org/oitp/uniserv.htm/

In its filings with the FCC, ALA emphasized: There must be a broad definition of discounted service for libraries and schools which includes all commercially available telecommunications services, and discounts must apply to high bandwidth, interactive applications needed by libraries and schools. Discounts should be the lower of either the lowest price offered to any customers or price based on the "total service long run incremental cost." Libraries in rural, high cost and low income areas must get deeper discounts to assure affordability.
Intact Cuneiform Library Unearthed

This was a week of serendipitous findings -- what follows is excerpted from Barbara Nimri Azaz's article "Scientists Outside History" in the September 1996 issue of Natural History magazine.

In his years of research, al-Jadir had been pursuing leads that the great city of Akkad might be found among the ruins his team was excavating at Sippar [on the Euphrates River in Central Iraq]. One of their most exciting finds was a library, a small, low room with cuneiform tablets arranged on shelves. Located adjacent to the temple, this was the first such structure to be excavated intact, and it confirmed that this site had been a major academic center. Al-Jadir speculated that similar libraries had existed in other excavated cities, but that earlier archeologists, unearthing the thousands of cuneiform tablets they contained, inadvertently destroyed the library structures.

What especially excited al-Jadir was a set of tablets that had remained undisturbed in one corner of the library he uncovered. The cuneiform inscriptions on them identified the various subjects of the tablets on the adjacent shelves -- a type of index.

"This proved beyond a doubt the sophistication of the earliest chroniclers of our civilization," he told me. This evidence of the region's intellectual vigor is an ancient but fragile legacy. Today, al-Jadir's field office at Sippar is deserted and the fence around the ruins is broken, leaving them vulnerable to vandalism. Once again the windswept site lies abandoned.

Did You Celebrate Banned Books Week?

The OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee requests that you send us photos, tapes, advertisements or any other materials you used to celebrate Banned Books Week. We will use these materials for displays and as guides for people who need ideas about what their libraries can do. To encourage participation, the IFC will be sending out lovely awards to the creative and courageous.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee encourages all libraries to share information about censorship and challenges to materials and ideas.

-Chair Holly LaBossiere

Challenges to Materials in Oklahoma Libraries

Has your library received objections to materials? The Intellectual Freedom Committee wants to help. Two years ago, this committee created the Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Challenged Materials. Basically, we maintain a list of all items which are the object of censorship attempts in Oklahoma. In addition to title, author and library information, we also track how the situations were resolved.

It's time to stop being embarrassed by challenges or being afraid of them. The Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Challenged Materials is a great tool for sharing our common experience to:

- eliminate the "crisis" mentality when people hate what's on your shelf.
- establish a support network for those under siege.
- eliminate secrecy and embarrassment about customer objections.
- develop a "business as usual" attitude about challenges to library materials.

Last year, the IFC received 22 reports of challenges in Oklahoma libraries. Someone even reported objections to a Banned Books Week display! We suspect that many incidents are going unreported.

Copies of the form used to report challenges to materials are available from a number of sources. Kay Boles and I have extra copies and they are sent out in the OLA bulk mailings. The form is easy to use and is confidential. Call any member on the IFC and we will send you a copy of the form.

Sometimes a form isn't enough. We invite all Oklahoma librarians to call upon us to provide support and advice. We will help you fulfill the promise of the Library Bill of Rights and the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement.

-Chair Holly LaBossiere

Other IFC members for 1996-1997 are Dan Chaney, Judith Overmier, Pauline Rodriguez, Elizabeth Romero, Edith Schneeberger and Fay Simms.
"Dear Librarian..." (cont. from p. 53)

slowly in a sanitorium in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Ads in the two Hobart papers gave notice of services offered by "Dr. J.R. Dale, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist" until July of 1918. Then a tiny notice in the personal news section in July tells of Mrs. Dale journeying to Guthrie to visit her ailing husband. Dr. Dale died in September, 1918.

The Oklahoma Library Commission became reality in 1919 after 11 years of intense political maneuvering by librarians, teachers, and members of the Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs. While the U.S. struggled with the epidemic of influenza, the bill passed the Oklahoma legislature in March of 1919, and in September the Hobart Weekly Democrat Chief reported "Library Commission Selected Mrs. Dale."

"Dear Librarian... Please send to my address a book which deals with all kinds of love letters as I am deeply in love with a very charming girl, and as a matter of fact I am at a loss as to what would be most pleasing and satisfying a letter to write to one for whom I have a very tender and passionate affection. I am enclosing postage."

Mrs. Dale began her duties as Secretary to the Oklahoma Library Commission with a desk, a stenographer, some empty book shelves and a room on the third floor of the library wing of the State Capitol. These assets plus a book fund of $5,000 were the "sole equipment of a library which immediately set forth bravely to advertise that it had 'Books for Everybody in Oklahoma.'" Fortunately, the First World War had just ended and 8,000 books arrived, Oklahoma's share of the World War I camp libraries which were being distributed by the American Library Association.

"Dear Librarian... Will you please send me a cheerful book or two for my eleven year old daughter? We have no books and I think perhaps if she would form the reading habit of good books she might be less harsh and be more cheerful at home..."

One of Mrs. Dale's triumphs was salvaging Carnegie grant funds for Oklahoma libraries. Because of the failure of some Oklahoma towns to fund their Carnegie libraries at the rate of 10 percent of the original Carnegie grant, there was danger that Oklahoma would lose future Carnegie funding for library construction. Mrs. Dale made a personal visit to Carnegie Corporation officials, conferred with the mayors of the towns delinquent in their pledges, and solved the problem. Two other libraries were constructed before the Carnegie funding moved to other projects.

The thirties brought the Great Depression.

"Dear Librarian... I am sorry to have to write you for postage to return the books... Haven't had any rain here for about 60 days and we haven't a penny of income at all."

When the hard times hit, there must have been talk of eliminating the Commission's by-mail service. Letters poured in testifying to the importance of the service. In April, 1935, Dorothea responded to one letter saying, "Congratulations to the mother of fourteen! And your courage and zeal in writing to your Senators and Representatives in behalf of every child in the state of Oklahoma... I think from the response we have had from all of our friends that the loan service of this department will be saved." The loan service was saved. However, during "the lean period of 1933 to 1935" the Library Commission "had no book fund and... salaries of the staff were cut in half..."

During World War II, while the War Information Centers informed the civilians of the state, and the Special Services Branch informed the military, approximately forty thousand German and Italian prisoners of war were kept in eight base camps and fourteen branch or work camps in Oklahoma.

The well-being of the prisoners was monitored by the International Red Cross. In copies of two reports of visits to these camps mention is made of the camp library. Materials in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Archives include a list of books sent to the POW camp at Stringtown from the Oklahoma Library Commission and Mrs. Dale.

A farmer writes: "Dear Librarian... The women folk are all at school yet and the books come in fine in a lonesome time. Our wheat has been damaged 75 percent by dry weather and high winds. Thank you for the books."

Mrs. Dale retired from the Oklahoma Library Commission in 1950. The Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs honored her by establishing an "Appreciation Shelf" at the Commission filled with books donated in her name. She also received OLA's Distinguished Service Award. A scholarship in her name was privately funded for a few years and paid for an annual continuing education event for librarians at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

One of several articles written about Dorothea tells of her love of books and how, even as a girl, she cared for a collection of books donated to her home town of Marshalltown, Iowa. Another article tells of her operating her husband's pharmacies while he was off in the gold fields of Alaska. That report is puzzling since her husband was an eye, ear, nose and throat doctor. Yet another article speaks of her love of needlepoint and how her home was filled with pillows and chair bottoms which she had needlepointed over the years. A friend remembers her as a "real chamfer.

Dorothea buried a month-old child before coming to Oklahoma and never had any other children. Through the years, however, she helped numerous youngsters get an education.

Mrs. Dale served under eight Oklahoma governors, provided library service by mail to thousands of Oklahomans for over thirty years, was named to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1937, brought Braille books to the state, helped found what is now the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies where librarians are trained, and documented the development of the libraries of the state in the book, Oklahoma Libraries, a Handbook, published by the Commission in 1937. She died in 1962 at the age of 90.

Although perhaps the most prominent "librarian" in Oklahoma for over 30 years, both in accomplishments and in her devotion to her patrons out across the state, Mrs. Dale did not have a library degree. She was a pharmacist.
Lower Court Decision in CDA Has Far-Reaching Implications

The American Library Association joined the ACLU and a coalition of other organizations in challenging the constitutionality of the Communications Decency Act on the grounds that it is overly broad and so vaguely worded that it could subject librarians and other members of the public to criminal prosecution. Under the Act, passed in February as part of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, anyone who knowingly sends or displays materials over the Internet that could be interpreted as "indecent" or "patently offensive by contemporary community standards" could be imprisoned for up to two years and fined up to $250,000. The U.S. Justice Department has announced it will appeal the June federal district court's ruling. The case is expected to go to the Supreme Court this fall.

The 3 judge federal court in Philadelphia announced its decision on ACLU v. Reno on the morning of June 11. Each judge wrote a separate opinion, each tightly linked to the others and agreeing unequivocally that the CDA transgressed the limits on governmental power laid out by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The following is excerpted from Mike Godwin's excellent article "Sinking the CDA" in the October 1996 Internet World, which details in layman's terms why this decision is monumental. The original article is very interesting and clear reading.

The more I reread it over the next few days, the more I was stunned by what a far-reaching—even visionary—decision it was. You see, federal courts almost never hold a federal statute to be unconstitutional; they normally prefer to let federal appeals courts or the Supreme Court take the heat. But here we had a decision in which three lower-court federal judges—acting together as a trial court in a special "expedited review" process mandated by Congress—had acted in a way that was guaranteed to have long-term consequences for the Net and for the First Amendment as a whole.

The very structure of the decision in ACLU v. Reno is highly unusual. The judges' legal conclusions, spelled out in separate opinions, are tightly segregated from the decision's Findings of Fact section (on which all three judges unanimously agreed). There are 123 separate and independent fact findings detailed in the section—in effect, a comprehensive primer on the legally relevant facts about how the Net works and how it is used. Even when considered apart from the judges' legal reasoning, these facts in themselves seem likely to impose strong legal and practical limits on the Supreme Court's prerogative to reach constitutional conclusions different than those of the three-judge panel in Philadelphia.

The three decisions seem to tie together two First Amendment theories that until recently most constitutional analysts, ... look to be mutually exclusive. In the [first] theory, the default setting for every medium is that it must be treated more or less like the traditional press—and thus deserving of the highest level of constitutional protection [strict scrutiny]. The second First Amendment theory is... "different rules for different media" approach [usually used] to justify any governmental regulation in a medium under review that would be unconstitutional if applied to the press.

But had the Philadelphia court merely cited the "strict scrutiny" standard and then gone on to its conclusions, it would have left the door open for the Supreme Court to do in ACLU v. Reno (or a similar case) just what it had done in the broadcasting cases—that is, the Supreme Court justices could have opted to create a new, more content-limiting standard for the Net, all the while citing Justice Jackson's each-medium-is-a-law unto itself maxim.

But Judge Dalzell's opinion attempts to close that door, not by addressing and rejecting the Jackson maxim, but by embracing it. The extent to which a medium is different and the kinds of different rules it requires, has to be grounded in the empirical facts about that medium, he says. Then Judge Dalzell walks through the relevant Findings of Fact and shows how different the Net is from both the traditional press (where "strict scrutiny" applies) and broadcasting (where it doesn't). The Net is more democratic, more diverse, and more accessible to content producers than even the press, which has heretofore enjoyed the highest level of constitutional protection.

There is no "scarcity" rationale for regulation of Net content as there is for regulation of broadcasting. From these and other analytical arguments, Judge Dalzell reaches the wholly logical—but nonetheless breathtakingly novel—conclusion that, even if we assume that different media require different levels of protection, the Net may deserve even more protection than the traditional press. Judge Dalzell [states,] "It is no exaggeration to conclude that the Internet has achieved, and continues to achieve, the most participatory marketplace of mass speech that this country—and indeed the world—has yet seen. The plaintiffs in these actions correctly describe the 'democratizing' effects of Internet communication: Individual citizens of limited means can speak to a worldwide audience on issues of concern to them."

Nor is that the only way the Net was seen to be different: Judge Dalzell was best at underscoring the CDA's own failure to recognize how different media cannot be subjected to blanket regulation of so-called "indecent" speech. "Regulations that 'drive certain ideas or viewpoints from the marketplace' for children's benefit risk destroying the very 'political system and cultural life' that they will inherit when they come of age... In these forms of communication, regulations on the basis of decency simply would not survive First Amendment scrutiny."

The decision makes it easy for the Supreme Court to affirm the federal judges' basic conclusion that the CDA is unconstitutional, and it makes it hard for the Supreme Court to do anything else. The Findings of Fact and the discussions of the law are clearly written for the future as well as the present. For the first time, a federal court has systematically and correctly described the Net—including what makes the Net special and valuable to a democracy. No matter what the outcome of this particular case, the decision will be reread for decades, educating judges, lawyers, and society at large about why the Internet matters. There is no way we can ever repay the judges in ACLU v. Reno for giving us that great gift.

[Mike Godwin (mnemonic@well.com) is staff counsel of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties organization based in Berkeley, Calif.]
Article Draws Official Reaction: Frustrations of Getting a Minority Viewpoint Alred
by Anthony Smith, Exhibit Director for the
1996 Oklahoma University National Organization for the
Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) exhibit at the Norman Public Library

[This article was received in response to an article in the most recent Oklahoma Librarian.]

An article headlined on page 46 of the July/August 1996 issue of the Oklahoma Librarian featured the title, "Exhibit Draws Public Reaction." This article's author, Peggy Cook, Branch Manager, Norman Public Library, describes an application and exhibit relationship that transpired between her and her fellow authorities of the Pioneer Library System, and myself and my fellows of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), and the local public.

In paragraph two, Cook describes the February 1994 Board meeting exhibit space proposal as one in which the OU NORML membership involved was ill prepared, and even negligent, in its ability to comply with a sensible examination of the intended exhibit material. She does so condescendingly: The students had no proposal, but rather spoke to many issues of concern to them, including marijuana legalization and, in their view, a connection between increased hemp growth and the salvation of the rain forests. After hearing this discussion, the Board declined to bring forward a motion to approve placing the exhibit in the library and the issue died for lack of a second (sic).

Eric Copenhaver reports that when he made NORML's February 1993 request for use of the exhibit space, "Her reaction to my request made me feel I had provoked or obligated the Norman Public Library with only my request. Cook believed that I should contact Norman City Attorney, Jeff Raley. Our meeting adjourned with contentious silence. Raley told me that he did not agree with NORML's work, and that he would see me in court before a hemp display would appear in the Norman Public Library."

There began a process of written and spoken negotiations for the acceptance by Library authorities of the OU NORML application.

After her review of relevant documents, Peggy Sullivan, then Executive Director of the American Library Association, wrote OU NORML on March 4, 1994 that "it is good to know that you are using the Library Bill of Rights as a part of your stand concerning use of Library display cases."

In answer to a written appeal for a further consideration of the OU NORML exhibit, then Norman Library Board Chair Donald Sickles once again referred OU NORML to the Norman City Attorney. We felt as if the strategy of the library was to hold us off until we went away.

OU NORML applied again on January 16, 1995, after the Library issued its new exhibit policy. Cook, I presume with other council, continued to stonewall.

On Friday, July 21, 1995, Chuck Thornton, an attorney-at-law with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma, wrote Cook as follows:
Correspondence I have reviewed, in addition to minutes of a Norman Public Library Board meeting, leads me to believe that OU NORML has been and continues to be the victim of impermissible discrimination...

The questions raised by OU NORML's complaint are not taken lightly by the ACLU of Oklahoma.

On Monday, July 24, 1995, Peggy Cook called me to say that a "booking procedure change" had freed the log jam. Would I like to come in right away to schedule the exhibit? She did not mention the receipt of Thornton's letter, nor did I. The exhibit, after over a year's delay, was duly scheduled. Says Mr. Thornton, "While neither Tony nor I received any acknowledgment of the July 21, 1995 letter sent by certified mail, it is indeed a curious coincidence that Tony was first notified of the display's approval on July 24, 1995. July 24, 1995 was the date listed on the letter's receipt for certified mail."

It is bad enough that elected government officials, such as District Attorney Tim Kuykendall, commonly dismiss the marijuana law political opposition as unintelligible and illegitimate. But when librarians, who stand as a last bastion of free speech in a society increasingly pressed into censorship, would bar the door to the legitimate access of the political opposition, we should beware not only of our future, but of our very present liberties.

Reporting coup! OLA Audit Committee members (from left) Irene Wickham, Bob Segal, and Daphane Kerley revealed while investigating the Association's books during a July 25 meeting in Tahlequah. The Committee judged the books to be in sound condition and made recommendations for improvement.
Many Librarians Providing Expertise to Develop Institute Classes

The Institute in Public Librarianship is fast becoming a reality. A very impressive group of librarians is now hard at work developing detailed class outlines, writing handouts and worksheets, and assembling lists of suggested readings. Most importantly, they are relying on their expertise and years of experience to ensure that each Institute class is filled with useful, comprehensive and accurate information.

These librarians and the classes they are developing include:

- Philosophy of Public Library Service in the United States — Jan Sanders (Bartlesville Public Library)
- Introduction to Computers in Libraries — Ken Bieman (Oklahoma State University)
- History of Public Libraries and External Support and Regulation of Public Libraries — ODL public library consultants
- Effective Public Service Skills — Debra Engel (Pioneer Library System) and Donna Morris (Metropolitan Library System)
- Computer Connectivity Applications for Libraries — Andy Peters (Pioneer Library System)
- Collection Development (for support staff) — Janet Ahrberg (Oklahoma State University)
- Basics of Administration (for support staff) and Library Administration I — ODL public library consultants
- Library Services (for support staff) — Bethia Owens (Muldrow Public Library)
- Library Administration II — Marilyn Hinshaw and Mary Moroney (Eastern Oklahoma District Library System)
- Personnel — Gwen Witherspoon (Pioneer Library System)
- Serving Your Community — Denyvetta Davis (Metropolitan Library System)
- Collection Development — Theresa Dickson (Pioneer Library System)
- Cataloging — Pauline Rodriguez (Metropolitan Library System)
- Reference — Beth Freeman (University Center at Tulsa)
- Youth Services — Desiree Webber (Moore Public Library)
- Adult Services — Peggy Cook (Norman Public Library)

Once they are developed, ODL will offer the classes in regional locations around Oklahoma. If you would like to be considered as a presenter for any of these classes, please send your name, library, address, phone number and the names of the classes you would like to teach to Ginny Dietrich, ODL, 200 N.E. 18 St., Oklahoma City, 73105-3298 or 800-397-8116 (fax). All presenters will use the same detailed class outlines, readings and handouts to guarantee that all classes, regardless of location or presenter, will provide the same complete information and quality. LSCA funds are currently available to pay each presenter $300 plus travel for each class.

It's exciting to see certification begin in Oklahoma. Certificates are now being awarded, and workshops are now offering continuing education credit. If you're a public librarian, we hope you'll get involved!

—Ginny Dietrich

Oklahoma Support Staff Member Receives National Attention

Jill Vessels, Support Staff Roundtable co-chair, represented Oklahoma in a recent issue of Library Mosaics. The magazine's July/August issue was devoted to the theme "A day in the life of support staff." Support staff around the country were asked to send in accounts of their activities on April 17, 1996. Jill's description of her day was selected for inclusion.

Jill, a cataloging clerk for the Metropolitan Library System, described part of her day as follows: "I start my morning preparing materials to be processed. Things run smoothly and what usually takes me 2 hours to do only takes me an hour and a half... A staff meeting starts on the hour so everyone gathers to come up with some solutions to the problems we have encountered lately... I work with fervor to get some video cassettes processed and out by tomorrow. I put on my headphones, tunes on my favorite music station, and drown out all the noise and distractions... IT'S LUNCH TIME! Sometimes I even find time to eat... Sara calls to tell me very important news. NO ONE HAS ASKED HER TO THE PROM. I try to calm her down, as much as you can a 16 year old girl."

For more on Jill's exciting day, check out the July/August issue of Library Mosaics.

Library Managers... (cont. from p. 53)

changes in policies which would be considered controversial. Informed employees appear as a positive, motivated team. Better yet these employees are out there actively promoting their employers and their workplace.

—Reprinted with permission from the May/June 1996 issue of Library Mosaics, a bi-monthly magazine for library support staff and their fellows.
News Bits

Call for Research Forum Papers
MPLA/OLA Joint Conference
April 30-May 3, 1997

Papers to be presented at the conference will be selected by a jury of peers. A panel of judges will award a prize of $100 for the best presentation, and its abstract will be published in the MPLA Newsletter. Submission guidelines:

- authors must be current members of MPLA
- papers must be original (not published or presented elsewhere)
- selected authors will make a 20 minute presentation at the conference in Oklahoma
- submit an abstract of 1-1/2 to 4 pages in length
- abstracts that do not meet the guidelines will not be considered by the judges

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: November 15, 1996
Send abstracts to Vicky York, Montana State University Libraries, PO Box 173320, Bozeman, MT 59717-3320, (406) 994-6658, or email: alivy@gemini.oscs.montana.edu

H.W. Wilson Foundation is planning a reunion and program honoring recipients of the H.W. Wilson Foundation Scholarship, tentatively planned for the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, June 1997. Since scholarships were administered directly through accredited library schools, a list of all the recipients isn’t available. All recipients, even if they won’t be able to attend the annual conference, should contact: Kathleen Sullivan, c/o Thousand Oaks Library, 2400 Willow Lane, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361. (805) 497-6282, fax (805) 373-6858, or email: tolibkas@class.org

The Preservation Section of MPLA, is now called the Preservation, Archives, and Special Collections Section reflecting the need to expand membership participation in the Section, provide a wider selection of officers, and promote a greater variety of programs for the yearly MPLA Conferences. Everyone interested in joining the Section and/or MPLA should contact Joe Edelen, Executive Secretary of MPLA, at: (605) 677-6082, fax (605) 677-5488, or email: jedelen@sundance.usd.edu. Membership in MPLA entitles everyone to FREE section memberships, but they do need to be recorded with the Executive Secretary. For more information about the Section, contact Roseanne B.D. Bory at (719) 549-2475, or fax (719) 549-2738.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced the publication of application guidelines containing new deadlines and priorities for its Division of Public Programs. Key changes are:

- Instead of separate guidelines for each of the Division’s four program areas (Libraries and Archives, Media, Museums and Historical Organizations, and Public Humanities Projects) there is now only one set of guidelines.
- The application deadline for all public humanities programs is Dec. 6, 1996, with awards to be announced in July 1997.
- New priorities include emphases on national significance or impact; reach to new, expanded or diversified audiences; collabora-
OU Libraries Meet $1.15 Million Challenge

The University of Oklahoma Libraries now have a permanent endowment with the recent completion of the $1.15 million Kerr Challenge Grant from the Kerr Foundation of Oklahoma City. More than 1,100 individual donors, 67 corporate gifts and 30 foundations helped make the effort a success. Initiated in 1986, the challenge grant issued $115,000 annually for 10 years to the University Libraries provided that the Libraries matched that amount from other private donations to create a permanent endowment.

OSU Library Receives Grant for a Statewide Network

The Oklahoma State University Libraries recently received a grant for nearly $217,000 from an Oklahoma foundation to fund Phase III of the Oklahoma Research and Community Library Network (ORACL). "This generous gift lays the foundation for library systems in Oklahoma for the next ten years. Libraries in other states are moving toward networking their resources; however ORACL places Oklahoma at the forefront of this movement," says Ed Johnson, OSU dean of libraries. Networking, involving statewide licensing and resource sharing, provides smaller and poorer areas with access to the same knowledge base as the most powerful institutions—often for the first time. It also means savings on automation and other support staffing, as not every library must maintain high levels of technical expertise.

The ORACL network uses state-of-the-art software called PACLink, which gives libraries complete and ‘seamless’ access to each other’s online catalogs and databases and makes them appear as one catalog to the user. "If library users can’t find resources at their home library, they may use computers to identify resources at other libraries and have them delivered through interlibrary loan. Users will not have to learn search commands for each catalog or database because ORACL will convert everything to the command language used by the home library. Searches can be conducted by the lay person with ease and confidence," Johnson says.

The first two phases of ORACL, funded through private and federal grants, connected the libraries of Oklahoma State University, OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of Tulsa, University Center at Tulsa, University of Oklahoma, and Tulsa City/County Library System through a standardized communication system. Phase III adds University of Central Oklahoma, University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma, Rose State College, Cameron University and Northeastern Oklahoma State University. Eventually any Oklahoma public, school or academic library can be part of the ORACL network or be able to access it through the Internet or with a dial-in 800 number.

People and Places

Having taken the helm on Sept. 1, 1971, LEE BRAWNER celebrates 25 years of service to the Metropolitan Library System, which serves Oklahoma County. The library system is reaching several milestones: the launching of Internet services to the public, the offering of a home page on the world wide web, the largest operating budget in its 31 year history and the creation of a healthy reserve fund that will support library services through the fall until tax receipts are available, thus eliminating the need to borrow money, something the library system has been forced to do every single year of its history.

Over the years Brawner has overseen the change-over from a "manual" library system to an automated one, has spearheaded construction of three full-service library buildings and the remodelling and updating of several others, has led the charge during numerous tax elections and has championed the First Amendment.

Brawner was recognized by the library system's administrative team and during the annual Staff Recognition Reception. This elaborate celebration includes dinner, entertainment, a slide show and a recognition ceremony popular for its good humor and nostalgia.

Lee Brawner, executive director of the Metropolitan Library System, celebrates 25 years of service with a cake and a smile.

Leslie Gelders, literacy coordinator for ODL, and Ann Hamilton, formerly director of the Oklahoma Center for the Book and now editor of the Oklahoma Almanac for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, won a John Cotton Dana Award at ALA this summer for their statewide literacy awareness and recruiting campaign "Learn to read and the world opens wide." The effort pulled together all kinds of literacy groups with the goal of recruiting 1995 new adult literacy students and volunteer tutors during 1995, and surpassing itself with 2600 new people.

MARY SHERMAN, director of the Pioneer Library System recently celebrated 30 years of service in the 9 library, 3 county system. She doesn't miss the old days, though she did
enjoy working with the public when she started as Purcell librarian in 1966. For the first 12 or 13 years of her library career she worked in the old WPA-built Purcell library building, with the office and checkout desk in the hallway. Since then, bond elections, building expansions and technology changes have kept the job interesting and she has no plans to retire.

Pioneer Library System Director Mary Sherman, and her husband Don, celebrate Mary’s 30th anniversary with the library system at a recent surprise party hosted by library staff. Sherman was honored at the event by the Board of Trustees of the Pioneer Library System for her devoted service, leadership, and valuable contributions to Oklahoma libraries and to the profession of librarianship.

East Central Oklahoma State University’s Linscheid Library has an alumna to thank for a $500,000 gift to furnish and equip its new building, currently under construction. Hallie Brown Ford, who graduated from ECU in 1930 and received a Distinguished Alumna Award in 1992, stipulated that university officials match her donation with $250,000 to upgrade three computer labs on campus, create three more, and provide every faculty member with a networked computer. ECU President Bill Cole says, “She is a delightful, intelligent lady who is highly complimentary of East Central and the education she received here.

The Oklahoma Legislature last spring officially merged Rogers State College with the University Center at Tulsa. The newly merged institution is governed by the Rogers University Board of Regents. Each campus retains its current identity under the umbrella name of Rogers University, i.e. University Center at Tulsa, Tulsa Campus of Rogers University, and Rogers State College, Claremore Campus of Rogers U! Implications for the libraries have yet to be worked out.

Executive Board Takes Action
At Monthly Meetings

JULY
The Oklahoma Library Association Executive Board met on July 19, 1996, at the Rogers State College Thunderbird Library in Claremore. The following actions were taken by the Board:

—Approved the minutes of the May 17 meeting as submitted by John Augelli.
—Accepted the Treasurer’s Report as presented by Jeanette McQuitty.
—Approved recommendations by the Legislative Committee to send OLA lobbyist Oliver Delaney a letter of commendation and to rehire Delaney for the next year.
—Tabled separate requests from the Sequoyah Children’s Book Award Committee and the Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Committee to present their awards at a site other than the annual conference for this year only. These requests will be considered by the Board after the Budget and Finance Committee has met about the budget.
—Accepted the Finance Report from “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma” as submitted by Jennifer Kidney, LTAIO Director.
—Approved Kidney’s request to submit a proposal to the Oklahoma Foundation for the Humanities to continue their cooperative agreement with LTAIO. The Ada Public Library will now also be a part of the agreement, as they are providing storage for LTAIO books.
—Approved a motion that the OLA President send letters to LTAIO participating libraries and that the OLA Board suggest names for potential LTAIO Board members.
—Approved a motion to allow payment of bills until the 1996-97 budget has been submitted and approved.

AUGUST
At the meeting on August 16, 1996 at the Ardmore Higher Education Center the Board took the following actions:

—Approved the minutes of the July 19 meeting as submitted by Karen Marriott.
—Considered a proposal from the Technical Services Roundtable for a workshop titled “On Your Marc…” A proposal to raise the charge for OLA members from $25.00 to $30.00 and for non-OLA members from $50.00 to $60.00 was accepted and the workshop proposal was approved as changed.
—Considered and approved a proposal by the Reference Roundtable for a workshop titled “Getting Wet With the Internet.”
—Decided to continue with the annual salary recommendations called for in the Long Range Plans and Objectives document but to change the due date for reports from September 1 to November 1 of each year.
—Approved a proposal from the Public Libraries Division that the Board recommend to the Bylaws Committee that the bylaws be amended to allow the Public Libraries Division to absorb the Trustees Division.
—Removed from the table and considered separate requests from the Sequoyah Children’s Book Award Committee and the Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Committee to present their awards at a site other than the annual conference for this year only. Both requests were approved by the Board, assuming no cost to the Association.

—Karen Marriott, Secretary
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