“In this time people who are not used to speaking up are going to have to speak up firmly,” Robin Meyers, panel member.

“Wonderful conference!” “Excellent across the board.”

“Wanted to let you know that this was a great conference. The speakers were wonderful with new ideas and old ideas which needed to be said!”

“As a member of the C-SOL steering committee, I appreciate being invited and included in your seminar. I received valuable information that will be helpful in coordinating activities of this activist group. Thanks so much!”

“I have usually been too confrontational. I will have to tone it down.”

“Legal information was appreciated.”

“Thanks! I think my board members now believe they must become more concerned and be ready! I learned that what I deemed age appropriate Internet I was considering for my children’s area may just violate what we are attempting to prevent (censorship). I learned I need to reconsider some meeting room issues—charging businesses when non-profits are free and what I deemed a pleasant book signing event is really a form of sales.”

“I’m not going to be popular for this idea but it’s a great country...isn’t it? The message I’ve gotten from this morning’s presentation is that if I am Christian, Republican and conservative or respect any part of an organized religion based political group—that makes me a failure as a good librarian; and that if I am Christian, Republican, conservative, etc...then I am an evil person intent on pushing my political and theological agenda on the rest of the world... Wow, I must be an ego-maniacal quasi-nazi-oh, but the Nazis accused the Jews and blacks of doing the same the “Conservatives” are being accused of...using theology and politics to take over the world. [...] I feel as public employees we are honor bound and ethically bound to keep our political agendas to ourselves in the workplace while doing everything possible to maintain universal access of information and the freedom to form ideas and respect ideas different than their own. We have a HUGE responsibility to the public...even Judeo-Christian conservatives...they’re our patrons, librarians, family and friends. So let’s please take the high road and promote a little more tolerance of religious and political diversity. Thank you, S. Robb, Maysville”

Over 130 librarians of all types, board members and friends, some of whose comments are above, came to the Leadership Development Institute, Thursday evening and Friday, Nov. 13-14, in Oklahoma City. Many more hopefuls were on a waiting list. Partly funded by the Nathan Cummings Foundation, this workshop was co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Library System, Pioneer Library System, Tulsa City-County Library System, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma Library Association, and the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom.

"Why this fight over libraries? Putting the battle over library collections and policies in the context of classic conflict situations helps explain the extremes and incivility of discourse, and some guides to conflict resolution," OU Professor David Carnevale said. "Be willing to hear your patrons out, sturdily defend free speech, do your duty to all your patrons. Model the behavior you’d expect in a free society where other opinions are respected."

Clergy panel discussion

Possibly the most well received of all was the clergy panel "Responding to the Faith Based Challenge," moderated by Rev. Doyle Kinney, First Christian Church, Clinton, and Oklahoma Department of Libraries board member. Panel members Rev. Michael Bumgarner, First Baptist Church in Norman; Dr. Robin Meyers, Mayflower Congregational Church, OKC; Rabbi A. David Packman, Temple B’nai Israel, OKC; and Father Lawrence Stasyszen, St. Gregory’s University, Shawnee, spoke and then responded to questions. They were thoughtful and well spoken, funny, respectful of each other and differing viewpoints, and showed a clear and strong care for the entire community we live in.

It was very much a treat to be included in such a discussion. Other audience members said afterward: “Outstanding.” “Gave a different approach to think about faith based reactions to faith based activities you disagree with.” “I felt so good after hearing this panel. They all seemed to express a positive means of managing challenges.” “So enlightening, hopeful!” There is much need, even hunger.
With the possibility of the “separation of library materials” bill surfacing again in the state legislature, we face the task of not only defending Freedom to Read, but defending tenets of our profession. The bill would restrict both local control of collections and the provision of open access for all citizens. We are the professionals, trained and experienced to build collections by knowing our communities, and to guide users to information. We are the surrogates with credentials to teach how to search, evaluate, and select. The necessity to explain the policy that a person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views may not seem like a step forward, but this necessity is an important one.

At Leadership Retreat last June, your leadership identified attributes of the Association as “prouds.” The Association’s participation in legislative activities rated very high. The Association is continuing to speak in a strong voice for libraries. Join other librarians at the state capitol for Legislative Day, February 24.

In November, the Leadership Development Institute speakers strengthened and fortified the call to library advocacy. The Town Hall project grant from Oklahoma Department of Libraries is to help librarians be proactive in addressing the important issues raised at the Leadership Development Institute. Grants of $1000 or more will be available to local planning groups for the presentation of a program concerning the important role of community libraries in providing access to information.

If you haven’t already, please take a look at the OLA home page (http://explorer3.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/). The web page now includes areas of Intellectual Freedom, Legislative Issues, awards information, and a calendar of events including Conference. A new addition to the page is an OLA welcome to and about first time members. We hope to use the electronic format as we continue to look for ways to regain financial stability.

Also new this year, each first time OLA member is being welcomed with a personal phone call from someone on the Membership Committee. The Committee is also coordinating visits to OLA committees by new members so they can meet some people and get a taste of OLA activities.

Plans for Annual Conference are shaping up. Clifton Taulbert, author of Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored, will be our keynote speaker at the First General Session. Adding to our all-Oklahoma theme, we will hear Michael Wallis (Route 66: The Mother Road; Mankiller: A Chief and Her People) at the banquet on Friday night. OASLMS members are working to coordinate the entertainment on Thursday evening. Mark your calendars for OLA Conference, April 30-May 3.

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Editorial Office
Rachel Butler, Oklahoma City Community College, 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73159. (405) 682-1611 x7643, e-mail: rbutler@okc.cc.ok.us Printed by Transcript Press, Norman, OK 73069. c. OLA

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OLA Calendar

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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Long Range Planning Committee, ODL - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
<td>Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>January 9-15</td>
<td>ALA Midwinter Meeting, New Orleans</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Program Comm/Exec Board, Downtown Doubletree, Tulsa</td>
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<td>January 20</td>
<td>Intellectual Freedom Committee, OUHSC - 10 am</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>Membership Comm, OSU Curriculum Materials Lib - 10 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Long Range Planning Committee, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>February 10</td>
<td>OLA PLD/Trustees Workshop, Shawnee</td>
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<td>President’s Day</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>Intellectual Freedom Committee, Moore PL - 3:30 pm</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>Library Education Division Workshop, Oklahoma City</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>Program Comm/Executive Board, Anadarko Public Library</td>
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<td>Legislative Day</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>ODL Copyright Workshop - Tulsa</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>ODL Copyright Workshop - Oklahoma City</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
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<td>March 10-14</td>
<td>PLA National Conference, Kansas City</td>
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<td>Program Comm/Executive Board, Oak Hall School, Ardmore</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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Come to the fair!

This year's All Conference Event will be an auction and old-fashioned county fair. There will be booths to inform, to test your skills, to entertain.

In addition, the OLA fundraiser will be an auction including prize-winning "things" to which you can contribute. Do you make the world's best jelly? Is your family-recipe salsa an oft-requested item? Has your needlework won ribbons wherever shown? Do people clamor to see your latest woodworking project?

Is there a service you can offer? If so, let us know so that we can include these services in the auction. Suggestions include: a song dedicated to a special person or group, line dancing lessons to conference participants, a massage.

Whatever your talent or gift, let us know and we will put it (or you on the auction block. Think hard and find a way to participate. With your help, this will be a memorable, fun evening.

Contact: Jan Sanders at 918-337-5363 or jsanders@bartlesville.lib.ok.us when the date is set and how you can best participate. The Committee is compiling a list of members who live in districts of legislators serving on this House Interim Committee.

3. In keeping with the above, take a minute to "educate your legislator." Invite your representative and senator to your library and show them around. Then, when they start discussing the segregation of information in libraries, your folks will already know how their "home library" is set up and why. "An ounce of prevention..."


The legislative goals for the '98 Session have been formulated by the Legislative Committee. The theme is "Libraries, Literacy, and Learning." Our first concern (no surprise at all to any Oklahoma resident who has been following the OKC "Tin Drum" case) was a re-statement of dedication to the ideals of free access to information. The "local control" wording is included to counter efforts to legislate segregation and restriction of specific works or collections. You will remember this was a legislative effort that very nearly slipped through last session. Our work in this area must be concentrated and vigilant. OLA membership has reinforced its support for statewide databases; everyone is benefiting and most are very pleased with the results. Another goal reflects media specialists' desire to ensure support for the State Dept. of Education agenda items. In addition a goal which supports increasing technology in colleges and universities was written to mesh with the Technology 2000 recommendations from the State Regents for Higher Education. A really "snappy" brochure, funded by Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) and Encyclo-Media, lists the goals with some strong supporting documentation and is available from OLA. It features family literacy, technological literacy, and consumer literacy. Use it to converse with your Senators and Representatives. Make sure your Board members know what it says and what it means, then bring them all together at Legislative Day, February 24. See you there!

5. Call either of us for details or information on legislative issues, whether you have questions or suggestions. We need to hear from you if we are to represent the whole organization. Thanks for your help!

—are Jan Sanders and Donna Morris, co-chairs

Are you keeping up with Oklahoma libraries?

Check the OLA web site: http://explorer3.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/

Check the ODL web site: http://www.state.ok.us/~odl

Look at the Dec. 16 universal service update. Also includes hot links to Family Friendly Libraries and Focus on the Family Welcome Center web sites. ODL web site is now searchable by keywords.

Let me know about other sites,
—Editor
Crisis and Challenge (cont. from p.53)

for this kind of thoughtful discussion. I talked later with some people, not directly affiliated with libraries, who were very sorry they couldn’t get in to hear this clergy panel.

A few comments from the panelists struck me. Mike Bumgarner: "There’s a great anti-intellectual flow in religion today. Experience has become more important than tradition and learning. There are a lot of worries in society today, many of which turn into political agendas. A lot of people are scared out of their wits about what might happen to their kids. Some people have an agenda of power and control. It’s public money and because of that we have to respect the diversity of those who make up our community." He reminded us to keep our beliefs in mind, keep our strings in, and keep speaking our positions faithfully and frequently.

Robin Meyers: "Widely different views of human sexuality drive this struggle. Not all clergy support the OCAF worldview. We’ve never needed rational information about sexuality more than today. Yet not everything should go into the public library."

David Packman: "Much of history is conflict between the book readers and the book burners. The bottom line is really the slippery slope, with Salmon Rushdie as the last step. So we can’t let the first steps on the slope begin. Evil only flourishes when good people do nothing."

Legal Issues

Teresa Chmara, a trial lawyer specializing in First Amendment and Constitutional issues, who’s worked as counsel to ALA and the Freedom to Read Foundation, and Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson talked about legal issues including considerations about electronic issues, privacy, and rules for meeting rooms and display cases. Once you’ve opened meeting rooms or display cases to ANY outside group, they must be opened to all groups, otherwise you’re discriminating solely based on the CONTENT of their speech. You can limit to certain days, hours, etc. (content neutral rules), but can’t limit by profit/nonprofit groups.

Politics in Your Own Backyard

Cecile Richards, founder of the grassroots organization Texas Freedom Network, outlined what they’ve learned about advocacy:

1. Know your opposition, understand their motivation, who they are linked to, where their funding comes from.
2. Educate the media on your issues, remembering there is lots of turnover in media positions.
3. Organize your allies. When your issue is under attack, you may not be the best one to speak out.
4. Reach out to the clergy.
5. Don’t underestimate the other side. They have the commitment and resources to last.
6. Most importantly, "This is not someone else’s problem. We have to be unwilling to allow hatefulness and blame to take over again."

Sharon Rodine, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, and a local advocate for public education who has experience in identifying “stealth” candidates, stressed finding ways to link your issues with business and other groups. She also said, "This society no longer has common information sources. Remember that the other side has its own media outlets.” And something I’ve never heard put so vividly before: “We [librarians, educators, etc.] tend to work on logic and civility and reason. Maybe we need MORE emotion. It’s about marketing. We need to return to language that’s values-based, and bring our PASSION to these discussions.”

Tips on Communicating in Crisis and Conflict

In a long afternoon session, Gerry Baker, Corporate Consulting, and who used to work for Kerr McGee gave some excellent tips, positive tips.

Prevention: Be visible. Identify key people in the community by job title and systematically go about meeting them and telling them what you do. Build those relationships, 15 minutes at a time, at least twice a year. Talk about 1) what’s new, and 2) “How can the library help you?” Close with: 1) “If you don’t want to talk about these things, tell me, otherwise I’ll be back every so often,” and 2) “is there anyone else in this community you think I could help that I should call?” Establish communications BEFORE you need them.

Work on your key messages. Key messages are 3-5 simple messages you want to deliver. The process of developing them is like strategic planning, it helps the cohesion of the group and clarifies thinking. Examples of key messages are: "All of us have the right to information." "The library supports parental concerns." “The selection policy is sound." Support each key message with some facts.

In a crisis: Create a crisis management team of 5-7 people and designate a spokesman. Evaluate the real threat. Refine key messages. Crisis time is a good opportunity to deliver positive news—don’t just react to events.

Working with the media: The whole idea is delivering your message. If you refuse to be interviewed, your side won’t be there. Your greater responsibility is to deliver your message to your constituency. It may go against the grain, but you have no obligation to actually answer the reporter’s question. Bridging is a technique to control an interview. Say, “Let me answer that in this way...” or change the subject back to one of your key messages, as in “that’s why, Bob, ....” or “the most important thing we do is ....” Be ready with that “one most important thing” in your mind. Have a plan for what you want to accomplish in the interview and practice it. Don’t be intimidated by the media but remember, all you can control is what comes out of your mouth. Be cautious about a reporter’s summary. Restate things in your own words.

If you weren’t able to attend, the “Crisis and Challenge” Institute was videotaped and its 2 tapes can be purchased for $12 each from OLA, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013. Vol. 1: Dr. David G. Carnevale; Clergy Panel; Cecile Richards, Sharon Rodine and State Senator Cal Hobson. Vol. 2: Attorney General Drew Edmonson and Teresa Chmara; Lee Brawner and Judith Krug; Gerry Baker.

—Rachel Butler
As more libraries provide Internet access to their customers, it becomes important that library staff meet with community leaders, boards, and city officials to discuss the advantages and disadvantage of its use. Our communities need to provide their input on access and understand what is available on the Internet. An Internet use policy should be written with these discussions in mind.

Information offered on the Internet differs from that offered in our libraries since it has not gone through any selection process. There is no authority control. We must be certain that our community and our customers know to check for authority, currency, and accuracy. We can emphasize the critical thinking skills necessary to search the Internet.

The Internet is international in scope and provides an opportunity to learn about other cultures. However, the community needs to be aware that not all countries have the same standards as the United States. In discussing with our communities, it is important to emphasize the positive aspects of the Internet and the many positive services the library provides.

In writing an Internet policy, check the *Oklahoma Statutes* to be sure that the policy follows Oklahoma law. Decide if you want time limits, limits on chat rooms and e-mail, filtering devices, etc. Read the literature on filtering. You may not want to give parents the impression that you have protected their children. Filtering on a site by site basis often does not work since sites change daily. Filtering on a word basis often filters valuable information and does not filter somepornographic sites. It is the parent’s responsibility to determine what is appropriate for his child. It is also illegal to deny access to adults to protect children.

Internet is an exciting new source of information for adults and children. It is our job as librarians to inform our customers of its potential. Using critical thinking skills to evaluate the sites provides people with valuable information. A number of online resources are available for parents in the use of the Internet for children, as well as sites for librarians to teach customers how to use it. By leaving the control of the Internet to parents, librarians can assure full respect for the protection of freedom of expression.

—Elizabeth Romero
What's up with Sequoyah?

The Sequoyah Administrative Committee (ADCOM) was formed to handle all of the administrative duties associated with the Sequoyah Book Awards thus enabling the reading committees to concentrate on reading, reading, reading. So the ADCOM was formed this year to oversee the 1998-99 Sequoyah program.

One of the first things that the ADCOM did was to send out a survey through the ODL mailings and the SDE Encyclomedia mailing. In that survey, we indicated that we were planning to change the voting deadline from January 31 to May 1 (effective in 1999) to allow a greater length of time for the librarians to promote the program and for the kids to read the books. The survey results let us know that very many of you were concerned about the problem of not having the awards ceremony during the same school year as the reading of the books. It would indeed be a major problem, so the voting date will remain January 31. I repeat, there will be NO CHANGE in the voting date for the Sequoyah awards.

We will, however, attempt to get the new lists out to you earlier for ordering purposes, so you can begin publicizing the new list after January 31. (Please, not before because that would confuse EVERYONE.) This way, you can start promoting the new list during the second semester, and the students can continue to read the books as the public librarians promote them during their summer reading programs. You can continue to promote the program during first semester next year, and the students will vote in January. That should give the kids enough time to read the number of books required for voting. Please remember that the Sequoyah committees STRONGLY DISCOURAGE requiring all students to read all books on the lists. Not all of the books are of interest to or of the appropriate maturity level for all students.

The ADCOM is making every effort to ensure that the award presentations can be made at OLA conference. The problem in past years has been the short amount of time between voting and conference to book the winning author. Often, the author already has other commitments for the OLA conference dates and also to reserve the OLA conference dates for their nominated authors. We hope therefore to avoid some of the out of print problems that we have had in the past and to avoid the inability to produce the winning author at the OLA conference award presentations.

The survey also showed that there is confusion regarding the role of the public library in the Sequoyah program. Public libraries are strongly encouraged to purchase the nominees and promote them throughout the voting year, particularly during their summer reading programs and until the voting deadline of January 31. Public libraries are encouraged to conduct voting for home schooled students and/or for students whose local school does NOT conduct voting. Public libraries are encouraged to bring these students to the award presentation, if the local school does not plan to bring the students.

As a result of your comments on the survey, the OLA executive board has voted to adopt the following change to the Sequoyah grade level requirements for voting. Effective in the 1999-2000 program, the voting rules will be:

- **Elementary school students in grades three or higher** who have read or heard three or more books on the Children’s masterlist may vote for the Children’s award.
- **Middle school or junior high students** who have read or heard three or more books on the Young Adult masterlist may vote for the YA award.

This change will make the Sequoyah program more consistent with the current configuration of most schools in the state and will eliminate the necessity for some libraries to buy the nominees for both awards because they serve grades 6-8. That gets expensive. Please note that this does NOT take effect until 1999-2000, so it does NOT affect this coming school year’s (1998-99) program.

We thank all of you who responded to the survey. We appreciate the input from librarians in the field in our attempt to improve the Sequoyah program.

Unfortunately, the ADCOM inherited debts from the 1997-98 program. You have read the message from Susan Wright, OLA president, explaining the OLA financial difficulties this year. The Sequoyah Book Awards committee is suffering through this as well. As a result, in order to finance the bookmarks for the program, it will be necessary (for this year only, we hope) to charge a penny each for the bookmarks. While this is not a huge amount for any one library to absorb ($1.00 per hundred), it will provide the needed funding to print the bookmarks. The ADCOM apologizes to the libraries of Oklahoma, but it is either this solution, or no bookmarks at all. We hope that you will agree that this solution is the better of the two alternatives. And we are making every effort to acquire new sponsors to fund all of the promotional materials in the future.

We welcome any questions or comments that you might have concerning the Sequoyah award program. You may contact me by email, fax, phone, or letter. I will pass along your comments to the rest of the ADCOM, the OLA executive board, and the appropriate reading committee.

—Mona Hatfield, ADCOM chair
mona_hatfield@casciahall.tulsa.ok.us
phone 918-742-7373, x116 or fax 918-742-4980
2520 S. Yorktown, Tulsa, OK 74114
The 1998-1999 Children’s Sequoyah Award Masterlist

Bauer, Joan
Bunting, Eve
Byars, Betsy
Casanova, Mary
Clements, Andrew
DeFelice, Cynthia
Duffy, Betsy
Gutman, Dan
Kehret, Peg
Myers, Anna
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
Nixon, Joan Lowery
Paterson, Katherine
Pinkney, Andrea D.
Wardlaw, Lee
White, Ruth
Wisler, G. Clifton
Wood, Ted

Sticks
Train to Somewhere
Tornado
Riot
Frindle
The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker
Hey, New Kid
The Kid Who Ran for President
Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio
Spotting the Leopard
Shiloh Season
Search for the Shadowman
Jip
Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Riding Cowboy
101 Ways to Bug Your Parents
Belle Prater’s Boy
Caleb’s Choice
Iditarod Dream: Dusty and His Sled Dogs
Compete in the Alaska Jr. Iditarod

The 1998-1999 Young Adult Sequoyah Award Masterlist

Cushman, Karen
Ferris, Jean
Fletcher, Susan
Gilbert, Barbara S.
Glenn, Mel
Gregory, Kristiana
Hobbs, Will
Klass, David
Lasky, Kathryn
McManus, Patrick
Philbrook, Rodman
Rodowsky, Colby
Spinelli, Jerry
Thesman, Jean
White, Ruth

The Ballad of Lucy Whipple
All That Glitters
Sign of the Dove
Stone Water
Who Killed Mr. Chippendale? A Mystery
in Poems
The Winter of the Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart
Far North
Danger Zone
True North
Never Cry "ARP!"
The Fire Pony
Remembering Mog
Crash
The Ornament Tree
Belle Prater’s Boy

In your mailbox soon!
Look for the 1998 OLA Conference Preview

LED Notes
The Library Education Division has been hard at work developing new programs and a web page. I would like to recognize the LED Planning Committee members who have all worked hard for the division this year: Chair Elect—Ginny Dietrich, Oklahoma Department of Libraries; Secretary—Mary Evans, East Central University; Ken Gunselman, Northwestern State University; James Wilkerson, Southwestern State University; Lotsee Patterson, University of Oklahoma; Beth Freeman, Rogers University; and Jill Hudson, University of Central Oklahoma.

If anyone is interested in working with this exciting committee, please contact Ginny Dietrich at ODL (gdietrich@oltn.odl.state.ok.us).

In November the OLA Library Education Division web page was born at http://explorer3.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/. Some of the information currently available at the site are: Goals & Objectives of the Division; Library Education in Oklahoma for Spring 1998; Survey Results; and information about the program being planned for Spring 1998. The birth of a Web page means there will be constant change and growth. If you have any ideas of what to add or change on the page please let me know. I can be reached by email at carvajal_jane@mail.mls.lib.ok.us (it doesn’t work correctly from the web page — sigh!).

The Spring workshop is entitled “Don’t Get Caught in the Web: Avoiding the Garbage-Out Trap.” Our topic is one which got high results in the survey—how to evaluate sources on the web as well as teaching evaluation methods to others. This program is presented by Mike Havener (OU) and Charles Brooks (TU) on Thursday, February 19, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Oklahoma City Community College.

—Jane Carvajal
Surveys lead to changes at library

A study to find out how users feel about services has resulted in changes at OU's Bizzell Memorial Library. The project, sponsored by Republic Bank of Norman, Security National Bank and Trust, and First Fidelity Bank, was a collaboration between the University Libraries and the spring and fall classes of Marketing 3023, taught by Mike Bolin, a graduate teaching assistant in the OU Michael F. Price College of Business. Marketing students got to complete a professional marketing analysis, and helped library staff assess their performance.

Students led focus group discussions to create user surveys, then identified six broad areas of interest: copy services, computer services, personnel, building layout, reference services, and service policies. Spring semester students surveyed users and the fall students surveyed library staff.

"It was an incredible project; the students did a remarkable job," said Pat Weaver-Meyers, chair of the Libraries Committee on Surveys. "I was surprised that some of the solutions recommended are inexpensive to implement but will probably make a big impact on reducing frustration. "For example," Weaver-Meyers said, "in response to suggestions made by the students, we have installed five additional photocopy machines and two new microfilm reader/printers. In addition students will be able to use Sooner Sense cards to purchase copy services, pay overdue fines and buy copy cards."

Another area revised in response to the project was the library's web page. Surveys indicated the page looked old-fashioned and was difficult to use. The page now is using easy-to-use, front-end software which will be customized to fit the needs of the library and its users.

How do libraries use and support their LTAs?

A Spring 1997 survey mailed to 250 libraries under the auspices of Rose State College assessed the needs of libraries and their library technical assistants (LTAs). The survey addressed library type, population size, staff education and years of experience, tasks performed by LTAs, skills needed, continuing education practices, and employment practices and preferences. Results confirm much current literature on library support staff.

Forty-five public, 25 academic, 14 school and 12 special libraries (law, medical, agency and church) responded (41% response rate). Staffs from reporting libraries included 61 MLS librarians, 47 non-MLS librarians and 70 library technical assistants (both LTA-degreed and not). Most often, LTAs had shelving and collection tasks (129 libraries), followed by circulation (73), reference and direction (63), and periodicals duties (63).

Asking to choose from a list of general and library skills needed by successful LTAs, most libraries ranked interpersonal communication first (76), followed by teamwork (70), flexibility (66), and critical thinking (59) ahead of specific library skills. In relation to hiring decisions, knowledge provided by the LTA degree was valued higher than having computer experience in the majority of responding libraries.

Courses in Rose State College's Library Technical Assistant program have been taught via talkback television (OneNet) at 7:30 a.m. weekdays. Lack of access to talkback television equipment is the number one problem for the majority of the libraries. Sixty-seven libraries currently have Internet access. Looking to the future, Rose State has hired a faculty member to develop Internet courses for the LTA program.

The study was done by intern Jeanette Sykes under the direction of Sharon Saulmon, Rose State College Learning Resources Center.

New distance education opportunities

The OU School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) in cooperation with Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma is offering two courses thru OneNet for spring 1998 at both SWOSU (Weatherford) and USAO (Chickasha).

Courses in Weatherford in Al Harris Library, Room B-2 are:
* LIS 5373 Books and Materials for Young Adults, Tuesdays, 4:30-7:10 p.m.
* LIS 5803 Elements of Research, Thursdays, 4:30-7:10 p.m.

In Chickasha the courses in USAO's Trout Hall, Room 126 are:
* LIS 5353 Selection of Print/Non-print Materials, Mondays, 4:30 p.m.-7:10 p.m.
* LIS 5803 Elements of Research, Thursdays, 4:30-7:10 p.m.

The Books and Materials course provides in-depth criticism of young adult material, and will be taught as a seminar involving a thematic and issues approach to reading guidance, twentieth century trends, recent literature, and selection evaluation. Selection covers collection development, policy statements, selection, evaluation, maintenance, and acquisition procedures for materials in various formats for children, young adults and adults. The course fulfills one of the requirements for Oklahoma school library media certification.

Elements of Research examines scientific methods of investigating library problems, the development of research design, and evaluation of research studies in library and information science.

Classes begin Jan. 12. Contact Maggie Ryan, OU SLIS, 401 W. Brooks, Norman, OK 73019. Phone: 405-325-3921 or 600-522-0772; Fax: 405-325-7648; E-mail: slisinfo@slis.lib.ou.edu; Internet website: http://www.ou.edu/cas/slis/

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The Fellowship Program awards up to $3,000 each year to library and information professionals in AMIGOS member libraries to fund resource-sharing research and development projects.

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"Library Resource Sharing Through Technology"
Part I: The Workshop

Technical Services Roundtable held its Annual Fall Workshop at Stillwater Public Library on Friday, October 24th. The title of this year's workshop was "Go to the Head of the CLASS: A Workshop on Dewey Decimal Classification, Edition 21 and Abridged 13th." The workshop was sponsored in part by an honorarium given by OCLC/Forest Press.

Dr. Joanna Fountain presented the program to approximately 48 participants from academic, public, school, and special libraries. She discussed the major changes in the new editions. Dr. Fountain, a faculty member from the University of Texas School of Library and Information Studies and a part-time cataloger for the Austin Independent School District, gave an excellent presentation which was well received by the audience. Lynda Reynolds, cataloger from Stillwater Public Library, skillfully presented a demo of Dewey for Windows.

Part II: The Day Before the Workshop... surprises and hurdles

We have probably all heard, at one time or another, public services librarians say that they would not work in Technical Services because it's not exciting enough and that Technical Services staff, especially catalogers, lead a very dull life. Of course, those of us in Technical Services have known for some time that that must just be a myth. After what happened with our Technical Services Roundtable Annual Workshop, Pauline Boyer Rodriguez and I would say that our lives may be too exciting at times.

Pauline volunteered to pick up our speaker, Dr. Joanna Fountain, at Will Rogers Airport at 5:30 p.m. Thursday evening, October 23 and take her to Stillwater. I went to Stillwater early so I could be there in time for the Social (dinner) at 7:00. When I got to the motel, I had a message from Pauline that the speaker's plane had been delayed and she and the speaker would not be at the Social. Fine, I thought, they'll be an hour or two late. Around 10:00 p.m., I got a call from Pauline's husband. It seems that Pauline could not reach the motel with her cellular phone and had to call her husband to relay messages to me. Joanna's original flight had been cancelled in Dallas due to heavy thunderstorms in the area. She took a later flight, but it was too foggy in Oklahoma City for the plane to land, so it went back to Dallas Love Field. Pauline was told that there might or might not be another plane coming that night from Dallas. They did not promise her there would be one, but they also did not promise her there would not be. She was left in a dilemma. Should she stay at the airport and wait? An attempt to have Joanna paged at Love Field failed, since so many calls were coming in because of the weather.

Thoughts of workshop disaster raced through my mind while I awaited the next phone call from Pauline. What would we do if we had a well-planned workshop, but no speaker? I tried to call another member of our planning committee, but fortunately for her, she wasn't at home. Around 11:00 p.m., I called Pauline's husband and found out that another plane, one equipped to handle the fog, was en route to Oklahoma City from Dallas. Things were looking better. Around 11:30, Pauline's husband called to say that Joanna had been on that "special" plane, and Pauline and Joanna were headed to Stillwater. Sigh of relief!

But I did not know until the next morning that although Joanna had arrived, her purple bag, the important one with all the notes for her presentation, did not arrive. Pauline and Joanna had been late leaving the airport Thursday night (or Friday morning), because Joanna had to fill out a claim for the lost bag. They had arrived in Stillwater about 2:15 a.m. Airport personnel assured Joanna that when the purple bag arrived, someone would deliver it to the Stillwater Public Library. So all Friday morning, members of the planning committee and Stillwater Public Library personnel were checking regularly to see if the purple bag had arrived. It finally arrived just before noon.

We almost didn't get Joanna's laptop and the presentation equipment to work together. If we couldn't get them to work and her notes were missing, it was destined to be a short workshop and attendees would be disappointed. But thanks to John Augelli, director of the Stillwater Public Library, the system was working at about 9:19 a.m., just in time for the program to begin at 9:20 a.m.

Finally, everything worked out almost perfectly. Joanna explained her travel problems to the participants and alerted them to watch for an upcoming appearance of the purple bag. We had a great, understanding group of workshop attendees. We had a great workshop! Thanks to all who participated! Maybe next year's workshop will be a little less exciting. Maybe we should not promise anything.

(P.S. The speaker's return flight went better, but she got an earlier flight, and her purple bag came on the original flight!)

—Linda Pye, TSRT chair

Side point: According to ALA figures, only 20 percent of the people are hooked up to the Internet. So public libraries are the only free access that 80 percent of the people have. "If we're going to help people get over their fear, we'll have to help them with the Internet," said Judith Krug. One way ALA is trying to help is its 700+ Great Sites for Kids <www.ala.org/parents/greatsites/amazing.html>. Libraries can also direct people to the other useful aids for both parents and kids on the ALA web site. Lists of fine sites for teens and home-schoo-
CAROL FOX left her job as a high school librarian for the Walters Public Schools and started Sept. 2 in the Technology Trainer position at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

MARY FULK won the Oklahoma Department of Corrections Librarian of the Year Award. She is at Eddie W. Warrior Correctional Center, the women's institution in Taft.

When Gary Paulsen accepted the Tulsa Library Trust's 1997 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature, he returned the $5,000 cash prize to the Tulsa City-County Library System! His gift will allow TCCL to buy books for children living in the 10 public housing communities in Tulsa. "Many of these kids don't have a way of coming to the library," says Assistant Director Richard Parker.

Renovation zone! By Thanksgiving, TCCL's Central Library had a new Story Time Room, additional space for children's resources, and a used Book Sale store that will open daily.

PAT WILLIAMS is a new ODL public library consultant. She was previously Serials Librarian at Southeastern State University in Durant.

BETTIE ESTES-RICKNER is now the Director of Library Media Services for the Putnam City Schools. She had been Educational Development Services Coordinator with the Edmond Public Schools.

JENNIFER WONG came from Vancouver, BC to her first real librarian job—Physical Sciences Librarian at OSU.

Tulsa City-County Library has been selected by WGBH in Boston and PBS as one of 30 libraries nationwide to participate as an outreach site for "A Science Odyssey." This five-part series hosted by Charles Osgood will premiere on PBS in January and give an overview of science in the 20th century. TCCL is partnering with other community groups and will present science programs based on the series in early February and March.

LILLIAN NORBERG had an 89th birthday party at Tulsa City-County Library on October 24. She was honored with the announcement of a Tulsa Library Trust endowment started by the Friends of TCCL to help fund special projects. For nearly half a century, Norberg has devoted countless hours to promoting and supporting libraries, and establishing Friends groups throughout the state. One of the founding members of the Friends of the Tulsa Public Library in 1957, she led the Friends' campaign to form the Tulsa City-County Library System. She's played a key role in most Friends' endeavors, including serving on the Board for 40 years! She was instrumental in helping the Friends give more than $50,000 in scholarships to 120 employees, 50 of whom received masters in library science degrees.

From Springfield, MA and Baystate Medical Center PATRICK BRENNEN has moved to Ardmore to become director of the Noble Foundation library. Patrick's 25 years in libraries following an MLS from University of Illinois have primarily been in health sciences libraries though his first job and present one both center on agricultural research. He enjoys the people and small town atmosphere of Ardmore.

Remember working and going to school at the same time? If not, BEVERLY DOWDY can remind you how it goes. Beverly is a student and works reference at OU, having previously worked at Norman Regional Hospital library.

Head of Access Services at OSU is the job title for CAROLYN WARMANN. Carolyn comes to OSU from Virginia Tech and has also worked in Kansas. Her MAL degree is from the University of Missouri. Look for Carolyn to be active in automation activities.

JAN BRYANT is back at the Muskogee Public Library as Head of Public Services after a 12-year, part-time job at the Muskogee County Law Library.

The imposing new Linscheid Library set into the hillside at East Central University was dedicated Thursday, Oct. 23 in a reenactment of the Oct. 23, 1949 dedication of the original library building. The new library is three times larger than the former library building, which was a labyrinth of tight spaces and had water problems caused by a leaky roof.

"We have gone from the Dark Ages, literally and figuratively," said Charles Perry, library director, "to the Age of Enlightenment." Library usage has increased dramatically, he said, in both traffic and circulation.

During the summer, 37 student workers moved 213,000 volumes, plus microfiche, from the original building to the new library.

Ada architect Jay James designed the new building as a transitional library that can go from hard copy to digital copy, with the space to double its collection and the capacity to adapt to always changing technology. James said, "If I want to lay out the shelving in one direction now, later I can turn it 90 degrees and turn the lighting 90 degrees and still highlight it." The building also had to be fitted into the hillside. An indoor mall-access hallway along the north side of the building leads to an elevator and stairway that take people from lower campus areas and dorms to the top of the hill and central campus area.
The OLA Executive Board met at the Ponca City Library and took the following actions:

- Accepted the following recommendations by the Budget & Finance Committee: (1) minimum fee of $200 for exhibit space at conference; (2) use outside individual to prepare OLA's IRS Form 990; (3) the Executive Director remain full-time until the special committee to develop the Town Meeting grant from ODL presents the budget to the OLA Board; (4) the $5,000 grant from ODL for new memberships be considered part of estimated membership income in the present budget; and (5) requests for purchases using OLA funds must be approved ahead of time using a requisition process.

- Endorsed a resolution presented by OLA's University and College Division in support of the Morgan Library of Colorado State University which was recently inundated with flood waters, and resolving that UCD libraries participate in assistance efforts by means at their disposal within the policies and guidelines of individual institutions.

- Approved draft advertising rates for the Oklahoma Librarian, Conference Preview, Conference program, OLA Membership Directory, and sponsorship opportunities, as presented by Debra Engel, Advertising and Sponsorship Committee. The Committee acts as a clearinghouse for all who seek external funding for OLA projects.

- Accepted the treasurer's report as presented.

- Approved a motion that OLA provide a pass-through account for the Leadership Development Institute.

- Accepted Julie Brooks' letter of resignation as OLA Secretary and appointed Kathy Hale as Secretary.

- Approved a one-time increase in Let’s Talk About It Oklahoma's petty cash (checkbook) of $100 to cover postage for mailings and books.

- Heard a proposal by Jeffrey Wilhite for a Government Documents Roundtable workshop on State Document Electronic Resources, a half-day session to be offered twice on Thursday, November 20. Approved the workshop with changes to its budget and flyer.

OCTOBER 10, 1997

The OLA Board met at the Ponca City Library and took the following actions:

- Approved a recommendation by the Sequoyah Book Award Committees that voting eligibility requirements be as follows: "Elementary school students in Grade three or higher who have read or heard three or more books on the masterlist may vote for the Sequoyah Children's Book Award. Middle school or junior high students who have read three or more books on the masterlist may vote for the Sequoyah Young Adult Award."

- Heard a report from Debra Engel on the long range planning revision process, and approved the LRP Committee’s request to distribute a questionnaire to all committee, division and roundtable chairs.

- Heard and accepted a report from John Augelli on OLA finances. Specific concerns are in travel, office supplies and Sequoyah costs. Expenses must remain within the approved budget. Accepted the OASLMS budget report as presented.

- After discussion, approved the Legislative Committee's recommendation that the 1998 Legislative Day registration fee be $10 per person, rather than the standard minimum fee of $30 for workshops.

- Accepted Donna Skvarla’s suggestion that “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma” T-shirts could be made available through the ODL booth at Conference.

- Bob Segal and Daphane Kerley distributed copies of the audit report, and recommended OLA outsource preparation of the annual IRS form 990. OLA needs to prepare a fixed asset report. Approval of the report was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum at that point.

NOVEMBER 21, 1997

The OLA Executive Board met at the Stillwater Public Library and took the following actions:

- Treasurer's Report. John Augelli reported that income exceeded expenses for the past three months; and that the bill to Shangri-La for conference expenses was paid off earlier than projected. Accepted the Treasurer’s Report as presented. The unfortunate news is that with the workshops currently projected OLA will not meet its budgeted goal for workshop income. All groups should strongly consider scheduling workshops this fiscal year. Summer months are possibilities for workshops and should be considered also.

- Approved the Sequoyah Administrative Committee recommendation to rescind the recent change in the voting date and restore the original January 31st voting deadline.

- Approved the workshop titled “Effective Library Boardmanship: Building Bridges to Your Community” to be held February 10, 1998 at the Shawnee Public Library. It is sponsored by the Public Library Division.

- Approved the IFC manual as presented by Janet Brooks, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. There were no major changes from the previous manual.

- Approved the Social Responsibilities Roundtable’s recommendation that the Ruth Brown Memorial Award Fund be established as an official award fund; and that this Fund be listed on the membership form for donations next year.

- Legislative Goals. The Board approved the Legislative Committee's recommendation as follows:
  - The right of individual public library boards to continue local control of collections and the provision of open access for all citizens.
  - The Oklahoma Department of Libraries budget request for $300,000 to support the continuation and expansion of the statewide database.
  - The Technology 2000 initiatives presented by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
  - The State Department of Education budget request for funding technology and the placement of certified librarians in elementary and middle schools.
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