Ann Miller is ironing her kimono and putting the finishing touches on her storytime program about Japan. She has a great deal about her recent July trip to Japan to share with her colleagues and students at Truman Elementary in Norman, OK where she works as a school library media specialist. Miller was one of four Norman educators selected to visit Japan through the Hitachi-Norman Public Schools Teacher Exchange Program.

Miller flew into Tokyo for a brief tour of the city, then traveled 2½ hours south to Odawara. Hitachi provided interpreters and hosts who traveled with them as they visited schools in the morning and cultural sites and local areas of interest in the afternoons.

The Japanese concept of a school library was very different from the American tradition. Miller said that Norman Public Schools consider school libraries to be integral "extensions of the classroom." But in Japan "there was no librarian in the schools I visited," she explained. "The library is more of a resource room. There's no one person to teach library skills or to team teach with the teachers," she said. "Of course," Miller elaborated, "there is a movement toward education reform in Japan that includes greater use of the library, including an emphasis on bibliographic instruction skills for teachers."

The city, people, and environment were very different from cities in the United States. Miller said that "it was very crowded, there were lots of people, everything was built up very close together, yet it was really beautiful and extremely clean." She explained that "everything was artistically done, down to the details of the paving stones on the sidewalks, carefully chosen plants, and greenhouses throughout the city." Miller observed that "it was almost as if they developed the landscaping to create a serene image to view as they went about their lives in this crowded city. Almost like, 'we're stuck here, we can't get away, so we need to make a pleasant environment.'

The group arrived at the end of the rainy season, so "everything was fertile, green, and beautiful," Miller said. She was also amazed at the politeness of the people she met, which she speculated might also have something to do with a survival response to the overcrowding. Odawara has familiar theme restaurants, such as McDonald's, Denny's, and Red Lobster, but Miller said the McDonald's was a two-storied affair. When asked about the toilet situation, Miller admitted that she never learned how to use the Japanese-style toilets which are challenging ground-level devices. She said there was always a western toilet available everywhere they went.

Even more amazing than the differences between east and west, which were to be expected, were the similarities. There were the familiar bulletin boards, which coordinated with subjects currently being studied. Miller says educators in Odawara used goals and objectives in writing their lesson plans, referring to them with the English words, "goals" and "objectives." While listening to a computer teacher deliver a lesson in Japanese, Miller kept hearing the term, "double-click" in an otherwise unintelligible stream of words. Their translator confirmed that the English "double-click" is part of an almost universal technological vocabulary used by Japanese speakers.

"The local public library was a really nice facility," Miller recalled. "There was a storytime area with art the children had done, and it was neat to pull books off the shelf, and see familiar books like Eric Carle's in Japanese," Miller said. She explained that "the non-fiction area was arranged in Dewey Decimal order. There was a fairly small section of English language editions--much like the usually small foreign language sections in American libraries," Miller said.

As one of the first school library media specialists to travel to Japan in the Hitachi program, Miller is eager to share her experiences and new knowledge with colleagues and her entire building of students.

--Karen Bays

420 BC: Socrates argues against reading. For him, books are useless tools, since they cannot explain what they say but only repeat the same words over and over again.

—Factoid from “The Reader’s Timeline,” in Alberto Manguel’s A History of Reading.
"A library is part and parcel of the everyday life of the community. That's what a library really is: the heartbeat of the community." Robert M. Daley, Chicago mayor and Library Journal's First Annual Politician of the Year.

Oklahoma librarians face daily challenges: integrating new technologies with print formats, constant retooling of our buildings and ourselves, explaining the Library's core mission and values to constituents with widely differing viewpoints, creating resources that help customers find their way to the one item they need, and justifying needed budget increases to constituencies or governing jurisdictions. Our libraries are the 'heartbeat' of each community, whether located in a municipality, school, university or college, or a business organization. We often assume that everyone knows libraries are a public good. Yet, many customers do not know what libraries are or what librarians do; or, possibly their impression is based on personal experience from several decades ago.

It is my job as a librarian to tell customers what we do, and why, how we are funded and how those funds are utilized, and why their library is important. The best sales representative for Oklahoma libraries is YOU—the person who works in a library, supports a library, or is a trustee or a friend of a library.

Start by telling a library story, usually about someone finding "just what they needed" at the Library. Be specific, don't give personal names, and illustrate a service or information resource we provide or how a customer thinks about their library. Include library staff and a customer.

Recently Julie Lee, Branch Manager at the Tecumseh Public Library, shared these comments from her kid-customers at the end of the summer reading program. Julie asked the children "what's the best thing about the library?" Here are a few she received, "I can come and leave feeling great." (9 year old); "It is quiet and to get away from my sister." (12 year old); "It is a time to get away from everything." (12 year old); "Them having books and people to help me." (1 year old); "There are tons and tons of books, books, and more books!" (6 year old).

I would like to hear your "library success stories" and with whom you shared the story. Send them to me at Pioneer Library System, 225 N. Webster, Norman, OK 73069 or e-mail me at debra@explorer3.pioneer.lib.ok.us. Let's compile a collection of Oklahoma library success stories that we could collectively share at conference time? If you send me your stories, I will figure out how we can share them!

This Association continues to expand member services, increase continuing education opportunities, and seek new ways to network. It takes a lot of volunteers working together for a common goal: to improve the quality of libraries and librarianship in Oklahoma. Thanks to each of you helping the Association towards that goal. In particular, I want to thank my Director Mary Sherman, and the staff of the Pioneer Library System. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes organizational commitment and resources and individual staff commitments when you take on a volunteer job. So, PLS staff, take a bow, and my heartfelt thanks for as we work together to make libraries grow.

—Debra Engel

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Membership Committee

Our last Oklahoma Library Association conference featured keynote speaker Clifton Taulbert. As he spoke a central theme became evident, one of involvement—involved in our families and in our communities. Later at another session Jennifer Greenstreet reiterated the benefits of community and organizational involvement. As she shared her experiences with censorship, she stressed the importance of being involved in professional organizations and how they were there for her when she needed them. Let us continue to be involved and to build a strong community—the community of librarianship.

If you have already renewed your membership, great! Share the message with someone else and encourage them to become involved. Let us work together to make this a great year for libraries and OLA. Forms are available at http://www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola

--Bobbie Crumb

Below: Mentors... providing inspiration and guidance to their peers. (Jan Sanders and Kay Boies at the County Fair night, 1998 OLA Conference in Tulsa.)

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A recent “Ethical Food for Thought” column from the *Oklahoma Librarian* included the question of how libraries should cope with a limited number of web-capable computer workstations and a growing trend to deliver library resources over the web. Paige Weston notes that many librarians feel they must restrict the URLs patrons can access from their machines and suggests that such restrictions bring some of the basic tenets of library service into question. She uses the analogy of a limited number of chairs and tables in any library’s seating area and asks whether we should screen what our patrons are reading to determine who is entitled to sit down. Finally, she ponders whether these are the right questions for us as information professionals to ask.

As a member of the OLA Ethics Committee, I believe that the questions she raises about allocating limited computer resources are some of the most pressing ones to ask today as libraries become less repositories of print and more gateways to access remote digital information resources. Computer equipment is costly and most institutions simply do not have the funds to purchase as many workstations as they would like. School, public, and academic librarians have great cause to be concerned, for today they are increasingly dependent upon these expensive pieces of hardware to provide access to their collections and to reference tools that used to be locally owned and maintained.

It is therefore necessary to set some policies on use that will ensure that the largest possible number of patrons will be able to make use of the finite number of terminals. No library can allow one patron exclusive use of a computer just as it cannot allow a patron to right to renew a book indefinitely to the exclusion of other borrowers. Yet librarians cannot use limitations in computer resources as an excuse to monitor or even censor the information their adult patrons are gathering while online without compromising the fundamental values of the profession. To block all but library-approved web sites from public Internet stations in an era when the World Wide Web has widened the gap between the information haves and have-nots violates the very mission of the library itself.

A balance must be struck between the conflicting imperatives of ensuring that the maximum number of people can access Internet sources in the library and of protecting the users’ rights to choose what sites they visit. A non-intrusive means of sharing the resources while simultaneously respecting users’ privacy and freedom to surf the ‘net needs to be devised.

There are a variety of procedural and technological safeguards that could be implemented to address those imperatives. At the Oklahoma State University Library, for example, there are two sets of web-capable PCs in the public areas: dedicated library information workstations which access the Internet using a proxy server that provides access only to subscription web sites, and public Internet terminals which go to anywhere on the ‘net. Such a setup enables the library to provide enough access to web-based library resources and does not require the librarians to monitor the sites their patrons are viewing or prevent patrons from going to non-library sites. This solution is admittedly beyond the budgetary and technical constraints of most libraries (including most academic libraries), but there are simple steps which any institution could implement to make the most of limited resources without compromising its commitment to free Internet access.

Placing time limits on the use of computers when others are waiting would be a fair means of guaranteeing that all patrons get a chance to search for information without having to limit the URLs the terminals could pull up. Setting aside priority workstations for library research in a separate area of the library (even placing them behind the reference desk) would be another way to ensure that there would always be a free terminal for those needing to check the catalog or search an index. Such suggestions are not perfect solutions to the problem of limited computer resources, but they do help librarians avoid becoming the Internet police.

As all libraries must get used to doing more with less, librarians need to monitor their own behavior trying to allocate those scarce resources, whether they be books on the shelves, tables and chairs, or computer stations with web browsers. Librarians can and should have some procedure to provide open access to library databases but should not do so at the cost of denying others the right to visit the other regions of cyberspace simply because they are not chosen subscription sites. The Internet has forever changed the nature of our profession and has opened up a Pandora’s box of new obstacles for us to confront, but we must not allow it to change our fundamental ethical principles of free access to information for all.

—David Oberhelman

**Come and get it!**

**Support staff scholarships funded**

Applications are now being taken for the FOLIO/OLA Support Staff Scholarship.

Funded by the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, the purpose of this $250 scholarship is to motivate and encourage support staff and also prepare them for the challenges and responsibilities pertaining to their jobs. Scholarships can be used for enrolling in two and four year colleges, as well as technical schools, workshops and/or seminars which accomplish educational goals. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on funding availability.

Deadline for turning in applications is January 15, 1999.

Contact Jill Vessels at Metropolitan Library System, Capitol Hill Library, 334 SW 26th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73109, 405/631-1149, or e-mail: cataloging@mail.mls.lib.ok.us with questions or for an application.
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- Marilyn Brown
Librarian
Hampton Bays, NY

Library automation with vision
ODL celebrates lab’s one year anniversary

by Vicki Mohr-Sanger and Desiree Webber

One year ago the Office of Library Development (OLD) at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries held its first internet training session in its newly created Computer Training Lab. The first sessions were a bit claustrophobic. Our space was like a walk-in pantry with six computers, one color printer, twelve participants and two instructors.

However, everyone had a good time and learned much. The response was so enthusiastic that OLD moved the lab to a larger area, added four computers and two additional printers. The lab now seats seventeen.

OLD consultants recognized the need for a lab over a year ago. Public and institution libraries were adding or preparing to add internet connections. In some areas hands-on internet training was not available or was too costly. LSTA funds were secured; space was found; computers were ordered; and the lab became a reality. OLD staff put their heads together and designed training sessions to help public and institution librarians confidently use this new public service tool.

The first training session was fun and educational. Using a holiday theme, we focused on simple search strategies using Yahoo, Web Crawler, and Alta Vista and introduced FirstSearch, the statewide database. Some comments we received on evaluations were: "Makes me excited to finally get on the net," and "It was good to have holiday sites, instead of boring library sites."

Then Marty Thompson, Jennifer Goodson and the reference staff at the OU Bird Health Sciences Center Library introduced participants to "Grateful Med," a powerful but easy to use tool for searching the National Library of Medicine. Marty Thompson and his staff will return in January, 1999, to kick-off a new year of internet training at the OLD Computer Training Lab.

Suanne Wymer, Computer Training Librarian at the Tulsa City-County Library System is scheduled for 1999. Wymer will teach librarians to find useful business and job opportunity resources on the net.

Departments within OLD have also jumped on board to share their expertise with librarians. Staff from the Public Information and Government Resources Offices will again offer the popular website design workshop. The upcoming session will teach librarians how to use Microsoft's Frontpage 98. The software creates attractive websites without having to use HTML codes.

Government Resources, headed by Vickie Sullivan*, will offer sessions on locating and searching state and federal government websites. Marilyn Jacobs and staff** at the Cartwright Law Library will assist librarians in selecting appropriate law resources.

OLD staff will also teach several classes. Donna Norvell, Youth Consultant, will offer all day workshops introducing websites which compliment the statewide Summer Reading Program. Pat Williams, Cathy Van Hoy, Ginny Dietrich, Donna Skvarla, Desiree Webber and Vicki Mohr-Sanger will teach classes on basic internet and basic SearchBank skills as well as internet searching on specialty topics such as "quilting," "stocks," "gardening," and "travel." Continuing education units for certification will be offered at all training lab sessions.

A brochure is produced annually announcing the training classes, scheduled times, dates and deadlines for registration. This brochure is mailed to all public and institution librarians each November. These classes are offered to public and institution librarians the last two Tuesdays and Thursdays of each month except June, July, August and December.

When the lab is not in use by OLD, it is open for other libraries to use. For example, libraries or OLA Committees could offer their own training sessions using the OLD Computer Training Lab.

Occasionally, classes will be held that are not publicized on the brochure. For example, Cathy Van Hoy conducted advanced internet workshops for librarians unable to attend the Gail Junion-Metz workshops held in May 1998. Under these circumstances, special mailings are made.

Thanks to all those who attended the training lab sessions. You have made the lab a success. We look forward to seeing everyone in the training lab this upcoming year. As lab coordinators, we want to know your comments and suggestions. With the behind the scenes support by Donna Skvarla, Administrator of OLD; Susan McVey, Deputy Director of OLD and Bob Clark, Director of OLD, we will continually strive to offer the latest in software and hardware.

(Above) Surrounded by nautical décor and fortified by great food provided by Norman Public Library staff, participants in OLA’s 1998 Leadership Retreat “Building Collaborative Leadership” listen attentively: (l-r) Lynn McIntosh, Charlotte Riggle (h), Charles Brooks, Pat Weaver-Meyers (l), Tom Biggs, Jeffrey Wil- hite, Susan Wright, and Holly LaBossiere. The retreat (Cruise) was held June 10-11 in Norman to inform and build a team of this year’s OLA officers and lead-

To register for classes, please e-mail or call Phil Cooke at pcook@oltn.odl.state.ok.us, (405) 521-2502 or 800-522-8116. To reserve the training lab for your own workshops, please contact Desiree Webber, dwebber@oltn.odl.state.ok.us, or Vicki Mohr-Sanger vmohrsanger@oltn.odl.state.ok.us, 405-521-2502 or 800-522-8116.
Internet filtering controversy calms in Bethany

An uproar over Internet access that could have become another high profile battle for intellectual freedom in Oklahoma, earlier this year, has been stilled. On April 16, 1998, the Metropolitan Library Commission held its monthly meeting at the Bethany Public Library, one of the branches of the Metropolitan Library System. During the time allotted for public comments, the issue of unfiltered Internet access, scheduled to begin May 4, 1998 at the Bethany branch, was raised by several individuals. Some of the speakers did want unfiltered access, but the majority wanted all access to be filtered. Three of the eight current Bethany City Council members spoke as well as a newly elected council member, Peter Plank. Plank was especially adamant that the City of Bethany not allow unfiltered Internet access in their library. "It is a question between what is moral and immoral, between what is godly and ungodly," Plank exclaimed during the meeting. Since several libraries in the system had already begun unfiltered access, this opposition came as a surprise.

"Most of the concerned citizens who spoke at this meeting were not combative; they were just ordinary people concerned about what children would be exposed to through the Internet," Barbara Beasley, Bethany Library Manager explained, "they do not see themselves as censors; their aim is to protect the children."

The subject of Internet access at the Bethany Library came up again at the April 21 Bethany City Council Meeting. The issue was raised during the public comments time and also during Council members' comments. The Council decided to put the issue on the agenda for the next city council meeting on Tuesday, May 5th. The city's attorney was asked to examine the library building lease with the Metropolitan Library System and the question of whether the city of Bethany has any authority to affect library policies.

On Tuesday, April 28, the Bethany City Council met to discuss the unfiltered vs. filtered Internet issue. The attorney for the Metropolitan Library System, Bill Comstock, and Barbara Beasley, Manager of the Bethany Library were invited to attend the meeting. Before any discussion began, the mayor pointed out that the Metropolitan Library System Commission sets policy for the entire system. The city itself cannot make policy decisions for the Bethany Library.

The system's attorney, Bill Comstock, explained the legal background relating to the library system's decision to provide unfiltered Internet access for adults. Beasley discussed the library system's policies regarding Internet usage and distributed copies of the policy. Several of the city council members had questions about how filtering works, what is filtered, and why the library system would allow unfiltered access to anyone. Some of those attending were not aware of the fact that anyone under the age of 18 is only allowed filtered access to the Internet. Comstock and Beasley explained that current filtering technology fails to block all illegal sites while not allowing access to some legitimately useful sites.

Julia Frensonke, Public Information Officer for the Metropolitan Library System, credits Library Manager Barbara Beasley's professional attitude, patience, and objectivity for the situation's smooth resolution. "Barbara is held in very high regard by the Bethany community," Frensonke said. "The Bethany City Council gave every evidence of having high respect for her professionalism."

Frensonke added. Beasley's patience in dealing with people's heightened emotions on this issue was remarkable. Frensonke observed that "Barbara can really maintain her objectivity. She remains completely professional--emotion just does not enter into it. That ability has really served her."

On Tuesday, May 5th, the Bethany City Council considered approving a resolution requesting that only filtered access to the Internet be provided at the Bethany Library. Nearly all the council members spoke on the issue. When it became apparent that the council was divided on the issue, the mayor suggested tabling the resolution until further study. The resolution was then withdrawn from discussion. There has been no further action regarding this issue since the May 5th, 1998 Bethany City Council Meeting.

--Karen Bays
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THANKS!

...Michael Havener and Charles Brooks for presenting the “Don’t Get Tangled in Web” workshop sponsored by Library Education Division three times.

...Yvonne Hinchee and the staff of the Shawnee Public Library for hosting the July OLA Program Committee and Board meeting.

...Kathy Latrobe for making arrangements for author Karen Hesse (1998 Newbery Award winner, Out of the Dust) to be part of the 1999 OLA Conference in Enid.

...Sue Kilmer and the staff of the Yukon Public Library for hosting the August OLA Program Committee and Board meeting.

...Marty Thompson for presenting to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board on Sept. 25 two resolutions honoring the Department of Libraries made at the 1998 OLA Annual Conference.

...UCO librarians, Jane Taylor and Carolyn Mahin for letting Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, use their terminals to check her e-mail when her computer was on the blink.

...Patrick Brennen, librarian at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore for making the OCLC workshop “Authority File Fundamentals” available to Oklahoma librarians.

...Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation for funding the OCLC Authority File Fundamentals workshop.

A few of the many people helping libraries and librarians in Oklahoma. And to all the rest, who contribute in hundreds of ways and are not mentioned above, we thank each of you.

What does an OLA Division do?
Nuts and bolts from a panel presentation at OLA’s Leadership Conference

1. Involves as many librarians in its field of specialization as possible in its program of work for the year. Asks them for limited subject and limited time commitments to committee assignments.
2. Gives awards.
3. Gets its program of work accomplished by dividing it among committees.
4. Polls the membership of the Division. Listens to what the public librarians or the school librarians or the academic librarians or the trainers have to say and then reports back on actions taken by the Division in response.
5. Has fun, for instance the OASLMS Social—with authors, illustrators, speakers and members mingling at special events.
6. Surveys its members, as in the annual salary survey.
7. Grows leaders.
8. Values momentum and vitality and relevance, knowing that it often takes a group much more than a year to recover from a year with little activity.
9. Connects and collaborates with other divisions, roundtables, committees and outside organizations such as EncycloMedia.
10. Works for its members. Example: OASLMS established contacts in 10 locations around the state who are knowledgeable about the new standards for school libraries.
11. Sponsors workshops—at least one every year.
   • To explore an issue or subject of great interest to Division members... and hopefully to others as well.
   • To make money for the Association.
   • To generate memberships for the Association and for the Division.
   • To provide unique and valued continuing education forums—the ones that only those active in the profession would know were needed. Example: University & College Division’s “The Internet: To Filter or Not” which set an attendance record (79 paying participants) for an OLA workshop. Example: LED’s “Don’t Get Caught in the Web,” workshop plus 2 repeat performances due to popular demand.
12. Plans and produces must-attend programs for the annual OLA Conference.
14. Looks at mergers, for instance UCD and the Oklahoma Chapter of ACRL; or Public Library Division, which absorbed the responsibility of providing relevant, inviting continuing education for public library trustees with the dissolution of the Library Trustee Division.
15. Creates listservs and web pages.
16. Experiments... with breakfast meetings at Conference; or with quarterly Division meetings/programs at various locations across the state.
17. Builds on strength, on the carryover participation of past Division chairs.

--Linda Levy
People and places
(And things...) Ancient wooden book trucks appeared in this summer’s Lyric Theatre production of the “Music Man” courtesy of Norman Public Library. Book trucks owned by the nearby Metropolitan (OKC) Library System did not measure up, all of them being modern metal ones!

After an interlude at the University of Northern Iowa, DAVID CORBLY has returned to Oklahoma. He started July 1 at the University of Oklahoma as Assistant Director for Library Systems.

This has been a boom year in the SOUTHEASTERN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM. They have dedicated two library buildings so far this year, with a third coming this month. On April 3rd, they dedicated the new Coal County Public Library building at Coalgate, on July 26th the new Hartshorne Public Library, and on Oct. 11th, they’ll dedicate the new Broken Bow Public Library. WAYNE HANWAY says, “In addition to new buildings, other exciting things have been happening. On Aug. 25th voters in Coal and Pittsburg counties passed ad valorem tax increases going from 2 mills to 4 mills, so our entire seven county system will be at 4 mills. And we are about ready to sign a contract for a library automation system.”

STEWART BROWER is now the Technology Development and Promotions Librarian at Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. It’s a new position which will let him continue to teach and do reference but also use his skills on the electronic side of the fence. He has been a Reference Librarian at the OU Bird Health Sciences Library and helped OLA in many ways, especially at Conference.

Previously serving as Small Branch Coordinator for the Pioneer Library System, SUSAN FULKERSON GREGORY is the new branch manager of the Norman Public Library. She replaces PEGGY COOK, who became Pioneer’s Systems Services Coordinator. Peggy will supervise small branch operations as well as literacy and library services for homebound residents in Cleveland, McClain and Pottawatomie counties, and help coordinate the library system’s volunteer program.

CAROLYN GUTIERREZ of Claremore was presented with the Ann Heidbreder Eastman Grant by the Women’s National Book Association at an ALA breakfast on June 28th in Washington, DC. The grant allows a librarian to take a course or participate in an institute on aspects of publishing as a profession or be reimbursed for such study in the past year.

In July ANDY PETERS, associate director of technology for the Pioneer Library System (PLS), was named Oklahoma’s MCI Cybarian of the Year. Librarians in each state got the title MCI Cybarian of the Year based on commitment to using technology to better serve their community and their trailblazing efforts to provide technology to library customers. Andy

The History of the Haverstock Tent Show
“The Show with a Million Friends”
Robert Lee Wyatt III
Foreword by Peggy Haverstock

Robert Lee Wyatt’s chronicle of a pioneer dramatic tent repertoire company is more than just a fascinating story; it is also a significant piece of American theater history. Founded in Roosevelt, Oklahoma, in 1911 by Harvey (Haver) and Carlotta (Lotta) Haverstock, the Haverstock Tent Show proved to be a most enduring tent theater company—and family enterprise. Rolland Haverstock, the founders’ son, played leading-man roles for thirty of the company’s forty-three years, and Rolland’s wife, Peggy, who joined the company in 1933, toured with the group until it dissolved in 1954.

Wyatt, who teaches at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, had access to family letters, memoirs and diaries, copies of scripts, route books, record books, and scrapbooks and photographs, some of which are included here. He supplements this material with interviews with those who had worked with the Haverstocks or who had known the company by reputation.
was instrumental in developing and integrating all of PLS’s online services. PLS was first in the state to offer free Internet access to public library customers. Computer information stations in Byars, Maud, and Little Axe now link students and area residents to the library’s network and the Internet, and a public information kiosk in the Mall provides electronic access to a whole variety of public library services. Andy chaired the community project for Norman’s CivicNet (www.oknorman.org) which allows online access to many Norman resources including local government, libraries, schools, businesses, and social and civic organizations. He’s also webmaster for OLA. The award gives a $1,000 donation toward library educational materials and one year of dial-up access to the Internet.

A recent pledge of $275,000 to the Tulsa Library Trust will let the TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM greatly expand and enhance its family literacy services over the next five years. Ruth G. Hardeman originally pledged $100,000 to the literacy endowment in 1993. Her latest pledge means TCCL’s literacy office can hire two part-time staff specialists in family literacy outreach and computer-assisted instruction for five years, and will add $100,000 to the Trust’s literacy endowment to ensure prolonged service. The endowment funds tutor training workshops, student materials, in-service literacy workshops for staff, conference scholarships for tutors and students, and other innovative literacy projects. In the last 20 years more than 2,500 adults have learned to read through the program at TCCL. Currently the program matches 200 students with 200 volunteer tutors.

JOAN JESTER, who had retired as Metropolitan (OKC) Library System’s business manager, died on July 21 while on vacation in Wyoming. Joan remained a dedicated member of the Friends of the Library even after her retirement, and served as OLA treasurer.

“Trustees at financially troubled Phillips University in Enid have started disposing of the school’s assets, including the library and the skunks. Trustees decided Thursday to sell the library to Florida College, a four year school in Tampa, if a federal bankruptcy judge in Oklahoma City agrees. Phillips President G. Curtis Jones, Jr. said Oklahoma State University and Northwestern Oklahoma State also bid for the collection.” [The pair of descented skunks (mascots) lived at the president’s house and have been adopted by new parents.]

—from the Norman Transcript, 9/11/98

Executive Board takes action

JULY

Action items from the July 17, 1998 OLA Executive Board meeting at the Shawnee Public Library:

• Approved the workshop proposal “Be Prepared: What to Do Before the Censor Comes,” a joint effort of IFC, OASLMS and PLD, to be held at the Stillwater Public Library on Oct. 6. Later in the meeting reconsidered workshop dates and agreed that “Be Prepared” should be moved to a later date if possible (changed to Nov. 12).

• Janet Brooks explained the Intellectual Freedom Committee’s role in Encyclo-Media 1998, and the Board gave permission for excerpts from IFC materials to be included in handbooks given to Encyclo-Media participants.

• Heard from Janet Brooks on the “First Amendment Resource Center” project, a cooperative endeavor with OLA, Freedom of Information Oklahoma, Metropolitan Library System, and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Four model centers around the state will be set up.

• Discussed a proposal from Wayne Hanway for the “Surf’s Up! Protecting Libraries from the Undertow” workshop, sponsored by the Ethics Committee and IFC. It will be held Oct. 1 at Oklahoma City Community College.

• Approved the 1998/99 OLA budget as presented by the Budget & Finance Committee. The Committee’s goal is first to ensure OLA’s financial stability and second, to restore member benefits.

• Approved a motion to post Oklahoma Librarian articles on the web site as soon as the next printed issue is released.

• Agreed that the Membership Committee may spend $1500 on items with the “Libraries are for Life” logo—items to be sold at Encyclo-Media.

• Approved a request from Glenda Lamb for Social Responsibilities Roundtable participation in the multi-organization conference “Women’s Bold Journeys,” Oct. 17, 1998 in Oklahoma City. SRRT will have a table display with the new Ruth Brown exhibit. The Board denied a request for the $100 fee, citing continuing concern about OLA’s financial situation plus the fact that the request had not been included in this year’s budget plan.

AUGUST

The Board met August 21 at the Yukon Public Library and made the following decisions:

• Pauline Rodriguez presented TSRT’s proposal for a workshop titled “ImMEDIAtie Relief: Cataloging and Processing Nonbook Materials” to be held Oct. 23; approved the workshop. Paula Walker offered to include a flyer, amended to feature all 3 fall OLA workshops, in the upcoming State Dept. of Education mailing.

• Approved a proposed letter of agreement with OLA legislative liaison Oliver Delaney.

• Approved a request by Jan Sanders to sell OLA store items at the Bartlesville Public Library’s staff day.

• OLA received a donation of about $500 from the Southeastern Oklahoma Library Organization, in addition to the $400 recently received from the Plains Library Organization. Both regional groups folded and donated their funds to OLA. Agreed that the funds be used for $50 credits on OLA Conference registrations, to be granted to applicants from areas where SOLO and PLO were active; applicants must have current salaries under $27,000.

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