The OLA Annual Conference Is Where It's @!

The OLA Conference is a relatively small, but no less engaging, event. The intimacy of the occasion made it very convenient to get from one workshop to another, to meet and talk with people, and to catch up on the latest at the exhibits. Since I am a student and work full time, I could only attend on Friday. Nonetheless, there were still plenty of things to see and do!

The first thing I did was register and get my name tag so that I could be properly identified. Workshops were already in progress, so I took advantage of the time to visit the exhibits uninhibited by a crowd of people. I have reevaluated my concept of a salesperson. When I think of salespeople, images of annoying people who call or come uninvited to sell things I don't want, come to mind. The vendors at the conference are different, they are invited. Vendors play a very important part in the conference providing financial support, helping librarians keep up with the latest products and technologies, and answering questions about products already in use. Most importantly, they provide librarians with all the essentials; free pens, post it notes, and candy!

There were a variety of things to see from new book binding methods to finger puppets for story time. The exhibit showcasing the construction of the new Hardesty Library in Tulsa was awesome. The children's reading area at Hardesty is going to be inside a volcano! I had an interesting talk with the Ebsco sales representative who told me about the medical databases that are available and promised to mail an information packet to me.

I attended an excellent workshop entitled Think Like a Manager. The description in the program promised this workshop would help me decide whether or not to become a manager and what it means to be a manager. The speaker, Pat Wagner, is a very dynamic and funny speaker. Her workshop really made me think about whether I had the inclination or the aptitude to become a manager. A question on the mind of every SLIS student! After the workshop, I had some time to relax before I had to make my student paper presentation. I browsed through the poster sessions, bought a T-shirt at the OLA store, and sat down to relax and talk with friends for a while.

That afternoon, Sharon Finarelli and I presented a paper that we had written on the Information Seeking Behavior of Health Information Consumers. It was especially nice to hear the papers presented by our fellow students, Karen Antell and Peggy Kaney, whose papers were also selected for presentation. To wrap up the day, I invited Sharon Finarelli to tour the Tulsa Regional Medical Library, where I work. My day at the conference was both pleasurable and worthwhile. I encourage students to become members of OLA and to attend conferences and other activities. It is a chance to participate and to connect. It's where it's @!

Melissa J. Kash-Holley - OU SLIS
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My OLA Experience

We arrived in time for the Opening Session Thursday morning. (We actually closed the library and used the day for staff development so that everyone could go.) The reports and awards were interesting, especially now that I have been around OLA long enough to know some names and faces. I was especially impressed when award winners were so visibly pleased to be honored. OLA awards, it seems, do mean something. And the comic interlude with Mickey Mouse in search of Minnie — er, Mini — was very entertaining, even blessing outgoing President Wayne Hanway with a new nickname, "Goofy." Keynote speaker Cecile Richards, a very striking and articulate woman, gave us a short and pointed message about being prepared and more effective at forming advocacy groups PRIOR TO a crisis. Her experiences in Texas were interesting and relevant to all of us as librarians.

The vendor displays were fun to browse. I found it interesting to preview Horizon Sunrise at the epixtech booth since my library and system will implement it in August. And, of course, chocolate and other free stuff were plentiful!

Carol Gorman, author of juvenile Sequoyah winner Dork in Disguise spoke at the CATS luncheon. She was very excited about her first award and told us that Dork has now been honored in several other states as well. And of course a sequel is on the way. Just hearing her talk about her experience writing the book made me want to read it.

My staff members went to the author panel (and pronounced it “very good”) so I chose another topic, "Secure the Fort: Learn How to Protect Your Computers," a Technology & Electronic Services Roundtable production. I can never get enough technology input, and indeed I picked up some tips about avoiding and preventing worms and viruses.

"If I Knew Then What I Know Now" was an interesting panel discussion with a variety of experienced librarians presenting their best thoughts on the subject. I took some great notes about team building among personnel and heard other helpful information. My last class for the day was sponsored by Government Documents Roundtable, "Genealogy Resources Via the Government." Connie Shoemaker showed us samples of the various documents available at Oklahoma Historical Society for people doing family research.

The Certification Reception provided interesting information about the current status of the program followed by a session that exemplifies what OLA is all about — networking and sharing experience. One at a time, about 10 librarians got up and shared what they thought was the best of Public Libraries Association (PLA). Since I didn’t get to go to PLA, it was wonderful to get a digest of information hitting the highlights.

The All-Conference Event Thursday evening was terrific. The food was delicious — a real western feast including beans & cornbread — and the Silent Auction was a huge success, raising lots of money and bringing out some friendly competition for the beautiful baskets created by various divisions, roundtables, and committees. Gene McFall as Will Rogers was delightful. He is as entertaining today as Will Rogers ever was, even bringing tears of laughter to some eyes and — as Will himself would have wished — chuckles of enjoyment everywhere.

John W. Berry, current President of the American Library Association, joined us Friday morning for an ALA forum entitled "Libraries in the New Millennium: The Challenges of a Networked World." He told us that ALA’s key action areas are diversity, education and continuous learning, equity of access, Intellectual Freedom, and 21st Century Literacy. With two million new Internet users every month, learning how to use computers more effectively and efficiently is a necessity, and libraries continue to lead the way.

After a little break, during which I worked on this article (the first thing to go with age is my memory!), I went to a session called “Genealogy Reference Books” sponsored by the Genealogy Discussion Group and the Library Education Division. Kathy Huber from Tulsa and Joan Singleton from Bartlesville shared their expertise and gave us a list of books useful for genealogy research. Since I am working to develop that part of my collection, the list is invaluable to me.

Oklahoma author Anna Myers was featured at the OASLMS luncheon. Her presentation was funny and interesting as she told us about her “calling” to write books for young people.

Then I stopped in for presentation of three student papers, some of the winners of a competition sponsored by the Membership Committee. Covering topics of current interest in the library field, it was nice to get a feel for what’s being discussed in library school and to see some soon-to-be graduates.

“Serving the Whole Community: Libraries Meeting Multicultural Needs” was the last session I attended. The information presented by Heidi Port, Sara Martinez, and Kit Winters was interesting and – judging by the number in attendance – relevant. Since I don’t have a Spanish-speaking community, the presentation by Heidi about multicultural education was the most relevant and something I hope to try in my library.

The Membership Meeting was the last item on my agenda because of a previous commitment for Friday evening. State Representative Darrell Gilbert received an award, and reports provided information about OLA and its many activities. I even won a nice door prize.

Overall, the conference gave me more than I expected. It always means long days and lots of sitting, but all the program sponsors try to offer interesting and relevant information so I feel that it is time well spent. Also, it is a time to visit with people I don’t get to see very often, and that in itself is worth the trip. Thanks to all who were involved in putting it together.

Margaret Collins

23
New Librarian Finds OLA Enervating

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a librarian. Last October, I finally became one. I have the name tag, the business cards, and MLIS behind my signature. Only one thing remained: my first conference.

My expectations of OLA 2002 came from sources as diverse as past Lutheran youth gatherings, library school instructors and the Ray Stevens song “Shriner’s Convention.” The reality was, understandably, different. I found many things at OLA, but what I really treasure is something I didn’t even know I was missing: conversation.

For six months, I’ve been behind the reference desk at one of the Tulsa City-County Library regional locations. I converse all day long, with customers, with my colleagues, and even with far-flung members of library listservs. I talk about the weather, the library policies, the new building we’ll be moving into, the news, the gossip, and hundreds of other things. What I didn’t realize is that I was dying to talk about the job itself, being a real librarian in a real library for the very first time. I wanted to talk about how excited I was, how it compared with my expectations, and what I was looking toward.

When I registered for the conference and looked over the schedule, I was looking for learning opportunities, chances to learn things that would help me, both now and in the future, to do my job better. I came out of sessions on management, GIS, health information and other topics energized and ready to bring new things to my customers, but what meant the most to me was an after-lunch “Table Talk” on Friday called “10 surprises you had in your first year as a librarian (what they didn’t teach you in library school)”. I arrived late, having opted for the pasta buffet, and sat toward the back. Immediately I had a sense of being at home. The group was small, and the discussion was reminiscent of the library classes I had enjoyed so much. The facilitators were instructors from OU, but everyone else was a first-year librarian, with the same excitement and eagerness, and with many stories to tell. It wasn’t long before I was sharing tales as well, talking about intriguing customers, interesting problems, and the joys and frustrations of the profession. The time flew by, and I left with a feeling of contentment, eager to go on and be a great librarian. I am hoping to attend more conferences, OLA, ALA, MPLA. I’m also hoping to, someday, learn all the acronyms and initialisms used across the library spectrum. Until I accomplish that, though, I’ll be happy to have a few moments every once in awhile to sit and talk with other librarians about what a great thing it is that we are doing.

Karl Siewert, TCCL

Prayer on Top of the Earth
The Spiritual Universe of the Plains Apaches
by Kay Parker Schweinfurth

In Prayer on Top of the Earth, we are introduced to the fascinating world of Apache bird, animal, and human spirits, a world enlivened by the antics of the beloved Coyote. Intrigued by the world of the medicine man, we follow the Apaches’ vibrant ever-evolving religious community from the U.S. government’s banning of native religions to the arrival of evangelistic Christianity to the birth of the peyote religion.

$29.95 Hardcover
I had an issue of deep concern to me and wanted to share what touched me and what I had learned with others in my profession. What could I do? How to try and communicate the experiences and information I had gained in my role as librarian? I volunteered for the poster session with a program called: “SALT: Schools and Libraries Together.”

What a delightful experience it turned out to be with wonderful people who stopped and talked to the presenter and who asked great questions and allowed me to mount my soapbox without hesitation or complaint. Some stretched me, some challenged me, but all supported me through their interest and time.

It was thrilling to hear people who had insight into the issues being presented. It was awe inspiring to hear the creative solutions being acted out across the state. It was very bonding to recognize that others – from all across the state - recognized and understood the experiences I had encountered and validated, through that understanding, what I was trying to do.

The delightful programs offered later that day took on a new meaning as I observed and made my notes to take back to the libraries. Over and over I was being given new ideas, new research, new solutions to old problems. I continued to feel challenged to seek out ways to be more innovative, creative, and visionary in handling my duties as a library and information professional. With a new sense of professional pride I visited the OLA booth and brought home mugs and shirts that proclaimed an allegiance to something worthwhile and lasting....

Marilyn Hudson

Thursday - April 18

26
Navigating Scholarships

I'm happy to announce the names of the recipients of the 2002 OLA Annual Conference Scholarship for Minority Attendees. The recipients were recognized at the Opening General Session on Thursday. They represent all different library types and come from all over the state. It was wonderful to have them join us at conference!

Alice Faye Adams -- Muskogee Public Library
Susie LaBelle Beasley-Midwest City Library (Metropolitan Library System)
Julie Bigbee -- Pioneer Library System (Norman)
Elizabeth Boulware -- Muskogee Public Library
Monica Bread -- St. Michael Hospital
Maria Carpenter -- Pioneer Library System
Walee Chotikavanic -- OSU-Center for the Health Sciences
Kimberly Johnson -- Rudisill Library (Tulsa City-County Library)
Mary Kirk -- Rose State College
Tanisha R. Lane -- Bartlesville Public Library

Sandra Lawrence -- Tulsa Public Schools
Fred Reiss -- University of Oklahoma Libraries
Arva L. Robbins -- Rudisill Library (Tulsa City-County Library)
Andrea Rogers-Henry -- Tulsa City-County Library.
La Nita Walker -- University of Oklahoma -- Tulsa (Schusterman Center)
Rebecca L. Williams -- Broken Bow Public Library

You might remember that OLA received a grant from ALA LAMA to offer ten $100 conference scholarships. Through the generosity of a number of Oklahoma librarians who donated additional money, we were able to increase the total number of scholarships to seventeen. Thanks VERY much to those generous Oklahoma librarians, and to the OLA Board who agreed to waive basic conference registration for these recipients so their $100 went that much further toward defraying their conference-related expenses.

Jennifer Goodson, Chair
OLA Navigating the Information Future
Ad Hoc Committee
BJ’s Sessions Overview

General Session

Cecile Richards was the guest speaker. She has been actively involved in labor, Texas Freedom Network (TFN) that supports public education and individual and religious liberties, and reproductive rights and family planning issues for the Turner Foundation. She also works with the current Majority Whip in Congress. Ms. Richards spoke primarily about the need to stand up for the rights of all, and that one cannot fight the battles by themselves. She suggested making friends with the local clergy and explaining book selection, reaching out to other groups such as women's and rotary, and offering to speak at the meetings, and to get politically active. Reflecting on her experiences with TFN, she lamented that the majority may be winning battles against censoring groups but losing the war. This was explained in that once a work has been challenged and kept or reinstated; the next year the publisher will self-censor, or the libraries will not order that work so as to not have to deal with the risk of being challenged!

Also introduced were the seventeen students who were awarded scholarships to attend the Conference. Funds for ten were provided by an ALA grant, and the other seven were funded by various groups and individuals.

Internet mapping for librarians

This did not deal with mapping the Internet, but with using maps available on the Internet. Julie Parker (OU) not only demonstrated how to find and use maps on the Internet, she provided a list of map-resource sites, and a disk with additional information. Some of the uses of these maps are: 1) answers questions of location (where, how did it get there, why is it there?), 2) combines data from many different sources to give better information, 3) solve problems and analyze events, and 4) provide patterns and trends that tabular information alone won't portray. She may be reached at jparker@ou.edu.

If I knew then what I know now...

This was a panel discussion by Julie Ligon (WOSC), Susan Stringer (Pioneer LS), Ruth David (OU), Cheryl Suttles (Integris Health System), Barbara Ray (NESU), Audrey Gramling (Norman Elementary School). Some of the points brought out were now knowing that it is important to actually read, be organized, networking, volunteer to help out colleagues, like and appreciate what you do, learn technology, never quit learning. Ms. Suttles had a list of things she wished she'd learned in grad school such as: marketing, management skills, public relations, how to teach, how to evaluate electronic databases/systems, and how to network.

If you build it, will they come? Marketing innovative library services

Julia Harmon (Pioneer LS), Jon Walker (TCCL), and Mark Vargas (USAO) revealed what they had tried to do in their libraries, if it worked, if it didn't work, and what they learned. Ms. Harmon is with the PLS's fledgling Center for Reader's Services. She discussed what they know so far.

Mr. Walker talked about the Ask US Stations, which had been placed in branch libraries so patrons could speak directly with a reference librarian in the Central library. The end result was that the statistics showed it was not used enough to be cost effective. Instead patrons may ask the branch librarians who might then call Central.

Mr. Vargas spoke about allowing food and drinks in the library, the implementation of electronic reserves, and 24-hour operation from 4:00 p.m. on Sunday through 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

Learning & teaching styles

Speakers were Beverly Joyce (OU), Jane Carvajal (consultant), and Tom Thorish (OSU-Tulsa). Ms. Joyce and Ms. Cravajal concentrated on the different learning theories especially those developed by B. F. Skinner, Gestalt psychologists, and Howard Gardner. They explained not only that each learner learns in different ways, but the elements of those differences: i.e. linguistic, logical/mathematical, musical, intrapersonal, interpersonal, bodily/kinesthetic, and spatial. Ms. Joyce also explained "information processing" and "personality patterns" in the learning process. Ms. Carvajal added that the context in which we learn is important. Mr. Thorish stressed that students need
someone to walk them through processes, they want to know how to do remote access, and that they do need to know basic Windows skills in order to succeed in today's libraries.

OCLC's Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORC)

CORC enables libraries to select, describe, maintain, and provide guided access to local and web-based electronic resources. Some of the features of CORC are: The system contains bibliographic records, authority records, pathfinders, and the DDC online. It has real-time connection with World Cat. Telecommunication fees with begin on July 1, 2002. Searching in "Dublin core" can be done in all fields. The cataloging screen and the web site of the items being cataloged may be displayed together, metadata provides hotlinks to other records or WebDewey. Title phrase searches are not currently available, but may be in July 2002. Authority File supports keyword searching and browsing. Online tutorials are available on the OCLC web site, and one can register for training to be held in Norman 12 & 13 June. "Using OCLC CORC to catalog Internet resources" will be on the first day, and "Using OCLC CORC to create Internet pathfinders" will be on the second day.

UCD Contributed papers II & IV

OU-Health Science Center's Shari Clifton presented information about CHAIN: Oklahoma's comprehensive HIV/AIDS Information Network. She and Robin Insalaco prepared this presentation. She explained the background of CHAIN, who its target groups were: affected individuals, health care providers, librarians, and anyone else who needs information related to HIV/AIDS. To access the site, go to http://chain.ouhsc.edu where one will find the HIV treatment and care resource directory, activities & events, FAQs, library, links, and Ask A Librarian.

Dona Davidson of OSU-Tulsa presented her "Database usage statistics: going through the maze". Of the libraries that collect them, the reasons were: to justify costs, and to determine what is being used. Those which do not collect statistics do not because: lack of time, not important, statistics not available, observation and asking staff determine usage, and that each database reports differently. She went on to discuss which vendors collect statistics for libraries, how they convey their findings, and the formats used.

Emily Williams of OSU presented an interesting paper on "Using comic books and graphic novels in schools and libraries". A comic book is usually about 32 pages of sequential arts with magazine-style covers, whereas a graphic novel ranges from about 64 to several hundred pages and contains complete stories versus cliffhangers. The CCA (Comics code authority) mark assures a PG rating. Comic book characters are often superheroes that can teach values and history. Emily will soon be starting Library School at OU.

The "Digitation of title pages project" by Katherine Wong and Anna Wyatt, from OU, was the next paper presented. Their project consisted of scanning title pages of their backlog of rare books. Sometimes they would take a picture of the title page, turn those into slides, and then load. These scanned pages also provide preservation options in that once scanned, they no longer need to be handled. The scanned pages are stored in Hyperian Digital Media Archive. Then metadata is created and bulk loaded into the catalog. They can be searched by author, title, or subtitle.

"Historical documents online: primary sources for ALL researchers" was the topic of the paper by Cokie Anderson of OSU. The historical documents one can not find online are: papyri, historical documents, personal letters, manuscripts, paintings & photographs, newspapers, sound files, and long out-of-print books. She provided a handout of URLs for access to these sources.

Last, but not least, Gina Minks of TU presented her paper "EAD (encoded archival description) implementation: fitting theory into practice. Items covered were: EAD uses SGML/XML, it is more than online access-it is intellectual control. Their finding aids are linked to the OPAC. For more in-depth information contact Ms. Minks at ginaminks@utulsa.edu

BJ Vinson
AGRARIAN SOCIALISM IN AMERICA
MARX, JEFFERSON, AND JESUS IN THE OKLAHOMA COUNTRYSIDE, 1904–1920
By Jim Bissett
Jim Bissett chronicles the rise and fall of the Socialist Party of Oklahoma during the first two decades of the twentieth century, when socialism in the United States enjoyed its golden age.

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Foreword by Rennard Strickland
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A CREEK HUMORIST IN EARLY OKLAHOMA
By Alexander Posey • Edited by Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr., and Carol A. Petty Hunter
Foreword by A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff
A well-known American Indian journalist, lyric poet, and political humorist in the Creek nation, Alexander Posey (1873–1908) excited admiration and envy throughout the country with the letters of his alter ego, Fus Fixico.

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By Shirley A. Leckie
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THE NOVELS OF LOUIS OWENS
By Chris LaLonde
Chris LaLonde analyzes five of Louis Owens’s critically acclaimed novels: The Sharpest Sight, Bone Game, Wolfsong, Nightland, and Dark River.

$34.95 Hardcover
Wayne's World Wrap Up

It has been my privilege, honor, and pleasure to serve as President of the Oklahoma Library Association this year. The time has flown quickly by, and I am astonished that I am already writing my final column. This year has been a wonderful experience, as I have worked with and gotten better acquainted with many Oklahoma librarians and library friends, all working toward the common ends of improving libraries and library services, strengthening the profession of librarianship, and enabling professional development through workshops, conference programs, and leadership opportunities.

I would like to reprise here what I said in my closing remarks at the annual conference banquet, expressing my appreciation, sharing a vision, and offering a challenge.

I am deeply appreciative for:
- the Oklahoma library community, and for the friendship, caring, dedication, and supportiveness that overflows in it;
- the willing involvement of so many who give freely of their valuable time and talents (OLA has so many unsung heroes);
- all the members of this year's leadership team, especially the Executive Board and the Program Committee;
- our superb Executive Director, Kay Boies;
- memories that I will always cherish.

My vision for OLA is:
- that OLA will truly become the entire Oklahoma library community;
- that OLA will be the recognized path to professional development for Oklahoma librarians on all levels;
- that OLA will be an ever more influential advocate for Oklahoma libraries and librarians;
- that OLA will continue to be a model of excellence for all states.

I challenge OLA members:
- to strengthen OLA’s finances and develop endowments for more and larger scholarships and for paying the higher costs of nationally prominent speakers;
- to recruit tomorrow's librarians and provide increased leadership development opportunities for them;
- to activate Oklahoma librarians and library friends through greater involvement in OLA, removing the barriers of distance through regional meetings and the imaginative use of e-mail, on-line chat meetings, videoconferencing, and other technologies;
- to reach out, building partnerships and coalitions that are mutually beneficial;
- to recognize and publicize the accomplishments of OLA members, especially by nominating them for OLA’s various awards and even creating new awards where appropriate;
- to be always mindful of the needs and interests of those groups who are under-represented in OLA;
- to prepare for high-visibility library participation in Oklahoma’s centennial in 2007 and the concurrent observance of OLA’s centennial;
- to celebrate and tirelessly advocate for books and the priceless, lifelong joys and rewards of reading.

Thanks for a terrific year. May it lead on to an even greater future for you and for OLA.

Wayne

OLA Board Actions: March 2002

- Referred to Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the extension of the existence of the Centennial Committee into next association year and to authorize a standing Centennial committee to be in place through 2007.
- Approved recommendation to refer to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for an OLA Library Champion Award. This award is for exemplary legislative leadership or support for growth and development of a library or libraries in Oklahoma. The award is to be given at the Legislative Luncheon or other appropriate meeting at the OLA annual conference. The award is not necessarily presented every year.
- Approved creation of a resolution by the Legislative Committee for Representative Darrell Gilbert's work on behalf of libraries to be presented at Conference.
- Approved motion to send President Wayne Hanway’s response to the ALA Privatization Draft. ALA asked each chapter to respond.
- Approved the workshop, “Help Wanted: Librarians” to be held on May 15 in Tulsa at the University and College Division.
- Approved the Web Mini Conference to be held in the summer by the Library Education Division along with numerous other committees and divisions.
- Approved presentation to the membership at annual conference for proposed changes to the Institutional fees and the request by Support Services Round Table to add the Ruth Brown Memorial Award donation to the membership form.
- Renewed the cooperative agreement between OLA and the Oklahoma Humanities Council for administrative support of “Let’s Talk About It Oklahoma: and Oklahoma Connections for the next three years.
Friday-April 19
In Memoriam: Mary Ann Wentroth

When Mary Ann Wentroth traveled as a library consultant for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, she always packed a 100-watt light bulb in her suitcase. A preeminent children's librarian, Wentroth, who died March 21 at the age of 87, was not about to let bad hotel lighting get in the way of her reading. Much of that reading, at home and on the road, was devoted to reviewing and selecting children's literature for Oklahoma library collections.

"Miss" Wentroth, as many knew her, devoted 43 years to the field of children's library services. Following her graduation from the University of Oklahoma's library school in 1936, she worked for one year in a Louisiana school library before returning to join the Oklahoma City Public Library. She worked at the Oklahoma City system for thirty years. Her contributions included directing the children's department for the downtown branch, and later coordinating children's services and materials for Oklahoma County public libraries.

In 1967, at a time when she could have considered retirement, Wentroth accepted the invitation of the Department of Libraries to join the staff of public library consultants headed by Esther Mae Henke. As children's services statewide Summer Reading Program, fall librarians, and a Juvenile Review consultant, Miss Wentroth established the and spring workshop events for children's Collection. presented programs both in and out of state. organization as well, serving as OLA Association's top honor, the Distinguished 1979. who shared the light bulb story, said for her profession. Other colleagues also praised Wentroth's dedication.

Donna Denniston, Publications Clearinghouse librarian at the Department of Libraries, said her first library job was working for Wentroth at the downtown Oklahoma City library. "The children's librarians were expected to really know the children's collection," Denniston said. "And that meant we had to know the content of the collection so we could help children find books they would enjoy," Denniston said. "When I was hired, I was already behind, because I had a whole collection I had to start reading!"

Puppeteer, storyteller, and former ODL consultant John Hinkle said Wentroth was "full of curiosity and full of principles." One of those principles was her philosophy about the Summer Reading Program.

"Mary Ann believed the joy of reading was the reward of reading," Hinkle said. Offering incentives and awards for the most books read trivialized and cheapened reading in her eyes. "If a child only read one book during the program, it was worth it. That kid was a hero to Mary Ann."

Hinkle saw Miss Wentroth a few weeks before her death. She was quilting and talking with friends in her assistive living home. "She was the same enthusiastic Mary Ann I had always known," he said.

It's not too late to honor this great lady and her contribution to children and children's librarianship in our state. Send your memorial donations to the Oklahoma Library Association, attention Sequoyah Book Award program.

My check's in the mail.

Bill Young-ODL