From Rosie to Roosevelt ....

The Public Library of Enid and Garfield County recently completed the video discussion series “From Rosie to Roosevelt: A Film History of Americans in World War II: The American Command.” The Library was one of 20 libraries in the country (the only one in Oklahoma) to obtain a grant for this series. As part of the grant, training for the library coordinator and the local scholar was provided in a three-day workshop in Chicago. The series was developed by national Video Resources in partnership with the American Library Association, with major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The series lasted six-weeks and covered FDR, George Marshall, Eisenhower, the Navy, MacArthur, and Truman during World War II.

The program format was based on the “Let’s Talk About It” programs sponsored by the American Library Association. Instead of each person reading a book, everyone came together and watched a video. A local scholar, Dr. William D. Pennington, Dean of Northwestern Oklahoma State University-Enid campus, led the discussion following the viewing at each session.

The series was aimed at an intergenerational audience. The World War II veterans told their experiences and younger people asked questions in addition to the questions raised by the scholar. A local trio, portraying the Andrews Sisters, sang as people arrived for the first session. Color guards from several different organizations in town presented the colors at the opening of each session. Refreshments were provided and served by a different organization each session. The community involvement has been wonderful.

People loaned memorabilia items for displays. World War II era photographs have been photocopied and made into a collage for display in the library. Even recordings of World War II era music were bought and played before and during portions of the sessions.

A gentleman in a neighboring county sent me a letter saying that he was a WWII veteran and he had some pictures. The following week the library received a large envelope with photocopies of his pictures that he wanted to share for the collage. A week later library staff read his obituary in the newspaper. World War II veterans are dying at an average of 1000 per day. Now is the time to encourage them to share their stories either as oral histories, on video, or written down.

We have learned that approximately one-half of the people attending this series have never before attended a program at the library. The attitude of the attendees has been very positive. They feel it has been a learning experience. One woman said, “I lived through World War II, but I didn’t know what was behind many of the decisions made during the war. I’ve learned a lot.”

Because of the success of this series, the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County is planning to do more of this type of programming and has already applied for another grant.

Wilita Larrison
Navigating the Information Future

The Oklahoma Library Association is truly a membership organization. As I’ve attended many committees, division and roundtable meetings, I’ve gotten a great perspective of how many people are involved on an ongoing basis to make this membership organization work. This synergy and enthusiasm is what makes the Oklahoma Library Association great.

You’re part of a true collaboration in action. With many goals and diverse interests, we come together to make libraries and librarianship better in Oklahoma, in the United States and around the world.

This organization is not one leader here and one leader there doing all the work. This is truly a team effort, with many, many people coming together for common goals and advancing libraries and librarianship in Oklahoma. The Program Committee is planning a wonderful conference in the spring. Committees, divisions, and roundtables are planning workshops. All of the groups and the OLA Board are working on many projects to make libraries better.

As an OLA leader, we need to involve more people and keep our membership active and informed. Communication is so important. Whether through meetings, listserv, remote meetings, bulk mailing, web pages or the Oklahoma Librarian, we want you to know what’s happening, what’s available and how YOU can be involved. Please participate in a roundtable or division, to make OLA what you and your co-workers need from your professional organization.

During Banned Books Week I had the privilege of attending the Associated Library Students of Oklahoma (ALS0) meeting. We have some great students coming to the field, but a continuing shortage of librarians (especially school media specialists) is projected in Oklahoma.

Several groups are working on ways that we can encourage those with whom we come in contact to explore librarianship as a career field. It really is every librarian’s job to recruit new librarians. We are having an influence (either positively or negatively) with everyone with whom we come in contact. Why not make every library transaction (reference question, bibliographic instruction session, or student worker question) an opportunity to show the joy of librarianship?

Materials that you can use to talk with school counselors and students will be identified this year. Several scholarships are available. We really need to get every potential librarian know about these.

We can all use our sphere of influence to talk up our profession. Become known as that “library lady” or “library guy” to students and those with whom you come in contact. Let them know that librarians are on the cutting edge of cyberspace with many specializations, including information technology. Let them know that librarians change lives everyday, providing that key information that’s needed.

The Navigating the Information Future Committee is working on other ways and with other groups to identify how we can effectively recruit new librarians. Please let Jan Sanders or me, know your ideas.

Metropolitan Library System selects Michigan library chief as executive director

Norman Maas, the new executive director of the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County, believes libraries are "universities for all people."

Maas previously oversaw a five-library Saginaw, Michigan, system with an annual budget of $5 million. While there, he led the renovation of the system's libraries (including one built in 1890), expanded computer services and developed history and genealogy collections. He also improved children's services and library funding. Before taking the Michigan job in 1991, he worked for the Detroit Public Library for 20 years.

Maas said he is very concerned with involving children in their local libraries. The Metropolitan Library System appears to work with children intensively, including helping parents find materials and encouraging them to read to their youngsters, he said.

"We are finding all over the country that more and more parents are coming into their local libraries and getting books, and then reading the books to their children," Maas said. Maas said such programs are beneficial because they foster the development of good relationships between parents and their children and because they make reading fun.

"Another thing that happens is parents can learn a lot more about their children when they read to them," Maas said. "It is a time they can use to focus on their relationships — not where they are in front of a television or just running the children around to different events. "They are actually spending time being with their children."

It isn't just the Metropolitan Library System's children programs drawing Maas here, however. He also said he is excited about coming to a community with a good reputation.

"I've got a 7- and 10-year-old, and as a father, I found Oklahoma City to be inviting — a very friendly place where people value children. I not only wanted a good job, but I wanted to bring my family to a good community."
Scholarship Opportunities!

OLA Scholarship for Graduate Study
The Oklahoma Library Association welcomes applications from current OLA members for graduate study in library and information studies. The scholarship has been established to assist a promising person to enter the library profession, or to advance in the profession by undertaking a course of study in a formal degree or certification program. Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Must be an Oklahoma resident.
2. Must be a current member in good standing of the Oklahoma Library Association.
3. Must hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
4. Must intend to engage in a formal course of graduate study in an accredited institution of higher education in Oklahoma, with a goal of librarianship as a profession, that will result in a degree or certification.
5. Must submit a formal application for consideration by the OLA Scholarship Committee.
6. Must submit transcripts to all undergraduate and graduate studies completed to date.
7. A personal interview with the Scholarship Committee may be required.

Currently enrolled students are eligible if they have completed less than 18 hours of graduate study. Other scholarships and grant opportunities are also available in Oklahoma including a Future Teachers Scholarship offered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; and the OLA Member Development Grants for continuing education opportunities. Information is available on the OLA website or from Katherine Hale, chair of the Scholarship Committee. The deadline for applications is March 16, 2001. We encourage all interested parties to apply!

Katherine Hale, Chair
OLA Scholarship Committee
khale@spls.lib.ok.us
(580) 477-2890

Support Staff Scholarship
Applications are now being accepted for the Mary Lu Atkinson/Lillian Norberg scholarships. These scholarships are designated to assist library support staff personnel with their continuing education needs.

In September 1992, the OLA Support Staff Roundtable and FOLIO agreed to sponsor a scholarship program to assist support staff in improving job skills and developing career potential. In 1993, the scholarships were named for Mary Lu Atkinson, a former FOLIO board member who died as the scholarship program was being created. Mrs. Atkinson devoted countless hours to furthering the goals of libraries and education.

The purposes of the scholarship program are:
1. To motivate support staff to start or continue education.
2. To encourage support staff to pursue technical training and continuing education which will develop and broaden job knowledge, skill and expertise.
3. To enhance support staff performance and prepare them for the awesome challenges and responsibilities which informational and technological advances have placed upon them.

This year’s awards consist of two-$250 scholarship awards. Applicants must enroll in an educational institution such as a junior college, four-year college, or technical school; or in seminars and/or workshops which accomplish educational goals. Proof of enrollment is requested, as is an evaluation of the course or workshop upon completion.

Each scholarship is presented in the form of a $250 check to the recipient. Scholarships will be presented during the spring OLA Annual Conference.

Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2001. For applications, visit the OLA/Support Staff Roundtable site or for applications and additional information, please contact: Jill Vessls, 334 SW 26th, Oklahoma City, OK 73109 or at 405-631-1149.

What does an Oklahoma Librarian look like?
How many of us will retire in the next 10 years? How many chose librarianship as a second (or subsequent) career? How many work in public services vs. technical services? How many work in public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries, or special libraries? How many obtained our degrees in-state vs. out-of-state?
The Library Education Division, in cooperation with the Recruitment & Retention Committee will be conducting a survey of OLA members in early February. Watch the next newsletter for further details, and look for the survey in the mail in February.
OK-SHARE CARD PROGRAM COMPLETES FIRST YEAR

After one year in operation, the OK-Share Card program is off to a good start. Between August 1999 and June 30, 2000, 807 Oklahoma students or faculty lined up in their college or university libraries to receive their OK-Share Cards. Those same people then went to other academic libraries in the state and checked out 783 items.

This cooperative venture between 42 Oklahoma institutions of higher education, both public and private, was developed by the Oklahoma Council of Academic Library Directors (OCALD), an advisory council to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. In an educational environment where access to information is as important as ownership of information, this new program opens library collections across the state to the students and faculty who need them.

"The OK-Share Card will enable students and faculty around the state to have more convenient access to the academic resources they need," said Chancellor Hans Brisch, quoted in a November 1999 press release by Laura Callahan from the Regents office. "The biggest impact of the program will be on students and faculty who commute great distances to class or who are participating in distance learning. Now they can go to the academic library closest to where they live or work to check out materials," Brisch said.

Exactly what is the OK-Share card? How does it work? One might think of the process as "In-Person" interlibrary loan between Oklahoma academic libraries. The OK-Share Card is issued to a currently enrolled student, or a currently employed faculty or staff member at any approved and participating institution of higher education in Oklahoma to certify that the individual is in good standing at his institution. The card tells the lending library that if the patron does not return the material, the home library will be responsible for the problem. The Oklahoma program is based loosely on the Tex-Share Card, a similar program in Texas.

Once the student or employee has the card, he may present it at another Oklahoma academic library and check materials out from that library. He then later can return the items to the interlibrary loan department of his home library and they will return the items to the lending library.

It is expected that use of this service will increase as more faculty and students become aware of it.

Danelle Hall, Director
Dulaney-Browne Library
Oklahoma City University

The OLA Ethics Committee Informal Ethics Survey

Greetings! Each year the Ethics Committee contributes a column to the Oklahoma Librarian devoted to ethical issues in the library world. This year we would like to devote this column to issues that you--practicing librarians, media specialists, and all those concerned with Oklahoma librarianship--see as the most pressing ethical dilemmas or challenges facing libraries in this state. Call it an informal ethics survey. What concerns do you have about the health or future of the profession? Do you fear that changes in society, technology, legislation, or other arenas have posed conflicts to your professional or personal values? How do new policies or laws raise ethical questions which libraries must now confront? These are some of the issues the Committee would like you to ponder.

We would invite you to share your thoughts and your concerns about these and other questions with other Oklahoma librarians. The Ethics Committee would gather your responses and devote future columns in this publication to the issues you raise in your responses. If you could send us views in the form of a short paragraph or two outlining your ideas, all responses would be held in strictest confidence and only excerpts, if you give your permission, would be quoted in the column. You could focus on a specific issue or policy you feel is important to share with all your colleagues in the state or discuss a general trend affecting libraries. What is on your mind when you think of ethical problems we must tackle? Thanks for you support to the Ethics Committee, OLA, and libraries across Oklahoma.

Please mail or email your comments to
David Oberhelman, Chair of OLA Ethics Committee
Oklahoma State University Library
Stillwater, OK 74078
Email: davido@okstate.edu
SRRT Seeks Applicants for Ruth Brown Award

The Social Responsibilities Roundtable is pleased to announce the start of the application period for the 2001 Ruth Brown Memorial Award.

The OLA/SRRT offers the Ruth Brown Memorial Award to encourage and recognize programming that addresses issues of social concern as they impact libraries, library collections, and the communities served by these libraries.

Past recipients include:

Positive Tomorrows, an Oklahoma City transitional center, which provides educational and social services for homeless children, was recognized for their efforts to establish a library for the children they serve.

Bartlesville Allied Arts and Humanities Council and Bartlesville Public Library for their cooperative work on a series of community education programs on issues related to the First Amendment.

Anadarko Community Library, in partnership with Silver Crest Manor, for their high touch outreach program for seniors.

The award was named to honor Ruth Brown, a former Bartlesville librarian and OLA president, who championed the rights of all individuals to access libraries. If your library has a program, or you know of a library with a program, that deserves recognition with such a reward, please go to the SRRT homepage (www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/srrt.htm) and follow the Ruth Brown Award link for more information and the application form and procedures.

Past recipients have received a plaque and a cash award of $500.00; we anticipate the same presentation this year.

Deadline for applications is February 28, 2001.

Deborah Willis

OLA Executive Board Actions

9-15-2000
No board actions taken.

10-20-2000
1. OLA legislative representative, Oliver Delaney's contract was raised from $3500 to $5000. An increase of $1500 per year.
2. Approved Ethics Committee workshop to be held on February 9, 2001. Speakers’ registration and meal costs were waived.
3. Approved the 2001 legislative goals.
4. Let’s Talk About It coordinator, Jennifer Kidney’s salary funded by an Oklahoma Foundation for the Humanities grant was accepted. Kidney’s salary was set at $35,280 with an additional OFH grant of $2000 for health insurance.

Amigos Members, Professional Development Pays!

The Amigos Board of Trustees is pleased to announce its annual call for Amigos Fellowship Program proposals for 2001.

In May 2001, the program will award up to $7,500 to library and information professionals in Amigos member institutions to fund individuals’ professional development projects.

Contact Linda Wimberley, wimberley@amigos.org or 1-800-843-8482, ext. 122 for an application packet. Applications must be received by February 2, 2001, 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Amigos Fellowship Program ... one of many Amigos membership benefits.
Library Services to the Poor

“Despite current ‘prosperity’, millions remain hungry, homeless, and destitute. Most working poor people are barely ‘making it.’” [SRRT Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force]

Historically, libraries in the United States have served those for whom access to the written word might be limited due to economic considerations. Writing about the beginning of the library in this country, Joseph Leroy Harrison stated that “the library was created, not for the use of the scholar, or the rich, or any one class, but for those people who could not win their way to books through the medium of position or money.”

Given our current economic boom, it may be difficult to imagine that libraries still need to put forth a focused effort toward serving the poor; however, the facts remain: poverty is still an issue in this country. In its 1999 report of poverty in the United States, the Census Bureau estimates that 12.8 percent of Americans live at or below the poverty level; the percentage rises to 16.9 when looking only at Americans under the age of 18.

When we look closer to home, we find a poverty rate above that of the national average.

In 1990, the American Library Association developed a policy addressing library services to the poor. Six years later, ALA’s Social Responsibilities Round Table formed a task force to promote this policy. Among other accomplishments, the SRRT Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force sent out a call to action in the form of its Recommendations For Action In Implementing ALA’s “Library Services For The Poor” Resolution document and was instrumental in bringing to press the book Poor People and Library Services (McFarland, 1998).

At the 2000 OLA Annual Conference, the Oklahoma Library Association’s Social Responsibilities Round Table facilitated a table talk on providing library services to the poor. In attendance was Spiro Branch Librarian Glenda Stokes, who told of her plans for a “Children at Risk” grant. This grant, administered by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, was intended to provide librarians with funding to address library services to at risk children in creative and innovative ways. Using data from the Oklahoma Kids Count Factbook, the grant identified and gave priority to those counties shown as being in the top ten within at least one of the benchmark areas.

Spiro is located in Le Flore County. According to the 1999 Oklahoma Kids Count Factbook, 33.2% of all children in Le Flore County live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold. Le Flore county falls within the cluster of Oklahoma’s 27 poorest counties which have the worst indicators in four of the eight benchmark areas investigated by Oklahoma Kids Count. Taken together these counties have the highest rates of births to young teens, child abuse and neglect confirmations, child death and child poverty.

The grant identified Le Flore County as one of the top ten counties for child abuse and neglect. As Ms Stokes stated, “the criteria was simple for us to qualify for; our county is high in the neglect area because of the heavy abuse in our area.” The story of the Spiro Library’s successful summer program follows.

For more information on providing library services to the poor:

- Kroloff, Rabbi Charles A. 54 Ways You Can Help The Homeless earthsystems.org/ways/

The OLA/SRRT is planning a program on library services to the poor for the 2001 OLA Annual Conference. We hope to see you there.

Deb Willis

Children At Risk Grant

The Spiro Public Library was proud to receive the grant for abused and neglected children. We have a lot of children in our area that really fit this grant.

When I applied for the grant, plans were made for a summer day camp to be held during the month of July. I then set out to involve several different agencies in our community to make this a reality. First, I contacted Ki-bois Head Start and they agreed to help with the use of their building. Ki-bois Area Transit agreed to help us with transportation—getting the children to the center and to the library.

I sought out private individuals, civic groups and business merchants to help provide food and snacks for the children. I had a great response. There was plenty of food and cold soda for everyone.

I then planned the schedule for all the events. Somehow I wanted to see these children experience the cultural heritage of this area, become avid library users and provide them with the opportunity to learn and someday become productive citizens.

My task for this seemed never ending. I set a theme and started working toward getting presenters and trips lined up to reach this goal. My chosen theme was safety since these children spend so much of the time by themselves. With this in mind I set out to get local experts to speak to the children about their own area of expertise with a focus on safety.

The children came to the library for storytellers,
Children at Risk (cont. from p. 54)

clowns, magicians, dog trainers and puppet shows. We had quiet time after lunch when we had story hours and the staff read books and then the children who could read, read their favorite books to the other children. Crafts, playtime and special activities rounded out our days.

During the first two weeks we also had the OSU Extension Service give programs on how to fix healthy snacks and how to cook basic things when their parents weren't at home to help.

Our trips were all great. Our groups toured the Spiro Mounds, the Fort Smith Trolley Museum and rode the trolley car, visited the old-fashioned soda fountain and viewed the Fort Smith Historical Sites and the National Cemetery. The added bonus was fun time at a local bowling alley. All these trips were fun and exciting, as some of the children had never been to Fort Smith, which is only a fifteen to twenty minute drive from Spiro.

During our two weeks we took the children to eat at a local pizza parlor. We used donations to pay for the lunch. To my amazement, at least three of the children had never been to this restaurant; it is only about one-half mile from the library. What my family and I do at least once a week these children have never been able to do with their family or friends. I was totally surprised at their behavior and their ability to adapt to the situation. It was wonderful just to see the gleam in their eyes.

The grant money also enabled me to purchase books, videos, CDs and other audio materials and some needed equipment for our library. I specifically purchased career books to have in the library to encourage these children "to be all they could be."

When I started this project my goal was to help at least two children learn and experience the world outside their home. I feel like I have achieved my goal and have helped the community and my library by using this grant to make all this possible. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have received the grant.

![Participants in Spiro Public Library Summer Kids Program](image)

OU Festival of Books-What a delicious day!

If you haven't been to an OU Festival of Books Conference, then you've been missing out. It's a smorgasbord of delicious books, children's authors, illustrators, and a catered lunch to boot.

The School of Library and Information Studies celebrated its 20th annual conference in October with three excellent authors and illustrators. Here's their recipe.

Kevin Henkes, author and illustrator of over 35 books for children, wowed the audience with a slide show of his simple and endearing mouse characters. A versatile person, he not only writes picture books, chapter books, middle grade novels, young adult novels, he also illustrates! How can one man do all this? It's clear that he is a perfectionist and spends much time on details. He considers his audience in every decision he makes, including the fact that young readers, the really young ones, love repetition. So he uses repetition in both text and visual images. He cited his new picture book, Wemberly Worries, as an example of his careful use of repetition. (Look for his repetitive use of circles. He says the circle represents family bonds.) He has a real love for the simple things in a child's life—family, relationships, home, school, pets, first day of school, new sibling, walking around the block, etc. And he seems so in tune with his audience. It's almost like he's a kindergartner with a big fat crayon, instead of a man of 40 years. His books are touching and tender, so childlike in their concerns, you can't help but love them. And once you meet Kevin, you can't help but love him. Several librarians and I agreed that during his Q and A session, we wanted to raise our hands and ask, "Will you marry me?" But of course, we restrained...

Will Hobbs, author of over 13 books for children, is a real go-getter, both with his writing and his life. He not only writes outdoor adventures—he lives them! He climbs the highest mountains, swims the deepest seas, and goes everywhere in between. All of his books have some sort of nature adventure and he does firsthand research on everything he writes. And I don't mean just going to his local library and reading a book. He hires bush pilots to drop him and his wife off on remote rivers that practically no one has seen. He rafted through the Grand Canyon. He hikes through the Maze, the most remote district in Utah's Canyonlands National Park. And because of his love of nature, he takes his readers on incredible journeys that keep them on the edge of their seats. After listening to his speech and seeing his gorgeous slide show that took me all over the world, I was breathless and thought I'd have to get a pacemaker installed before the next speaker!

Douglas Florian. Oh my. What a funny, silly, quirky

Continued on p. 59
Libraries: The Cornerstone of Democracy

Democracies need libraries. An informed public constitutes the very foundation of a democracy; after all, democracies are about discourse—discourse among the people. If a free society is to survive, it must ensure the preservation of its records and provide free and open access to this information to all its citizens. It must ensure that citizens have the resources to develop the information literacy skills necessary to participate in the democratic process. It must allow unfettered dialogue and guarantee freedom of expression. All of this is done in our libraries, the cornerstone of democracy in our communities. Libraries are for everyone, everywhere. They provide safe spaces for public dialogue. They disseminate information so the public can participate in the processes of governance. They provide access to government information so that the public can monitor the work of its elected officials and benefit from the data collected and distributed by public policy makers. They serve as gathering places for sharing interests and concerns. They provide opportunities for citizens to develop the skills needed to gain access to information of all kinds and to put information to effective use. Ultimately, discourse among informed citizens assures civil society. In the United States, libraries have greeted the self-determination of succeeding waves of immigrants by offering safe havens and equal access to learning. They continue this mission today. Indeed, libraries ensure the freedom to read, to view, to speak and to participate. They are the cornerstone of democracy.

Nancy C. Kranich
ALA President, 2000-2001

And some more from ALA...

This is a reminder to library supporters that ALA has provided an INTERNET TOOLKIT on its web site at: http://www.ala.org/pio/internettoolkit/index.html for guidance and suggested talking points when library supporters receive inquiries about filtering or about ALA’s policies. Regardless of one’s local circumstance, there are a number of talking points and other suggested tips in the TOOLKIT that can prove helpful to local librarians and library supporters.

For example, the INTERNET TOOLKIT provides a series of FAQs about libraries and the Internet. One of the FAQs and a suggested response in the TOOLKIT is: “Why do librarians allow kids to have access to pornography?” “We don’t Libraries have policies and procedures for dealing with this. No one is more concerned about children than librarians. Many of us are parents. Our role is to help children have a positive online experience.”

Tips for dealing with tough questions from library users or others include:

*Listen-don’t judge. Anticipate which questions you will be asked and prepare your answers ahead of time*

*Be honest. Tell the truth as you know it. “My experience with the Internet is…”*

“It’s not just what you say but how you say it. Speak simply, sincerely, and with conviction.*

ALA Washington Office Newsletter, v.9 #73
9/14/2000
Reporting on the MPLA Conference...

Mountain Plains Library Association folks were guests at the Nebraska Library Association Conference October 25-28. Nebraska librarians, a friendly and outgoing bunch, worked hard to present an entertaining and informative conference. The only real glitch with the conference from the point of view of the Nebraskans was the Nebraska/Oklahoma football game on Saturday, and us Sooner fans did not have any gripes about that outcome. There was a good showing from OLA members at the conference, headed up by our own out-going MPLA President, Marilyn Hinshaw, and our OLA president-elect (and native Nebraskan), Wayne Hanway.

The conference was a joint effort by the Nebraska Library Association, the Nebraska Educational Media Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association. In addition the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce met in the hotel across the street. With the NLA, NEMA, MPLA and WHCLIST programs, there were plenty of excellent presentations.

High points of the conference:

**The Conference Reception** at the Joslyn Art Museum was a fabulous treat. We had the museum galleries and the Abrahms Art Library all to ourselves. There were wonderful hors d'oeuvres and desserts to sample and a fold music concert in the great hall.

**Steve Coffman's keynote presentation, Clicks and Mortar, was fascinating.** Steve is Product Development Manager for LSSI (Library Systems and Services, Inc.). How can libraries use the successful online strategies of Barnes and Noble, Southwest Airlines, Wal-Mart and others to go beyond the traditional “bricks and mortar” to expand services, reduce costs and sell to new markets on the Web? In this competitive environment, we need to discover what customers want and how to provide it. Customers want reference services, as evidenced by the phenomenal success of the Ask Jeeves site. Can libraries provide on-line reference services for customers? Can we expand our reference services? Customers want books-book sales are increasing 5.7% a year. Coffman recommends that library catalogs be more appealing. The Amazon.com catalog is much more user-friendly than most library catalogs. Can libraries work toward an appealing union catalog for their customers showing the wide variety of materials available in libraries around the world? Coffman presented some intriguing questions we all need to think about.

**At the MPLA/NLA Awards Banquet, Oklahoma author, David Dary, won the MPLA Literary Contribution Award for his books on the history of the mountain plains region.** Pat Wagner of Pattern Research won the Carl Gaumer Exhibitor’s Award for her ongoing support of MPLA and libraries in our region.

**David Shenk, author and NPR commentator presented Friday’s keynote speech, Data-Smog: The Search for Meaning and Balance in an Info-Rich World.** David’s books: Data-Smog: Surviving the Information Glut, The End of Patience, and Skeleton Key: A Dictionary for Deadheads are explorations of the impact of technology in our culture. Shenk talked about the information blitz bombarding us. This is the age of information and the age of distraction. There is so much out there competing for our attention that we are unable to process and synthesize the constant barrage of data. Advertising everywhere competes to “grab our eyeballs.” It is the librarian’s job to bring some order to this chaos, to navigate through these changes. Technology is supposed to serve humanity, not the other way around.

**The Tour of infoUSA was a great success. It takes 1700 employees to keep Reference USA, the American Business Disc and the other infoUSA products current. We toured one of three facilities. Next time I use one of these databases, I will think about the hundreds of infoUSA employees inputting data from telephone books from every town in the U.S. and Canada and calling every business from plumbers to dentists to manufacturers to verify that information.**

**We toured Girls and Boys Town, the Old Market in downtown Omaha, and the Iowa Casinos.**

**Participants enjoyed Author Presentations from Joan Lowry Nixon, Bill Wallace, Ann Jonas, Jackie French Koller and Roland Smith as part of the Golden Sower programs.** (The Golden Sower Award is the equivalent of Oklahoma’s Sequoyah Award. However, Golden Sower Awards are given to three categories of books: Kindergarten to Grade 3, Grades 4-6 and Young Adult).

It was a great conference for everyone. I talked with so many librarians from around our region, renewing friendships and meeting new folks. It is inspiring to learn about what is going on around our region.

Next conference is in Phoenix, Arizona, December 4-7, 2001.

Basha Hartley
MPLA Representative

Beverly Jones’ Retirement

A reception was held June 27 at the AI Harris Library at Southwestern Oklahoma State University to honor Beverly Jones, retiring Library Director.

Before coming to Southwestern in 1993, Beverly served as Chief Planning Officer at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries from 1981-1990 and Technical Projects Coordinator from 1990 until 1993. Also, Beverly held positions at the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services, the University of Michigan, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Indianapolis Public Library, the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Oklahoma.

Beverly has been very active in the Oklahoma Library Association, having served on many committees, divisions and roundtables. She has also served on several committees of the Oklahoma Council of Academic Library Directors.

Beverly has contributed significantly to Oklahoma libraries and librarianship in general. Now she will get to do some things that she wants to do such as more quilting, traveling and reading. We wish Beverly the best!

Linda Pye-SWOSU
Awarding the Polly Clarke...

Jayme Seat, library media specialist at Jackson Elementary in Norman, was recently presented with the Polly Clarke Award during the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialist's Author Luncheon. The presentation of this award is always a highlight of the OASLMS luncheon held during Encyclo-Media. The award was established in 1988 in honor of Polly Clarke who taught at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. Polly was outspoken in her support of having certified media specialists in every school before it was the norm. She promoted library automation, networking, and the role of the Library Media Specialist as a teacher long before this idea was developed into a mission statement. Other nominees for the award included Carmen Applegate, Coronado Heights, Putnam City; Jacque Hogue, Choctaw Elementary; and Carolyn Mathews, Glenpool Middle School.

Two more awards were presented during the General at Encyclo-Media. The Administrator's Award was presented to Dr. Christee Jenlink, principal of Madison Middle School in Tulsa. The Administrator's Award, which was established in 1989, acknowledges school administrators who promote library media services as an integral part of the public school's educational process. Other nominees for the award included Dr. R. P. Ashanti-Alexander, principal, Madison Middle School, Tulsa; Robbie Holder, principal, L. Mendel Rivers Elementary, Altus; Bob Kirk, principal, Roosevelt Elementary, Altus; and Dr. Don Wentroth, principal, Western Oaks Middle School, Bethany.

The Barbara Spriestersbach Award was presented to Judy Manjarrez, 2nd grade teacher at Garfield Elementary, Enid, during the General Session. This award was established in 1992 in honor of Barbara Spriestersbach, a long-time media specialist and retired Director of the Library Media Section of the State Department of Education. It is given annually to a teacher or a team of teachers who develop resource-based units of study by collaboratively planning and teaching with a library media specialist. Other nominees for the award were Shawn Mason, 8th grade Science teacher at Guymon Junior High; and Beta Thompson Noel, 10th grade Honors World History and English, Putnam City North High School, Oklahoma City.

Sandra Austin

Libraries invited to host national photo contest exhibit

All types of libraries are invited to register to host a traveling exhibit of national winners from the "Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries" photo contest. Sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and the Library of Congress, the exhibit will travel throughout the United States for the next two years beginning in January 2001.

The display showcases 21 award-winning photographs, taken by professional and amateur photographers, entered in the contest, which was launched in January 1999. "These photos capture the magic of our libraries and the way they touch our lives every day," said ALA President Nancy Kranich. "The pictures tell our stories – how libraries help people of all ages achieve the American dream, navigate their way through the information highway and access all sorts of resources with the personal assistance of a librarian."

Two copies of the exhibit will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each copy consists of one freestanding panel unit (10’ x 9’ x 3’), which requires about 30 square feet of floor space to display. Participating libraries will be able to register for a three-week display period, and are responsible for shipping costs to send the display to the next participating library.

Available exhibition dates can be found at www.al.org/publicprograms/beyondwords/pressoct.html To sign up, send a letter of intent, including two preferred exhibition periods to: Brenda Barrera, ALA Public Programs Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: 800-545-2433, press 1 x5053. Fax: 312-944-2404. bbarrera@ala.org

People and Places

* Marla Roberson has joined the staff at OSU-OKC, taking Elaine Warner's place as Assistant Director. Elaine is now a Library Media Specialist at Norman High School North
* At Southwestern OK State, Linda Pye is now Interim Library Director and Jeannie Moss is Interim Acquisitions Librarian.
* Last September, Buckley Public Library's Donna Moore lost her home to fire. All family members are safe but the home was a total loss.
* With the retirement of Bob Clark, Susan McVey is now Interim ODL Director.
* Moore Public Library has had some changes. Jennie Stennis is now working Reference replacing Karen Lehr who moved to Edmond Public Library from Moore.
* Barbara McBride-Smith of Tulsa Public Schools has had her book "Greek Myths-Western Styles" selected for PLA's 1999 Top Ten Recommended Titles for Young Adults.
* Margaret O'Brian of Guymon passed away over the Thanksgiving weekend. She worked for the Guymon Public Library for 37 years of which 25 were spent as its director.
* Professor Emeritus of Library and Information Studies for OU, Harry Clark, died Sunday, October 8, in Monterey, California. Professor Clark taught at the library school for 17 years.
Harry Potter tops Teen Read Week poll; libraries nationwide celebrate

When asked what was the best book they had read this year so far, teens overwhelmingly picked Harry Potter. Thousands of young adults logged onto TeenHoopla@ala.org/teenhoopla to cast votes during the third annual Teen Read Week, October 15-21. The Top 20 books receiving the most votes are a mixture of adult and young adult literature and reflect the wide range of reading choices of today's teens.

Christian literature was represented by The Book of Mormon, which came in second behind the Harry Potter books, by J.K. Rowling. Popular young adult author Gary Paulsen captured three slots in the Top 20 with Hatchet (3), Brian's Return (6) and Brian's Winter (19). Old favorites such as The Outsiders (5), by S.E. Hinton, and The Hobbit (16), by J.R.R. Tolkien, also made the list.

Nonfiction titles included Yoga For Teens (12), by Thia Luby, Chicken Soup For The Teenage Soul (14), edited by Jack Canfield and others, and Concrete Wave: The History of Skateboarding (20), by Michael Brooke. A complete list of the Top 20 can be found at http://www.ala.org/teenhoopla.

Teens Read Week is sponsored by ALA’s Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). More than 200 libraries took up this year's theme, "Take Time to Read," with a variety of fun activities for teens.

U32 Junior Senior High School in Montpelier, Vt., held a Library Read-In. More than 300 students selected books and spent 1-1/2 hours reading silently. They brought pillows, stuffed animals and made themselves comfortable. "It was wonderful to see hundreds of students lounging on the library floor, reading silently," reported Daniel A. Greene, library media specialist.

The Mabel C. Fry Public Library in Yukon, Okla., had a "Quiet Room" set up daily for the teens to come and read. Drinks and snacks were provided. Teens used time cards to sign in and out daily, logging the number of hours read. For each 30 minutes, participants earned 50 points. Time cards were totaled at the end of the week and prizes (gift certificates to local stores or attractions) were awarded.

Chesterfield County (Va.) Public Libraries celebrated with a Survivor Booklist. Eleven popular titles were in a five-week battle to remain on the list, starting September 11. Who survived? The Outsiders topped all, including The Giver, by Lois Lowry (#10 in the Teen Read Week 2000 survey), Brian's Winter and Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul III.

The Houston (Texas) Public Library offered area teens a wide variety of programs and resources. Authors Annette Curtis Klause and Joan Lowery Nixon gave presentations. Creative writing workshops, poetry slams and Harry Potter parties were featured. A "Teens Only" page on the library Web site and a new reading list, "Greatest Hits: A Collection of Booklist For Teens," were introduced. "In Houston, some teens took time, if not to read, then at least to come to a library program," said Youth Services Coordinator Patrick Jones.

National Teen Read Week partners include American Association of School Administrators, American Booksellers Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Education Association, National Council of Teachers of English and TeenLink.

Speak Up Press, has just joined on as a national partner. The press publishes Speak Up, a national, annual art and literary journal featuring fiction, nonfiction, poetry, plays, photography and artwork of young people ages 13 to 19 years old from across the country and around the world. Speak Up is produced by a local and online teen advisory board.

Teen Read Week is sponsored by Barnes and Noble Booksellers and Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. Barnes & Noble featured Teen Read Week in tabletop displays throughout the country this year.

"It looks like the third time is a charm," said YALSA President Mary Arnold. "The positive response to Teen Read Week 2000 is as exciting and energizing as it is innovative and varied. Are teens reading—just for the fun of it? You bet!"

2001 Teen Read Week will be celebrated October 14-20.

ALA, November 2000
Vol. 6, No. 7

OU Festival of Books (cont. from p. 55)

poet. You have to see him to believe him. What a personality. He kept the audience in tears, laughing so hard. His personality was bubbly, effervescent, so childlike, and so full of wonder, he was a delight to watch and hear. Douglas is the author and illustrator of gobs of poetry books. One of his latest, Insectlopedia, is up for this year's Sequoyah Award. His poems are odd ball, off the wall, so silly that you can't help but laugh. Or maybe just scratch your head. Among his titles are: Bing, Ban, Bo- ing: Laugh-eteria (which can be read in the cafeteria!) and Beast-feast. He loves to make up words, he says it's his right as a poet—so a caterpillar that eats a lot is a "laterpillar"; a baby kangaroo sleeps in a "kangaroo", and a rhea (which is a large bird that looks like an ostrich) is an ostrich "rhea-ranged." You get the idea.

The OU Festival of Books was a scrumptious success with over 250 librarians and teachers attending. Plans are underway for next year's festival, which will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2001, on the OU campus. Mark your calendars. I know I will. Mmm-good.

Darleen Bailey Beard

Darleen Bailey Beard is a children's book author living in Norman. Her chapter book, The Flimflam Man, has been nominated for the Oklahoma Sequoyah Award. For more information on her books and her school author visits, log on to her website: darleenbaileybeard.com.
Historical Oklahoma

By David La Vere
Contrary Neighbors examines relations between Southwestern Indians who were removed to Indian Territory in the early nineteenth century and Southern Plains Indians who claimed this area as their own. These two Indian groups viewed the world in different ways. The Southerners, primarily Cherokees, Creeks, Chickasaws, and Seminoles, were agricultural peoples. By contrast, the hunter-gatherers of the Southern Plains—the Comanches, Kiowas, Wichitas, and Apaches—had a culture based on the buffalo.
$29.95 Hardcover

Edited by Wayne R. Kime
In these journals, Colonel Richard Irving Dodge, a well-known chronicler of western history and an authority on Plains Indians, provides an important account of conditions in Indian Territory from 1878 to 1880. His writings offer a firsthand record of the 1887 retreat of the Northern Cheyenne, the conditions endured by Indians who remained on the reservation, and the judicial conflicts between army personnel and the Office of Indian Affairs.
$55.00 Hardcover

Edited by Arthur Frank Wertheim and Barbara Bar
The stage career of Will Rogers, one of America's most influential humorists, began to take shape during the years covered by this documentary history, the second volume in The Papers of Will Rogers. Along with Rogers's personal correspondence, Arthur Frank Wertheim and Barbara Bar present theater programs, performance reviews, and newspaper clippings, all providing detailed snapshots of vaudeville at the beginning of the twentieth century.
$50.00 Hardcover

By Charles Banks Wilson
Oklahoma artist Charles Banks Wilson has assembled seventy-seven remarkable pencil portraits—consisting primarily of Osage American Indians, accompanied by narratives of his visits with each subject. This third edition contains thirteen new subjects, selected by Wilson and his new editor.
$14.95 Paperback

By Shirley A. Leckie
The daughter of Oklahoma soldiery and a student of Edward Everett Dale, Angie Debo was an unlikely forerunner of the New Western History. Debo viewed the westward movement of European Americans as conquest rather than settlement. As Leckie's biography shows, Debo incorporated ethnographic insights more than a decade before ethnology emerged as a separate field.
$26.95 Hardcover

By Louise S. Robbins
In 1950 Ruth W. Brown, librarian at the Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Public Library, was summarily dismissed from her job after thirty years of exemplary service, ostensibly because she had circulated subversive materials. In truth, however, Brown was fired because she had become active in promoting racial equality and had helped form a group affiliated with the Congress of Racial Equality. Ruth Brown's story helps us understand the motives of personal, community, state, and national forces that can lead to censorship, intolerance, and the suppression of individual rights.
$29.95 Hardcover