"Lighten Up! How to Make Work Fun!" was the message at a recent workshop presented by members of Oklahoma Library Association’s Support Staff Roundtable. The workshop was held at the Stillwater Public Library and featured professional motivator, Lynn Baker from the University of Oklahoma, Library Information Specialist Beverly "Buffy" Edwards, and the team of Lori Ratliff and Sammie Seeley from the Noble Foundation in Ardmore.

Lynn Baker began the morning session with several inspirational messages. Baker, who proclaims to have had over 20 jobs in his lifetime, shares his life experiences so others may learn from his experiences. His first message was maps are important, "A picture of where you want to go is important" he stated. "If you don’t know where you’re going then how will you know when you get there?" He talked about the importance of compliments and invited everyone to join the "Compliment Club." Baker stressed how inspiration can be found everywhere you look including his two favorites “music and bumper stickers.”

The audience participated in the morning session by filling out cards that answered one question, “What would make you happier at work?” Baker read everyone’s anonymous answers and commented on each and every one of them with sincere advice that he hoped would relate to everyone.

"Buffy" Edwards, Library Information Specialist for Norman Public Schools kicked-off the afternoon session with personal stories on overcoming obstacles and pursuing dreams. Her messages included realizing the difference between an "inconvenience and a problem", how to work effectively with different personality types, to remember that everyone has feelings (even if they don’t act like it), and most importantly "Attitude is Everything!" Buffy presented her top 10 list on the traits of “Lightened Up People,” had audience members participate in a role playing exercise, and encouraged everyone to “Live each day as if it’s your birthday!”

Cont. on p. 50
"Lighten Up" (cont. from p. 49)

The workshop wrapped up with the comedy team of Lori Ratliff and Sammie Seeley from the Noble Foundation in Ardmore. These self-proclaimed "Non-Speakers" had the audience in stitches the minute they hit the stage. Lori is employed by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK as a "Culinary Art Equipment Sanitation Technician" (cook/dishwasher). Sammie, also from the Ardmore area, is a caterer. Their message was "No matter where you work or what you do in life, it's important to have fun at work!"

Not one person in the audience will forget Sammie's new idea for having fun, "All the good one's were all ready taken so I had to make one up myself!" She suggests everyone practice "Creep And Then Run" here on out better known as the acronym CATR (pronounced exactly like it sounds!). CATR is preformed by sneaking up on your fellow employees and surprising them with little presents of appreciation. A sample of ideas and presents were passed out in packets and included ideas such as a package of Lifesavers® with a note attached saying "You're a real LIFESAVER!" or a package of Extra® gum that says, "Thanks for going the EXTRA mile!" A sample table was set up for attendees to view several of these simple, yet practical ideas.

Lori and Sammie chose several audience members to participate on stage in both games and a performance of the "Top 10 Reasons You Think Your Librarian is Nuts" that even David Letterman would have been proud of. Several audience members received prizes courtesy of the Noble Foundation, including a candlelight dinner for two anywhere in the United States, which was won by Cathy Van Hoy of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The dinner for two included a map of the United States and a brown paper bag filled with candles, appetizers, a main course, refreshment and dessert. In a recent e-mail Cathy expressed her thanks for the grand prize, "We enjoyed our dinner for two this weekend. I'm sorry to say we were only able to make it out to our backyard in Norman but it was delicious. There is nothing like a dinner of Vienna sausages, chips, Pepsi Twist and the gourmet dessert of Snickers under the stars! Our boxer, Teddy, enjoyed not only the Vienna juice but the plastic rose as well. Our cat, Ruffian, singed his whiskers on the candle flames (but he always does that.) The map is tacked on my office wall so that I can dream about the dinner that might have been."

Ernest Lane, Chairman of SSRT, was very pleased at the turnout and response to the workshop, "The evaluations were very positive." SSRT is currently working on a Support Staff Conference and possibly an award for "Oklahoma Support Staff Person of the Year." Becoming a member of SSRT is as simple as joining the Oklahoma Library Association. For more information contact Kay Boies at kboies@coxinet.net or (405) 348-1620.

Leila Milberg

Kathryn's Korner

It seems that we're off to a great start. I have been to a lot of committee, roundtable and division meetings and am amazed at the energy and dedication you all have, not to mention your creative brilliance. I have now played the very clever Local Arrangements version of The Price is Right, enjoyed the amazing antics of Bob the Builder at the Program Committee meetings and listened to thousands of fascinating thoughts and ideas. The Oklahoma Library Association's power and talent as a community of librarians, friends, trustees and library staff working together is incredible.

In fact it is your collective work as a library community that gave me the 2003 OLA Conference theme, Building Library Communities. Not only do all of you live your passion for building library communities within our own organization, but you exhibit that passion as you work with your students, patrons, clients, colleagues and local communities. Please take a minute to check out the new logo in color at www.oklibs.org.

The year has begun with several great events including the Celebrating the Web Mini-Conference and the Way Cool YA Programming workshop. The mini-conference format brought a diverse group of librarians together for a great learning experience and also afforded them the opportunity for professional conversation, camaraderie and fun. The Way Cool YA Programming workshop brought together school and public librarians in a unique forum to explore how to meet the needs of today's teens. Hats off to the planning committees of these two events!

Watch the OLA website, www.oklibs.org, for upcoming workshop events. You will find them on the opening page, as well as at the Workshop link. Also look for information on upcoming regional meetings throughout the state. Several of these meetings have been scheduled by the Navigating the Future Ad-Hoc Committee for the coming months.

Keep your eyes on the OLA website for upcoming conference information. Put the OLA Conference on your calendar now-March 26-28, 2003 in OKC. The OLA Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee have a lot of surprises in store for you!

Building Library Communities - Attendance at your OLA workshops and your OLA Annual Conference is the perfect way to build your library community! OLA in OKC in 2003!

Kathryn Lewis, OLA President
Is there a Recruitment Crisis in Librarianship?

Recruitment of professional librarians and library staff is an important challenge that demands our attention. Recruitment and retention of library employees is a high profile issue in every type of library including school libraries, public libraries, academic libraries and special libraries. Is there a recruitment crisis?

Key facts from the ALA Public Information Office indicate that recruitment is a national issue: Based on 1990 Census data, almost 58 percent of professional librarians will reach the age of 65 between 2005 and 2019. In 1998, 57 percent of professional librarians were age 45 or older (July 2000 Monthly Labor Review). Based on a 2000 survey published by Library Journal, 40 percent of library directors said they would retire in nine years or less.

Many national library associations as well as the Institute of Museum and Library Services are bringing attention to the recruitment crisis by developing national agendas, establishing task forces, and presenting white papers.

- "Where Have all the Public Librarians Gone – Strategies for Recruiting and Retaining Them," March 2002. www.pla.org/conference/pla@ala02.html
- American Association of School Librarians: School Librarianship as a Career http://www.ala.org/aasl/resources/career.html
- Association for Library Service to Children and Young Adult Library Services Association: Become a Librarian who serves Children and Young Adults http://www.ala.org/hrdr/youth_recruit.html

What is happening in Oklahoma about the recruiting crisis? The Navigating the Information Future (NIF) Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Sharon Saulmon continues to forge new projects planning for ways to assist members to recruit library staff and librarians for all types of libraries. The NIF Ad Hoc Committee is planning:
- Regular meetings are being scheduled to help librarians become aware of the need to recruit library staff and develop strategies to increase the awareness of librarianship as a career option for young people. Please plan to attend a regional meeting when you receive an invitation in your area.
- Conference scholarships for people of color are being explored.
- Publicity on librarianship is being planned on local cable channels.
- An advocacy workshop is planned to encourage librarians, library staff, and library trustees to become active recruiting advocates for the profession.
- Job Shadow Day -- plan a Job Shadow Day at your library around February 1 to help others become aware of the exciting world of librarianship. Information available at: http://www.ala.org/acrl/jobshadowday.html.
- Planning conference programs, including featured speaker, Claudia Sumsler, chair of ALA’s Recruitment Task Force.

Contact Sharon Saulmon at ssaulmon@rose.edu for more information about how you can become an advocate for recruiting librarians and library staff.
Debra Engel
OASLMS Honors Excellence at Encyclo-Media XXII

September is always a busy and exciting time for school library media specialists. Part of that excitement comes from the opportunity to attend Oklahoma’s premier educational conference, Encyclo-Media. Organized by the Oklahoma State Department of Education, this annual conference offers a rare opportunity to learn, share and grow professionally. Encyclo-Media is also the event at which OASLMS, the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists, takes the opportunity to recognize outstanding school librarians, administrators and teachers with three of its four annual awards.

The Polly Clarke Award
The Polly Clarke Award is presented each year to one exemplary school library media specialist. There were two excellent nominees for the 2002 Polly Clarke Award. Betty Proneke is Head Library Media Specialist at Ponca City Senior High School. Betty has over thirty years experience in school libraries. A colleague stated that Betty “creates a library media center that is the heart of the school.” The second nominee, Jeanne Bishop, is Library Media Specialist at Hilldale Elementary School in Putnam City. Her principal, Vivian Johnson-Grigsby, describes Jeanne as someone who does much more than encourage reading and appreciation of literature. “She inspires! She is a decisive element in our school.”

To qualify for the Polly Clarke Award, nominees must demonstrate their professional involvement as well as their ability to work effectively and creatively with staff and students. They provide evidence that they have developed well-balanced library media programs that support teaching, learning and student achievement.

Linda Gann, Jenks East Elementary School Librarian and last year’s winner of the Polly Clarke Award, had the honor of presenting Jeanne Bishop with this year’s award in front of a crowd of over 450 during the OASLMS Luncheon. For many years, the Follett Corporation has sponsored the award. They presented Jeanne with a $300 check, honoring her as the 16th winner of the Polly Clarke Award. This is not the first award Jeanne has received in her career as a school library media specialist. Jeanne was honored as 2001-2001 Teacher of the Year at Hilldale.

Barbara Spietersbach Award for Excellence in Teaching
Library media specialists rarely work in isolation. A big part of their job is planning collaboratively with teachers to develop effective learning experiences for students. The Barbara Spietersbach Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented annually to a teacher who develops resource based teaching units by cooperatively planning and teaching with a library media specialist. The award is given in honor of Barbara Spietersbach, former Director of the Library Media Section of the State Department of Education. Her vision and leadership was invaluable in creating and enhancing school library programs throughout the state. Nominations for the award are made by library media specialists who seek to acknowledge and honor the teachers with whom they work.

There were two nominees this year. Connie Wise nominated Cheryl Lucas, third grade teacher at Horace Mann Elementary in Woodward. Connie describes Cheryl as, “a truly compassionate, innovative teacher who demonstrates the value of the media center program.”

Rachel McDaniel, librarian at James L. Dennis Elementary in Putnam City, nominated a team of 4th grade social studies teachers, Randy Ut and Shera Steinhoff. Rachel said of the team, “They are leaders in our building who go the extra mile to incorporate the media specialist and all other specialists as well.” You’ll find their students “digging for fossils in the media center, performing as famous Oklahomans, singing songs, creating multi-media presentations” and more.

Jayme Seat, OASLMS Chair presented the 2002 Barbara Spietersbach Award to Randy Ut and Shera Steinhoff at the Encyclomedia XXII general session. Kyle and Kenneth Brown, Oklahoma’s Perma-Bound Books representatives, sponsored the Spietersbach Award this year for the first time. They presented Randy and Shera each with a $150 check and Perma-Bound gift certificates.

OASLMS Certificate of Merit Award
Behind every successful school library program is a supportive administrator, principal, or superintendent who helps make things happen. OASLMS annually presents a Certificate of Merit for the Promotion of School Library Media Services award to an Oklahoma school administrator who has been supportive and instrumental in establishing or improving the scope and quality of library media services. Nominees for 2002
were David Risinger from Putnam City and DeAnn Davis of Oklahoma City. Kay Childers, library media specialist at Sequoyah Elementary School, nominated her principal, DeAnn Davis. Kay credits DeAnn with increasing library staff from half time to full time, providing extra funds for automation, books, and resources, creating a totally flexible library schedule, and leading the way to changing Sequoyah into an “information-powered school.” Last year DeAnn hosted a teacher book club and even dressed up as Clifford the Big Red Dog to promote reading on one of the hottest days of year.

David Risinger, principal of Mayfield Middle School, was nominated by library media specialist Regina Hartley. David provided additional funding for books and also for innovative like PDAs learning his David library should be hub of any committed funding to happen. Jayme Seat presented OASLMS Certificate of Merit Award to DeAnn Davis, citing tireless, ten-year efforts and successes in improving the library media program at Sequoyah Elementary School.

Nominations sought for state library awards

Each year judges for the OASLMS Awards have the pleasure of reading the applications of outstanding teachers, administrators, and library media specialists. Selecting just one winner is a difficult process. Each nominee has earned the respect and recognition of his or her colleagues. If you work with an exemplary teacher, administrator, or school librarian, consider nominating him or her this spring. Application forms are available from the Library Media Section of the State Department of Education and from the OLA web page, www.oklibs.org. The application deadline is July 1st, 2003.

OASLMS also presents a Technology in Education Award annually at the OLA Conference. This award is presented to a building level library media specialist who practices the integration of technology into the curriculum through collaborative planning and teaching. Those applications are due February 1st. Start planning now.

Ellen Duecker

Call for Papers

Libraries, Archives, Museums and Popular Culture Area of Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Assn. & the Southwest/Texas American Culture Assn.
24th Annual Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
February 12-15, 2003

For more details, visit the Association's web site at http://www.swtexascpa.org/

The Libraries, Archives, Museums and Popular Culture area solicits paper proposals from librarians, graduate students, library school faculty, collectors, writers, and other aficionados (yes! including people who use libraries, archives, and museums!) of popular culture and information settings of all types! Also welcome are proposals for slide shows, video presentations, workshop formats, and panels organized around common themes. Among last year's presentations were a cultural study of a small public library, an overview of collection development for feminist spirituality, and consideration of Gone with the Wind as an information product.

Suggested topics:
- discussion of intellectual freedom issues related to popular culture resources
- profiles of popular culture collections
- book clubs and reading groups
- reports of research studies of popular culture & libraries, archives, or museums
- marketing popular culture materials to library, archives, or museum users
- collection building and popular culture resources
- organization and description of popular culture resources
- new media formats and popular culture in libraries, archives, or museums
- and other topics welcome!!

Send a 200-word abstract to the Area Co-Chairs by December 1, 2002. Also include your complete mailing address, school or other affiliation, e-mail address, telephone number, and fax number.

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“The White House Conference on School Libraries and What YOU Can Do”

It was a typical mid-May afternoon in Roshoft High School media center as staff and students were preparing for the final weeks of school. “Helen, are you sitting down?” With these opening words, Julie Walker, Executive Director of AASL, went on to inform me that First Lady Laura Bush was having a conference on school libraries at the White House, and we would be invited. I would attend as the President of AASL, and Julie was invited as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Laura Bush Foundation for Libraries.

The next week, I found a cream colored envelope in my mailbox with “White House” imprinted in gold on the return address. The envelope was addressed to me in perfect calligraphy with extra flourishes at the bottom. It was an invitation to attend the White House Conference on School Libraries on June 4 from 8 until noon.

On June 3, I flew to Washington, D.C. My hotel was in the Embassy Row section of the city and very elegant. After breakfast on June 4, it was quite exciting to tell a cabdriver to take me to the White House. I was wearing a new raspberry knit suit with white and black accents. While shopping with my aunt had said, “You won’t fade into the background wearing that suit!”

The cab driver dropped me off at the gate to the east entrance of the White House. The guard told several of us that visitors now needed to enter at different gate. As we moved to the correct entrance, I found that one of my companions was a vice president at Time Warner-AOL. We soon reached the proper entrance and joined the line of other attendees. With the exception of Julie Walker and Barbara Stripling, I recognized no one else. Later, I learned that Mrs. Bush had invited education, library, government, and philanthropic leaders from across the country.

At exactly 8 a.m., a guard began checking off names and sending attendees into the security screening area of the White House. All purses, briefcases, and cameras were screened, and each person walked through a security archway. Next we were ushered through a red-carpeted corridor and upstairs to the state dining room. There we were served coffee, juice, light pastries and fruit.

Within a few minutes, Emily Shékatoff, a lobbyist for the American Library Association Washington Office, approached me to meet Representative Ralph Regula. I had selected Republican from Ohio and Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services & Education to be the recipient of the AASL President’s Crystal Apple. Representative Regula was very deserving for his efforts on behalf of school libraries. When the Literacy Through School Libraries legislation was passed in December 2001, the Senate appropriations bill included $12.5 million for the School Libraries law, but there was no funding in the House bill. An avowed library supporter, Representative Regula and his committee funded the House school

library line item at $12.5 million. Although legislation on school libraries had passed previously, it had never been funded.

As it neared nine o’clock, young military officers began “herding” conference participants toward the East Room. On television and in photographs, this historic room appears huge, yet in reality it was a long somewhat narrow room with six rows of chairs across the back and a podium in the front. At exactly nine o’clock Mrs. Laura Bush, wearing trim salmon-colored suit, entered the room and mounted the dais. Already seated were honored guests former First Lady Barbara Bush, Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator Arlen Spector, and Representative Ralph Regula.

Mrs. Bush welcomed everyone and spoke of the importance of libraries to children. “School libraries help teachers teach and children learn,” noted Mrs. Bush, a former teacher and librarian. “Children and teachers need library resources – especially books – and the expertise of a librarian to succeed. Books, information technology, and school librarians who are part of the schools’ professional team are basic ingredients for student achievement.” Her complete remarks and those of other speakers may be found on the Institute of Museum and Library Services Web site at http://www.imls.gov/pubs/whitehouse0602/whitehouse.htm

The morning’s speakers in order of their presentations were: Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of the Carnegie Corporation and former President of Brown University and the New York Public Library, who spoke about the central role of libraries in literacy, reading and education through the ages. Next, Susan Neuman, the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, described her research on the critical importance of children’s access to books and the role of school libraries and school librarians in education. Dr. Keith Curry Lance, Director of Library Research Service, State Library and Adult Education Office of the Colorado Department of Education, articulated his research establishing the link between school libraries and student achievement.

There was a short break in the conference proceedings while all participants exited to a balcony overlooking the back lawn of the White House. We watched and waved as President Bush came striding across the lawn and entered his helicopter. During that time, I had an opportunity to shake hands with Barbara Bush and obtain her autograph.

When the program continued, Dr. Gary Hartzell, Professor of Educational Administration and Supervision, University of Nebraska, was one of the most entertaining speakers. He asked why administrators had not heard of or acted upon Dr. Lance’s research. A group of five school administrators from across country spoke on the difference quality school librarians and qualified, dedicated media specialists had made in their districts.
Affiliate Assembly met during the American Library Association Annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Assembly was held Friday June 14th, 2002, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m and Sunday June 17th, 2002, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Region 6 had representatives from Oklahoma, Texas, and for the first time in a long time New Mexico.

Highlights from the meeting follow:

- Hilda Wisenberg, Chair has taken measures to restructure the format of the meetings to better utilize time. She and the incoming Chair completed a self-study about Affiliate Assembly asking 5 members to reflect on a series of questions about assembly. I participated in the survey and the analysis, which was completed in Atlanta. The survey suggestions will be incorporated into future meetings.

- During the first Affiliate Assembly, Friday evening, each region met to discuss three key points and the affect they had in our state. The key points were: 1) Recruitment and certification; 2) State Standards; and 3) Big concerns or hot issues.

Oklahoma report: Recruitment continues to be an issue and that the OLA President has given recruitment as a charge for all divisions. Certification: Our concern with certification is that so many schools and districts are being forced to deregulate so LMS’s can be placed in schools within a short time frame. We were pleased to report that Oklahoma has three new higher education certification programs to train LMS. They are NCATE accredited but not ALA. Standards: A committee has been formed to integrate curriculum standards and information literacy standards. Concerns/Hot issues: Money and the budget crunch, CIPA, Recruitment

- On Sunday during the second Affiliate Assembly, each region reported the results of Friday evening’s discussion. We also had reports from various representatives about the following:
  - White House Conference on School Libraries—This conference was held in Washington D.C. and was successful in bringing attention to school libraries. Laura Bush opened and closed the conference speaking about the importance of school libraries and funding for those libraries. Other speakers at the conference included Keith Curry Lance, Gary Hartzell, five different school administrators speaking about the value of quality library programs, and the President of the DeWitt Wallace Foundation speaking about what research has shown as a result of the Library Power Grants. The primary thrust of the conference was administering the information.
  - AASL website
    - The Advocacy toolkit has invaluable information! Use the resources there, speak to administrators, and “toot your horn” about your library. (Refer to letter written by Helen Adams included in this newsletter.)
  - A report was presented about the No Child Left Behind applications. It was stressed that the qualifications were based on poverty rate rather than free and reduced lunch count. Oklahoma State Department of Education has a record of school districts that qualify in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma presented one Statement of Concern and two Statements of Commendations. The Statement of Commendations are for recognition of the Statewide Databases and for Encyclo-Media. The statement of concern is for Library Media Specialists being recognized as “teachers” and was well received but some of the language was changed slightly. The final statement read: “AASL will develop a position statement that certified Library Media Specialists are teachers and should have all the privileges of teachers, including recognition as teacher of the year and other teacher awards.” The statement will be forwarded to sponsoring agencies of teacher award programs at the state and national level.

Call for program proposals for AASL Kansas City, 2003. They are due September 15th, 2002. Applications can be found at http://www.alawl.org/aasl/kc/proposals.html

Buffy Edwards, Affiliate Delegate

Lastly Christine DeVita, President, DeWitt Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund, spoke about the role of philanthropy in enhancing school libraries.

The morning slipped by very quickly, and Mrs. Bush closed the conference with these words, "A good library launches young children on a journey of exploration and discovery, teaching them how to ask questions and find answers. And the wonderful thing is that once you learn to use a library, the doors to learning are open to you throughout your life."

In the span of three hours, the White House Conference on School Libraries became history. Mrs. Bush gave us a golden opportunity; and it is now up to the library media specialists of the country to capitalize on it. We can either say school libraries had their fifteen minutes of fame or undertake actions individually and as an organization to make the nationally spotlighted

message - school libraries AND library media specialists are vital in student achievement – a resounding one across Wisconsin.

Here’s something OASLMS members can do! You can each write a letter to your local newspaper citing the link between student achievement and well stocked, staffed, and funded school libraries. School library media specialists can “paper the state” with letters about the value of school libraries. For ideas, check out the sample letter by LaCrosse [Wisconsin] elementary media specialist, Catherine Beyers, posted on the AASL website under AASL Advocacy Toolkit at http://www.alawl.org/aasl/advocacy/index.html.

Helen Adams,
AASL Past President
Opposing Viewpoints:
Fines in Oklahoma Academic Libraries

The Problem and Its Setting: At Cameron University, we charge an overdue fine of $.05 a day per item. We must train and trust our student assistants to collect fines. Two staff members have to count the money each morning and reconcile it with the cash register tape. However, the library does not get the money! The other half of the problem is that $.05 per day is not enough to motivate students to return books on time.

Methodology: First I gathered as much information as possible regarding circulation policies from each library's web site. Next I had some wonderful telephone conversations with my colleagues across the state to gather more information.

Currently: 11 libraries do not charge fines or only charge for flagrant abuses or special categories of items. 12 libraries would consider not charging fines if administration would concede. Therefore, 23 out of 34 (68%) of libraries surveyed view fines as more trouble than they are worth.

Reasons to Charge Fines: Of course, as my survey revealed, every library that is allowed to keep fine money wants to keep charging fines. However, only one library that sends its fine money to the "black hole" wants to keep charging fines. 5 libraries stated that fines are needed as leverage to get materials returned faster.

Arguments for NOT Charging Fines: If the money has to be collected in the library, the accounting, paperwork, and worker training are a nightmare (otherwise known as "auditor fright"). Oklahoma librarians follow the normal curve regarding going fine-less. The libraries that have to collect the money in the library are more likely to want to go fine-less. Even libraries that are fine-less mentioned that these factors keep them from charging fines. The money goes into the "black hole". 15 of the libraries that charge fines have this happen to them. Fine rates are not high enough to encourage students to bring materials back on time.

Fines are bad for public relations. Students are more inclined to bring items back--eventually. The all powerful, all mighty leverage the academic library has to ensure that materials are returned or paid for is the Library Hold line on the students' campus administrative accounts.

Fine Rates per Day for Regularly Circulating Books:
7 libraries charge $.05; 11 libraries charge $.10; 2 libraries charge $.15; and 2 libraries charge $.25.

Suggestions for Further Research: Further discussion and planning is needed among libraries that would consider eliminating or restructuring their fines practices. Various models could be tried at different colleges, and librarians could share their experiences with the different methods.

Sherry Young

Patron Behavior Policy: Punishing the Homeless or Taking Back our Libraries?

What's your definition of a problem patron: eccentric dress, boisterous, disruptive, indigent, homeless, mentally disturbed, belligerent, filthy clothing, sleeping, odorous, too old, too young and alone? What is our responsibility to these patrons, and what is our responsibility to the patrons who share space with them?

There are plenty of Oklahoma libraries with patrons who visit the library for reasons besides obtaining information. But should librarians make blanket assumptions about all "unusual" people in the library? This is a difficult issue involving intellectual freedom, which ALA has not directly addressed with a policy statement to this day, despite considerable discussion beginning in the 1980's. Libraries are places that are open nights and weekends, which attracts all kinds of people with no place to go. What is a front-line librarian to do?

Some libraries have formulated "patron behavior policies," which spell out, with varying degrees of specificity, what is acceptable patron behavior. The Stillwater Public Library, for instance, publishes its "Policy on Personal Conduct" on its website (http://www.stillwater.lib.ok.us). The policy concentrates on behaviors, and avoids punishing patrons for their physical appearance alone. It covers dangerous and illegal behaviors as well as such things as sleeping, or bringing in bedrolls or suitcases, or bathing, shaving or washing clothing in the restrooms. It prohibits soliciting.

The good thing about having a policy in place is that it gives guidelines to library personnel, who are confronted with situations when no security personnel are available to help. But is a written policy sufficient?

Not many people in our society have had much personal interaction with the mentally ill, whose behavior can range from harmless and quiet to noisy to violent. In libraries where de-institutionalized patrons and the homeless mentally ill are frequent visitors, in-service training for library personnel can provide perspective and allay fears as well as give practical advice for assessing a patron's condition and deciding how to respond.

Knowledge is power, and a well-informed staff can avoid discriminating against patrons with legitimate information needs, or sometimes provide service to someone who needs it, while knowing when to call for help.

For more on this topic, be sure to look for the Ethics Committee session on dealing with disturbed/homeless patrons at the OLA Annual Conference in March.

Michele Seikel-Ethics Committee
TCCL's Anne V. Zarrow Award and Richard Peck

"As a boy, I had three dreams: I dreamed of being a writer; I dreamed of living in a place I had never set eyes on; and I dreamed of going everywhere and meeting everybody. I got it all because I am a writer," said Richard Peck, winner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2002 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature.

More than 400 fans honored Peck as he received the Zarrow award at Central Library on August 23 as a part of Tulsa City-County Library's summer reading program. The following day, Peck taught youths how to write creatively, and give life to words and voices to characters at the awards ceremony for winners of the library's 2002 Young People's Creative Writing Contest.

"Mr. Peck is a great inspiration to all young people around the world," said sixth grader Meme Bourgeois who presented the Zarrow award to Peck. "I look up to Mr. Peck because he believes in himself and I admire that."

The Zarrow award consists of a $5,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal book. Inaugurated in 1991, the award is given annually to a nationally acclaimed author who has made a significant contribution to the field of literature for children and young adults.

"Richard Peck is delightfully complex," said Terry Detrich, who chaired the Zarrow award committee, made up of 15 community volunteers. "He is articulate, observant, funny and has a memory that thrives on every detail. It is no doubt that these gifts serve him well as he molds and shapes the elements of his stories."

For the past 30 years, Peck has used these gifts to educate, entertain and encourage our nation's young through his coming-of-age novels and mysteries.

"I want young people to know that only readers have futures, and that in a book you can go anywhere and be anybody," said Peck at the Zarrow award presentation. "There come moments in time when books are there for you and no one else is. So you better be able to read."

Richard Peck signed books and visited with fans for more than two hours after the Zarrow award presentation.

Author of the Newbery Honor Book, "A Long Way From Chicago," and its Newbery-winning sequel, "A Year Down Yonder."

Library Humor Wanted

Do you have library-related cartoons taped to your desk or posted on your bulletin board? Is there a favorite library humor web page that you monitor regularly – or favorite humorous books or articles? Jeanette Smith of the New Mexico State University Library is collecting library humor for a research project. She would appreciate it if you would send her your favorites pieces of library humor from inside or outside the profession, from the popular or professional literature.

She may be contacted by email at jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu, or mail material to P.O. Box 3352, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003.
PROJECT: S.O.A.R. (Students On-line and Reading)
"Improving Literacy Through School Libraries" Grant

Western Heights School District has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for $178,000. The "Improving Literacy Through School Libraries" grant was written by Dr. Jo Anne Hope, Western Heights Middle School media specialist; Bonnie Wood, Gifted and Talented teacher; Carla Hartsfield, Western Heights High School media assistant, Cindy Littlefield, John Glenn Elementary media specialist; Karl Dowell, Western Heights High School media specialist, Jennifer Dean, Winds Wests Elementary media specialist; Terri Story, Council Grove and Greenvale Elementary media specialist and Dianne Pridgen, Western Heights curriculum director. The literacy grant, entitled PROJECT: S.O.A.R. (Students On-Line and Reading), major purpose is to better equip the student population with skills to serve them not only in their academic endeavors, but also in their lives as productive members of society. The method of accomplishing this goal is to improve student literacy skills at each grade level and improve academic achievement across the district.

A focus on collaboration among the library media specialist and classroom teachers to integrate literacy skills into all areas of the curriculum will be the center of PROJECT: S.O.A.R. Teachers district-wide will be trained in peer coaching using the Reading Success Network, developing Literacy Profiles, using Dreamweaver software, and implementing the Big6 research skills model.

Print collection acquisitions will replace outdated materials. At each elementary site, resources will be chosen to increase students' early literacy skills and reading fluency. The middle and high school will update their print collections with an emphasis in the areas of science and social studies. In addition, the fiction collection at all locations will be updated to stimulate reading enjoyment.

Library media specialists and their staffs will be trained in the creation and maintenance of a library web page. The web page will facilitate access for students to resources, lessons, assignments and materials developed by teachers. Classroom activities will be planned and implemented to reinforce the use of the web page and database resources. This tool will also give parents the opportunity to access student’s resources to help in the completion of learning projects.

Hours will be extended on a regular basis at each school with the library media specialist supervising literacy programs such as parent-child reading time, author visits, book discussions, and on-line activities. Other activities will include research and tutorial help, as well as assistance with college applications and resumes.

PROJECT S.O.A.R. will provide a vital link between Western Heights Schools, families, and the community. The impact of this grant will help all students grow in their literacy and information problem solving skills as well as using today's technology to the best advantage.

Jo Anne Hope

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Information Power: The Nine Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning

**Information Literacy:**

**Standard 1** – The student who is information literate accesses information efficiently and effectively.

**Standard 2** – The student who is information literate evaluates information critically and competently.

**Standard 3** – The student who is information literate uses information accurately and creatively.

**Independent Learning:**

**Standard 4** – The student who is an independent learner is information literate and pursues information related to personal interests.

**Standard 5** – The student who is an independent learner is information literate and appreciates literature and other creative expressions of information.

**Standard 6** – The student who is an independent learner is information literate and strives for excellence in information seeking and knowledge generation.

**Social Responsibility:**

**Standard 7** – The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and recognizes the importance of information to a democratic society.

**Standard 8** – The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and practices ethical behavior in regard to information and information technology.

**Standard 9** – The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and participates effectively in groups to pursue and generate information.

Excerpt from Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning, American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association, and the Association of Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), 1998. The standards are grouped in competency areas for students in K-12.
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Navigating Scholarships

Continue a tradition of giving to the OLA Navigating the Information Future Ad Hoc Committee Annual Conference Scholarship Fund.

Last year fifteen librarians and library staff from under-represented groups were given scholarships to attend annual conference and secure a conference fee waiver.

The scholarships were in part funded by a grant from the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), a division of ALA, and dedicated librarians from around the state who provided additional assistance so that all who had applied were able to attend.

The Navigating the Information Future Ad Hoc Committee would like to continue this tradition and provide people in under-represented groups who have an interest in librarianship as a career to attend the conference and find out more about libraries and librarians. Your assistance is needed. Sponsor a scholarship at $100 or contribute toward a scholarship in any amount. Make your check payable to the Oklahoma Library Association and mail to Kay Boies, OLA, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013.

Mea Culpa, Mea Culpa

In the July/August issue of the Oklahoma Librarian the lead article on the OLA Leadership Retreat referred to the Noble Foundation Research Center Library. Neither the words “research” nor “center” are part of the library’s name. The correct name of the library is simply “Library or Library Services.” The proper name of the foundation is the Sam Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc. or, as it is often referred to, “The Noble Foundation.” Our apologies to the Foundation and its library and staff.

Pat Williams, editor

OLA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Oklahoma Library Association welcomes applications from current OLA members for graduate study in library and information studies. The scholarship has been established to assist a promising person to enter the library profession, or to advance in the profession by undertaking a course of study in a formal degree or certification program. Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:
1. Must be an Oklahoma resident.
2. Must be a current member in good standing of the Oklahoma Library Association.
3. Must hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
4. Must intend to engage in a formal course of graduate study in an accredited institution of higher education in Oklahoma, with a goal of librarianship as a profession, that will result in a degree or certification.
5. Must submit a formal application for consideration by the OLA Scholarship Committee.
6. Must submit transcripts to all undergraduate and graduate studies completed to date.
7. A personal interview with the Scholarship committee may be required.

Currently enrolled students are eligible if they have completed less than 18 hours of graduate study.

Other scholarships and grant opportunities are also available in Oklahoma including a Future Teachers Scholarship offered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Information is available on the OLA website or from Francine J. Fisk, Chair of the Scholarship Committee. The deadline for applications is February 22, 2003. We encourage all interested parties to apply!

Francine J. Fisk, Chair
OLA Scholarship Committee
francine-fisk@utulsa.edu
(918) 631-2495

Scholarship Application Form:
<http://www.oklibs.org/forms/scholarshipapp.html>