
Oklahoma LIBRARIAN

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Attempts to restrict materials in Oklahoma County continue

The Oklahomans for Children and Families (OCAF) wants Oklahoma County's Metropolitan Library System to put materials "unfit" for children in a "closet" that's accessible only by patrons 16 or older.

OCAF suggested the closet during a five-hour open meeting of the Metropolitan Library Commission's Public Services and Administration and Personnel Committees. The two committees held the joint session Feb. 25 to ascertain public sentiment about the library system's current open access policy. The policy states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views."

Since last October OCAF has been requesting that the policy be revised to restrict access of children under age sixteen to some types of materials, particularly anything containing sex education, and other books the group calls inappropriate. The group targeted five titles: *Beyond the Chocolate War*, *Fade* and *We All Fall Down*, all by Robert Cormier; *Boys and Sex* by Wardell Pomeroy; and *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie Harris. Group members contend the books are sexually explicit, and contain objectionable passages, particularly one in which a pastor has sex with his daughter's best friend. They also contend that *It's Perfectly Normal* promotes bestiality.

OCAF obtained the list from Family Friendly Libraries, a national organization contesting the books at libraries throughout the country. Bob Anderson, OCAF president, has made it clear that OCAF has a "list of about 100 other books" it also wants segregated.

Over 100 people attended the joint session, and for five intense hours a debate ensued that was passionate and often eloquent. Everyone who wanted to speak was given the opportunity; everyone with a question was allowed to ask it. One middle-aged man, who strongly supports keeping the entire collection open to children, publicly announced his homosexuality for the first time in his life. He told of his personal struggles and confusion as a child, and said that if he'd had the types of books available today, he would have understood himself better and been happier. He said children are committing suicide because of their homosexuality, and urged the committee to retain open access and "help stop the suicides."

His presentation had a profound impact on committee members and the staff, who have grown war-weary due to OCAF's slanderous remarks regarding the staff's professionalism and the commission's capabilities and credibility.

Stan Alexander, mayor of The Village, one of several municipalities in Oklahoma County where a branch library is located, jumped on the OCAF bandwagon by stating his city council would adopt a resolution calling for the books to be restricted in The Village Library. He, like most of the OCAF members, had not read the books in question, but had seen only excerpts taken from the writings and compressed onto a single sheet by Family Friendly Libraries.

At the end of the meeting, committee members voted to recommend retention of the present policy as the only viable means for not infringing on the First Amendment rights of any citizen. Prior to the decision, the commission's legal counsel advised, "If you begin to react to each complaint about content, I don't know where it will end; but I do predict it will end unhappily... Nothing I have heard persuades me that you are going to improve your position legally if you change the policy. Children have First Amendment rights, too." The recommendation will be considered at the April 17 meeting of the Metropolitan Library Commission.

After the committee meeting, an article appeared in *The Daily Oklahoman*, the county's major circulation newspaper, detailing Alexander's concerns and the action he plans to take. Metropolitan Library System Executive Director Lee Brawner responded with an open letter to the mayor and The Village City Council. In the letter, which was also distributed to the media, he stated, "I would ask Mayor Alexander and the council to remember that the Metropolitan Library System is the public library for all of Oklahoma County... The library system cannot cater to the interests of one or more pressure groups; doing so would limit access to information for thousands of others. Indeed, the library system must continue to resist the efforts of any pressure group whose purpose it is to sanitize the library collection to suit their own ideologies and agendas."

When The Village City Council met March 4, one week following the joint committee meeting, Brawner was there to

(cont. on p. 17)



OLA President's Message

There are some issues I feel the membership needs to begin thinking about, and since I've had difficulty expressing these concepts adequately so as to have the desired impact, I decided to put the pen to paper.

There is no way to express my appreciation for all of your support for this past year. Many asked what I was planning to do and what mark would I leave during my term. When asked this question I would smile to myself because I have never felt that a President of a professional group should take sole credit or recognition for changes. Officers change each year and organizations excel not because of a single individual, but because of the membership as a whole. The experience that each member brings to the organization is what makes it effective and successful. I've had a rewarding year because so many of you participated by providing input and working diligently on

numerous projects, therefore the accomplishments this year belong to the group collectively. I have appreciated the opportunity to drive the bus and not merely be a passenger. A challenge for future presidents will be to keep individuals involved. Thanks to each of you for your efforts in making OLA GREAT!

As I reflect there are some issues/concerns that I would like to share with you: The first issue is the number of Oklahoma librarians that do not belong to OLA. OLA has been very effective on the legislative front in keeping beneficial legislation moving through the political process and stopping legislation that would adversely affect Oklahoma libraries. The power of OLA is in the numbers that we represent. In the recent Universal Services hearings, OLA represented 1000 individuals, but there are more libraries in the State than our membership reflects. To continue our successes in many of these statewide activities, especially in encouraging the Legislature to continue using tax dollars to support libraries, OLA needs to represent the majority of the professionals in the State. The organization and individual members have been effective in supporting, designing, and implementing several statewide projects that have affected and benefited every library in Oklahoma. In recent months these have included FirstSearch, OLTNCat, continuing education opportunities, improving interlibrary cooperation, and certification.

The second issue addresses the funds to accomplish our goals. This is a case in which the desires of the group exceed the funds being collected. This normally results because as a group continues to develop and members become more effective there are more efforts that need to be supported. OLA has reached this point in organizational growth; the members want more and there is more to be done, but funds are at the level they were five or six years ago.

There are numerous funding opportu-

nities, but organizations normally utilize four sources of funds: membership dues, annual meetings, continuing education, and donations. OLA is seeking an increase in dues which will minimally support the current needs being expressed by members. I encourage each of you to work with your leaders over the next year to generate funds needed to carry out the goals of the organization. Each of us has a responsibility to ensure that the membership is able to continue with opportunities that have been available in the past and to increase opportunities so that we grow as a professional organization.

Lastly, I would like to share what I have observed about Oklahoma libraries this year. The Sequoyah Book awards for children's and young adult literature are prestigious at both the state and national levels and are a project of which every member should be proud. The members actively involved are dedicated and affect the lives of children and young adults in Oklahoma. The Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) and Trustees provide unbelievable community support to Oklahoma libraries. These individuals provide support in a variety of ways and do so without hesitation because they believe in what we do and realize the importance of libraries to every citizen in this State. Through each of your efforts over the past years, OLA has become an influence at the State Capitol and is recognized as a resource concerning library issues. Oklahoma librarians are special and are working hard to meet the needs of every citizen, no matter what the age, to make information accessible so that individuals can continue to use this most important resource to develop knowledge, as well as to entertain. This librarian (not exactly a "spring chicken" anymore) recognizes that the next generation of Oklahoma librarians is a gifted and talented group.

I've enjoyed serving as your President. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

--Marty Thompson

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It's not too early to pay your 1997-98 OLA membership dues and further support library initiatives in Oklahoma with an institutional membership for your workplace.

State Library and OneNet announce a new electronic information service for Oklahomans

In case you've not heard the great news, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) and OneNet, the state's telecommunications and information network, are bringing online information databases to Oklahomans on a statewide basis.

ODL has awarded a grant to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, who oversee OneNet, enabling the network to purchase a statewide license to FirstSearch, an electronic information service offered by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC).

Access to the product is available to Oklahoma libraries, public schools, vo-tech schools, universities, and state agencies. Any Oklahoma library with an Internet connection can access FirstSearch. These libraries can also make the service available to their patrons for home use.

First Search provides access to 612 full-text periodicals, a full-text encyclopedia, an online newspaper, the *World Almanac*, and other resources. The 12-month contract for the statewide license officially began April 1, 1997, but Oklahomans were able to use the service during a special pilot period in February and March.

Jon Walker, managing librarian of Tulsa Central Library, says the statewide license offers two major advantages: it provides access to resources for "information poor" areas of the state, and it does it at a great cost-savings. "In 1993, a library could buy a set of World Book Encyclopedias for \$559. If all 2,000 library sites in the state had purchased sets, it would have cost more than \$1.1 million. And, the encyclopedias would be three years out of date today. FirstSearch not only offers us access to an online encyclopedia, but to a variety of current, accurate, and authoritative information on demand."

Walker said the Tulsa City-County Library System and other libraries in the state are planning to drop some of their individual contracts for information databases because of the statewide license. "By purchasing at the state level, we will save lots of dollars at the local level," he said.

Cost of the 12-month statewide license is \$325,000. ODL is using \$125,000 in funds appropriated by the state legislature for the purpose of full-text databases, plus \$200,000 in federal library funds. The Department of Libraries is asking for the additional \$200,000 in its FY98 state appropriations request to ensure citizens have access to full-text retrieval beyond the initial 12-month contract.

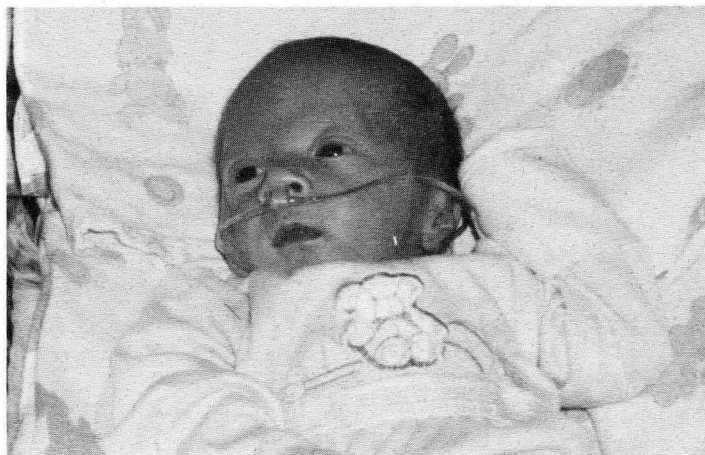
Pat Davis, secondary library coordinator for Enid Public Schools, says it's a small price to pay to provide such broad-based information access for Oklahomans. "Many of Oklahoma's smaller school and public libraries have a difficult time purchasing up-to-date reference resources. Absorbing the cost at the state level will help even the smallest libraries offer quality services to their patrons."

The FirstSearch license could be the first of many OneNet database licensing agreements that could result in significant cost savings and increased access to informa-

tion for all of Oklahoma's citizens.

"This electronic information service illustrates the results of cooperation and collaboration between state agencies to make the best use of scarce resources," said Hans Brisch, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. We look forward to working with ODL and other state agencies on similar projects in the future."

Thanks to Susan McVey and Phil Moss, who were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.



Nathaniel Cook, son of Peggy Cook, arrived prematurely on January 25. "Robert and I appreciate everyone's prayers and support. We are very glad to report that he's growing well (7 lbs. 7 ozs at last report) and is keeping us on our toes (day and night)"

Local library wins award for imaginative partnership

The OSU Library was one of ten winners of the 1997 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Awards. The awards, which honor outstanding achievement in library public relations, are sponsored by The H.W. Wilson Company in Bronx, NY, and the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The awards have been jointly sponsored by H.W. Wilson and ALA since 1946.

The OSU Library was recognized for forging an imaginative partnership with community businesses to promote faculty and student awareness and expertise in the use of the Internet. In 1995-96 with a creative incentive program and ongoing training series, the Library taught over 14,500 people to use the online catalog PETE or the Internet, thus reinforcing the recognition of librarians as electronic information specialists.

Supreme Court justices hear CDA challenge

In a rare action reflecting the significance and complexity of the issue being heard, the Supreme Court on Mar. 19 allowed attorneys arguing the constitutionality of the Communications Decency Act an additional 10 minutes to present their cases.

Under the CDA, passed last year as part of the Telecommunications Act, any person who knowingly sends or displays "indecent" materials over the Internet to minors could be imprisoned for up to two years and fined up to \$250,000. A Philadelphia federal court struck down the law a year ago. Deputy Solicitor General Seth Waxman argued that the CDA merely established boundaries on the Internet and made it harder for pornographic material to fall into the hands of minors. He compared the law to a cyber-zoning ordinance; without it, he said, the Internet "threatens to give every child a free pass to get into every adult movie theater or bookstore in the country."

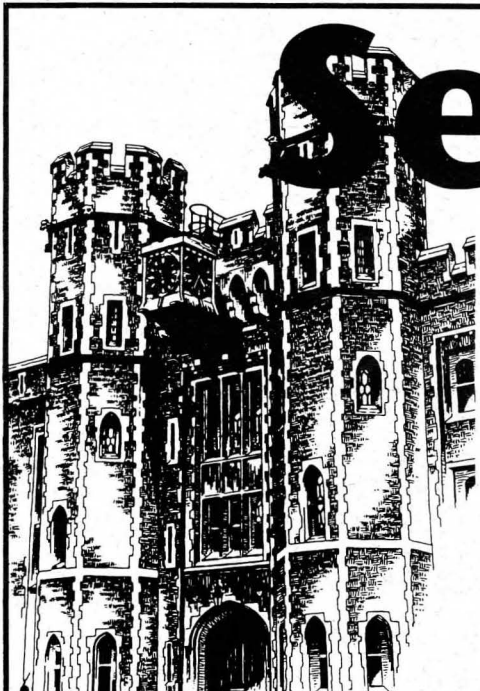
But less than a minute after Waxman started, the justices impatiently plowed into his presentation. Justice Stephen Breyer demanded: "Suppose a group of high school students decides to talk over the Internet and they want to talk about their sexual experiences. I mean, that's been known to happen in high school." Would they "be guilty of a federal crime?"

As Declan McCullagh described it: "For much of the hearing, discussion swirled around the question of how to comply with the CDA. Waxman claimed that the act includes a battery of ways to protect a person from prosecu-

tion— visitors to 'indecent' web sites would be required to provide credit-card numbers, for instance. But Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was unmoved. 'How does that fit in with the use of web sites by noncommercial users, libraries?' she asked. Justice David Souter wondered if the portions of the act banning the 'display' of indecent materials would imprison parents. 'I take it a parent who allows his computer to be used by a child viewing indecent material, that parent would go to prison,' he said.

Bruce Ennis, arguing on behalf of the ACLU and American Library Association coalitions, focused on four points. He said the law violates the First Amendment right of free speech for adults by outlawing any material on the Internet that could be considered "indecent" or "patently offensive by community standards" for minors. He argued that the law would not effectively protect children since some 40 percent of indecent material originates in other countries and that there are less restrictive means of protecting children, including parental supervision and use of filtering devices. Ennis also charged that the vagueness of the law's wording, combined with severe penalties, would undoubtedly have a chilling effect on speech that is not considered indecent under the law.

A ruling is expected in early July.
—based on an ALA news release and "@The Supreme Court," The Netly News Network, March 19, 1997, <http://cgi.pathfinder.com/netly/> by Declan McCullagh and Noah Robischon. McCullagh is speaking at the OLAMPLA conference at Shangri-La.



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Audience member concerned about how local group operates

An open letter

On February 25, I took vacation time to attend the five hour meeting where OCAF (Oklahomans for Children and Families) petitioned the Metropolitan Library Commission to: "adopt new policies or modify existing policies to provide for the segregation of materials that:

- are sexually explicit and designed for children, including sex education materials that are designed for children, or
- contain auditory and/or visual depictions of explicit sex and violence, so that they can be accessed and checked out only by library patrons holding an adult library card."

The group also targeted five specific books [see p. 13, "Attempts" article]. I learned that they were really challenging "passages" or "pictures" in these books because none of the OCAF speakers had read any of these materials. Bob Anderson, OCAF president, said his group was responding to materials they had received from the national Family Friendly Libraries organization.

What was particularly disturbing to me was how the group sought to defame public libraries. They attempted to persuade those present that their library, and the American Library Association, are dangerous to children; that libraries were smutty places, where children were supplied with explicit pornographic literature; and that OCAF had to protect the community from dangerous material.

From passages and pictures ALONE they generalized that:

- the library had materials on bestiality directed at children since "children gravitate toward sexually explicit materials."
- the library had dangerous material. "What's allowed in the library that is dangerous, like how to make an atomic bomb?" one man asked.
- libraries have illegal materials under the Oklahoma "harmful to minors" statute. (I don't know if this law applies. Certainly the book would have to be taken as a whole.)
- "the library used to be an institution with community ties... after the ALA Bill of Rights... libraries have perverted materials."
- these five books are age inappropriate because they "prematurely sexualize our children."
- a majority should decide what's permitted in the library. "Why don't we take pictures of these books and run the pictures in the Daily Oklahoman," one man said. "I bet a majority of the community would not agree with these materials."
- OCAF should therefore have representation on the committee making collection development decisions. "We could have "some volunteers" participate in the selection," Bob Anderson told the audience. (The intent was clear—to select only those materials approved by OCAF.)
- "The community would support building a closet to house these books."

"Children don't have First Amendment rights," was Bob Anderson's final comment. The MLS attorney said they do, according to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *U.S. v. Ginzburg*.

The Metropolitan Library Committees listened to a number of library supporters as well.

In my experience, librarians are very attuned to the needs of children and work closely with parents to provide the information they need. Libraries have always been friendly places for children and families.

Individuals or groups have the right to challenge materials, however, they do not have the right to claim libraries have separated themselves from community standards based on one book in a collection of thousands. I believe if OCAF's agenda is ever adopted, librarians would have to analyze every item in the library and fit books, magazines, and videos into neat ideological niches. This would turn traditional places of intellectual liberty and community harmony into political battle zones.

The meeting ended when the Metropolitan Library Committees voted to recommend no change in policy to the full Library Commission.

—Robert Tormey

Attempts to restrict (cont. from p. 13)

protest the resolution. Anderson voiced his support. The resolution did not appear on the meeting agenda but could be presented at a later date.

Also following the joint committee meeting, *The Daily Oklahoman* in a lead editorial advocated its support for OCAF. Lee, though concerned, elected to respond, not directly, but via his, the staff's and the commission's continued efforts to protect the library system's open access policy. News stories in the paper have been objective, as have reports on two of the local television stations. One station, that seemed to take a pro-OCAF stance initially, has begun to follow a more impartial path.

—Julia Fresonke

UPDATE: In March both The Village city council and shortly thereafter Oklahoma City's council passed resolutions encouraging the Metropolitan Library Commission to restrict access to books deemed pornographic or sexually explicit. The Mar. 20th Library Commission meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum, with the open access recommendation continued until the Apr. 17th meeting.

Oklahoma's Prestigious Sequoyah Awards

Children choose 1996-97 Sequoyah winner

Eve Bunting has won the 1996-97 Sequoyah Children's Book Award for her book *Nasty, Stinky Sneakers*. The award presentation will take place on Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at North High School in Edmond.

The Sequoyah Children's Book Award program, sponsored by OLA, encourages boys and girls of Oklahoma in grades 3 through 6 to read books of literary quality. A Masterlist of 20 to 25 notable books is compiled each year by the Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee. To be eligible to vote for his/her choice, each student must have read or heard read at least two titles from the Masterlist. The winning book is chosen each January. Terri Street, Chairperson of the Sequoyah Book Award Committee, said that over 50,000 children participated in the voting this year. The Sequoyah Children's Book Award program also has three corporate sponsors: Follett Library Resources (Wendall Fields, rep.), Perfection Learning Company, and Scholastic Book Fairs.

The Sequoyah Award honors Sequoyah for his unique achievement in creating the Cherokee Syllabary, 86 symbols representing the different sounds in the Cherokee language. Established in 1959, it is the third oldest "children's choice" book award in the United States. Oklahomans can be proud of this distinguished award.

—Charlotte Parker

1997-98 OLA Sequoyah Young Adult Masterlist

Burks, Brian. *Runs With Horses*
Cormier, Robert. *In the Middle of the Night*
Curtis, Christopher. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*
Forrester, Sandra. *Sound the Jubilee*
Haddix, Margaret. *Running Out of Time*
Hobbs, Will. *Kokopelli's Flute*
Hurwin, Davida. *Time for Dancing*
Medearis, Angela S. *Skin Deep and Other Teenage Reflections*
Naylor, Phyllis R. *Ice*
Peck, Richard. *Last Safe Place on Earth*
Reed, Don C. *The Kraken*
Regan, Dian C. *Princess Nevermore*
Rostkowski, Margaret I. *Moon Dancer*
Weaver, Will. *Farm Team*

Students in grades 7-9 will read at least three titles from the list to vote on the award winner in spring 1998.

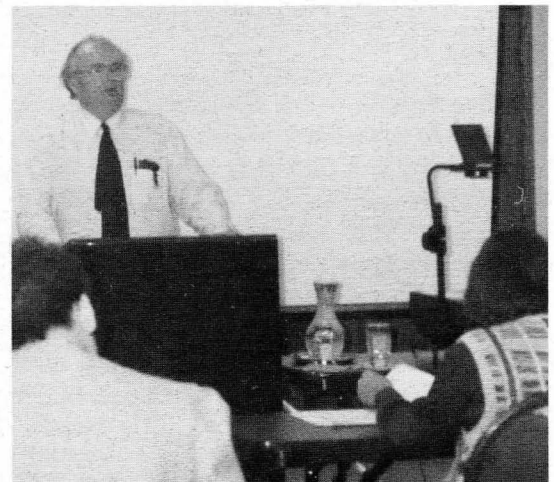
Winner of the 1996-97 Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award

Young adult readers picked Sharon Creech's *Walk Two Moons* for the 1996-97 YA Sequoyah award. The author will be in Edmond the afternoon of April 24 to meet the students at the YA ceremony.

The Sequoyah presentations are traditionally held at the OLA Annual Meeting where conference-goers can enjoy the happy presence of young people who are excited to be at a book event.. This time they are being held at Edmond North High School with special help from Bettie Estes-Rickner.

Western location draws from across

Bea LeValley gets the 1996 TSRT workshop started off on the right foot.



Mysteries or audiovisual cataloging are unveiled by John Rosenhamer.

Raising literacy through recycled reading

Most of us have heard of food banks, but how many of us know about book banks? The Social Responsibilities Round Table held its December meeting at the Tulsa Area Book Bank (TABB), where Clifton Wingfield, Executive Director, gave us a tour of the facility and a presentation on the activities and clientele of the book bank.

TABB's mission is to promote literacy throughout Oklahoma by collecting and distributing materials which empower lifelong learning. As the only book bank in the United States, Wingfield and his colleagues have written the rules on ways to incorporate a book bank into a local community. Wingfield is delighted to talk to anyone who wants to establish a book bank and has even developed promotional material to help in this endeavor.

Just as a food bank collects and distributes food, a book bank serves as a distribution center for surplus or discarded books, magazines, and other educational material. Wingfield feels that a book bank should provide, at the very least, the following services:

- A place for people to bring their unwanted books and educational materials instead of throwing them away;
- A place for qualified agencies to get materials at no cost for their clients;
- Pick up and delivery of donated items if needed;
- A resource center for general information on literacy services and issues;
- A place for volunteers to contribute their time and talents;
- A facility that works to promote literacy throughout the community.

Free books and material are not the only things needed to run a book bank. Money is also necessary. One of the ways the Tulsa Area Book Bank earns money is by having a fund raising auction every November. Donated items have included first editions, autographed books, and even a suit of armor. Wingfield, who pointed out it is necessary to be creative as an executive director, has even made lamps out of surplus copies of Readers Digest discarded books. These annual auctions help not only in the day-to-day expenses of TABB, but also in future expansion and development projects.

By 1998, TABB is planning a move to new space in a recently renovated historic hotel in downtown Tulsa that they purchased. In this building, they hope to have offices for various literacy groups, direct Internet access, audio-visual resources, conference rooms, and a state-of-the-art auditorium.

For additional information about this year's auction, TABB's services, or establishing a book bank in your community, contact Clifton Wingfield at:

Tulsa Area Book Bank, Inc.
3734 East Admiral Place
Tulsa, OK 74115-8304
(918) 832-1111

—Marla Roberson

Technical services people across the state



Cementing professional relationships in Weatherford.



Pauline Boyer Rodriguez discusses cataloging of books, with some concrete samples.

"Best lists" chosen by ALA divisions easily available

The 1997 lists of outstanding books and other media selected by the American Library Association member units are available via ALA's Fax on Demand service. Call 800-545-2433, press 8 and punch in the appropriate code:

- 402 Best Books for Young Adults
- 403 Notable Books (adult)
- 404 Quick Picks (for reluctant young adult readers)
- 405 Selected Films & Videos for Young Adults
- 408 Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults

The April issue of *Booklist*, ALA's review magazine for public and school libraries, features even more lists, with detail and annotations. Or see the ALA web site at <http://www.ala.org> under the sponsoring organization.

Looking for work exchange, can go anywhere

An Australian librarian wants a work exchange. She is able to exchange for a three, six or twelve month period and will go anywhere in the United States. In addition to exchanging jobs, she is able to provide full use of her home and car. The Logan Public Library (located in a suburb of Brisbane, Queensland) would like the exchangee to have a similar level of experience and responsibility as Janet.

Janet has a degree in Library Science and serves as Logan Public Library's community services librarian. She planned and supervised the operation of the Mobile Library before the service was discontinued upon the completion of new branch libraries. Her current duties include coordinating a Home Library Service; planning, developing and promoting service for people with special needs; training staff on service and resource provision for people with special needs; collection development for captioned videos, taped books, large print and literacy materials. She also provides advice to community groups and government bodies on services and resources for people with special needs; coordinates promotion of the library's services and collections; and provides services and resources to people of non-English speaking backgrounds. She's had experience in programming, grant writing, fund raising, and as a branch manager.

Persons interested should contact: Janet Poole, 2 Viscount Place, Loganholme Queensland 4129, Australia. Telephone 1 (long distance) 011 (international connection) 61 (Australia country code) 73 (Brisbane area code) 809-2199 (branch library).

OSU Library moves up in ARL report

Since 1992-93 the Oklahoma State University Library has steadily moved up in the annual ranking of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) membership index. This year the OSU Library ranked 94th, up from 103rd in 1992-93. ARL ranks its member libraries according to the numbers of volumes held, volumes added, number of current serials, total expenditures and size of staff.

"Only 108 of the 3,400 university libraries in the United States and Canada are invited to be members. It's a challenge to improve in these stand-

ings, when you are in the company of large, elite institutions," says Ed Johnson.

Although the OSU Library cancelled a number of journals whose subscriptions cost \$3,000 or more, it is implementing alternative ways for researchers to receive the information they need. For example, the OSU Library was the one of the first libraries in the United States to subscribe to ISI Current Contents Alert. This service allows students and faculty to receive tables of contents of recent journal issues at their computers.

Support staff win scholarships

Two people have been awarded the Mary Lu Atkins scholarship. Sponsored by OLA's Support Staff Roundtable and FOLIO (Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma), the scholarship helps support staff further their education.

Janet Smith, a school librarian in Catoosa, is working on a variety of undergraduate courses, with a tentative goal of an undergraduate school library media education degree. Amy Watkins is a librarian at MacArthur Junior High in Lawton. She's currently working on an undergraduate degree at Southwestern Oklahoma State in Weatherford, planning on a graduate library degree later. Each gets a \$250 award.

ODL's home page - check it out!

Look at ODL's home page for a stellar and very useful source: <http://www/state.ok.us/~odl>. What's new? In 1996, more than 10,700 adults took the GED test in Oklahoma. The ODL home Page now has updated information on Oklahoma GED Testing Centers and Adult Learning Centers.

Other Oklahoma related additions are "Oklahoma Music Connection," the "Famous Oklahomans" from Bartlesville Public Library's website; and the Center for the Book page on "Oklahoma Authors, Publishers and Booksellers", with information on some greats like John Hope Franklin, Tony Hillerman, and R. A. Lafferty.

Also new to the ODL home page are the Vanderbilt "Television News Archive" with abstracts of stories on national tv news programs, and the answer to the pesky "gry" riddle.

Fellowship opportunities for MLIS

The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies has two U. S. Department of Education HEA 2-B Library Education and Human Resource Program fellowships to begin fall, 1997. These fellowships enable qualified individuals

to complete the Master of Library and Information Studies degree with a concentration in one of three areas of specialization: cataloging, school media or science reference. Applications must be submitted by June 16, 1997. For complete information, contact the

school of library and information studies 401 West Brooks, Room 120, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK73019. Phone: 405-325-3921, FAX: 325-7648, or E-mail: slisinfo@slis.lib.ou.edu

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Courts start sorting out Internet and copyright issues

Copyright has been an issue in libraries for some time. Most library personnel are aware of basic copyright restrictions: no more than a certain percentage of a copyrighted work should be photocopied; copyrighted works should not be photocopied for distribution or sale. Libraries are not normally held liable for copyright infringements by library users.

Many library personnel and users are not aware that copyright restrictions also apply to works disseminated via the Internet. Many of these works, such as magazine articles or photographs or works of art, are copyrighted materials. Owners of the copyrights to such works are encouraged to make sure that any dissemination of the work contains copyright notice.

Recently, court cases have been brought which attempt to hold Internet providers liable for copyright infringements by users. The best known of these is probably *Religious Technology Center v. Netcom On-line Communications Services*. In this case the Internet provider, Netcom, and a bulletin board service operator were sued because a subscriber to the bulletin board posted copyrighted material there. A federal court has held that the provider and operator are not liable for the fact that copyrighted material was posted, but various other issues in the case remain to be decided. Among these issues are whether the provider and operator should have known that copyrights were being infringed.

On the other hand, a 1993 case, *Playboy Enterprises v. Frena*, held a bulletin board subscription service liable for infringement. The service disseminated photos from Playboy magazine to be downloaded by subscribers.

The meaning of these and other cases to libraries has yet to become clear. As libraries provide Internet access to their users, it is possible that they will become targets of copyright infringement actions.

—Pauline Boyer Rodriguez

Electronic journals: signing our rights away!

How many of us are in libraries that have purchased electronic full-text journals? These changes are already underway in libraries large and small across the state, but especially in our university libraries. A recent discussion on the interlibrary loan listserv (ILL-L) raised the issue of libraries signing contracts for online access to full-text without reading the fine print.

Michael Current of Carleton College in Minnesota asks, "How many of us have read the contracts that the library signed in order to gain access to these journals?" He goes on to say,

Most such contracts are rather vaguely worded and lengthy, but one thing is often made clear, INTERLIBRARY LOAN PROHIBITED. Does your library understand that by signing these contracts, you are signing away the right to make copies of articles from these journals under the fair use provision of the copyright law? That you probably are prohibited from providing articles from these journals to other libraries via ILL?...

It will be interesting to watch digital journals become LESS accessible than their paper counterparts. As long as libraries continue to sign on the dotted line, the publishers have us right where they want us. All users of their content must pay the publisher, either directly via site license contracts or indirectly by the article via commercial document suppliers. No more pesky ILL copying taking away from profits! No more Fair Use."

Someone asks, what will it mean when their main resource library— not part of their own institution— switches much of its collection from print to electronic. "Will this mean they can no longer supply us with articles?"

Because of our tradition of sharing resources, these new collection decisions may have unsuspected impact. So, along with your concern about whether and how long a vendor will retain a title or archival years in its database, consider issues of fair use and ILL when looking at any new electronic product. Another reason that somebody in your library should read the fine print and if it is not good, negotiate! Once we sign on the contract line, they have us.

Though it may be too late for a given service or online product, we, individually and as organizations of professionals, must all speak up loud and clear about these issues with publishers and vendors. Many, many voices together have a chance of making a positive impact. Who else will make those voices?

—Rachel Butler

Check out digital Library Journal at <http://www.ljdigital.com> for news, reviews, editorials. News ahead of the next issue, and some items which won't appear in the print version.

People and Places

MARILYN PROSSER, Tulsa City-County Library System, was honored recently by a library patron who is also an author. Mystery writer and native Tulsan Jody Larsen asked Prosser's permission to name a character after her in her upcoming book. Prosser said she's "tickled" with the idea, as well as flattered. Prosser's namesake is a heroine in the novel who has inside information on corporate wrongdoings. She pays the price for her knowledge and dies before the end of the book. The as-yet-unnamed novel is soon to be published.

HEIDI JOHNSON, Cataloging Assistant at Metropolitan Library System, is featured in the "Supporting Cast" section of the January/February issues of *Library Mosaics*, a section that profiles library support staff around the country. Heidi's career path began with her training as a Certified Bookseller in her native Germany. Since the feature was published, Heidi's been promoted to Technical Processing Manager.

CECELIA BROWN, recent OU SLIS graduate, is now Assistant Professor of Bibliography and Chemistry-Mathematics Librarian at the University of Oklahoma.

KELLY JENNINGS, Coordinator of Children's Services at Tulsa City-County Library, was awarded the 1996 Excellence Award by Parenting Publications of America at Northwestern University for columns she writes monthly for *Tulsa Kids* magazine.

ALEV OZAYDIN, previously a Technical Services Assistant with the Pioneer Library System, is a cataloger at St. Gregory's College in Shawnee.

Oklahoma State University has some new librarians. RICHARD M. PAGE is the new Head, Library Systems Department. He was previously a Reference/Electronic Resources Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh. JENNIFER WONG is Physical Sciences Librarian, her first professional job, though she was a student reference librarian at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. BARBARA BRADLEY is OSU's Assistant Head in the Acquisitions Department. She was Assistant Documents Librarian/Professional Library Associate/Visiting Instructor at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Previously Map Librarian at the University of Nebraska, KEVIN SPRADLIN is OSU's Map Librarian, and will complete his M.A. in Geography from the University of Kansas in May 1997.

JONATHAN WOLTZ began in November 1996 as Systems Librarian at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. He had been at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

MAGGIE RYAN has a new position as Coordinator of Academic and Student Support Services, School of Library and Information Studies.

SUSAN BOX, previously at Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, is now Head of Archives and Special Collections at the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library at Columbia University in New York. She gave a paper at the International Congress of Archives in Beijing, a trip which was "an incredible experience."

HONG YU began working in September 1996 as a cataloger at Langston University.

SCOTT NICHOLSON, recent OU library school grad and contributor in many ways, including the OLA Internet Room at conference last spring, has been chosen one of the 25 new librarians to attend the ALA's first Emerging Leaders Institute to be held in San Francisco this June. He is now a reference services librarian at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

New and improved branch library going up in Tulsa

Though the second smallest of TCCL's branches, the Florence Park Library boasts an annual circulation of 160,000. However, the building has parking for only 13 cars, no meeting room, and ranks as the seventh busiest of the system's 23 libraries.

Thanks to three generous private donations, the library will soon be better able to meet the expanding needs of area patrons.

The new Schusterman-Benson Library, located at 330 E. 32nd Pl., is scheduled to open in November 1997. An existing 5,700 square foot building on the one acre site will be completely renovated and expanded. A parking lot already in place will be incorporated into the design, and additional parking is available on the street nearby.

The new 8,200 square foot library will have shelving for 28,000 items, parking for 40 cars, a 75-seat meeting room, lounge and study areas, public access computer terminals, and handicapped accessibility. TCCL's extensive genealogy collection, currently housed at Rudisill North Regional Library, will be moved to a new, expanded home at the Schusterman-Benson Library.

The \$838,500 project is made possible through donations of \$469,250 from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, a bequest of \$325,000 from the late Sibyl Mary Benson, and a bequest of \$65,000 from the late Lucille Weaver.

The new library is being designed by Olsen-Coffey Architects, who have successfully completed several TCCL projects, including the Skiatook, Jenks and Pratt libraries. The library commission will review design drawings in December and ground is expected to be broken for the project in March 1997.

Library service to the Florence Park neighborhood began in the 1930s as a bookmobile stop. Permanent library service to the neighborhood began in 1951 out of a trailer. The current 2,900 square foot facility was built in 1954.

—from *The Open Book*, TCCL's staff newsletter

Successful mill levy votes for Oklahoma library systems

Voters in four counties of the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma (SEPLSO) passed property tax millage increases Feb. 11, 1997. Their millage rate will increase from two mills to the constitutional limit of four mills, starting in Fiscal 1998.

"This is the first millage increase for any of our counties since the original two mill levies were approved nearly 30 years ago," said Wayne Hanway, SEPLSO's Executive Director, "and it happened on our first attempt." Also pleasing, Hanway said, was the size of the victory. "In LeFlore County, we had a 68 % yes vote, in Haskell and Latimer Counties 65 % in favor, while McCurtain County had 56 %."

Oklahoma law requires that library system millage votes be held on a county-by-county basis, not district-wide. The elections were held in six of SEPLSO's seven counties. The millage increase lost in close votes in Pittsburg and Coal Counties, by 159 and 10 votes respectively. County commissioners in the seventh county had refused to put the issue on the ballot.

Following the example of several recent millage increase elections in other Oklahoma systems, SEPLSO's counties ran low-profile, low-budget, and localized campaigns. "We had separate campaigns with distinct local strategies in each county, and we worked hard to keep the system from being an issue in the campaign. Instead, we focused on cutbacks that have happened or were likely to happen, and on the improvements that could be made with

the added funding."

With the improved funding, libraries in the four counties will be able to make great changes: restore cuts made in the book budget and beef it up substantially; to improve library hours; to add outreach programs; to automate the libraries; and even to add a library by upgrading the reading center at Valliant in McCurtain County.

The increased funding was badly needed. Library circulation had increased 40 percent in recent years, while state aid had been cut repeatedly. SEPLSO's total per capita revenue was \$7.11, compared with the Oklahoma average of \$14.94. In the counties that passed the increase, the new per capita total is estimated to be \$12.85. "This won't make our libraries rich," said Hanway, "just a lot less poor."

Another piece of good news is that the Choctaw County commissioners have now put the millage increase on the ballot for May 13. Some good changes will be happening in southeast Oklahoma!

Oklahoma County voters decided Feb. 11 to raise the property tax levy for the 20-library METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM from 4.14 to 5.2 mills. This will be used to upgrade aging buildings, help pay maintenance costs, and help cover costs of moving into the new Library/Learning Center to be built as part of Oklahoma City's MAPS project.

Executive Board Takes Action

JANUARY

The OLA Executive Board met on January 17, 1997 at the Stillwater Public Library. The following actions were taken by the Board:

- Approved the minutes of the December 20 meeting as mailed.
- Accepted the treasurer's report for OLA as submitted.
- Approved a request from the Intellectual Freedom Committee to advertise the OLA-SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award in the next bulk mailing.
- Approved the expenditure of up to \$150 by Kathleen Haynes for an exhibit of OLA archival material at the annual conference birthday party event.
- Considered a Legislative Committee draft of comments concerning universal service to be sent to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Amended the draft to include a proposal for an advisory group in addition to the oversight committee already called for, and approved the draft as amended.
- Approved the following registration fee structure for the 1997 annual conference:
 - Full member: \$90
 - New member (joined for the first time after July of 1996): \$80
 - Student: \$55
 - Trustees/FOLIO: \$80
 - Non-member: \$135

—Approved the Procedures and Guidelines for the Ruth Brown Memorial Award as proposed by the Social Responsibilities Roundtable.

FEBRUARY

The OLA Executive Board met on February 21, 1997, at the Shawnee Public Library. The following actions were taken by the Board:

- Approved the minutes of the January 21 meeting as mailed.
- Accepted the treasurer's report for OLA as submitted.
- Received eight proposed changes from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and considered two. The first proposal, concerning Public Libraries Division, was approved with two changes for submission to the membership at the annual meeting. The second proposal, concerning the Auditing Committee, was also approved with one change for submission to the membership. The remaining six proposals were tabled by the Board.
- Considered and approved the guidelines for the OLA-SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award as submitted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee.
- Considered and approved the revision of the OLA Long Range Plans and Objectives for next year as submitted by the Long Range Planning Committee.

—Karen Marriott, Secretary

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