FOI: Freedom of Information

The Third Annual Oklahoma First Amendment Congress was a record breaker. The event, held in November at the University of Central Oklahoma, attracted 232 participants—triple the participation of previous years.

Oklahoma's library community has been a major player in planning the Congresses, which are sponsored by a special committee of Freedom of Information Oklahoma. The Congress grew out of a project to help public libraries in the state purchase materials on First Amendment issues. Committee members this year included Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, and OLA members Janet Brooks, Metropolitan Library System; Jan Keene, Tulsa City-County Library System; and Bill Young, Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Committee members said there were a number of reasons why this year's Congress was so successful:

- Committee chairman Sue Hale, executive editor of The Oklahoman, invited some of the leading national authorities on Freedom of Information and First Amendment issues. It was a very strong program.
- For the first time, FOI was able to obtain approval from the
FOI (cont. from p. 1) 

Oklahoma Bar Association to offer continuing legal education units. Forty-five attorneys attended.

- A special Education Day attracted more than 40 students, teachers and student publications advisers.
- The tragic events of September 11 and subsequent legislation have put First Amendment issues on the front burner, along with security issues.

The committee also hosted an essay contest for college and high school students. Students were asked to write about the impact technology has had on the First Amendment. The only other rule was a limit of 500 words or less. Beyond that, students were told to let "creativity reign." More than 90 essays were submitted. The winners are listed below.

- First place, and a computer, went to David McCrory of the University of Tulsa. David's essay contrasted the two years it took for some slaves in Texas to hear of their emancipation with the two seconds it takes for information to travel around the world today.
- Second place, and a DVD/CD player, went to Emily Gard of Perry High School for her essay on the Internet search for her birth parents. Emily's essay focused on the conflict between her rights to information and the privacy rights of biological parents.
- Third place, and a Palm Pilot, went to Carrie Spielman of Edmond

Santa Fe High School, for her overview of the issue.

The first day of the congress was billed as Education Day. Special guest was Bennett Haselton, creator of Peacefire.org. Haselton began Peacefire in 1996 to represent the interests of people under 18 in the debate over freedom of speech on the Internet. His reports on blocking software have been featured on national news shows and have been used as evidence in federal court cases testing the constitutionality of filtering software in libraries.

Other guests included Stan Ketterer, assistant professor at Oklahoma State University, who presented a session on web resources; and Joey Senat, another OSU assistant professor, who moderated a role playing exercise for participants. At the last session of the day, a panel of student editors and advisers from area colleges and universities shared their experiences of dealing with First Amendment issues while producing campus newspapers.

Bill Young-ODL

OLA Board Actions
On October 19, 2001 the OLA Board approved the following:

- Increase of $5 in every category for annual conference registration
- Increase of exhibitor's fees from $250 to $275 for the annual conference
- Contract with the Renaissance Hotel in OKC for 2003 annual conference
- Ethics Committee Workshop "On the Frontline: Handling Conflicts with Patrons and Public Groups"
- Attendance by two OLA representatives at the Leadership Training Workshop at ALA midwinter
- Purchase of merchandise for the OLA Store
- Deposit of $150 to reserve the golf course for the tournament at annual conference

At the November 16, 2001 meeting the following was approved:

- Legislative goals 2002
- $870 for Rachel Butler and Kathryn Lewis to represent OLA at the ALA midwinter Leadership Training Workshop
- Library Education Division Workshop on planning workshops on February 29 and March 6 at Muskogee Public Library and Southwestern State University respectively.
- Vicki Phillips appointed as OLA Archivist for 2001-2002

Be Informed!
Website and e-mail have changed for OLA!

OLA's URL: www.oklibs.org
OLA e-mail: kboies@coxinet.net
OLA phone: 405-348-0506
OLA fax: 405-348-1629

Subscribe to the Oklahoma Library Association members' electronic discussion list by going to:
Ola-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
OLA Wants You!

The work of OLA is done by its members, working in the committees, divisions, roundtables, and discussion groups that have been created to respond to the various interests of the membership, as well as the functional needs of the association.

To get involved, sign up, go to the meetings, and let people know you would like to participate. It's that simple.

Signing up for divisions and roundtables is done on the membership dues form. It adds just one dollar each to your dues, except for OASLMS, which is $10. If you decide you want to join later in the year, get your dollar to Kay Boies, OLA's Executive Director, and let the section chair know that you are now on board.

Joining a discussion group is even easier—just contact the chair.

Signing up for committees is also easy, but it works a little differently. Each year (usually in March) a bulk mailing to current members contains a committee preference form, which you are asked to fill out and return to the OLA office. The compiled responses are given to the OLA President-Elect, who appoints both the committee chairs and members for the coming year.

If by chance you do not get the form or you misplace it, forms are also available at the annual conference or you can contact Kay Boies (e-mail or fax would be good) and pass your preferences on to her.

OLA currently has sixteen standing committees (Audit, Awards, Budget, Constitution & Bylaws, Continuing Education, Ethics, Intellectual Freedom, Interlibrary Cooperation, Legislative, Long Range Planning, Membership, Nominating, Program, Resolutions, Scholarship, and Sites) plus four ad hoc committees (Archives, Centennial, Navigating the Information Future aka Recruitment and Retention, and Web Site). There is room for more.

Membership of several of these committees (Awards, Budget, Nominating, and Program) is restricted by OLA’s Bylaws. For the rest, it is wide open and often a matter of the more the better. The Bylaws also say that most committee appointments are for one year and limit consecutive service on any committee to three years.

Although my term as President didn’t officially start until July 1, 2001, I began working on committee appointments in the fall of 2000 with the goal of having all committee chairs named before the OLA annual conference in April 2001. I made it, just barely, filling the last slot at the conference.

In early May, Kay Boies sent the preference lists to me and my goal was to get all the committee appointments made before the leadership retreat in June, so the new leaders could get their sections together and running without waiting till fall and losing precious time for planning conference programs and workshops. I came fairly close, but in a number of cases I didn’t have enough requests to be on committees. Only about one-fifth of our membership submitted committee preference requests. I had to spend a lot of time asking for recommendations and recruiting. In the process, I learned a valuable lesson: contact school librarians before school is out, because it’s nearly impossible afterwards. The rewards of getting involved in OLA are tremendous. You learn all kinds of things, you become friends with a whole bunch of wonderful people, and you contribute to the future of Oklahoma libraries and librarianship. To get started, all you have to do is sign up. DO IT!

---OLA President Wayne Hanway

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provides an affordable library tool that helps you easily create and locally customize an integrated gateway to your library’s electronic services. Consolidate your OCLC services and other electronic resources so your users can find the materials they’re seeking with one convenient interface.

OCLC ILLiad Service

a comprehensive ILL management system, ILLiad automates routine ILL borrowing and lending functions and provides a Web-based, end-user interface to submit and track ILL requests at any time of day or night.

- Provides interfaces to the OCLC ILL service, National Library of Medicine’s Docline service and RLG’s Central RLIN ILL service.

- Supports copyright tracking to monitor copyright liability and provides a method to pay copyright royalties.

- Can eliminate paper ILL files.

For more information on OCLC’s WebExpress and ILLiad, contact Barbara Nicholls at Amigos

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Do You Have a Personal Home Page?

What percentage of Oklahoma academic librarians have personal home pages and what are the most common elements on their pages? A survey was developed to explore these questions and the results could be useful in determining the content of a librarian's personal home page.

Background

Why have a home page? Personal home pages are usually under the direct control of the librarian and can be easily modified to assist the librarian in carrying out duties. Home pages can be a fun way to learn new technology and they can serve a practical function by storing information to be used by the librarian (such as bookmarks) or to be used by others (such as class handouts and speech and presentation materials)

Methods

For the study, forty-four institutions of higher education listed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education were consulted, including two-year, four-year, and comprehensive schools. Library home pages served as starting points for the study. The first challenge was locating the librarian=s home pages. When available, the library staff directory was used, but it was difficult, in some cases, to find librarians from the listings. A checklist was used to record the presence of elements on pages. Results were entered into a spreadsheet and statistical formulas were applied. These elements were sorted by frequency of occurrence to develop lists of the most common elements on librarians= home pages.

Results

Only ten of the 44 sites linked to personal home pages for librarians. Out of 222 identified librarians, 46 had personal home pages, 21% of academic librarians in the state. Of the home pages identified, 31 were studied for content and visual appearance. The study revealed common elements that could be used as guidelines for creating a personal home page.

Content

The most common elements were a full name and e-mail address on all of the pages studied. Full address (94%) and phone information (97%) appeared next frequently. Librarians also listed position titles on 84% of the pages studied. Faculty rank appeared on 52% of pages. All of these elements identify an individual as a member of the university community and show responsibility for content. Librarians also show their relationship to the academic community by making links to the parent institution=s Web site. On Oklahoma academic librarians= pages, 77% contain links to the parent library, while in a recent study only 58% had such links. Additional elements on home pages were degree or credential listings (42%), notations about classes taught (48%), resumes or vitae (32%), office hours (23%), and fax numbers (23%). Currency of information is always a concern to librarians. The date of last update was listed on 84% of pages. Updated dates on pages studied ranged from three years to the most current month. The average length of time since the last update was 9.6 months.

Visual appearance

Graphical design elements also were examined for common elements. Graphic images (of any kind) were found on 61% of pages studied. Of pages with graphic images, 84% included a photograph of the librarian. Twenty (64%) of the pages contained a background color or pattern other than white. University logos or other official graphics appeared on 22 of the 31 pages. Matching graphic elements -- such as buttons, bars, and bullets -- appeared on 39% of the pages. Consistency in design between related pages is an effective technique in home page design. Of those with related pages, 28% used repetitive elements to convey visual consistency.

Added Value

The study also uncovered some page elements that can add value to a personal home page and help the librarian communicate effectively. Some features occurred on fewer pages, but are worth noting: links to associations or organizations (16%); online presentations such as PowerPoint (16%); publication lists (13%); book request information (10%); new title lists (6%); Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) links (3%); and evaluation forms for class teaching (3%).

PAGE ELEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elements Used Most Often</th>
<th>Added Value Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>Association/organization links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email information</td>
<td>Online presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full address and phone number</td>
<td>Publication list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library job title</td>
<td>Book request information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date last updated</td>
<td>Webbiographies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links to Parent Library</td>
<td>OPAC link</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With only 21% of academic librarians in Oklahoma having accessible personal home pages, the most important consideration is simply to have one. The previously mentioned common elements provide suggestions for home page content and visual design. These also are useful in creating a flexible template for home page design at a library. Creating a home page does require thought and attention, but it is an effective way to learn a new technology and provide information to a wide range of people.

REFERENCES

1. Annette Haines, A Librarians Personal Web Pages, College & Research Libraries 60 (November 1999); p. 548
   --Sarah Brick Archer & Linda West.
Goals, the Legislature and You

When you receive this issue of the Librarian, Legislative Day will have already happened. Every year OLA sponsors Legislative Day at the capitol and this year it was February 12, 2002. We hope all of you either attended or tried to get with your legislator to talk libraries. We all know that advocacy is ongoing and that we need to deliver our messages to our legislators throughout the year. But Legislative Day is a special day that we come together as a group to thank our legislators for past support and ask for their help on current library issues. While it is important for library staff to be in touch with our legislators, it is more important that we rally with advocates like Trustees, Friends and community leaders. These are the people who can, and do, best represent library causes because they are not perceived as acting in their own self-interest. Encouraging those who support libraries to deliver our message is smart strategy. They can let our legislators know how much libraries do to improve the quality of life in our communities, schools and other institutions. Demonstrating that libraries have grass-roots support is always important. Additionally, legislators welcome opportunities to get to know the people they represent and talk to constituents with whom they have existing relationships.

As you study the 2002 Legislative Goals printed below you will no doubt think of many stories to tell your legislators that will give them a reason to “BELIEVE” in Oklahoma libraries and “KNOW” that they are one of “the great bastions of democracy” for all of our citizens.

The 2002 Legislative Goals represent something for every library and every citizen in the State of Oklahoma. The goals are essential to our ability to provide the best possible information, access and service to our citizens.

- Preserve local control and funding of Oklahoma’s libraries.
- Support the Oklahoma Department of Libraries’ budget request. It will:
  Encourage early childhood education by adding a book to public library collections for every preschool child in the state ($5.6 million); and
  Help upgrade and construct public library buildings in the state ($300,000).
- Support the expansion of the Allen Wright Library Building to house the State Archives, as recommended by the Long Range Capitol Planning Commission ($4.8 million).
- Continue support of statewide database subscriptions, which provide important reference resources to all Oklahoma library customers.
- Ensure quality information services to Oklahoma’s school children, by staffing our school libraries with certified, masters level school library media specialists.

If you came to Legislative Day, thank you! If you couldn’t and would like to help, you can talk to your legislators and also spread the word to all your trustees, Friends and supporters, asking them contact theirs. Here are a few “tips” from ALA and OLA.

- Keep the delegation (if you’re doing a visit)—librarian, trustee, Friend or other supporter—small enough for an easy exchange of views.
- Know your message.
- Be sure to give examples and tell library stories from the legislator’s district.
- Be Positive and Appreciative.
- Understand that your legislator is balancing many constituents’ concerns.
- Be assertive but polite.
- Offer your expertise or assistance in the future.
- Listen to your legislator’s concerns and opinions.
- Remain calm.
- Don’t get discouraged.
- Don’t overstay your welcome. Stay on message and answer questions succinctly.
- Thank the legislator for his/her time and interest.
- Dress comfortably and professionally.
- Follow up with a thank you letter that reiterates the important points relating to the issue.

It’s never too late!

Lynn McIntosh
Staggs Wins Twelve State Regional Award

Representative Barbara Staggs was presented the Legislative Leadership Award, 2001, at the meeting of the Mountain Plains Library Association in Phoenix, on December 6. The special award is given by MPLA only when merited. The twelve state region includes member states Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado, with representation from all states present for the 2001 Conference held December 5-8, 2001.

Eastern Oklahoma District Library System Director Marilyn Hinshaw and Pat Acebo, Legislative Chair of EODLS nominated Staggs for her championship of legislation to promote quality library service in Oklahoma communities. Supporters Pat Acebo, Marilyn Hinshaw, Oklahoma Department of Libraries Director Susan McVey, Oklahoma Library Association President Wayne Hanway of McAlester and Margaret Rigney, Checotah, EODLS Board President attended the awards banquet held in the Phoenix Civic Center. Basha Hartley of the Pioneer Library System in Norman also attended the event as the Oklahoma liaison to the MPLA Board. Along with them, Margaret Collins, EODLS Librarian at the Eufaula Memorial Library; Bill Young of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries staff; and Ross Staggs formed an Oklahoma delegation to cheer Barbara and the Oklahoma Legislature’s support of Oklahoma’s public libraries.

Representative Staggs’ comments to the audience focused on the need for an educated population to support the freedoms guaranteed to them by making a connection with libraries where a lifelong commitment to learning is enabled for every citizen, from the youngest to the oldest. Following the event, an impromptu reception line of MPLA members formed for the opportunity to talk to Staggs, then express congratulations and good wishes to Oklahoma’s delegation.

Marilyn Hinshaw

The Bartlesville Public Library has a new director!

After a search that involved interviewees from as far away as Tennessee, the search committee, headed by Library Board President Jack Liggett, discovered that the best candidate was Joan Singleton, formerly the Assistant Director at the Bartlesville Public Library.

Joan is a 20-year Bartlesville resident, and has worked at the Bartlesville Public Library since 1990, first as the Public Services Librarian and later as the Assistant Director. Genealogy enthusiasts will also know Joan as the Librarian in charge of the Local and Family History room for the last 12 years. She earned her Master’s Degree in Library Science from North Texas State University in 1970, and previously worked as a Children’s Librarian in Galveston and El Paso, Texas. Joan is married to Tony Singleton, and they have four adult children.

Singleton is excited about her new position. “The Bartlesville Public Library has a wonderful reputation, not only locally, but nationally. This is the result of many years of hard work by all of our staff members. We have succeeded by working well as a team, and I look forward to leading the library to even greater success. We will continue to improve library services to the citizens of Bartlesville, and reach out to those citizens who are not currently library users.”

Library staff members could not be more pleased with the choice. “Joan has really proven her leadership skills in the last few months as interim library director,” said Sheryl Clark, Circulation Supervisor, “she’s come up with a lot of new ideas and new ways of doing things.”

Beth DeGeer
Mmmm, Good!

Another hearty helping of delicious books and entertaining authors was served at the Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books sponsored by OU’s School of Library and Information Studies on October 25, 2001.

The day began with book sales, autographing, and tasty morning treats. Then award-winning poet and author, Nikki Grimes, read her poetry to a packed house.

Grimes said as a child she spent many hours ensconced in the local library reading—no devouring—book after book. “Books were my soul’s delight.” But the stories she read, in a sense, betrayed her. Too few featured African Americans. Fewer, still, spoke to the particular problems she faced as a black foster child moving in and out of foster homes. So she decided when she grew up, to write books about children who looked and felt like she did.

“A poem can make a connection for a child where nothing else can,” Grimes said. “A poem is more than just a poem, it’s a mirror reflecting beauty in the reader’s face.”

“Poems can bring about a validation to own a part of your past.” When writing her poems, Grimes said she “goes for the emotional jugular.”

“Words have weight. We all desperately need to know that what we say matters—we need to hear good words, also. Children’s poetry offers a world of good words.”

For a tasty sampling of her poetry, read Meet Danitra Brown (Coretta Scott King Award honor Book; Sequoyah Children’s Book Award Masterlist); Jazmin’s Notebook (Coretta Scott King Award Honor Book); and My Man Blue (Newsweek Best Picture Book of the Year).

Avi, author of many many books for children, including his recent Don’t You Know There’s a War On? And Prairie School was raised in Brooklyn with his twin sister (who also is an author).

His twin is the one who dubbed him “Avi” when they were toddlers. He said it’s the only name he’s ever used and no matter how cleverly disguised the audience’s questions were, he wouldn’t reveal his first or last name, which proved quite fun for the audience.

He said the goal of good writing is to make the perfect circle, like the letter O, but an experienced writer doesn’t make an O, instead he makes a C, leaving a gap for the reader to fill in for himself. “A story must speak to and for the reader. Writers don’t write writing, they write reading.”

A former librarian for twenty-five years, Avi said that doing research for his novels is “extremely simple” and that the first step to research is “acknowledging what you don’t know...It’s not so much about knowing—it’s how to know.”

“Writing is hard, don’t listen to anybody who says it isn’t...The difference between a professional writer and an amateur writer, is for the professional, it’s more difficult.”

About Midnight Magic, which has been nominated for this year’s Oklahoma Sequoyah Award, Avi said he started to write it many years ago and “got stuck.” He put it aside and wrote many other books, then came back to it. When he discovered the fun he had with his characters, the book became fun and it was easier to finish. Check out his website at www.avi-writer.com, but don’t bother to look for his real name, it won’t be there!

If you have a craving for nonfiction with bright, bold, beautiful colors, then Gail Gibbons will Whet your appetite. Gibbons grew up in Oak Park, Illinois, asking lots and lots of questions. As a child, she loved to take things apart, and once took every clock in her home apart, much to her parent’s displeasure.

“Our world is so amazing. A lot of it is way beyond fiction...For example, look at crickets. What makes them crack?” (The subject of a future book.)

Author and illustrator of 107 books for children, Gibbons had lots of tips to share. Perhaps her best tip for writers was “I rewrite and rewrite and rewrite many times.” And this is no easy task, since she writes everything longhand on a yellow legal pad, then types it out on a typewriter. She leaves all the “computering” to her photographer husband whose photographs assist her research and illustrations.

For her art, she mainly uses watercolor, colored pencils, black pen, and acrylic paints. She makes picture book dummies with sketches, then develops the sketches and text into finished products. She said it takes about one to three months to write each book which she rewrites many times. From idea to finished book, it’s usually on to one and one-half years. She works on four to five books at a time and says, “You have to be excited about what you’re writing about.”

For an appetizer of Gibbon’s books, take a look at Nature’s Green Umbrella: Tropical Rain Forests (IRA/CBC Children’s Choice); Soaring with the Wind: The Bald Eagle (American Bookseller Pick of the Lists); and new this fall, My Basketball Book, and My Football Book.

During the luncheon, local authors Darleen Bailey Beard, Anna Myers, Molly Levite Griffiths and illustrator Mike Wimmer spoke about their upcoming book projects.

Plans are underway for next year’s yummy festival. Mark your calendar now for October 24, 2002, you won’t want to miss this delicious event. For more information, contact Kathy Latrobe, conference coordinator, at 405-325-3921.

Darleen Bailey Beard
Where It's @? Conference, of Course!

“Oklahoma Libraries: Where It’s @” is the theme of the 95th annual Oklahoma Library Association Conference. This year’s conference will be held April 17-19, 2002 at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma. Anne Prestamo and the Program Committee as well as Carol Fox and the Local Arrangements Committee have been hard at work to make this the best conference ever.

A few of the highlights:

The Wednesday preconference programs will focus on issues important to librarians in 2002. “Reorganizing Libraries” will look at the problems and possibilities of staffing and organization in the world of electronic reference and ordering. “Bugs & Slime” will deal with environmental problems in libraries. The Sequoyah Awards will be presented on Wednesday also. A new feature this year will be a golf tournament to be held at the Battle Creek Golf Course in Broken Arrow. The tournament will be a fundraiser for the Ruth Brown Memorial Award. The course location, description and layout are available at http://www.battlecreekgc.com.

The programs on Thursday and Friday will cover a wide spectrum of topics: from learning styles to filtering to a look at the best reference sources and our state databases.

Cecile Richards will give the keynote address to the opening general session on Thursday morning. Ms. Richards currently works for the Turner Foundation and was formerly the founder and executive director of the Texas Freedom Foundation.

The Thursday All Conference event will have an Oklahoma theme this year. Our featured guest will be Gene McFall who will perform his engaging one-man show, a portrayal of Will Rogers. When asked why Will Rogers is still so popular, McFall answers: “Will really understood human nature and human nature doesn’t change”. Various OLA divisions and committees will again provide gift baskets for the silent auction to be held during the dinner. Proceeds from the auction will go to the OLA scholarship fund.

Tulsa author William Bernhardt will be the speaker at the Friday evening banquet. Mr. Bernhardt has written fifteen books including the series-featuring attorney Ben Kincaid. He is a popular speaker and has received many state and regional honors including being the youngest author ever inducted to the Oklahoma Writers Hall of fame. For more information see his website http://www.williambernhardt.com. Just for fun, his website includes a couple of crossword puzzles he created.

The Conference preview guide should be in the mail soon and you can check the OLA website for information as it becomes available (http://www.oklibs.org). Please plan to join us in Tulsa this year for a chance to catch up with old friends, get inspired by new friends and to have some good old fashioned fun!

The Road to Ethics

What is the one thing that scares library students the most about entering libraryland? Ethics! All those “What do I do when?” questions all boil down to ethics. They are trying to learn how to find that balance between their personal beliefs, professional ethics, and community standards. They may not, however, realize that is what they are doing. Unfortunately, this is not something they are taught in school. The professors tell them about ALA’s Code of Ethics, but this is really the start of the confusion not the clearing up of it. This may be the first time a student has really thought about it. The concept of checking their personal beliefs at the door and espousing professional ethics that they may not agree with can be hard to internalize. The Code of Ethics is not a lot of help in a student’s mind. All it is, is guidelines. They do not want guidelines, they want to know what to do. Until they have been exposed to real life situations and see how they have been handled in the past, it all seems very theoretical. Just reading or hearing about a situation may not calm their anxiety. Until they have seen a situation handled, the ethics of it all does not really gel for them. Unfortunately, it is rare that they get a chance to just observe. Their first experience with the situation is being in the situation. Looking around them for advice may not be any better because their peers are in the same boat. This is where workshops on ethics that model the situations can be invaluable. It gives those starting or already in the profession the confidence to handle the situations when they do occur.

Kari Moore
National Library Week/School Library Media Month

The theme for 2002 National Library Week (NLW) which will be observed April 14-20, 2002 is: @ your library. First sponsored in 1958, NLW is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries — school, public, academic and special — participate.

Many school libraries also celebrate the month of April as School Library Media Month sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians, a division of ALA, with the same theme as NLW.

The Public Information Office of ALA coordinates the promotion, placing articles and public service advertisements in national media. The President of the United States issues an annual proclamation. Librarians, Friends and trustees of libraries join in sponsoring local promotions. Posters and other promotional materials are available through the ALA Graphics Catalog.

The ALA Public Awareness Committee and NLW Subcommittee advise and assist in planning NLW and related activities. The committees hold open meetings at the ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life." In 1957, the committee developed a plan for NLW based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first NLW was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

NLW was observed again in 1959, and the ALA Council voted to continue the annual celebration. When the National Book Committee disbanded in 1974, ALA assumed full sponsorship.

Dates NLW is observed each year in April, generally the second full week.

2003 – April 6-12
2004 – April 16-24
2005 – April 10-16
2006 – April 2-8
2007 – April 15-21

Tips for organizing and promoting NLW are posted on the ALA Web site at http://www.ala.org/events/promoevents. The tip sheet is also available free from the ALA Public Information Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5041 or 5044. E-mail: pio@ala.org

To receive a free ALA Graphics Catalog with National Library Week posters and other promotional materials, call 800-545-2433, ext. 5046.

TULSA CITY/COUNTY LIBRARY TO RECEIVE ULC/LSSI 2001 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Urban Libraries Council (ULC) has selected the Tulsa City/County Library Leadership Academy to receive the ULC/LSSI 2001 Award of Excellence in Public Library Management. The awards committee, chaired by Neel Parikh, Director of the Pierce County Library System (WA), agreed that the Academy provided Tulsa City/County Library staff with an outstanding opportunity to gain leadership skills.

The two-year Leadership Academy was established in coordination with the Tulsa Community College’s Management Program and serves Tulsa City/County Library staff members interested in personal and professional development. The goal of the program is to "prepare future leaders of the Tulsa City/County Library by providing them with an opportunity to gain knowledge and develop attributes and abilities essential to leadership roles."

Leadership Academy classes include topics such as management essentials, human resource management, organizational behavior and business policy and are led by Tulsa Community College instructors. The four classes are offered over a two-year period of time.

According to Tulsa City/County Library Director Linda Saferite, "The best feature of the class has been the interaction between class participants and the opportunity to discuss issues, to work together as a team, to share ideas, to try out solutions . . . The result will be real learning and changed behavior as [students] put into practice what they have studied, discussed and implemented. This is bringing new energy to our leadership."

Eliot Shelkrot, Chair of Urban Libraries Council Executive Board, stated, "Leadership development is a major area of concern for ULC. We are delighted to recognize Tulsa's outstanding local program."

The ULC/LSSI Award of Excellence in Public Library Management was established two years ago to recognize innovative practices and programs of public library managers in ULC member libraries. This year, the award focus is on strategies and/or programs that develop leadership skills among library staff and includes a $1,500 cash prize underwritten by Library Systems and Services (LSSI). Founded in 1971, the ULC offers advocacy, consulting, research and training support services to its members.
Diversity Fellowship Opportunity Master of Library and Information Studies

The School of Library and Information Studies of the University of Oklahoma announces the availability of one full and one partial National Leadership Grant fellowship for spring or summer 2002 to support graduate study leading to the ALA-accredited Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree. This fellowship will be awarded as part of the Library and Information Science Education Project to Enhance Cultural Diversity, which has as its overall goal increasing participation in the field of librarianship and information science by underrepresented groups, especially persons of color. The National Leadership Grant fellowships are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning.

The full fellowship covers tuition, fees, books, and a stipend. The partial fellowship provides partial support for the same items. The exact amounts of both the full and the partial fellowships will depend upon demonstrated need. The fellows will pursue a 36-hour ALA-accredited MLIS program, with emphasis on information literacy and new techniques of information acquisition, transfer, and communication technology; a specialized mentoring program; and an opportunity for an internship appropriate to the fellow's career goals. The fellow will also receive partial assistance to attend one national level and one state level conference or workshop appropriate to the area of specialization.

Applicants for this fellowship must meet the admissions requirements for the Master of Library and Information Studies degree. Those applying should submit the following as soon as possible:
* the standard MLIS application forms and supporting materials
* a three-page application essay reflecting interest in and qualifications for a fellowship
* a completed U.S. Department of Education Application for Federal Student Aid form.

An interview will be required.

Criteria for selection will include:
* potential for academic success as demonstrated by educational background, paraprofessional employment, and materials submitted for admission to the program
* leadership potential as evidenced in the essay, supporting letters, and previous activities
* commitment to providing information services to all members of our diverse society.

Absolute priority will be given to qualified applicants from underrepresented groups, especially persons of color. Applicants will be notified of selection results by January 7, 2002 (for spring term) or May 15, 2002 (for summer term).

For further information about the fellowship, please contact:
* Dr. Kathleen Haynes (khaynes@ou.edu; 405-325-3921)
* Dr. Kathy Latrobe (klatrobe@ou.edu; 405-325-3921)
* Dr. June Lester (j Lester@ou.edu; 405-325-3921).

Applications forms and information about the School may be found at the School's web site at http://www.ou.edu/cas/slis/ or may be requested by calling 1-800-522-0772, ext. 3921.

National Issues Forums: Library Programming for Adults and Youth

What kind of program is a local National Issues Forum?

A National Issues Forum is people coming together to talk about or "deliberate" a social problem that is important to them. A forum may be convened or organized by a library, a civic group or a partnership of interested groups. The conveners have no agenda other than providing an opportunity for citizens in the community to share their ideas and opinions and to truly listen and understand one another. A forum can be held in a two-hour period. Fewer than five participants would probably be too few and more than 30 probably too many. (For more information: http://www.nif.org/)

A local National Issues Forum uses issue books carefully prepared by NIF to provide a view of the possible choices and consequences related to an issue. Participants are surveyed before and after the deliberation to assess their views on the issue. The moderator leads the deliberation in a way that elicits input from all participants. A recorder carefully captures the conversation and a report is prepared which may be shared with NIF and with local, state or national decision makers.

What is needed to sponsor a local NIF?

To hold a local forum a group needs the issue books and the starter video prepared by NIF for the particular issue. The cost of issue books is $3.60 per book and the videocassette for a single issue is $12.00. Also needed is a place to hold the forum. In many cases this can be the library's contribution.

Finally, a trained volunteer moderator and recorder, a flip chart and markers are needed. (A coffee pot would be a nice addition, maybe cookies!)

Is there a role for librarians in NIF?

A public, academic or school librarian could organize a forum. The library could sponsor a forum or forum series independently or in partnership with other groups. The librarian could be a moderator, a recorder or one of the organizers of the event.

Tell me about the issue books and topics.

NIF issue books are on topics of interest to adults in a community and many are in alignment with social studies curriculum. For example, issue books and videos have been developed on topics related to alcohol and drugs, children and family, civil rights, economic issues, education, energy and environment and health care. Over 50 issue books are available, some in Spanish. They are brief, readable and designed with appealing covers. The NIF website above will lead you to a catalog of the titles.

What is a Public Policy Institute and how can I participate?

A Public Policy Institute is a three-day training at which participants learn to converse, moderate, record and report deliberative forums using NIF materials. The next PPI will be...
2002 ODL Computer Training Schedule for Public and Institution Librarians

Workshops are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Choose one date to attend. Registration and coffee is from 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Check out the new mobile training lab dates for Genealogy and Finding Donors and Raising Cash.

Troubleshooting Basic Computer Problems
February 19 & 20, 2002 (Registration begins January 2, 2002) Anne Fischer, with the Metropolitan Library System’s Information Technology Department, will give basic instruction on troubleshooting both hardware and software problems. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Advanced Computer Hardware & Software Troubleshooting
February 26 & 28, 2002 (Registration begins January 2, 2002) Mark Johnson from ExecuTrain will provide advanced instruction on troubleshooting both hardware and software problems. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Skeletons in the Closet - Genealogy
March 12, 13, 27 & 28, 2002
Mobile training sites:
March 25 – Kellyville Public Library, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
April 1 – Clinton Public Library, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Registration begins February 1, 2002)
Kathy Huber, from Tulsa City County Library System, will present genealogy resources available through the Internet.

Basic Web Design to Promote Your Library Services
April 2, 4, 9 & 10, 2002 (Registration begins March 1, 2002) Anna Moore from Pioneer Library System will show how easy it is to build a homepage advertising services, hours, and programs for your library. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Finding Donors and Raising Cash
May 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2002
Mobile training sites:
May 9 – Wetumka Public Library, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
May 16 – Elk City Carnegie Library, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Registration begins April 1, 2002)
Vicki Mohr and Desiree Webber, with ODL’s Office of Library Development, will instruct participants on how to search Foundation Center’s online directory of grants and grant makers. Bring projects for which you are seeking outside funding with you.

Free Magazine, Encyclopedia and Reference Resources
June 18, 19, 25 & 26, 2002 (Registration begins May 1, 2002) Participants will learn how to search EBSCO and other statewide databases providing full-text magazine articles, newspaper articles, encyclopedias and other reference titles. Presenters: Charlotte Riggle and Mona Popejoy from Chickasaw Regional Library System, and Christine Sauro from Southeastern Public Library System.

Online Reference Resources
July 23, 24, 30 & 31, 2002 (Registration begins June 3, 2002) ODL Reference librarians will present online reference resources that will help librarians better serve their customers.

Federal and State Government Websites
September 10, 12, 24 & 26, 2002 (Registration begins August 1, 2002)

Donna Denniston and Lauren Donaldson, librarians with the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse at ODL, will present information on state and federal websites.

Legal Resources
October 22, 23, 29 & 30, 2002 (Registration begins September 3, 2002)
Location: Cartwright Memorial Library Computer Lab at State Capitol
Louisa Voden from Cartwright Law Library will present a basic introduction to Oklahoma Statutes plus how to track bills.

How to Manage a Local Area Network
November 5, 6, 12 & 13, 2002 (Registration begins October 1, 2002) Cathy Van Hoy, Vicki Mohr and Desiree Webber from the Office of Library Development will present information about managing your server and LAN.

Free Magazine, Encyclopedia and Reference Resources
December 3, 4, 10 & 11, 2002 (Registration begins November 1, 2002) Participants will learn how to search EBSCO and other statewide databases providing full-text magazine articles, newspaper articles, encyclopedias and other reference titles. Presenters: Laurie Gibson from Eastern Oklahoma District Library System and Christopher Elliott from Southeastern Public Library System.

Registration
Contact the Office of Library Development at 405-521-2502 or 800-522-8116 or fax to 800-397-8116. Please give the names of attendees, your library's name, and telephone number. Class size is limited; please note the beginning registration date for each workshop. The lab is in ODL’s Allen Wright Library, 200 N.E. 18th St., Oklahoma City, on the second floor.

Desiree Webber

National Issues Forum (cont. from p. 10)
held April 4 – 6 in Chickasha on the USAO Campus. It begins on Thursday, April 4 at 1:30 p.m. and ends on Saturday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. The cost is $150 including lodging. For a registration brochure email:sarahk@okstate.edu

How is OLA involved? What is the Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation?
OLA is one of the organizational members of the OPPD, a partnership of representatives from statewide organizations that are interested in fostering citizen involvement in public decision making through NIF and the process of public deliberation. OSU Cooperative Extension Service coordinates the partnership.

OLA Conference Program
As a part of the OLA Annual Conference a program will be offered on National Issues Forums. The program will be Friday, April 19 from 2:15 - 4:15 p.m. For more information contact OLA’s representative to the OPPD: Anne Masters, amasters@pls.lib.ok.us
U.S. libraries sponsor community dialogue in wake of 9-11

As community resource and cultural information centers, libraries nationwide play an important role in helping Americans understand and cope with the recent terrorist attacks and the U.S. response. Libraries across the country are helping patrons gather information, providing resources to help individuals cope with the tragedy, and bringing community members together to discuss the implications and significance of the recent events.

In Maine, many of the state’s 270 libraries held programs simultaneously on October 11 using W.H. Auden’s poem, "September 1, 1939" and Franklin D. Roosevelt’s "Four Freedoms" speech to reflect on the events of September 11. The program developed by the Maine Humanities Council engaged the people of Maine in reading, reflection, and community discussion.

On September 25, the Rockford (Ill.) Public Library partnered with the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford to organize a panel titled "Coming Together in the Aftermath of the September 11 attack." Topics included terrorist groups, the rhetoric of war and how an enemy is "constructed," American foreign policy and Islam. "Many among the 170 in attendance at this highly successful program commented that the rapid response and the spirit of learning promoted individual healing, as well as a greater feeling of community," said Zoe Norwood, chair of the Adult Services Program Committee at Rockford Public Library, which initiated the project. "I still hear people remark about what they learned from these experts about American foreign policy in the Middle East, the plight of the Afghan people, and the power of the language of leadership to shape public expectations."

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office has created a new Web site for libraries interested in encouraging dialogue about the events of September 11 in their communities. The site contains library, state humanities council and other resources for developing cultural programming. "We hope this Web site will highlight the ways librarians are helping their patrons better understand the events of September 11 and beyond," said Deb Robertson, director of the ALA’s Public Programs Office. "The examples on the Web site can serve as starting points for other librarians and community members interested in using cultural programming to address local and global ideas and concerns."

The Web site, called "Encouraging Dialogue through Cultural Programming," (http://www.ala.org/publicprograms/dialogue/) is regularly updated to include additional materials and resources. "All of us have been deeply moved by these events," said ALA President John W. Berry. "Every day librarians assist the public by providing free information and information services. Our public programs take this effort to increase knowledge and understanding to another level."

The ALA Public Programs Office fosters cultural programming by libraries of all types. Established in 1990, the office helps thousands of libraries nationwide develop and host programs that encourage dialogue among community members and works to establish libraries as cultural centers in their communities.

ALA News Release