Last spring I discovered that the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County was not on anybody's "crisis management checklist."

**Wednesday, April 2, 1997**

The Garfield County Courthouse, which is around the block from the Library, received a bomb threat on April 2, 1997. This occurred during an especially tense time in Enid because of the Murrah Building bombing trial that was in process in Denver. Stephen Jones, Timothy McVeigh's defense trial lawyer, lives and practices law here.

It was disturbing to find out about a bomb threat to a building which is located across the alley from the Library, especially when the news came from a concerned husband who called his wife, a Library employee, to see if she was all right. He had heard about the threat over the radio! The entire block and the City Square facing the Courthouse had been roped off by the Sheriff's Department. Both Courthouse and the threatened building had been emptied, and dogs were on their way from Fort Sill to search for possible bombs. Stores around the Square had also emptied.

I consequently called the Enid Police Department, identified myself, and asked if indeed there was a bomb threat and if there was a concern; I was given a sketchy answer. I had to call the assistant city manager to find out the details. By that time, if there had been a bomb, and it had exploded, the Library building would have suffered possibly severe damage, and there could have been injured and possibly dead employees and Library customers.

It is still puzzling that neither the Courthouse, nor the Sheriff's Department, nor the Enid Police Department notified the Library of the potential danger. After the city manager's office found out the details and gave them to us, we completed the Library's evacuation. The City of Enid's safety director said that apparently there had been a communications problem between the County and the City departments.

The next day, it was emphasized to the staff that, if a bomb threat occurred, evacuation should be done immediately. The newly completed Crisis Management Manual (written using Pioneer Library System's manual as a guide) with all its listed expectations in such a situation, was reviewed. I sent copies of the guidelines on bomb threats to the assistant city manager and the city safety director.

**Sunday, April 20, 1997...Again?**

Less than three weeks later, at one o'clock on Sunday afternoon, April 20th, the Library had just opened its doors for business. Two police officers drove up a few minutes later. They said they had received a 911 call at

(cont. on p. 4)
For those of you who just joined us, OLA is working to recover from a financial crisis. The Executive Board has diligently worked to rectify the situation. I am happy to report that we have moved forward with the plan that I outlined in September with one exception. That exception is the Executive director's salary cut. If you now or ever have worked with any division, committee, or roundtable in OLA, (to say nothing of being President!) you know how vital the experience and expertise of the Executive Director is for us.

We accomplished a lot in the last few months with income exceeding expenditures. As in the folktale, "Stone Soup," when the villagers make small contributions to the large pot making a hearty meal for all, OLA members this year are working to provide everything from paper clips to project grants. Sponsors were sought and found for the Oklahoma Librarian to keep this important communication link to the members. We are maintaining quality benefits of the association without cutting services. More and more information is added to the OLA web page including new members' profiles, a financial statement, legislative issues, and the conference schedule. Donations to Scholarship, Legislative, and Ruth Brown Award Funds have been generous.

Members are planning and producing informative workshops by tapping 'local expertise' for your continuing education. The Annual Conference promises informative, quality programs and the traditional good fun.

As the immediate past president so aptly and succinctly put it, our association has essentially three sources of funding. Like a three-legged stool, we generate revenue from workshops, conference, and memberships. The financial situation is looking brighter; be assured your Executive Board continues to work hard toward returning the Association to solvency.

We live in challenging times. As providers of information we find ourselves in the curious place of defending both our profession and intellectual freedom in what seems, as Pogo called it, "an insurmountable opportunity." Reflecting as we did at the Leadership Development Institute, why defend intellectual freedom? Think about what is at stake.

With a lot of pride, I recently listened to a high school student rant and rage over the required reading of an expurgated copy of John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men. This college bound student knew the author did not intend for his words to be blacked out.

OLA's Town Meetings funded by a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, offer communities the opportunity to reiterate the importance of open access and intellectual freedom. Librarians provide the tools for empowerment so critical for a true information society.

Legislative Goals for 1998 include important issues affecting every kind of library. One of OLA's strengths is that we speak in one voice to fortify all types of library service. As librarians we work in one of the few institutions for public good serving a person from infancy to adulthood. Early love of reading begins with baby lap times in a public library. The child entering school learns information skills at a point of need through careful, deliberate integration with curriculum. As librarians we have special skills for preparing that young user for life-long learning and that most basic survival skill, reading. Join your colleagues helping to strengthen libraries spanning lifetimes, making life lines.

--Susan Dulaney Wright

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OLA Calendar

March 31 UCD/PLD "Filtering Internet Access" Workshop, OKCCC
April 2 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am
April 10 Good Friday
April 11-18 Passover
April 16 Town Hall Meeting, Shawnee - 7 pm
April 19-25 National Library Week
April 29-May 2 OLA Annual Conf., Downtown Doubletree Hotel, Tulsa
May 1 Oklahoma Librarian Deadline
May 4-5 National Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.
May 6-8 MPLA/Utah Library Association Joint Conf., Salt Lake City
May 7 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am
May 22 Membership Committee, Oklahoma City University - 10 am
May 22-28 Medical Library Association, Philadelphia Memorial Day
June 4 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.
June 5 Program Committee/Executive Board, Edmond PL
June 6-11 Special Libraries Association, Indianapolis
June 10-11 Leadership Retreat
June 25-July 2 American Library Association, Washington, D.C.
Legislative Column........ a "Heads Up" on coming legislation

Two bills directly affecting libraries have been filed in the Oklahoma House. We will need to watch these closely. *HB 3129* is very similar to proposed legislation put forth last year and also offered by Bill Graves (OKC). *HB 3129* has been assigned to the House Appropriations and Budget Committee. However, Bob Clark, ODL, is contacting Rep. Hager, chair of the House Education Committee to ask if it can be transferred to the Education committee and "held."

*HB 3129*: An act relating to public libraries which would mandate certain policies related to identification and separation of sexually explicit materials. No money from ODL would go to any public library which did not have a written, in-force policy providing for identification and separation of (1) sexually explicit materials (including sex education materials designed for children) unless parent or guardian provides written consent for a child to obtain such materials, or, (2) materials which contain auditory and/or visual depictions of explicit sex. Further, the library policy must state that only adult library patrons can have access to and be able to check out such identified materials.

This would remove all local control collections and allow the State to determine what is best for a given community. Further, the right of parents to determine what types and levels of information their child may access is removed. Stress that libraries encourage parental responsibility in defining and guiding the education of children; such an Act would erase that possibility.

*HB 3087*: An Act relating to public libraries which would remove the requirement that librarians and library officials have a degree from a school accredited by the American Library Association.

This is an effort to thwart what is perceived by some as a national organization dictating local action. An attempt is being made to paint the American Library Association as an over-ruling body which sets and defines all actions and policies for all libraries. Local boards still define and approve all local policies and that suggestions gained from ALA are just that: suggestions. Further, since Oklahoma boasts one of the few remaining accredited Library and Information Studies programs, it would behoove the state to encourage, not dismiss, said program.

[Editor's note: *HB 3087* was defeated in committee on Feb. 17 by a vote of 6-3.]

---Jan Sanders, Legislative Committee co-chair

Top ten recommended currently available U.S. federal government publications: 1997

One of the foremost challenges to non-depository libraries is deciding which of the myriad of publications issued yearly by the United States government are appropriate for purchase. The Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) of the Oklahoma Library Association and the U.S. Government Information Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) met to discuss ways of solving this problem. The two organizations decided to formulate a list of the top ten currently available government publications. The goal of the list was to assist non-documents librarians in selecting sources for their own collections.

The following is the list, as completed January 1998. The items are in value order, one to ten, with one being the most recommended:

1. Statistical Abstract of the U.S.
2. World Factbook
3. Congressional Directory
4. Occupational Outlook Handbook
6. Reproducible Tax Forms
7. Social Security Handbook
8. Uniform Crime Reports
9. Condition of Education

For ordering information consult the Government Printing Office's homepage:
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/sale/prf/prf.html

---Jeffrey Wilhite, GODORT chair

What's going on? Proposed bills and a really enhanced ODL website

We have posted on the ODL website the full text of three bills proposed in the Oklahoma legislature:

* Two bills addressing segregation of "sexually explicit" materials in public libraries; and
* A bill that, if passed, would delete the words 'accredited by the American Library Association' from statutes that address qualifications for certain public library directors, as well as for the ODL director and assistant director. [Note: This one died in committee on Feb. 17.]

You can access them at http://www.state.ok.us/-odl/fyi/anti_if.htm.

While at our website, plan to surf around. We've redesigned it to keep up interest and improve navigation. We're also planning on adding many new state government information features.

---Bill Young
Library crisis (cont. from p. 1)

12:45 P.M. from a pay telephone. The caller had said there was a bomb threat to the Library and that it would go off in fifteen minutes. (Thank goodness, it didn't!) Did the staff want to evacuate? To evacuate was up to the staff? The staff, of course, evacuated customers and themselves and then called me.

I called the Police Department. The officer-in-charge and I both agreed that the building should be searched. I asked if the department had an emergency team that would search the building or if dogs would be available? "Oh, no, you and your staff will have to search it," was the reply. The Police Department would send one officer to accompany me. (Incidentally, I could not reach any city officials on that beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon.) I said that the Library staff would not search the building. If anybody on the Library's staff searched the building, it would be me and two police officers. I also called the Library's custodian and asked if he would accompany us, because he knew the two-story, 27,000 square foot building better than anyone else. The City Fire Department apparently was not notified.

Searching the building was a nightmare. There were so many places a bomb could be hidden. (Did I even know what a bomb looked like?) I discovered in the search process that the public could easily walk into a storage area from the Serials Room. The next day, I called the city safety director and asked that he examine the entire building for improved security. We also discussed the Library's presence in the city's crisis management checklist.

In April, 1997, I had been director of the Library approximately four months, and I learned some valuable lessons from the above experiences: Do not assume that the library is in some sort of "crisis management checklist" of the larger world. Be prepared by finding out what kind of emergency help is available to your library in a crisis situation and who notifies whom!

--Glenda Lamb

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On the precipice: Challenges of preserving electronic records

At a 1997 OLA pre-conference, Pat Michaelis, Kansas State Archivist/Director of the Library and Archives Division of the Kansas State Historical Society, provided the program "On the Precipice: Challenges of Preserving Electronic Records," sponsored by MPLA's Preservation, Archives and Special Collections Section. Pat gave credit to Margaret Hedstrom, a consultant from Michigan who provided early research on this topic.

Pat Michaelis discussed the need for library and other institutional managers to establish a system of preserving electronic records which will document daily business activities. If an electronic record preservation system already exists it needs to be reviewed to ensure that historically relevant and legally significant records are preserved as well.

Conscious decisions have to be made to avoid losing electronic documentation as it is produced: What will employees need to know to preserve the appropriate documents? Which records need to be preserved? Where and how will they be compiled? How quickly will the preserved information become obsolete? What are expected problems with keeping these records? How can quick and easy access be provided? An established system must provide adequate access to the public of non-confidential files. It must track and provide security mechanisms to disallow access for unauthorized personnel.

Each item must be appraised. Information which will provide long-term access is required. Who created the electronic record? Why? How long will the record need to be kept? Exact hardware/software needs? Since physical materials which retain electronic data are perishable, they must be "backed up" or refreshed to allow an agency to retain them for a specific time. A CD-ROM's life span is estimated at 100-500 years yet hardware to access these is not expected to be available long-term. Preservation concerns such as temperature/humidity are one of many details to arrange. Sample temperature for storage of electronic records should be between 62 and 65 degrees. Humidity should be about 40%.

Look at the archives mission mandate established for preserving vital business documentation. Who needs to have custodial authority or records management responsibility? The agency that has the "vital interest" in the records probably should house them and "migrate the records forward." What programs must be given up to provide resources for preservation and access to electronic records? What are the associated issues? Who are the key players? Realizing that certain e-mail records constitute a record, authenticity will need to be verified. The courts will need to determine which records constitute legally admissible documentation. Libraries must review established policies and create policies for the future which will address internal and external user needs. It is critical that libraries take the role of planning for their own future.

--Carol S. Ihrig

Notes: The NHPRC (National Historical Publications and Records Commission) Electronic Records Grant addresses disposition.

The National Media Lab [www.nlm.org] has reviewed issues relating to the proper handling and storage of electronic tape and created standards. Some suggestions include: Materials should be "exercised periodically." This means a quarter turn of the housing box every 6 months and a controlled rewind every 2-3 years. Distortion is caused by shrinkage, expansion and stretching.

Recopy every 10 years.

The National Archives has a sophisticated system for copying. They specialize in two formats. Items received are copied in 2 formats. Their preferred formats are magnetic tape and either 3480 or 3490 cartridges. They have developed software that verifies the success of the copies. The National Archives has been criticized for not taking a leadership position with electronic records.

Government document software will be developed to authenticate record accuracy in the electronic format.

Some states will need to revise their laws to provide a better definition of records to include electronic records.

State document electronic sources

The Fall GODORT workshop, State Document Electronic Sources, was held Thurs., Nov. 20, 1997 in the conference room of ODL in Okla. City. Two identical sessions were offered, one in the morning and one in the afternoon with 15 participants each.

Prior to each session GODORT chair Jeffrey Wilhite introduced the participants to the workshop's topic and to the speakers. The two presenters were Vicki Sullivan, Administrator of the Oklahoma State Office of Government Information, and Jerry Deutschendorf, the Digital Information Specialist, both from ODL. They presented a thorough and interesting tour of websites devoted to Oklahoma state information.

Sullivan led the tour of websites and provided participants with a nice packet of handouts for future reference. Additionally, she spoke of "The Digital State," a study funded and conducted by the IBM corporation on how state governments are using the Internet and digital technology. Oklahoma ranked first in this 1997 study for its online health, welfare, and social services.

Deutschendorf spoke of the new SoonerSearch engine that searches over 50 Oklahoma state government websites. He also spoke about how to download and configure software from the Internet that will enhance capabilities to access and interact with electronic state documents.

Throughout the presentations there were a number of questions and a good amount of discussion.

Participants concluded the sessions by visiting the wonderful.buffet arranged by Jeffrey Wilhite.

--Audrey DeFrank, Secretary
I was one of five excited travelers who left Oklahoma City July 12 on the Hitachi Teacher Exchange from Norman to Odawara, Japan. After a quick plane change in Dallas and 12 luxurious hours of "Business Class" travel we arrived at Narita Airport in Tokyo and were on our way to our hotel, the Oiso Prince, an oceanside resort with a famous swimming pool complex. Our destination city, Odawara, is a city of 200,000 people located on the ocean two hours south of Tokyo and is the home of a large Hitachi plant.

Each morning of our stay in Odawara we were met by an entourage of black taxis led by a Hitachi company car. The Hitachi car had a computerized tracking system with a display that showed a map of the area and the car's exact location. On our first day they took us to the Hitachi plant where we were given a presentation about Hitachi and a tour of the plant. We exchanged gifts, a ceremony that was to be repeated at every stop. We had shipped ahead four huge boxes of gifts for the schools and our Hitachi hosts so on every outing we were laden with gifts both going and returning.

We visited the Odawara city offices where we met the Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools. At our official meetings we were carefully seated according to rank, but rather than having the highest ranking persons seated at the head of the table they were seated in the middle. We were given a seating chart which identified those attending by their location at the table, but we never received a printed agenda. I drew the conclusion that the people were more important than the business to be conducted.

We visited two junior high schools and two elementary schools. Of the four schools three were multi-story buildings that reminded me of schools built before the 1940s in our country. One of the elementary schools was a stunningly beautiful new facility. In every school we removed our shoes at the entrance, placed them in little cabinets and put on slip-on "indoor" shoes. Students and teachers all keep their indoor shoes in little lockers at the entrance to the school. I had a terrible time keeping the shoes on as I climbed three stories of stairs. If I ever go to Japan again I'm taking my own "indoor" shoes.

At our first school visit we were met by a chorus of girls singing Sakara. We were moved to tears. We found the students to be open, enthusiastic, beautiful, neatly dressed, and, above all, happy to have their pictures taken. All students have responsibilities related to their school. For example, they help to serve the lunch which is prepared at the school. They also help to clean their classrooms, restrooms and other areas of the school. They also have responsibilities outside, including working in their gardens.

One interesting feature of the Japanese schools was that each had some kind of a school museum where they displayed historical objects related to the school and the community, including pictures of former principals. Another notable feature was that every school has a swimming pool. Physical education is an important part of school. Every child lives within a 30 minute walk of their elementary school and they are required to walk to and from school each day. Parents may walk with the very young children and at the junior high level students who live further away may ride bicycles.

Only the newest school had a library similar to ours. The others had books on shelves in a room that looked like our traditional study halls of the 1950s. None of the schools had school librarians, but they say they are aware of the new role of the school library media specialist in helping students find and use information and they would like to make that change in their schools. Every school had a computer lab, but there were no computers in the classrooms or offices and they do not yet have Internet access in their schools. The junior high schools expect to have some Internet access next school year. Some of the teachers do have Internet access at home.

Odawara has two public libraries. One is a traditional library with closed stacks which we did not see. The second is a very contemporary new library with a feeling of openness. It was beautifully decorated. Our group was not expected at the library, but we introduced ourselves at the circulation desk and were soon greeted by the "President" of the library. (Public library directors, perhaps you should rethink your title.) The "President" graciously gave us a tour of the facility. On the first floor were the children's area and the adult print materials. On the second floor was an audiovisual area with comfortable seating. All of the videos and recordings were handled behind the desk for the patrons who then viewed or listened in carrels or comfortable chairs. There were also public rooms including a small auditorium and a classroom. I was surprised to find hardwood floors in the public library and in the new elementary school.

It is exciting to have made a connection with new friends in Japan. I am corresponding with two teachers and one Hitachi staff person in Odawara. Two have email addresses and it is a pleasure to find messages from Japan waiting for me. In November our Norman group hosted four teachers from Odawara. We were glad to return some of the kindness extended to us during our stay in Japan.

--Anne Masters
Tips on dialogue with vendors

We talk with vendors all the time--it's part of our job. But do we maximize the value of our time spent with them? Consider the following experience:

I got a note from West Circle books telling me that they want to buy a small ad for the *Oklahoma Librarian*. In my request to them, I'd said that I don't do business with vendors who are not *Oklahoma Librarian* advertisers or conference vendors. I got the following response:

"Allow me to reiterate how refreshing it is to have a dialog with a librarian who understands and does not shrink from the necessary relationship which exists between libraries and the many private corporations who seek to supply them with products and services. Having been in library sales for about twenty years, I am no longer surprised to here (sic) the sentence: 'I'm sorry, but it is our policy never to see salesmen'...but I'm always disappointed, and upon reflection, shocked! How, I wonder, can the keepers of the flame of knowledge, America's libraries, be closed-minded about anything! But you...have taken this understanding one logical step further. You, in effect, are saying 'Sure, we do business with lots of good companies, but we like to do business with those who do business with us.' I cannot imagine a more sensible or fair policy. West Circle Books recognizes our responsibility to help support Oklahoma's professional organization."

I encourage each of us to solicit assistance and support from vendors by simply stating that we do not allow salesmen access to our library or staff unless that vendor is an advertiser or exhibitor for OLA. We need often reminders or encouragement to do this, and I hope my experience might do the trick for you!

--Jan Sanders

Success stories from the Business & Technology Department at TCCL....

* Call from customer to B&T... "Your department has done it again! A very nice librarian located a company for me in California and I have already contacted them for the information I needed. There are three companies with the same name and the librarian came up with the right one. I had tried other sources and my wife said, 'Why don't you try the library?' The librarian went all out for me. Thanks again!"

* A woman called to thank the librarian in Telephone Directory Assistance. The woman was reunited with her daughter whom she hadn't seen in 32 years. She said it wouldn't have happened without the librarian's help. They had a marvelous reunion. Thanks again.

* The owner of a local travel agency was setting up a cruise for a client who wanted special fishing side trips planned into the schedule. He needed to know about fishing facilities and what was in season at each port on the cruise. INFO II identified and contacted sports groups and government agencies in Alaska. Within a short time the travel agency received just the information it needed to satisfy the client. The owner of the agency was interviewed for an article in *Business 97: Success Strategies for Small Business*, on libraries as sources of business information. His comments about INFO II's efforts: "It really opened doors. I learned about side trip possibilities and used the information for other clients as well."

--Karen Curtis

The stories we share do many things: rejuvenate our enthusiasm for what we do, make us proud and make us laugh, besides giving us "useful" information. Send yours to the *Oklahoma Librarian* and we will share them.

Fun graduation ceremony!

About 100 people are expected to earn public library certification this spring, says Ginny Dietrich, ODL. To honor their accomplishments, a special program is planned during the annual OLA conference at the end of April. The festivities will include speakers Bob Clark, ODL, and Susan Wright, OLA president, certificates, and a photograph and press release for each graduate of the certification program. This has been the program's first year of operation. Oklahoma can be proud that its certification program is currently the only one in the nation which trains and certifies both para-professional staff and librarians.
"OCIAN in view!!!" The first Internet Librarian Conference

Monterey, California hosted 1,200 librarians--from corporate to school, including four Oklahoma librarians: Elaine Watson, OSU, David Robinson, OSU-OKC, John Corbett, ODL, and myself--for the first Internet Librarian conference Nov. 17-19, 1997. Having grown up in California, I always feel great excitement, shades of Lewis and Clark, when I return and see the "OCIAN in view!!!" This excitement applies also to the conference. This conference had everything. The speakers were, without exception, great. Of course the location was wonderful. Shrubs in bloom, palm trees, historic buildings, seals and sea otters, OCEAN!

Sessions covered every possible angle of libraries and the Net. What follows here reflects what I attended and some of what struck me, including a list of sites. Expect more storage, multimedia, and convergence of media and communications. Hot stuff: Push/pull technology, Emmerce, webTV. Warm stuff: library web activities. Chilling stuff: ownership and rights issues. Are we moving from copyright law to contract law? Contracts for access to material in electronic format usually make the library give up the right to share, unless that point is negotiated before the contract signed or subscription purchased.

* Somebody compared the Internet today with the introduction of Bakelite, the first plastic, which was made to imitate wood, etc. Most of what is out there on the Internet now derives from old print media—the evolution is just beginning.
* Evolution from static to more active. A speaker from the Netherlands said, "The classical world was static. The web was established to provide access to classical, static documents and has undergone a rapid evolution. Students think everything is solved— it's not true. Things are much more complicated than they've realized."
* Gordon Ross developed Net Nanny filtering software as a tool to help protect free speech on the Net by allowing controlled access or monitoring when needed. He said filtering software should be flexible, under user control, give an audit trail so you can tell what's happening to your system, block or allow lists, and block at either the server or terminal end. "You should have control of what goes into or out of your computer." ...Sorry, no definitive software recommendations came from meetings I attended.
* Several speakers talked about "the convergence." Reva Basch described the marriage of conversation with more traditional database resources. For instance, the online bookstore Amazon.com has conversation space where you can talk about books. And according to the super net searchers she interviewed, "Information quality is the same as it ever was...just check it for accuracy, reliability and currency." One technique these searchers use to check accuracy is by looking for two or more verifying documents.

Cal State's "Virtual Library": myth and reality

Shortly before the conference I became aware of the so-called "virtual library" at Cal State University, Monterey Bay, a school created 3 years ago from a closed military base. The "V.L." is a myth, but Director Steve Watkins explained, "We are committed to acquiring materials in electronic format to the extent possible and economically feasible." Over 70 percent of their resources are spent in online products, document delivery, periodical databases, e-journals, etc. This model works well for an undergraduate library with an excellent computer/student ratio. Network-accessible resources allow the library to support distant learners. Online sources plus a relatively small in-house collection are supported by ILL for books, which are mainly borrowed from sister institutions. They use document delivery for articles not available in-house through online or other full text. Because students request a few articles from a broad range of journals, they're not adding new subscriptions based on document delivery requests.

Their online master serials list is created by downloading source lists from the vendors, and converting them into one searchable file through the cleanup and HTML markup process. Then online search sessions are tied to the master serials list in frames right on the screen. A document delivery request form is right there so the citation can be cut and pasted from the database into the form.

The dramatic change in the materials mix gives this library a different mix of librarians and staff positions (about half and half). There's a heavy emphasis on instruction, and librarians are using some grants to create self tutorial products for students. They try to do presentations outside the library, many of which are in high technology classrooms. Because CSU staff are quite concerned about users being able to differentiate web, online databases, resources of other campus libraries in the CSU system, etc., they are working hard on the public computer interfaces. "Bottom line," Watkins said, "The sense of place conveyed by library is still important to users—studying, gathering, socializing— even though dorm rooms have ethernet connections."

Making Your Web Site Accessible... universal design principles

Many of us are putting together web sites. How accessible are they to our communities of users or potential users? Especially the creations of those of us who are at public institutions. Because readers for people with vision difficulties read horizontally, Internet frames and tables are a disaster for them. That great web site on Leonardo da Vinci I saw last week had biography embellished, every so often to the right, with quotations from Leonardo in lovely red type. For me it looked great; for someone listening to a reader, awful!

Paula Palmer, University of Washington gave us some design principles: think redundancy, images need descriptive words next to them, captions should make sense to people who can't see the images, use large buttons, keep the page design simple and clean—useful for people with learning disabilities, English as a Second Language (ESL). Contrast is important, and keep the background simple. And stop the run on pages! One way to check your web page for accessibility is to use the Bobby site <www.cast.org/bobby>. As well as being better customer service, upgrading your web site is another opportunity for good PR. Brag about how completely accessible— even to the web page -- your library is!

Why should I care about this fancy technology?

"Every new technology governs what you can buy and that affects what you can offer your constituents, so you must be interested in new developments," said Ulla de Stricker. "Yet we can't just keep throwing technology at the problems. We can't just put PCs out there and let people have at it. Look for content, workability, and design in Internet sources and new technologies. Keep your purpose and mandate in mind." What is our policy? What will my library, users, and organization be like in 2001?

Overheard between meetings, "I think the reference interview
is even more important than it's ever been -- now with ALL the new resources and ways to look for things... Everyone agreed that machines and software can't do everything, and there's no danger of librarians being superceded, but as Ulla de Stricker said, "We need to get obnoxious and BUSY so our online future will be the best it can be!"

And putting it all in perspective, one speaker finished by saying, "Remember 3 of 5 people in the world have never made a phone call."

Check out these web sites!
1. http://library.monterey.edu
   Cal State Monterey Bay's mythical "Virtual Library." Many things of interest: check out the Serials List, Library Research Strategy, Resources A to Z, Info Center which has Library Resources by subject.
2. www.weber.u.washington.edu-doit
   Making Your WebSite Accessible. Universal web design principles from their "Disabilities Opportunities: Internet Technology" project. If we incorporate some of these basic things, they could be bragging points for the library, as well as serving our customers well.
3. www.tiac.net/users/hope
   Web page for Hope Tillman, librarian from Babson College, whose paper on evaluating the quality of information on the Internet can be found here. In addition to sources like LJ's reviews on the LJ web site, she uses the Internet-based evaluation sources Argus Clearinghouse and Scout Report/Net-Happenings. Great STUFF. Excellent, useful info, including her several presentations at the conference.
4. www.clearinghouse.net
   Argus Clearinghouse. Librarian-led, Internet evaluation source. Rated most consistent, best place to start.
   Web page for Greg R. Notess, Montana State Univ., great speaker and guy with ideas. Excellent Internet "handouts" with hot links done as part of instruction for specific courses. Search engine ratings, Glacier Nat'l Park, etc. etc.
7. www.nlsearch.com
   Northern Light search engine. Especially note: custom search folders, special collection.
8. www.ncl.ac.uk/library
   The NERD! Newcastle Castle Electronic Reference Desk. Way to handle some of those repeat ref questions, plus take care of some of those patrons who hate to bother a librarian, or who become alert and think up things at 3 a.m.
9. www.sfgate.com
   San Francisco Chronicle newspaper's "The Gate" project. Window to the world, updated all the time. Project director John Coates was a great speaker, talking about the big picture and the future.

--Rachel Butler

Ancient science books, information brokering, geological reference and digital maps!

Think of it, the opportunity...
* To see books written by the greatest thinkers in natural history of the 1400s onward. Speaker: Dr. Marilyn Ogilvie.
* To learn if you really want to quit your job and become an independent information broker. Speaker: Dr. Julie Hallmark.
* To learn about digital map products and their use.
   Speaker: Mike Starbuck.

All these subjects will be addressed Sunday, March 22, 1998, on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. The tour of the History of Science Collection will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the 5th floor of Bizzell Memorial Library. Between 2:30 and 3 p.m., we will move to the Energy Center on the corner of Boyd and Jenkins for refreshments where three out-of-state speakers will talk and demonstrate in A235 (northwest corner of the 2nd level). The program will end at 5:30 p.m.

This program is a part of the 2-1/2 day South Central Meeting of the Geological Society of America and was organized to inform the library and information community about geoscience information via a tour and lectures. Registration for the event is $5.00 and is payable at the door.

For more details, call Claren Kidd at 405-325-6217 or email to ckidd@ou.edu.

First Town Hall meeting a great success

Involve your community in a discussion of the role of libraries in providing access to information. Spark discussion... share information with the community. Funding is still available for at least two more Town Hall meetings in communities around Oklahoma.

Look for an article in the next Oklahoma Librarian on the wonderful experience of a town hall meeting held at the Bartlesville Public Library & History Museum in February. Shawnee Public Library will host a program in April.

Each town hall meeting is tailored to the local community. The Town Hall Steering Committee can assist with planning and support materials as needed.

The Town Hall meeting application period has been extended past the original Dec. 12, 1997 deadline. All grant funds must be spent by the end of Sept. 1998. Contact Project Director Kay Boles, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013, email kboles@ionet.net, or phone 405-348-0506, for more information.
Banned Books Week 1997, celebrated September 20-27th, was the sixteenth annual promotion of the freedom to read. Once again, the Intellectual Freedom Committee is collecting ideas used in those displays. Send us a picture or a 1-2 line description of a display you found interesting and we will have them available at the annual OLA meeting. Send material to Edie Schneeberger, Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library, P.O. Box 26901, Oklahoma City, OK, 73190-3046. Put a name and address on the back of any photograph you want returned after OLA.

We in Oklahoma know that freedom to read and view is frequently under fire. The film, "The Tin Drum," continues to be in the news. A June 25, 1997 ruling by Oklahoma Country District Judge Richard Freeman declared part of the award-winning film obscene. Judge Freeman made a ruling at the request of the Oklahoma City Police Department after they received a copy of the film from Bob Anderson, executive director of Oklahomans for Children and Families (OCAF). The film was removed from the library, but was also confiscated from individuals and movie rental establishments. Hollywood Video Inc. filed a suit in federal court because the situation "involves a constitutional question about whether the film is protected under the First Amendment." On Dec. 24, 1997 U.S. District Judge Ralph Thompson ruled unconstitutional the seizure of the video copies but did not address the film's legality under Oklahoma's obscenity laws. Trial is set for June 15, 1998, almost one year since Judge Freeman's oral ruling and the tape confiscations.

This is not the first time the Metropolitan (OKC) Library System has heard from OCAF. The group wants to change the System's open access policy. Despite the implementation of a parental preference option which allows for parental input on materials a child may check out, OCAF continues to demand restricted access for all children to materials the group finds objectionable.

According to the American Library Association, threats against the freedom to read come from many quarters, and many political persuasions are represented in the spectrum of those who would limit the freedom of others to choose what they read, see, or hear. (See http://www.ala.org/bbooks/)

Which books were challenged most in 1996?

According to the ALA web page, the most frequently challenged books of 1996 include:

1. *Goosebumps* Series, R.L. Stine
   These books have been challenged in schools and libraries across the country. While some parents call for their removal, many more parents have rallied to defend the books.

2. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
   This classic has been the subject of debate since its publication in 1885. Upon publication, the book was banned and condemned across the country. It was called "rough, coarse and inelegant," unsuitable for "intelligent, respectable people." The irony is that the book that today is challenged as racist was originally attacked for being too anti-racist! There were complaints that the character of Jim was too heroic for a slave.

3. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou
   Maya Angelou's autobiographical novel has increasingly been the focus of challenges in school libraries. Objections center on the description of a rape she suffered as a child.

4. *It's Perfectly Normal*, Robie Harris
   This sex-education book has been challenged in school and public libraries across the country.

5. *The Chocolate War*, Robert Cormier
   Robert Cormier's young adult novel has been the frequent target of challenges. It has been removed from middle school and high school libraries due to "language and sexual content."

6. *Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger
   Many feel that Holden Caulfield's teenage angst is too graphic for real teenagers. It has been challenged for graphic language since its publication.

7. *Bridge to Terabithia*, Katherine Paterson
   This Newbery Award-winning book has been challenged and removed from classrooms and school libraries due to "profanity, disrespect of adults, and an elaborate fantasy world that might lead to confusion."

8. *Forever*, Judy Blume
   Judy Blume's work is often the focus of challenges, and this tale of a teenager's first sexual experience has been on the list of frequently-challenged books since its publication in 1975.

9. *My Brother Sam is Dead*, James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
   This Newbery Award-winning book, which tells the story of a family torn apart by the American Revolution, is the focus of complaints over violence and profanity.

Most Challenged Authors for 1996 are:

- R.L. Stine
- Judy Blume
- Mark Twain
- Katherine Paterson
- Maya Angelou
- Robert Cormier
- V. C. Andrews
- S. E. Hinton
- Robie Harris
- J. D. Salinger

Information on the Tin Drum controversy is available at http://www.state.ok.us/~odl/fytl/freedom.htm

Other sources of information on banned books and censorship include: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/People/spok/bannedbooks.html

--Edie Schneeberger
People and places

KATHE DOUGHERTY is now Head of Technical Services at Stillwater Public Library. KAY VINCENT, who had that position previously, is now with Wil-Tel in Tulsa.

Tulsa favorite son Dr. John Hope Franklin came home in Dec. to receive the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. The award is given annually by the Tulsa Library Trust, a public foundation which benefits the Tulsa City-County Library System. Franklin is the first native Oklahoman and the first African-American man to receive the prestigious award, which recognizes authors who’ve made a major contribution to the field of literature and letters. At a pre-dinner press conference, Franklin said he was once a runner-up for a Pulitzer Prize. "Believe me when I tell you this award means more to me than that one would have. It means more," he said, "because it comes from Tulsa--the town I call home." (see photo on OLA web page)

JANE RIDDLE works in the children’s area at the Muskogee Public Library. She lives on a farm with her husband and two kids. She plays the drums and met her husband playing in a band.

This is LUCILLE LACIE’s first year as a school librarian at Stilwell Middle School, but she has been a school librarian for 12 years. This year was the first time that she had an opportunity to attend Encyclo-Media and she joined OLA for the first time.

LAURIN LINSBARR has just finished her MLS at OU and is working for Metropolitan Library System at the Ralph Ellison Library. Laurin had worked at the Huntsville Public Library and started work on her MLS at the University of Alabama before she and her husband moved to Oklahoma.

New at OSU is DAVID OBERHELMAN who is a Humanities-Social Sciences librarian. He teaches an undergraduate library skills course and has responsibilities for reference, bibliographic instruction and collection development. Before coming to OSU he was an assistant professor of English at Texas Tech in Lubbock.

SHIRLEY FOLSOM joined OLA "because it is a chance to network with other people in my position and to support the association." She is from northern Colorado, enjoys the outdoors, and is a Resources Management Associate at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore. ERNEST LANE is also a Resources Management Associate at the Noble Foundation.

New member ELAINE REGIER now teaches pre-first grade in Anadarko and is a potential school librarian. Elaine has a pilot’s license and spends spare time in the sky.

FRANCES REAGAN has served the Southeastern Public Library System as a trustee since August 1994. During the day she teaches remedial reading to grades 3-6, is the school’s drug-free coordinator and 4-H leader.

MARTHA LINVILLE worked for 5 years at a library in the Kansas City area before moving to Yukon and the Mabel Fry Public Library.

For interesting scoop on other (new) OLA members, check the OLA web page at http://explorer3.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola. We have lots of great new members.

More than 400 library supporters showed up on Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 19, to celebrate the new African-American Resource Center and enlarged children’s area at Tulsa City-County Library’s Rudisill North Regional Library. The Center will provide resources for researching the history and culture of the African American with special emphasis on state and local history. The $227,500 rejuvenation project, which also included installing new computer equipment, establishing an African-American art collection, and coordinating special programs and training, and was funded by donations and fund-raisers.

Libraries online at the mall

Since the end of November people visiting the Mall in Norman have been able to use Pioneer Library System’s Public Information Kiosk to access all kinds of library services, including jobs info, tax forms, fax and copy capabilities, local, state and federal government information, and reference staff.

An information kiosk sponsored by the Bartlesville Public Library at the Washington Park Mall has been operational since May 1997. The kiosk has consistently received from 3000 to 3400 hits a month, with state agency sites and the statewide article database FirstSearch proving the most popular with users.

OLA Executive Board actions taken

The OLA Executive Board met Dec. 19, 1997, at the Norman Public Library and took the following actions:

* Accepted the Treasurer’s report as presented. Treasurer’s reports will be posted monthly on OLA’s web site at http://explorer3.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola. Conference treasurer Ken Bierman reported that the joint MPLA/OLA conference account has been closed.

After discussion, approved the revised (12/97) OLA budget as presented by the Budget and Finance Committee. This revised budget more accurately reflects changes in the association’s financial situation.

* Approved a proposal by the Library Education Division for a workshop on evaluating web resources called “Don’t Get Caught in the Web,” scheduled for Thurs., Feb. 19, 1998 at the Oklahoma City Community College Library.
OCLC FirstSearch

Over 9,500 libraries in 51 countries use FirstSearch.

♦ More than 60 databases in all subject areas
♦ WorldCat™, the OCLC Online Union Catalog
♦ Online full-text and document ordering
♦ Accessible via the web
♦ Features: library holdings information; link to OCLC ILL

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amigos@amigos.org
http://www.amigos.org