On the frontier: OLA and MPLA librarians
Shangri-La, April 30-May 3, 1997

Shangri-La, earthly paradise! Yet for librarians, not solely a beautiful place to "retreat from the concerns of modern civilization." Five hundred and eighteen people registered for joint OLA/MPLA conference, including 101 out-of-state MPLA members, and 78 vendor booths. This was the first joint conference since one held with SWLA in 1946, during one of Frances Kennedy's two years as OLA president.

Many people worked hard to make it a great conference. However, to put this in perspective, some of us had a more difficult time than others this spring. The week before the conference, a librarian from Grand Forks, ND called Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, to regretfully cancel her registration. She was 200 miles from home, and the first floor of the University of North Dakota library where she works was filled with sewage water, though they had managed to move things upstairs before evacuating.

This conference featured many events to give people more time both to visit one another and visit the exhibits: "mix & mingle" lunch and dinner buffets, continental breakfasts, and OLA's 90th birthday party, all held in the exhibit area.

Kathleen Todd, program chair, opened the conference with words from Frederick Jackson Turner about the frontier. What follows here are some conference highlights.

OLA has two new awards. Lee Brawner received the first OLA/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award. Holly LaBossiere, IFC Chair, talked about Lee's professionalism, dedication, poise under pressure, and willingness to go to bat for all of us. His role in challenges this spring to the Metropolitan Library System's open access policy showcases these

(continues on p. 27)
Those of you who know me realize that the one thing that has been difficult for me this past year is the preparation of this column. Putting my thoughts and feelings down on paper and making it say what I intended is not easy for me. In recognizing my shortcomings in this area, it prompted me to think of an individual in the Association who can never be recognized enough for the work she does. Rachel Butler is one of the best newsletter editors there is. She demonstrates excellent talent in her journalism and photographic skills as well. Her greatest talent may be in the way she encourages and sometimes demands the information needed to make the newsletter a valuable information tool for all members. Rachel has left her mark in the history of The Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) with the fantastic job that she has done with the Oklahoma Librarian. Thank you Rachel!

With this column, I would like to ask each of you to think about two areas that I am committed to working on: membership and finance. These areas are linked together because members bring in funds necessary to complete the goals of the Association; new and exciting workshops, bigger and better meetings, continuing education seminars, etc.

The Association has some financial problems which are not yet critical, but could quickly become so. These issues have developed for a variety of reasons: keeping costs down for workshops, annual meetings, and dues so that more members can take advantage; increasing costs in everything that the Association does including mailing, printing, telephone, computer, salary and travel expenses; declining support by vendors; and decreasing ability of many institutions to provide various services.

Another issue is the membership. Our membership has not continually increased in number, but instead it tends to fluctuate and spike, thus creating an unreliable source of revenue. When I attended library school, one of the classes I remember was on professionalism. A lecture given in that class encouraged every student to become involved in local, state, national, and special interest organizations that would support and aid in continual development for each individual. The lecture had those “apple pie” and “patriotic” comments about how these organizations provide a voice on legislative issues, continuing education, and professional development in the areas of leadership, practice of the profession, and outside growth. At the time, these issues seemed to be a long way off and not extremely important.

In today’s environment, these issues are real and should be important to every librarian in this State. One of the true treasures of OLA is that this group represents all Oklahoma libraries and librarians. Each of us has a responsibility to promote OLA and to become more involved in the recruiting aspects in order to bring more librarians into this organization thereby making it a stronger entity.

OLA is a training ground where librarians (new or experienced) learn and develop new skills and talents. New librarians learn how to participate on committees and develop leadership roles as well as mature professionally. The experienced librarian learns how to deal with a profession where information and the sources for obtaining this information are changing rapidly. The skills needed by librarians are different today than five years ago and libraries in Oklahoma are changing and growing. A simple test for you to take which will demonstrate this would be to look at the following acronyms or words and describe what meaning they have to you: ONENET, T1 lines, Internet, Intranet, local area networks, cgi files, web pages, ip addresses, e-mail addresses, OLTCat, twisted pairs, digitalized information, scanned articles, zip files, ftp, web browser, JAVA, HB 1815, or home page. These are all terms or words that are now an integral part of the language used by librarians. Any librarian who remains isolated or in a vacuum will find it virtually impossible to keep up with the growth and changes that are occurring within this profession.

OLA is one of the vehicles available to Oklahoma librarians to provide support for this continual growth and change. But more important, OLA provides a unified voice for librarians and librarianship in this State. Each individual’s involvement makes the Association stronger and more influential. OLA has a long, proud history in which many have contributed. Every librarian in Oklahoma should be able to claim having some part in OLA’s history and success. I would encourage all librarians to become involved and make a difference!

I want to thank everyone that made this past year a successful one. Thank you!

--Marty Thompson
On the frontier (cont. from p. 25) 
qualities. His longtime leadership in 
the profession and to the community 
make him a superb role model. A 
SIRS representative presented his 
award of $500 and an additional $500 
to the institution of his choice. Lee said 
the money will be used to put on an 
institute this fall with ODL and ALA’s 
Intellectual Freedom Committee on 
how to recognize and respond to 
these challenges. The new Ruth 
Brown Memorial Award, named for the 
Bartlesville librarian who lost her job 
defending the rights of all to use the 
library, was described by Shari Clifton, 
Chair of the Social Responsibilities 
Roundtable. This award will be pre­ 
sented annually starting in 1997/98 
and will recognize programming on 
issues of social concern.

The 1997 OLA Distinguished 
Service Award was given to Lotsee 
Patterson in recognition of inspired 
leadership, devoted service, and 
unusual contributions to Oklahoma 
libraries. She is known nationally and 
internationally for her expertise on and 
efforts to improve library and informa­
tion service to Native Americans. She 
shares her expertise in many ways.

MPLA gave several awards, including 
the Distinguished Librarian Award to 
Corky Walters, State Library of 
Wyoming. An OLA Special Project 
Award was given to the Friends of the 
Ralph Ellison Library, Oklahoma City, 
for outstanding volunteer efforts over a 
number of years.

Pat Schuman keynotes opening of 
joint conference

Conference keynote speaker Pat 
Schuman gave a rousing talk. Pat 
became president of ALA in 1991-92, 
22 years after attending her first 
library conference. As president, she 
led her largest audience, 35,000 Red 
Sox fans, in a cheer for summer 
reading programs, and was caught in 
the coup in Moscow. “I love this intel­
lectually challenging and socially re­
warding profession.” Because librari­
ans daily renew her faith in the power 
of libraries to make a difference, she is 
now chairing the “Americans Can’t 
Wait: Library Advocacy Now” cam­
paign.

“I am here today to enlist each one 
of you in library advocacy programs. 
The health and welfare of families 
more and more depends on informa­
tion, and we must educate others as to 
what is at stake. America’s libraries 
are a treasure. In protecting this 
treasure, we are protecting no less 
than the right to know. Libraries have 
been closed and that’s something that 
didn’t even happen in the Great 
Depression. What’s in danger here is 
more important than libraries—it’s the 
foundation of a democracy—the 
public’s right to know, to have informa­
tion to make critical decisions.

“Federal spending on libraries is 
less than that spent on military bands. 
It is a question of priorities, not of 
money. Libraries are part of the 
solution to major social problems 
face us. Rapid changes make 
people think ‘it’s just going to happen 
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| August 21     | velopment), Wilson Public Library |
| August 21     | Institute in Public Librarianship (Adult Services/Collection De­
| August 21     | velopment), Choctaw County Library, Hugo |

Left: Declan McCullough 
talks to audience members 
after speaking at the "Sex, 
Laws & Cyberspace" 
luncheon.

Susan Wright and Bob Edwards, 
Friday night banquet speaker.

Yvonne Hinchee (center) with Caroline Dulworth 
(left) and Karen Cozart (right), recipients of 1997 
OLA Scholarship awards.
Universal Service: Discounts for libraries

"It's right up there with the creation of land grant colleges in the 1860s, the G.I. Bill in the 1940s and civil rights legislation in the 1950s and 60s in its importance to education," some people are already saying. The "universal service" story involves librarians, libraries and schools, technology, funding, the Federal Communications Commission, the state Corporation Commission, and a new coalition called EdLINC Oklahoma. It has the potential for a big impact on your patrons' access to information.

What's the discount program?

To provide universal access to advanced telecommunications, the Federal Communications Commission on May 7, 1997 voted unanimously on a rule which will give discounts to libraries and K-12 schools. The program includes up to $2.25 billion per year in discounts for schools and libraries, discounts of 20 percent to 90 percent off all telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections, and gives greater discounts for poorer schools and high-cost areas. The FCC's rules incorporate many of the key principles advocated by librarians. Money will be available beginning in January 1998. The mandate to provide discounted rates was part of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Influence at the state Corporation Commission

For this money to be available to Oklahoma libraries and schools, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has to adopt the FCC's universal service guidelines. This has not yet happened. However, individuals of OLA's leadership have been active in Corporation Commission meetings and hearings all spring, educating commissioners and staffers on library services and issues involving technology and telecommunications. These librarians have represented the information needs of Oklahomans to the Commission, usually being the sole voices counterbalancing those of the phone companies.

Corporation Commission lawyer Larry Schroeder said, "Susan [McVey's] involvement in rulemaking was absolutely critical. Rules would not have been as good without her input. It is critical that EdLINC and other coalitions be actively involved in follow-up rules concerning implementation, etc."

Forming a new coalition for equal access

Then in April 1997, members of Oklahoma's education and library communities joined forces to promote state adoption of the FCC guidelines. The groups have joined forces under the banner of Education and Library Networks Coalition, commonly known as EdLINC Oklahoma, co-chaired by Susan McVey, Deputy Director of ODL, and David DuVall, Assoc. Executive Director of the Oklahoma Education Association.

Join now! Library systems, municipal libraries, school districts, and Friends of Libraries groups are encouraged to join EdLINC. Send a letter indicating your interest in joining the coalition to EdLINC Oklahoma, P.O. Box 18485, Oklahoma City, OK 73154. Include in the letter your affiliation (library, Friends group), address, phone, fax and email.

After the FCC's decision, the state's Corporation Commission has a short time frame in which to adopt the FCC's discount matrix so that schools and libraries can take advantage of the benefits right away. If Oklahoma adopts the FCC guidelines, libraries and schools will be able to tap into the latest technology, helping them catch up with other states in offering students learning opportunities using state of the art technology. A recent survey showed that Oklahoma and Texas rank last in schools with Internet access. Only 10 percent of schools in the two states have access. The standard is being set by Delaware, Hawaii, New Mexico, and South Carolina, all with 100 percent of schools able to go online. Access to the Internet can have dramatic results in academic success, for instance the elementary school students in Chula Vista, California who rose from the bottom 10 percent to the 80th percentile on achievement tests in just 18 months after advanced technology was placed in classrooms. Studies show that, nationwide, only 28 percent of libraries are connected to the Internet. It's estimated that less than 25 percent of Oklahoma's libraries are connected, with more urban libraries online than rural ones. With Internet connections, public libraries become community access hubs and homework assistance centers, providing opportunities for job-training, lifelong learning, notices of economic development opportunities and online job searches.

EdLINC Oklahoma's goals are to work with the Corporation Commission to get quick adoption of the discount matrix, and to convince our libraries and schools of the need to develop technology plans right now so that they can apply for and receive their share of this money. Susan McVey says the coalition will be working with the Corporation Commission, the Legislature, and the Governor's office to ensure Oklahoma adopts the FCC guidelines. Help on creating technology plans, which must be in place when applying for the discounts, can be gotten from EdLINC and from the many libraries which have already worked through the planning process.

How does the passage of HB 1815 affect the proposed rules developed by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission?

During the last legislative session, HB 1815 (Telephone Competition, Rural Service and Consumer Protection Act of 1997) passed the Legislature and was signed by Governor Keating. In addition, the proposed rules developed by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission were adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The staff of the OCC is presently working on the integration of these two documents.
How can I apply for these discounts?
If the state Corporation Commission adopts the FCC guidelines, libraries will be able to apply for the discounts. Discount applications are not yet available. To get ready:
1. Assess your needs. You must have a technology plan covering hardware, software, training, internal connections, maintenance contracts currently available or budgeted for, and a plan for how it will all be used. This plan can be for Internet access, but could also include other things such as distance education. The plan must be approved by ODL or the State Department of Education.
2. The level of discount is based on the economic need in that school district or library area, based on the number of students eligible for the free school lunch program. The 90 percent discount will apply to institutions in areas with 75-100 percent of students eligible.

On the frontier (cont. from p. 25)
to me. The future depends not on technology, but on our own vision, human ingenuity and creativity.

"Information is only useful when processed by a human mind, and it becomes infinitely more valuable when shared. People can't exercise their right to know unless information is organized and made available. You have a right to know, but if you don't know you have that right, it's no use to you. It's not an information age until everyone knows they have that right."

"We must use our personal power to be advocates," said Pat. Get one of ALA's advocacy action packets, read the advocates' Handbook; take advocacy training; keep collecting stories about how libraries change lives; keep in touch: build your own local advocacy networks; recruit everyone as advocates. All politics are local—participate actively in your state's legislative efforts, write your legislators often. Encourage your friends, and make presentations about library issues. "I'm a librarian and I vote"; be a library spokesperson all the time. "Be a passionate advocate for libraries."

OLA 90th Birthday Party, bbq on the lawn and cruise
Following a cruise on the Cherokee Queen and barbecue by the shore, the gang experienced a great OLA birthday party created by Jan Sanders and associated minions and team members. Jan contacted 27 past OLA presidents and asked them for one memorable thing from their reign. Ten past presidents were present to tell brief and entertaining stories and enjoy the crowd. Documenting history, Amy Hay worked on a videotape of several past OLA leaders which was available for watching, and Kathleen Haynes' students had created several scrapbooks of OLA memorabilia that conference goers pored over. A table of past Sequoyah book award winners stood nearby. Those wanting a "frontier" emblem took home one of the white kerchiefs printed with "'1907-1997 Happy 90th Birth-
day Oklahoma Library Association", which were strung on a clothesline for party favors. Then Marty Thompson, 1996-97 OLA president, and Bill Lowry, 1959-60 and "oldest" past president in attendance, cut the birthday cake. The official events were followed by much visiting among OLA and MPLA people, eating, line dancing, rocking & rolling, and some karaoke singing by a few brave librarians.

And thought provoking
Bob Edwards, National Public Radio, was the banquet speaker. Beverly Jones summed it up in this way, "This was a perfect banquet speech— he is entertaining and interesting, had content and was controversial! The controversial part revolved around his concern that his 12 year old daughter not be able to go to her local public library and access the Internet. He seems to equate the Internet and pornography, and have little idea what else she would not be able to access."

Declan McCullagh, columnist for The Netly News Network [http://cgi.pathfinder.com/netly/], and plaintiff in the Communications Decency Act suit, spoke on "Sex, Laws & Cyberspace." He has written articles on "blocking software," knows his subject very well, and was an excellent speaker. "Imagine if the "book patrol" descended on the library every night to check the shelves for undesirable stuff and yanked the whole shelf just to make sure!" He talked about some of the software and its current problems, and recommendations other than using the software to limit Internet access.

A tidbit reported from the Crisis Management Planning session came from Lee Brawner's lessons learned from the bombing experience. Half of their flashlights did not work, and now they replace batteries annually.

The conference programs were excellent, exhibits well-attended, and goals for continuing ed and fun met.
Right: MPLA librarians enjoying life "en plein air" at the front of the Cherokee Queen.

Below: First crew of librarian "mateys" ready to disembark from the Cherokee Queen and run for barbecue on the lawn, watched by several hundred well fed librarians eager for their cruise on Grand Lake.

Above left: Cruising at the rail: Ron Keyes, OSU (second from left), and Curley Jones, University of Utah (right).

Above right: Anne Harris and Alev Ozaydin.

Right: Food is an important element!
conference cruise and
OLAs 90th birthday party

Below: Marty Thompson and Bill Lowry prepare to cut a gigantic cake—made for 450 people—for OLA's 90th birthday party in the exhibits area. Jan Sanders, OLA past president and party organizer, works the crowd in the background.

Below left: In the background a ghostly array of 90th birthday party kerchiefs hangs from a clothesline. In the foreground several librarians model the kerchief party favors according to their personalities: Beverly Jones (left), Ray Lau (in back, 3rd from left), and Wayne Hanway (right).

Below right: Time out for the hardworking: Jennifer Goodson, Local Arrangements co-chair, and Stewart Brower, AV co-chair, relax in front of past Sequoyah book award winners at the OLA birthday party.

Immediate right: Late in the birthday party, the hokey pokey is performed by many skilled "guides to the world of information."

Far right: Dan Chaney sings karaoke at the party, proving himself one of the brave (and the few)!
Authors share ideas at conference

Oklahoma authors meet multitude of multistate fans

Oklahoma author C.J. Cherryh spoke to 105 librarians at a Thursday Conference luncheon. She has been the recipient of the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in Science Fiction and the Hugo Award in 1978 for her short story "Cassandra." At the luncheon she shared extemporaneously with the audience concerning her writing experiences. She has recently finished a tie-in novel for the "Lois & Clark" television series. Later the same afternoon C.J. spoke again at "Meet Oklahoma's Best... Authors Talk." Joining her in the program were Dian Curtis Regan, Carol Hamilton, both children's authors; Stanley Hoig, author of western history books; and Johnny Quarles, writer of western fiction. B.J. Williams, Television Program Coordinator for the Metropolitan Library System, moderated the panel. Each author spoke briefly about their background, their writing beginnings and experiences. Johnny Quarles, raised in Virginia and now making his home in Enid, revealed that he is changing genres and will be writing mysteries in the future. Dian Curtis Regan was raised in Colorado and currently lives in Edmond. Her Princess Nevermore is a 1997-98 YA Sequoyah nominee. Dian writes for audiences from toddlers to young adults. Stanley Hoig in high school started writing "bad poetry." He has recently been inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. Carol Hamilton is finishing a term as Poet Laureate of Oklahoma. Carol revealed that poetry is her greatest love. She began writing after a year spent in Scotland. The C.J. Cherryh author luncheon and the "Oklahoma's Best" program were sponsored by the Public Libraries Division.

—Joan Singleton

Neil Schusterman speaks to enthusiastic luncheon crowd

One hundred conference participants comprised an audience for the annual OASLMS Luncheon, May 2 at Shangri-La. Luncheon speaker was Neal Schusterman, an award winning young adult author of books such as What Daddy Did, and new release, Dark Side of Nowhere. Neal was a gracious speaker, addressing the needs of young adults, censorship, and his love of literature. He read excerpts from Dark Side of Nowhere, a spell-binding science fiction novel. Neal's works are described by critics as "page turners, tense thrillers, powerful, provocative, fast paced, and worthy of Stephen King." Neal is a significant new voice for young adults, and librarians can look forward to more exciting novels in the future.

—Sue McAlister

Legislative luncheon

The OLA Legislative Committee sponsored, for the second year in a row, a luncheon rather than the sometime "traditional" legislative breakfast as at previous conferences. Sixty-four members of OLA and MPLA heard Pat Woodrum, a past OLA president and former Executive Director of the Tulsa City-County Library System, recount some of her campaign experiences in her 1996 run for the Oklahoma State Senate from Tulsa County. She was joined in her presentation by friend and campaign chair Sally Frasier, whose comments were often entertaining. Ms. Frasier's political experience is acknowledged in the Association, particularly her work on behalf of library interests.

Though having a hard act to follow, OLA Lobbyist Oliver Delaney shared some valuable analysis about current Oklahoma legislative activity with his usual keen insight. Note-worthy this year was the apparent lower level of conflict and rancor, compared to previous years, though many really major issues remained to be addressed in the last month of the 1997 Legislative session.

—Gerald Hickman
Outsourcing, or the sub-contracting of certain library services to external agencies or vendors

Interest having been heightened by the recent Hawaii/EBSCO outsourcing hot potato, a packed audience listened to panel members Ken Bierman, OSU; Bela Foltin, NEOSU; Kathleen Haynes, OUSLIS; and Rob Schneider, EBSCO, discuss outsourcing issues, including possible advantages and disadvantages.

Ken Bierman began by emphasizing that outsourcing is just "one of many management tools available" and that outsourcing can assist the library in achieving goals. He recalled experiences he had had with outsourcing both at OSU and at the Tucson Public Library. Sometimes outsourcing can be more cost effective.

Rob Schneider talked about some trends in the marketplace and emphasized that vendors who are on the other end of outsourcing do not want to make the actual decisions for the library. The vendor is merely there to provide a service to the library by helping to develop library collections. That is the reason the library and the vendor must work closely together when planning the project to ensure that the library gets good service. Schneider says in choosing an outsourcing vendor, the customer (library) should look at the vendor's reputation, its relationship with its customers, references from previous customers, and should do their research.

Bela Foltin discussed a government publications cataloging project at Northeastern Oklahoma State. There were some advantages to outsourcing the project that can be summarized by the fact that 101,000 records got added to the system with relatively little staff time. The project was completed in 2 years instead of 5 years. He emphasized that if you’re trying to sell a project to the administration, have the facts ready. Be prepared to discuss with the administration the major things that outsourcing will accomplish, such as how this will free the staff to perform other duties more effectively.

Kathleen Haynes spoke of how outsourcing projects can affect the library. An outsourced project needs ongoing management from library staff. If there are budget problems in the library and there is a decrease in the amount of cataloging, the administration may think cataloging is no longer needed. One must be prepared for that.

Panelists agreed that although outsourcing can be beneficial and more cost effective in some instances, it is extremely important to understand what it is going to accomplish for the library and to be as knowledgeable as possible about the project before starting it. Management outside the library needs constant education.

One final and thought provoking note was inserted into the discussion by Bela Foltin: What is it we do best? Traditionally we've selected materials, using our knowledge of that particular community. It's possible to outsource part of a process, e.g. use profiles and approval plans for a portion of acquisitions, retaining the remainder of selection for in house decision making. What's core to what a librarian does? We have to prove that we are the best or somebody else is going to do it. For instance, "Welcome to answers.com." Will libraries be outsourced?

—Linda Pye

Self defense / Conflict avoidance program

The OLA Support Staff Roundtable had a kicking good turnout. Mr. & Mrs. Eddie and Joan Wilcoxon from Wilcoxon’s Academy of Martial Arts showed us all how to use our minds to avoid confrontations. The Wilcoxens next showed us some simple karate moves to get out of an attacker’s grasp. This workshop was very informative and enjoyable, especially if you had the chance to talk to Eddie and Joan. I noticed some people from the workshop that were showing other people how to use the karate techniques on the boat cruise that night!

The annual OLA Support Staff Roundtable “Feel Good” Room provided a much needed rest for all who needed to put up their feet, listen to soft music, or enjoy some quiet and some hotly debated conversation. It was very nice to have somewhere to go when the hustle and bustle of OLA got to be too much.

—Jill Vessels

Right: Charlie Ward, Tulsa; Larry Thorne, Alva; Irene Wickham, Tahlequah, and Bob Segal, McAlester, at the Legislative pre-conference “Just Desserts: Political Awareness.”
Attending membership meeting pays off

Thanks to Conference photographers: Buffy Edwards, Danelle Hall, Jan Sanders, Joan Singleton, Ken Bierman (who lost his camera), and Rachel Butler. We have so many great photos, expect to see more in upcoming issues.

Left: Watched by Patsy Stafford, Kay Boies keeps Nathaniel Cook while Peggy takes care of official duties at the head table during the membership meeting.

Above: An exuberant Carolyn Mathews holds her door prize.

Left: Marty Thompson in one of the last actions of his presidential year, hands Beverly Sprehe a free registration for the 1998 Annual Conference. Audience members came to hear about bylaws and business, in hopes of garnering a piece of the loot.

Below: Elaine Watson and Anne Prestamo make off with loot.

Holding the pot o' gold--Yvonne Hinchee and David Johansson, winner of grand gardening door prize.
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Storytelling with David Titus in “The Hogan”

Friday afternoon at the Conference, time to do something different! Here’re some of David’s thoughts on the art of storytelling.

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Storytelling is, “I have some events in here and I want to tell you about them.”

We all tell stories everyday, with our bodies, gestures, and words we choose. There are things in stories that do translate from one language to another, and some that don’t. A story can carry itself—it doesn’t need string or puppets or costumes or a picture book... The form makes a difference in what you get out of a story... Stories start a certain way—once upon a time, in a land far, far away.... I know where it starts and where it ends, and then I just shut up! If there’s a rhyme or jingle, I make sure I know it. The rest of it— in between— is kind of fluff. I believe that story is a participatory event.

I don’t explain. I walk hand in hand with the kids. It’s OK if kids don’t understand everything in a story. I am planting seeds and it takes time for seeds to grow. If you dig seeds up all the time to check on them, they’ll die. So on some stories, just let it sit. Don’t explain. If the story comes from a picture book, I’ll bring the book out next month. I want kids to draw pictures in their minds, not just take the artist’s pictures. Every story is like a symphony.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom.

Kids love to hear stories again and again. It’s no different from an adult shushing everyone and turning up the volume when their song comes on the radio, “Shhh—listen, isn’t that a great song!” And next time that song comes on, “Wait!....I loooove that song!”... Stories like “The Three Little Pigs” and “Three Billy Goats Gruff” have universal truths in them. Children need to hear them over and over and over again.

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We were in the palm of his hand, laughing and listening intently. Then the rain beat on the roof of The Hogan, toying with our attention, and distracting David from his thread. We laughed some more, and were again drawn tightly into the circle of story, participatory and companionable and alive.

—Rachel Butler
Argentinian librarian forms bridge with Oklahoma librarians

Nora Estela Luaces, coordinator of the Mario Moreno Public Library and Cultural Center in Quilmes, Argentina, spent a four-month fellowship in Norman this spring, sponsored by the Pioneer Library System and the OU School of Library and Information Studies. She was one of five International Library Fellows chosen by the ALA this year. Debra Engel, PLS, and June Lester, OUSLIS, served as Nora's mentors during the fellowship.

Nora's library in Quilmes is "a private library that gives public service. We have shared databases... you can read, but not borrow the books. It is a library and cultural center."

While studying in the United States, Nora gathered information on management practices that she'll use in coordinating community literacy programs in Quilmes, a medium-sized community 40 miles from Buenos Aires. She hopes to enhance community programs already in place, coordinate volunteers, implement new library policies, and work with the Universidad de Quilmes to develop programs to improve literacy skills for adults and children in the area.

Although this was her first trip to the United States, Nora became familiar with US library literature in her studies in Argentina and has also studied extensively abroad. "I think what most impressed me about Nora was her adaptability, her independence, and her persistence in making the fellowship work to meet her needs. She was constantly focused on what she could learn that she could take back with her to Argentina and use in her library," says June Lester.

Nora was particularly interested in leadership development, training, and the system concept. She enjoyed visiting all libraries, participated in many trainings at Pioneer Library System, workshops at the Library School, and attended two classes at the Library School. Debra Engel says, "We often talked about library services that we both offered (PLS and Maria Moreno Public Library) and services that were different for both of our libraries. She was always looking at libraries and she visited several while in the United States—Pioneer Library System, University of Oklahoma, Enid Garfield County Public Library, Tulsa City County Library, Anadarko Public Library, Dallas Public Library, Washington, DC public library, and Albuquerque Public Library. She wanted to know about staff training, board training, finances, public policy issues, legislative issues—both state and federal—telecommunication issues, technology, etc! We covered a lot of territory!"

At ALA in January Nora talked with librarians that work in Latin American collections, sharing ideas about possible cooperation. In Norman she talked with the information services and multicultural librarianship classes at the library school. Nora said, "It's a wonderful multicultural place.... space for everyone to be included. This is a country of immigrants, and inclusive, like our country."

"It is wonderful to see how librarians and civic institutions in this country work together for the benefit of all communities," Nora said. "Institutions in Argentina have a long way to develop. Because of the military coups, everything has to be redone." She is thinking about ways to position her institution as an information source. Technology issues are big in Argentinian libraries as well as here.

Nora described two laws under consideration in her country that, if passed, would promote connecting all libraries in Argentina by computer, and begin the process of setting standards for those entering the library field. Once back in Argentina, she will be active in promoting these goals with the new skills she has acquired during her fellowship. "Everything is connected to the library. We want to improve our community. Everywhere the library is a leader of information." Nora's face lit up as she mused, "sharing with other professionals...!"

Debra also says, "Nora was open to new adventures—in the pouring rain we explored the "Rose Rock Museum" and met the shopkeeper, who was delighted that rose rocks would be going to Argentina!"

"My husband and I have hosted many international students, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting scientists over the years. Nora was a wonderful guest. She would always take part in the activity of the moment including a Cub Scout outing to EOSAT! She shared with us about her family, her library, her colleagues, and her country."

"Nora's visit gave me a renewed appreciation for our country and our democracy. We take so many of our basic freedoms for granted, and as sluggishly and awkwardly as the system works—it is a blessing that we need to count each and every day."

The Library Fellows program, which began in 1987, is funded by the U.S. Information Agency and administered by ALA. Unfortunately, the program is to be eliminated after FY 98 due to a 33 percent cut in U.S.I.A.'s "constant funding" in the past five years. Originally organized to place U.S. library professionals into institutions overseas, the program expanded in October 1993 to bring international librarians to the U.S. Program goals are to increase international understanding and sharing of resources, establish enduring professional and institutional linkages, develop and enhance the fellows' professional expertise, reinforce the concept of libraries as essential democratic institutions, and help fellows acquire familiarity with U.S. society and librarianship practices. During its 10 years, 147 librarians have participated in the Library Fellows program.

—Rachel Butler
Report on materials challenged in Oklahoma libraries, 1996-97

The Intellectual Freedom Committee of OLA has been revising the Intellectual Freedom Manual. The Manual was available for questions at the OLA conference.

The committee also aided librarians with challenges to materials, including the following:

- An ABC of Witchcraft by Doreen Valiente. Public library retained.
- The Bad Good Manners Book by Babette Cole. Public library retained.
- Beyond the Chocolate War by Robert Cormier. Public library retained.
- Boy Who Lost His Face by Louis Sachar. Public library retained.
- Boys and Sex by Wardell Pomeroy. Public library retained.
- Coming of Age by Karen Liptak. Public library retained.
- Crazy Quilt by Jocelyn Riley. Public library retained.
- Fade by Robert Cormier. Public library retained.
- Happy Deathday to You by G.E. Stanley. School library restricted use to 7th & 8th graders.
- It's Perfectly Normal by Robie H. Harris. Public library retained.
- Kin's Un'c't by Klaus Kinski. Public library retained.
- Last Vampire by Christopher Pike. Public library retained.
- Law of Love by Laura Esquivel. Public library in process of reviewing this challenge.
- Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett. High school library retained.
- Rats in the Attic by G.E. Stanley. School library restricted use to 7th & 8th graders.
- Real Holocaust by Gyasi Foluke. Public library retained, then removed, then reinventoried.
- Saturday is Pattyday by Leslea Newman. Public library retained.
- Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth Speare. School library is in process of reviewing item.
- Stuck Rubber Baby by Howard Cruse. Public library retained.
- We All Fall Down by Robert Cormier. Public library retained.
- Fun on the Job. Public library retained.
- Norma Rae. Public library retained.
- Room With a View. Public library retained item, did not add warning label.

The first annual OLA-SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award was given to Lee Brawner, Director of the Metropolitan Library System, for his contributions in promoting intellectual freedom and access to information in Oklahoma (see p. 25). This award consists of $500 to the award recipient, $500 to the institution of the recipient's choice, and a plaque for the recipient commemorating the event. Nominees for next year's award should be submitted to next year's Intellectual Freedom Committee by March 15, 1998.

—Elizabeth Romero

Ergonomics in a library setting

Michael Montgomery, Safety Engineering Specialist for OU's Environmental Safety Services, presented the program "Ergonomics in a Library Setting". Michael is responsible for compliance with OSHA regulations, including safety training and record keeping, and also for analyzing occupational accidents and workers' claim reports to determine areas where accident trends occur. He conducts many occupational safety awareness programs, and assists university departments in procedures for preventing or correcting unsafe working conditions.

Training in ergonomics can actually have two separate thrusts. The individual can learn to avoid fatigue and pain, as well as hazards, through his own work habits to some extent. The employer often needs to make adjustments in the work environment, with items such as room space, office furniture and equipment. Employers are looking to ergonomics more and more as occupational illnesses and on-the-job injuries are costing billions nationwide in individual claims and in lost time and productivity. Replacing a few pieces of furniture can be much cheaper than a $10,000 back surgery.

—Janice Ferris

Ergonomics applies to you..... now!

Most specifically employers need to address avoidance of 'repetition' and 'force'. Mike encourages the employee to take short frequent breaks. He suggests the employee make errands into breaks from long term sitting. He recommends that the employee consciously refocus their eyes away from their work— routinely.

The safe lifting zone is between the shoulders and the waist. Planning for projects to be kept within this range will aid keeping the back healthy. Mike recommends the OSHA booklet #3092 for ergonomic information. It is available from: 1) the federal office of OSHA in Oklahoma, or 2) the State Dept. of Labor.

Keep in mind that the task dictates the lighting level. Most computer office settings have too much light which causes glare and eye strain. Parabolic lighting (light that is focused down) is recommended. Keep source documents close to the screen and at about the same distance from your eyes. While sitting properly (back straight, neck neutral) your eyes should be even with the top of the monitor screen and about an arms length away. To reduce glare, the monitor needs to be perpendicular to the floor. It is important for one's chair to be adjustable. Forward/ backward, up/down back adjustments and adjustable lumbar support options are preferred. Soft, wide and adjustable arm rests are best. While sitting with good posture, knees and elbows should be at 90 degree angles and perpendicular to the floor. Thighs and forearms should be parallel to the floor. Feet should touch the floor or be supported by a foot rest.

Keyboards should be adjustable. It is imperative that
Upcoming dedication at Western Oklahoma State College

Julie Brooks invites everyone to attend the Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Learning Resources and Telecommunications Center on Wednesday, August 13, 1997 at 9:30 a.m., Western Oklahoma State College, 2801 North Main, Altus, OK. Reception, tours and demonstrations will follow.

Plea for support

The LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund was established to provide direct financial aid for the support, maintenance, medical care, and welfare of librarians who are threatened with loss of employment or discharge because of their stand for the cause of intellectual freedom. It was broadened in 1975 to include persons discriminated against by libraries. Their fund has received more requests for help in the last year than ever. If you would like to help with this cause, you may send contributions of any amount to: LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611.

Sample Internet policies

Looking for ideas? Find sample Internet policies from all sizes of libraries by going to http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/library/poli.htm. Contributed by Sharon Saulmon during the “Sex, Laws & Cyberspace Luncheon” at conference.

ODL Homepage updates

Bill Young notes several updates to the ODL website. Find out about “Universal Service” and discounts to libraries for telecommunications costs. This is a brand new and still developing situation. Look at “HTML: How to Make Library Web Pages,” a document originally created for a program held at the joint OLA/MPLA conference and now available to you on the website. Covers planning, lists of HTML codes, and links to Internet sites. And don’t forget—if not for yourself—for someone you know... find out about library jobs by using the homepage. Check out http://www.state.ok.us/~odl/whatsnew.htm

LTA attends Internet Institute

Beverlie Newby, LTA at Western Oklahoma State College Learning Resources Center, attended two weeks of Internet training for professional librarians and library technicians at Rose State College. In the first week, March 16-21, the students were trained to access information through the Internet and the second week, May 18-21, concentrated on effectively teaching Internet use to other staff and library customers.

More than 300 inquiries were received for applications to attend the institute, with 130 applications received.

The top 30 applicants were allowed to attend the institute. Students were chosen based on personal data, who they served, previous Internet knowledge and a written essay.

The Institute was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and was mainly designed to train library staff who work with children, young adult, elderly, minority, illiterate, disadvantaged or rural groups.

Classes offered hands-on Internet access through Rose State’s computer labs and were taught by Melissa Huffman, reference/special projects librarian, and Mike Freeman, coordinator of computer operations. Project director for the Internet Institute was Sharon Saulmon.

—Julie Brooks

Beta Phi Mu

The Lambda Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, a honorary library organization, held its annual initiation and banquet at the University Club at the University of Oklahoma on March 22, 1997. Dr. F. William Summers, Executive Secretary of National Beta Phi Mu, and from the Florida State University School of Library and Information Studies, spoke. Dr. Summers’ presentation was entitled, “The Civic Responsibility of Educated People.” New chapter initiates include Cecelia Brown, Shelia Beckwith Young, and Scott Nicholson.

1997-98 officers for the Lambda Chapter were announced. Next year’s President will be Kathryn Roots Lewis, Library Information Specialist for Norman Public Schools. Mary Beth Webb-Ozmun, a Library Media Specialist for Union Public Schools, will be President-Elect. Sharlotte Riggle, Reference & Systems Librarian for the Chickasaw Library System in Ardmore, will be Secretary. Francine Fisk, Coordinator of General Services for the McFarlin Library at The University of Tulsa, will be Treasurer. Michael Havener, OU School of Library and Information Studies, is faculty sponsor for the Lambda Chapter.

—Kathryn Lewis

Ergonomics (cont. from p. 37)

wrists be supported in the neutral position to avoid injury. An adjustable keyboard tray and mouse pad attachment can be added to a computer table. Some people like to use track balls instead of a mouse. At this time, Mike doesn’t recommend new fads such as the ergonomic keyboards. Many pieces of equipment are available to assist us as we work on computers. Some people have been quite inventive and have provided their own computer station equipment, for example, homemade lecterns and acrylic recipe book holders to hold books open and flat.

It’s been proven that keeping in good physical condition provides natural support for all occupations.

—Carol Ihrig
People and Places

CHRISTINE MUELLER, formerly OSU Assistant Systems Librarian, left OSU at the end of May for a new job as Ibero Cataloging Librarian at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

ANNETTE DUFFY retired from the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics. Many librarians attended a party in her honor held at the OU Health Sciences Center library on May 15.

At ODL two positions were recently created and another one expanded as part of the agency’s new Strategic Plan for Service. GARY PHILLIPS recently became Fiscal & Special Projects Librarian, after having been a public library consultant. VICKI SULLIVAN was director of the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse and is now Government Information Administrator. MARY HARDIN is the administrator of the OTIS/Information Services Division (Oklahoma Telecommunication Interlibrary System). The new positions were created by reallocating unfilled positions.

KATHLEEN RYAN is working for Follett Software Company. She was Director of the Seminole Public Library.

DELL HEWEY is retiring from Rose State University on July 1. She’ll be training for long distance running in the Senior Olympics, among other things!

ESTHER MAE HENKE, 30-year advocate for public libraries through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, died in Oklahoma City on May 22, 1997. She began her career as a bookmobile librarian in Richmond, MO, and from 1953 to 1983, was employed by ODL, ending as Associate Director for Public Library Services. In the capacity she was responsible for the development of public library service throughout the state, the administration of state and federal funds to public libraries, new building construction and organization of multi-county library districts. She received OLA’s Distinguished Service Award in 1971 for inspired leadership. By the time she retired, she had achieved the primary goal of publicly supported library service in every Oklahoma county. She was a mentor to many.

OLAC Executive Board Takes Action

MARCH
The Oklahoma Library Association Executive Board met on March 21, 1997 at the Tulsa Campus of UCT/RSC. The following actions were taken by the Board:
— Approved the minutes of the February 21 meeting as submitted.
— Accepted the treasurer’s report for OLA as submitted.
— Considered and approved the guidelines for a scholarship to be funded from money donated by the Tulsa Area Library Cooperative and to be open to applicants from northeastern Oklahoma.
— Considered two reports submitted by the Sequoyah Book Award Administrative Committee.

One report outlined the mission and duties of the Administrative Committee as well as the duties of the Reading Committees, while the other referenced problems with awards process and gave recommended solutions. Portions of these reports dealing with the time and place of the awards presentations were tabled by the Board. The remaining recommendations were approved with a few modifications.
— Considered and approved a proposal from the Social Responsibilities Roundtable for ALA SRRT affiliation.
— Met in Executive Session to consider recommendations from the Awards Committee.

APRIL
Because of the Annual Conference, no Executive Board meeting was scheduled in April.

—Karen Marriott, Secretary

Parker Atkins and a Shangri-La staffer who made an extra effort to see that he got a special dessert at the banquet. he ended up with four desserts. Definitely a great conference!

From left: Only Loosely Actors Erma Stewart, Barbara Namminga, Wayne Hanway, Danielle Hall, Edwin Wiles, and Joanne Bierman try not to look ethically challenged before the Ethics Committee panel gets underway.

Karen Sanderson and Sharlotte Riggle in the conference exhibit area.

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