Creating a conference
some of what really happens...

“If you’re feeling a bit overwhelmed... There is lots of experience and eagerness to share here—we have great shoulders to stand on. Building a conference goes step by step. We work as a team. Communicate. Ask, ask, ask!”

What happens to make an OLA conference each spring?

It starts a year ahead of time with some “getting to know you”, some brainstorming and some fun. In a way it starts even before that, as librarians hear speakers at other meetings and venues, and gather ideas from everywhere. What DID we do this year?

In June the incoming chairs of all the OLA groups meet at Leadership Conference, with as many of the outgoing chairs and incoming vice-chairs as possible. Location is a place (usually fun!) chosen by the president. In summer 2000—Lake Murray. We meet and have a workshop, learn the OLA theme for the year, details about how OLA works and how to get things done, and have the first Program Committee meeting. We enjoy old friends and begin to know and bond with new friends. I am the 2000-2001 Program Committee chair. I teach the secret library handshake invented by my friend Cheryl.

We brainstorm ideas. What made the 2000 conference great? What major speakers might be good? What topics have come up which could be good programs? We toss out ideas for keynote speakers, conference programs, fun events. Then I lay out a framework of guidelines and expectations—and a few forms—which will lead us to conference in April. OLA has an exemplary planning process to make sure everything is organized and taken care of by the start of conference. That process is so good that Mountain Plains Library Association copied it. We are very good at this.

Each month the Program Committee meets. The group includes all the chairs of OLA’s divisions, roundtables and committees. Chairs meet separately with their committees and then we, the Program Committee, come together with those ideas and build the conference as a whole—programs, fun events and everything. Regular meetings mean everyone knows

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Creating a conference (cont from p 21)

and has a part in what’s being created. Bonds that grease the communication wheels are built. A perennial monthly question is “Did I get all the handouts?”

In July I begin to nail down the two keynote speakers. One who lives in Massachusetts has his secretary call me for more information, starting with, “Uh, does he know you? He was wondering how someone in Oklahoma knew about him.”

In August the Program Committee is not yet sure of whom each other is. I ask the group to introduce themselves to each other by telling something a little unusual about themselves if they’d like. It gets out of hand and turns into “here’s my motorcycle story!” or sometimes “here’s my sister’s motorcycle story.” I vow not to try that one again.

September—everyone must turn in their orange Program Planning Forms, one for each program they think they might be doing. This is where things start to become real.

In the fall the Program Committee does the greatest part of its work. We laugh a lot. We try out ideas on each other. We suggest presenters to each other. We offer to co-sponsor programs. We think creatively to minimize costs—OLA must live within its means because we have no parent group. We nail down speakers. We confirm details.

October—I start putting pro-

posed programs in draft schedule grids, which we work on at Program Committee meetings. This is absolutely a creative effort involving everyone’s ideas. We meet at and tour the conference hotel and Myriad Convention Center. Wow, our meeting space is wonderful!

December—programs are mostly finalized. We think of various ways to attract people to conference programs—bulk mail flyers, OLA listserv, State Department of Education’s mailing, Oklahoma Librarian, talking to people! I create “Tracks for Programs,” an idea that I’ve wanted to try. We will have schedule grids in the Conference Program this year. Flying emails confirm details and ask for last minute bits of information on programs and speakers. The program is coming together. Jeanie Johnson says the State Department of Education can include our flyer on conference programs related to working with kids in its mailing to all the schools.

In early January, the Conference Program must go to press. I love this part. The results of the Program Committee’s efforts are summarized and refined into a lovely booklet to mobilize Oklahoma librarians for conference. We squeeze it in before our deadline with the printer. Thank you Kay for treating him right so that he loves us and will make special effort on our behalf! Program in the mail!!!!

March. Last meeting before conference. Program Committee finishes up with inspirational words from me. What am I responsible for before conference? What do I need to attend to at conference so things run smoothly? Everyone touches base with their speakers—are they really coming on the right day?

April—CONFERENCE is here! Lots of work to do. Fun, fun, fun. Program Committee members make speakers welcome, check on things. Local Arrangements, chaired by Desiree Webber, and Jon Woltz, AV person, stay alert minute by minute. Miles are walked checking and troubleshooting. We talk to lots of people. I hang out by the registration desk to help with troubleshooting. Talk to vendors, hear bits of different sessions. Lots of people comment on “great conference.” Someone says Desiree and I look cool as can be each time they walk by. This is because of ATTITUDE! Attitude is because of homework done and absolute trust in fellows on the Program and Local Arrangements Committees and OLA’s executive director and guide, Kay Boies. Yes, we get up early and stay up late. There is work to do. There is also hanging out together. Things go well.

May—Here we are at the wrapup Program Committee meeting. This was a great conference and a great year. There may be some bad poetry in honor of the occasion.

The 2002 OLA conference will be in Tulsa. More wonderful things will happen in the coming program planning process—led by Anne Prestamo—and at Conference!

—Rachel Butler
Program Committee Chair
OPENING SESSION

OLA President, Sharon Saulmon efficiently led us through the business section of the meeting prior to introducing the keynote speaker, Dr. Robin Meyer, Senior Minister of Mayflower Congregational Church, Oklahoma City and Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Oklahoma City University.

Dr. Meyer spoke of his father’s introduction to the public library in Okmulgee, and its life-long effect on him and his professional development. This in turn led to Robin Meyer’s love of reading, and professional development. His talk expressed the value of reading and the important role librarians play by not only encouraging readers, but also defending the right of access to information. He was especially concerned that librarians continue the defense of libraries and access to information.

The session ended with the distribution of numerous door prizes.

BJ Vinson

Sequoyah

The room was bursting at the seams as hundreds of children, teens and adults watched as Louis Sachar became the first author to receive both the children’s and young adult Sequoyah Book Awards in the same year. The Children’s Award was given in the morning, and the Young Adult Award was given in the afternoon. Sachar’s winning book is Holes. He talked about writing the screenplay for the movie version of Holes and read from the proposed script. An enthusiastic crowd purchased all the copies of the book that were available at the OLA Bookstore, and stood in long lines waiting for Sachar’s autograph. The Sequoyah committee gave bookplates printed with Sachar’s signature for those who weren’t able to wait in line. After a long day at the conference, Sachar flew back to his home in Austin where he is working on his next book and completing the screenplay for Holes.

Rosemary Moran-Sequoyah
SRRT – Social Responsibilities Round Table = Not Only Politically Correct but also P.C. - Pretty Cool!

At conference SRRT, which has around 40-50 members and 10-15 active members, presented 4 events. If we can do it so can you! Or better yet join SRRT so you can have some Fun! - in addition to supporting your library profession.

SRRT co-sponsored the pre-conference "Libraries Build Sustainable Communities" with Continuing Education and Public Libraries. We heard firsthand reports that it was worthwhile and that a similar/additional program would be valuable to the membership of OLA.

SRRT's 4th annual "Poetry Reading" was attended by 29 people. The featured reader, Jane Taylor, shared some wonderful images with us. Deb Willis read a few poems of meaning to her. Karen Bays spontaneously wrote her Ode to Shannon Miller and the Edmond library construction on a napkin – it was a hoot! Sharon Saulmon rapped her library recruitment "poem" and Gypsy Teague gave us an extemporaneous poem on computer bits. Clay Webber, a high school senior, slammed us with some excellent poetry to round out a successful evening's entertainment and library fellowship. Be sure to join us next year at conference!

"Women Leading Through Reading Table Talk" discussed a literacy program based in Minnesota that focuses on new women readers and the challenges they face. Anita Roessler also presented information on the "Oklahoma Connections" program sponsored by Let's Talk About It Oklahoma and the "Parents as Teachers" program. To find out more about these programs, check our web site. http://home.earthlink.net/~windeater/srrt/conference/conference.html

"Serving the Poor: What Can Your Library Do?" drew 63 people. Four panelists discussed what school, academic, special and public libraries are doing to serve the poor. Each perspective was barely covered in the allotted time and participants were left hungry for more. We see a potential preconference allowing time for more practical tips and in-depth discussion. For the handouts, see our web site.

"The Indiscreet Miss Brown" poster session was an excellent opportunity to find out more about this wonderful Oklahoma librarian and her realistic struggle with racism during the McCarthy era. Check out our web site to find out why SRRT awards socially responsible programs $500 in the name of Ruth Brown – and also how you can apply next year or donate to this worthy cause.

The Ruth Brown Memorial Award was presented to Oak Park Episcopal School of Ardmore for their creative writing and reading program on cultural diversity, "Say You, Say Me: Together Celebrating Diversity." Ask Susan Wright for more details on their tolerance training success.

Now doesn't that sound like fun! YOU are welcome to attend any of our meetings, share in a few laughs and network with fellow librarians. We traditionally meet the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The July 12th meeting will be at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Check SRRT's web site for future meeting.

Cathy Van Hoy-SRRT

The 4th Annual Poetry Reading was a treat to many.

Glenda Stokes

Cathy Van Hoy presents Ruth Brown Award to Ginny Little, Susan Wright and Rev. Micky Rahal of Oak Hall Episcopal

Marla Roberson
Our Scholarship Winners

Children and Teen Services

The Children and Teen Services (CATS) author luncheon was a great success with Molly Griffis as the guest speaker. Molly took the group on a historical tour leading up to her new book The Rachel Resistance. The book is set in the town of Apache Oklahoma. Rachel Dalton, a fifth grader and member of Captain Midnight’s Special Squad, is sure that there are spies and traitors in her town. She sets out with the help of Captain Midnight to uncover them. Molly took us back in time to her friendship with Harold Keith and what a great supporter he was when she first started writing books. He stressed how she must do a lot of research to make sure that her fact were relevant to the time period of her books. It was a most enjoyable lunch and tour of the past.

CATS sponsored the workshop on Kits, Cats, Sacks and Lives. Basha Hartley and Susan Lura, Pioneer Library System, Kathy Logan, Enid Public Library, Beth DeGeer, Bartlesville Public Library and Donna Norvell Oklahoma Department of Libraries presented a workshop on the pro’s and con’s of circulating kits. Topics covered were the types, cost, upkeep, safety, community need and funding. The workshop was well attended with many good questions. A beginner kit was given as a door prize.

Kathy Logan-CATS

OASLMS

The Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists presented its annual Technology in Education award at the Oklahoma Library Association Conference in April. This award is presented annually to honor a library media specialist who has been instrumental in promoting the use of technology at their school site or within their school district. There were two outstanding nominees this year, Brenda Price from Edmond Memorial High School and Sybil Connolly from Kenneth Cooper Middle School in Putnam City. Both nominees are veterans of the library media profession. Sybil Connolly was selected as this year’s winner.

Jayme Seat-OASLMS

OASLMS Chair Sandra Austin presents the 2001 Technology in Education Award to Sybil Connolly.
Library Education Division

This year’s Conference was a busy one for LED. We kicked things off with our Business Meeting bright and early on Thursday morning, with more in attendance than anyone could remember in a long time. New officers were introduced: Charles Brooks (University of Tulsa), Chair; Helen Clements (Oklahoma State University), Chair-Elect; and Joan Singleton (Bartlesville Public Library), Secretary. The main portion of the meeting was a brainstorming session for workshop ideas. Watch for upcoming details for a fall workshop.

On Thursday afternoon LED’s sponsored session was entitled “Library Education a la Carte”. This session offered information about library education opportunities for EVERYONE working in – or interested in – the profession. Featured speakers were: Danny Wallace: (OU SLIS), Pat Williams (Oklahoma Department of Libraries), Jill Rooker (University of Central Oklahoma), Melissa Huffman (Rose State College), Carolyn Thomas (East Central University), Kay Grant (Northeastern Oklahoma State University), Marilyn Moore (Northwestern Oklahoma State University), Laura Kimberly (AMIGOS), and Dana Tuley-Williams (OLA’CE Committee). These speakers shared a wealth of information about educational opportunities ranging from degree programs, school library media certification, public library certification, and library technical assistant programs to continuing education opportunities for those already in the profession. Many attendees commented that they had no idea there were so many opportunities in the state, and that so many institutions in the state are offering educational opportunities.

“What Does an Oklahoma Librarian Look Like?” was the question posed in the title of the session that reported on the OLA Survey of Member Demographics conducted in February 2001. LED and the Navigating the Information Future Ad Hoc Committee jointly sponsored the session. The next issue of the Oklahoma Librarian will contain an article summarizing the survey results. This session wrapped up with a slideshow befitting its title. The attendees were entertained with images of librarians at work and play. Thanks to all who submitted photos to make this slideshow possible – especially Bill Young from ODL who shared some really delightful pics.

Dealing with customers with big learning appetites was the focus of LED’s final session entitled “You Want What? Net Training for the Public”. Presenters Charles Brooks (University of Tulsa); Julia Harmon (Shawnee Public Library); and Dana Morrow (Metropolitan Library System) shared new methods and topics of teaching the public about the Internet and technology.

LED was pleased to present these sessions in support of its mission of enhancing library and information services education for librarians and the public. LED serves the interests and needs of librarians and staff in ALL types of libraries. We invite you to become involved in LED activities. For more information contact Charles Brooks at charles-brooks@utulsa.edu

Anne Prestamo-LED

Interlibrary Cooperation

The OLA Interlibrary Cooperation Committee held two program on Friday at the OLA conference. The morning program, ‘Navigating the Connections’ focused on the statewide databases. Susan McVeigh from ODL began the discussion with a brief overview of changes in the databases. This discussion was followed by presentations about specific databases and how bibliographic instruction was done in different types of libraries. Presenters included Jenny Garrett, Susan Wolfram, Jayme Seet, Dana Belcher, Cheryl Sutlles, and Brenda Johnson. Carol Fox of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries navigated through the databases for all the presenters. Sixty-five people were in attendance at this session.

The second program entitled “Pairing and Sharing: Library Cooperation-A How to Manual” was a panel discussion on ‘how to develop relationships between libraries to foster interlibrary cooperation’. Librarians from around the state highlighted their experiences as they have formed partnerships with other libraries. Speakers include Shari Clifton, Anne Masters, Mary Sherman, Andy Peters, Linda Bollenbacher, and Donna Morris. There were 25 people in attendance.

Kathryn Lewis-ICC

Reference Roundtable

This Best Reference Sources, 2001 focused on print reference sources, but acknowledged the existence of good Internet sources. Attendees were given a handout of the sources to be discussed. Michelle Raine of Tulsa City-County Library presented the reasons for her selections, and explained how the material was arranged in most of the ones on her list. Laura Sesso of the Tulsa Public Schools emphasized that school libraries have a limited budget making it difficult to build a reference collection beyond an encyclopedia, dictionaries, and quotations such as “Bartlett’s”. The most expensive source on her list was only $39.95. Science reference sources was the topic for JaNae Kiniken of Oklahoma State University. She presented the sources, selection criteria explained, and discussed recommendations as to purchase.

BJ Vinson
Poster & Paper Presentations

The University and College Division sponsored its third annual poster and paper presentations at this year's Annual Conference. Public and academic librarians presented 17 posters and 9 papers in six sessions. The presentations demonstrated the wealth of services, programs, and collections unique to the libraries of Oklahoma.

The three poster sessions were organized into distinct themes—"Technically Speaking", "Oklahoma-ly Speaking", and "Web, Literacy, and Instruction Speak". The technical posters described an array of Internet and Web based resources. The Oklahoma session was a colorful display of Oklahoma's history including our Carnegie Libraries, Miss Brown's struggle with integration in Bartlesville, and information about women of the dust bowl era. The final poster session addressed a range of issues including creation of a virtual library tour, provision of library services to distance education students, and the use of comic books in schools and libraries. The poster sessions were so well attended (an estimated 65 people per session) that attendees waited in line to speak with the presenters and view the displays!

The paper presentations were also arranged into three subject categories—"Digitization of Collections", "Library Instruction Tool Kit", and "Looking to the Past & Evaluating for the Future". Those attending the digitization session were treated to lively descriptions of the virtues and pitfalls of XML as well as the real experiences of OSU librarian with collection digitization. In the second paper session the audience learned how to use humor in the classroom in addition to how to effectively introduce a new library online catalog. The last set of papers turned the attendees' attention to the past with a slide tour of Oklahoma's Carnegie Libraries and then to the future with suggestions for evaluating staff performance and service quality. The papers stimulated thought provoking discussions among the large audiences (123 people in total!).

The presentations demonstrated that Oklahoma librarians are committed to harnessing the burgeoning flow of information as we forge into the 21st century without neglecting the past that has brought us to this point.

Cecelia Brown-UCD

Navigating Information Connections

Presenters for this session represented seven different types of libraries—from elementary schools to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Susan McVey of ODL discussed the new statewide database contract with EBSCO.

Health libraries were represented by Cheryl Suttles of INTEGRIS Health. She demonstrated "Health Reference Center-Academic". She stressed that they print out the disclaimer for that site, and give to the "patient" along with their research. They also guide the patients through their searches to be certain they access reliable sites and they instruct patients to take information found to a physician, and discuss it with the physician.

"Kids Edition" and "Electric Library" were discussed by Jackson Elementary School's (Norman) Jayme Seat. She used the K-12 version of search screens—very colorful. She stresses to her students to look at print sources; check dates of publication, and then locate more current information.

The Moore Public Library no longer subscribes to Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature explained Brenda Johnson. Therefore they are teaching their patrons to use "General Reference Center", and how to limit searches for efficiency in hits. Susan Wolfram of Whittier Middle School (Norman) also uses this database. Their students are able to copy their sites into a folder on their desktops. Each student has his/her own id and password—and desktop.

Jenny Garrett of Norman North High School, and Dana Belcher of East Central University, each did sample searches on "Expanded Academic". Jenny talked about keyword searching. She finds FirstSearch harder to use in high school, and it has fewer full-texts. She also said that if high school students don't find full text on the database, they won't bother to go to the shelf and read the article in a journal! She guides her students to WebFirst. Dana discussed the use of limits in searches, and stressing e-mail to her students. They must use "Acrobat Reader" to print successfully. This option is found at the bottom of the article. Two other sites she recommends often are WorldCat and UnionList.

In conclusion Carol Fox (ODL) pointed out that when using the K-12 style of InfoTrac, one can click on "Toolbox" in the left column and find out how to start writing a research paper.

BJ Vinson
SCENES FROM CONFERENCE
HOPE YOU WERE THERE
How does a librarian help a patron who asks the question: "Where can I find a map showing the number of unemployed 18-21 years old in Oklahoma metropolitan areas?" Books can be consulted, web pages scanned, and phone calls made—or the librarian can turn to a computer program called GIS (geographic information systems) to answer the question.

One of the highlights of the 2001 OLA Conference was the GIS Discussion Groups' presentation of "What is GIS and How Soon Will I Have it in my Library?" GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing information. It integrates databases with maps, linking demographic data directly to topological images. Originating in the early 1990's, GIS can produce customized data-oriented maps. These maps can then be used to explain events (i.e., flood patterns over fifty years) predict outcomes (i.e., estimated presidential voting patterns for 2004), and plan strategies (i.e., Where in Oklahoma is the location that puts a tire factory?). Before GIS technology was developed, researchers would need to consult maps and then demographic sources (such as US Census material) before computations could be drawn, data compiled, and then produce the maps themselves. GIS begins with these two formats already merged.

The GIS Discussion Group, led by Steve Beleu, invited three speakers to present GIS. The first speaker was Bob Springer, the State GIS Coordinator as well as the State Geographer. Working out of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, he heads the GIS Council for Oklahoma. The Council, established in 1994, has three main goals: (1) to determine and locate data needed by GIS users, (2) Coordinate GIS activities, and (3) obtain digital photos of the state.

Springer gave a lively and informative presentation showing the 43 attendees some of the myriad uses of GIS. As the core of GIS is mapping, there is abundant information on roads, streets, rivers, aerial photos, and other cartographic information. When a computer with demographic information merges this information, the uses are nearly endless: public safety issues, demographic analysis, planning/zoning concerns, tax assessment, as well as political data.

The initial consternation of GIS users was the cost associated with the computers and software necessary to start utilizing GIS functions. With the dropping price of computers and GIS software, suddenly GIS is more available to libraries than ever before. The most popular and most used GIS software is ArcView. Available for a one-time cost of between $600-$1500 for libraries, this software is all a library needs to install GIS capability in a high-speed internet-accessible computer. A printer is also needed; with a scanner an additional option. There are also some older versions of GIS software available for free on the web, including ArcExplorer. The main difference between these programs is that ArcView allows you to manipulate data, while ArcExplorer does not. An initial outlay of funds will be necessary to establish a GIS workstation.

One main disadvantage to using GIS information is time—time for a librarian to master the GIS software as well as daily work time to produce maps for library patrons. As the GIS information is contained within a computer program, the librarian will have to produce almost all maps for novice researchers as well as assist even the most skilled GIS users. On average it takes an hour to an hour and a half to produce one intensive GIS map.

Two government document librarians, Suzanne Sears, Tulsa City-County Library, and Adrianna Edwards-Johnson, University of Central Oklahoma, provided examples of GIS in their libraries. At TCCL, GIS is offered on three levels: pre-made reference maps, GIS software for patron use, and GIS research that a librarian performs. A patron fee is assessed for the librarian performed services. Major companies in Tulsa utilize this library service. At the University of Central Oklahoma, geography and computer technology students, as well as other students throughout the curricula use GIS.

Questions followed the presentations as well as a group discussion of the topic. Although GIS may be out of many libraries range because of the price and the technology and knowledge it requires to operate, this OLA presentation showed attendees that it was not out of everyone's league. GIS is not something that libraries will have to confront in years to come; it is something that needs to be available in libraries now.

Jeffrey M. Wilhite

CONNECTING WITH THE PAST:
OKLAHOMA'S HISTORY COMES ALIVE AT THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Bill Welge, Director of Archives and Manuscripts, Oklahoma Historical Society presented a short history and a tour of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The Society, first established in Kingfisher in 1893, has been housed in the present building for seventy years. A new building is under construction a few blocks northeast of the present location. The Society is one of the largest depositories in the State for motion pictures, and it has most of the records from the Five Civilized Tribes dating from 1850-1906.

The present building has three reading rooms: archives, research/genealogy, and newspapers. The new structure will allow for all these rooms to be centralized making research easier, and contain a lot more microfilm readers. Since microform has a longer shelf life than materials scanned onto CDs, the Society will continue to use microfilm. Some material will be scanned onto CDs to be sold. Genealogy is the second largest hobby in the United States. The new structure will allow better use of staff time thereby allowing exhibits to be rotated more frequently.

BJ Vinson
Technical Services Roundtable

DEMYSTIFYING DESELECTION. PART II

Barbara Bradley introduced the speakers for the panel. John Phillips of Oklahoma State University centered his remarks around the acquisition of government documents and the rules regarding their deselection. The State of Oklahoma has 20 depository libraries, which acquire certain subjects; and two regional libraries (ODL and OSU) which must acquire and retain all government documents. When a depository library wishes to deselect any of its documents, it must get clearance and directions from a regional library.

Rogers State University's Laura Bottoms gave a short history of how her university has evolved over many years from a preparatory school. Therefore, they have been very concerned with acquiring more rather than deselecting. Recently deselection began in the nursing section of the collection due to the need to replace outdated materials. They have since begun to deselect those items which were more appropriate to the high school level, and are also outdated. Of course, the head librarian has veto power over items chosen for deselection.

Next Bethia J. Owens of Muldrow Public Library spoke about her technique of selecting items for deselection, but just boxed them up and stored them under where the roof leaked. Once they got a new library built, because the old one was too small and had a leaky roof, she physically deselected (trashed) all those items. Her warnings about removing items from the library included: educate your board, mayor, janitors, etc. of the reasons for deselection; have a written statement regarding the disposition of donations; do not put science or health books in a book sale; and the opportune time to put them in a dumpster to prevent “dumpster diving”.

"Just do it", were the first words of wisdom of Laurie Sundborg of Tulsa City-County Library. Her favorite mantra is, "I am not the library of Congress; I cannot have everything." She stressed the importance of freshness and appeal of the collection, and making sure the collection fits the building's size. She concluded her section with, "Don't let the collection manage you, you manage it."

BJ Vinson

Continuing Education Committee

Inappropriate to Downright Shocking: Coping with Public Internet Use

This table talk/discussion, moderated by Ginny Dietrich of Oklahoma Department of Libraries, began with each participant voicing what concerned them most about Internet usage in their library.

The prime concern voiced was about patrons accessing pornography, especially: leaving the sites on the screen, leaving printouts of same on the printer, selling printouts around the school, problems with filters, threats to librarians for "kicking off" the students, how monitoring patrons has taken up so much time which could be better used to teach. Most libraries do have Internet use policies, which have been reviewed by attorneys. A big problem is that pornography is legal; obscenity is not, but no one in the room was brave/foolish enough to define either one. Some libraries are filtering by library card type. Filters give parents a false sense of security as they do not filter everything every day, and some sites change their contents!

The second concern was children being left alone at the library. Sometimes they were still alone after the library had closed. Many consider this a form of child neglect.

The bright note is that the Internet has great sites. It provides access to information that may libraries would not otherwise be able to afford on limited budgets. It is a wonderful place to locate governmental information.

ODL has prepared a list of especially good sites.

BJ Vinson
EBSCO Book Services is now available to all libraries and institutions!

**EBSCO Book Services Offers:**
- more than 500,000 titles (2.5 million titles available by year end)
- Web-based searching and ordering
- quick, efficient delivery
- prompt customer service
- secure servers for payment transactions
- invoice/accounting statements
- multiple shipping and delivery options
- multiple payment options: credit card, purchasing card and purchase order
- competitive pricing

**Coming Soon:**
- administrative features to designate approval authority
- level II capabilities for credit card transactions

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**Arranging Arrangements**

It was great fun being the local arrangements chair for the 2001 Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference. I worked with an outstanding committee:

- A/V - John Woltz (Southwestern Oklahoma State University)
- Advertising - Connie Green (Monfort & Allie B. Jones Memorial Library, Bristow)
- Door Prizes – Pat Williams (ODL)
- FOLIO Local Arrangements – Carol McReynolds
- Hospitality (Menus, flowers, gifts) – Donna Denniston (ODL)
- OLA Bookstore – Caroline Dulworth (Pioneer Library System)
- Publicity – Bill Petrie (ODL)
- Registration – Jennifer Goodson (Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library)
- Signs & Maps – Robert Finch (Okmulgee Public Library)
- Thursday Night All-Conference Event – Ginny Dietrich (ODL)
- Travel – Jenny Stenis (Pioneer Library System)

Working behind the scenes was both fascinating and interesting. The hotel staff met with us three times: (1) to choose the menus, (2) to walk through the site, and (3) to introduce Kay Boies, Rachel Butler, Jon Woltz and myself to all the department heads and the banquet manager.

What was most impressive about the entire process was how many details Kay juggles and how she trains a new “crew” each year. She does it with such patience and good humor.

Wish I had a good horror story to tell, but I don’t. Our only real excitement occurred when a speaker from Texas had her laptop and zip drive crash prior to boarding the plane for OLA. We had a laptop to give her but no zip drives.

Marty Thompson, from Bird Health Sciences Library, overheard our conversation and offered to have a CD-ROM burned at his facility. So, Debra Engel picked up the speaker at the airport, drove her to the Bird Health Sciences Library, and the power point program on the zip drive was transferred to the CD-ROM. Jennifer Goodson volunteered her laptop and our speaker was in business in time for her presentation. Are Oklahoma librarians not a great bunch!

Desiree Webber—Local Arrangements Chair
A LAST LETTER FROM SHARON

YOUR Oklahoma Library Association

One of my last official acts as OLA President is this newsletter column. Reflectively, it is refreshing to think about all that we’ve accomplished together for Oklahoma libraries and library staff members this year...workshops, record-breaking and re-energizing conference, legislation, memberships, regional meetings, etc.

But now is not the time to sit back. We must continue to build upon all of the great work accomplished this year.

Change is impacting libraries from every angle. Collaborations and networking among library staff members and Friends can help us address change, learn from each other, offer needed continuing education, stand together on issues, and let others know that libraries are navigating the information future.

What can you do?

• Mentor library part-time staff members (and other potential librarians) and let them know about the variety of careers available in librarianship. (Look at my web page for ideas on what you can do http://www.rose.cc.ok.us/faculty/ssaulmon.)

• Volunteer to host a regional meeting for your area. (Contact Ginny Dietrich at gdietrich@oltn.oil.state.ok.us.)

• Encourage other library staff members to join and become active in OLA. (The membership form is at http://www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/join.html.)

• Volunteer for an OLA Committee, Division or Roundtable. (Contact Wayne Hanway now at whanway@sepl.lib.ok.us.)

• Attend OLA workshops.

• Provide ideas on your continuing education needs to OLA committee chairs, division officers, or Program Committee.

• Get involved in an OLA Roundtable, and volunteer to plan or lead a workshop.

• Get to know your legislators and congressional delegation, and let them know about library goals.

• Tell people in your community (whatever kind of community it is-- college, corporation, state employees, school, or the general public) about library services and the impact the library is having on lives every day.

It is up to you to make libraries and librarianship known.

It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of strong and innovative OLA presidents and to work with a talented membership and highly committed enthusiastic Executive Director Kay Boies. It has been my pleasure to get to know new librarians around the state and work with many new people this year.

With your continuing dedication, we will ensure that Oklahoma libraries are strong in the new millennium.

Sharon Saulmon, President
Join OLA Now!

Membership renewal time is approaching. You should receive a membership invoice in the mail in the next month. Please take the time to process it quickly. Your membership is important to us. The membership is the organization. Your support makes OLA grow.

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