First-Timer's First Impressions

After receiving a welcome packet while standing in line to sign into the OLA annual conference, I felt excited at the possibilities that were before me. When I heard the woman who was passing out the packets, ask the guy behind me if he was attending the Math conference, I realized one vital mistake I had made. I was in the wrong line, for the wrong conference. I know I would not have enjoyed the Math conference, for which I had almost signed up, as much as I enjoyed the OLA conference. Lucky for me, even though I felt lost and alone, I found a wonderful lady attending the OLA conference. With a smile, she kindly directed me to the correct registration booth.

As a student in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma, I decided I should get involved and attend the OLA annual conference. I had recently started going to meetings of the Social Responsibilities Round Table and enjoyed meeting everyone there and wanted to broaden my horizons a little more. I was not disappointed. From the moment I attended the opening general session, I felt a part of something much larger than myself. I felt like I belonged.

I came by myself and I was worried that I would only talk to people I already knew, that I would not meet anyone. My worries were unfounded. I met so many wonderful and friendly people at the conference. I had the chance to talk about the future of the field with Anne Prestamo. With another librarian, I discussed using coffee to entice older men into small town libraries. I even spoke with an EBSCO vendor.

The sessions were informative and fun. I especially enjoyed going to the Table Talks, where everybody was welcome to put in his or her “two-cents worth”. I came back to school even more excited about the profession I was joining. I would like to thank everyone for making my first OLA conference such a wonderful experience. I would also like to thank the first OLA conference attendee I met, the nice lady who pointed me in the right direction. Without her, who knows what sort of algebraic or (gasp!) calculus problems I would have been made to solve. I believe this woman exemplified the “ambience” of the whole event. Thank you!

Kristie Ames
endowment to create a permanent home for OLA and a lasting endowment to continue the work of our organization. The Leadership Ad-Hoc Committee was established and is hard at work identifying and preparing to implement leadership opportunities for library staffs in Oklahoma. The Legislative Committee held a highly successful Legislative Day on March 11th for OLA members from around the state. The Membership Committee and the Navigating the Information Future Committee traveled many miles throughout state signing up new members at Library School Receptions and Regional Meetings. This year OLA committees, roundtables and divisions sponsored seven workshops and the annual conference.

_What a conference!!_ The 96th Annual OLA Conference, _Building Library Communities_, left all of us with ways to build our own library communities and networks to navigate through the coming years. OLA broke an attendance record at this conference with 649 registered participants!!! I want to thank the Program Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee for ‘constructing’ the _Building Library Communities_ conference. These committees gave their time, their talent, their all to make this an incredible event. This year’s conference provided extraordinary programming and tremendous fun. There were outstanding speakers and excellent exhibits. One new conference event that was a big hit was the Wednesday Night Dine-Around. I ate Italian with fourteen other librarians, many of whom I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time. Other members who visited other restaurants had similar experiences. Dr. Mitch Freedman, ALA President, opened the conference with two important speeches, one on higher salaries and pay equity and one about the freedoms of Americans. Attendees actually got to build their own library communities and listen to an awesome concert by Edgar Cruz at the Thursday Night All Conference Event. I was dazzled by the creativity of all the groups—I am ready to visit the Venice Floating library on the canals!! After passing the gavel to your in-coming

President, Anne Prestamo, Dr. John Lienhard presented an eloquent and commanding address at the culminating event of the conference, the Friday Night Banquet. Again hats off to the incredible work of the Program Committee and the local Arrangements Committee!

Special thanks to Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, who gives her all for our organization and who is my friend and mentor.

In parting and looking to the future, I would like to refer you to a keynote speech by Dr. Vartan Gregorian of the Carnegie Corporation that was delivered at Laura Bush’s White House Conference on School Libraries. Although the speech was given at a conference on school libraries, I believe it speaks to what we all believe in. I hope you will find Dr. Gregorian’s message as important as I did. It is available at http://www.imls.gov/pubs/whitehouse0602/gregorian.htm.

Thank you all for making this an unforgettable year. When I look at my fellow OLA colleagues, I am awed by the power, the generosity and the goodness of the human spirit, if you will, our library spirit. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

_Keep building your library communities, _
_Kathryn Roots Lewis_
_2002-2003 OLA President_
The following articles on conference only reflect a few of the great sessions this year. This issue is mostly pictures. But not near all the pictures taken. You can see all of them by going to OLA's website at www.oklibs.org to look over the ones I just didn't have space to include. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles and to Charles Brooks, Cindy Stevens and Marla Roberson for all the wonderful pictures. One picture does speak a thousand words.

I hope you had an opportunity to go to conference and experience what the pictures show. Enjoy this issue. See you in Tulsa next year!
Feng Shui your library

Feng Shui has been a "hot" topic the last few years. Some interior designers tout it as the most important way to decorate.

Feng Shui originated in the orient following the principles of "ying-yang"—balance and harmony. It is not just a way of "decorating", but a way of "arranging" objects in your life to enhance aspects of your life that you want enhanced. Feng Shui is: destiny, luck, Feng Shui (placement), virtue, and oneself. The elements are Fire, red, fame; Wood, green, family relationships; Metal, gray, wealth; Water, purple, career; Earth, yellow, intellect. Or, as Carolyn Warner of OSU, said, it is basically common sense.

Annie Busch, Director of the Springfield-Green County Library District (Mo.) next spoke about their new libraries. Her district has recently completed a main library south of Springfield. She explained how they bought an old Payless-Cashways store and turned it into an inviting library that is truly a community center. Their architect used a lot of flowing lines, plants, and colors that are appealing to the senses. Go to http://www.thelibrary.springfield.missouri.org/about/hours.htm and www.durkan.com/collectmerit.htm for a few pictures.

The next speaker was Sherry Young of Cameron University. She began by pointing out that libraries have all the elements of Feng Shui. We have wood: chairs, tables, etc. We have metal: steel, security gates, etc. We have water: mold, mildew, etc. We have earth: paper, dust, dirt, etc. And we have fire: but hopefully not too often. After that humorous beginning, she discussed the principles and use of Feng Shui in a more serious vein.

Carolyn Hust, Technical Services Librarian, Rose State College, discussed how she and some of her staff re-arranged an L-shaped space to create a more open feeling than before. The new arrangement also created a better workflow. After watching a Feng Shui video, she decided to add a few Feng Shui elements such as placement of the mirror, plant, and a small reflective orb. She won't swear that these last elements are responsible for the improved atmosphere, but won't knock it either.

BJ Vinson
SRRT sponsors poetry reading at the OLA conference

Again this year the Social Responsibilities Round Table sponsored their annual poetry reading at the OLA conference. We were fortunate to have a wonderful venue at the Individual Artists of Oklahoma gallery. An additional treat was the art being featured at the gallery, which came from the children of "Positive Tomorrows". This worthy organization received the first Ruth Brown award in 1998, so this was a happy coincidence.

We listened to poetry from two very talented poets, Carol Davis Koss and Carl Sennhenn. Carol is an English teacher at Bishop McGuiness High School and the coordinator of poetry for the IAO. Carl Sennhenn teaches English at Rose State College and is our Oklahoma Poet Laureate. We were very fortunate to have the talents of these two wonderful poets. Unfortunately our third poet, Charles Levendosky, was unable to join us.

A good-sized group was in attendance. A mixture of librarians and poets made an interesting audience. There was lots of laughter and some sober moments, too. SRRT members provided a lovely table of refreshments, and there was plenty of time to talk with the poets and each other. SRRT does know how to throw a party! We were even able to collect some donations for the Ruth Brown award, which is always appreciated.

If you were unable to attend the event, let me take this opportunity to invite you next time, when we join together again in Tulsa. It is always a wonderful occasion to mix and mingle with your fellow librarians and have a little culture, too.

Vickie Dixon
Thank You...

I want to thank each and every one of you who made this such a special conference for me. Receiving the Distinguished Service Award was such a wonderful surprise, and then all of the congratulatory remarks and extended conversations afterward were so heartwarming and greatly appreciated. OLA is just filled with terrific people—bright, caring, generous, enthusiastic, dedicated people. It has been a genuine pleasure to work with all of you!

Jan Keene

P.R.E.S.S.

Oklahoma Library Service Award goes to Doris Stevenson, Broken Bow Public Library.

Kathryn Lewis and Jan Keene, Distinguished Service Award winner

Christie Hefner and fellow builders interrupt the proceedings.
Collecting Local History in Your Library

With the upcoming Oklahoma state's centennial in 2007, many individuals, libraries, museums, and historical societies are gearing up.

Debra Osborne Spindle of the Metropolitan Library System, Sandra Hamilton of Alva Public Library, and William D. Welge of the Oklahoma Historical Society discussed what libraries could do to collect and preserve history.

Some historical collections begin with what has been inherited from the past (what was in the library when you arrived). These create the need for POLICIES (where have we heard that word before?) Policies, of course, help focus on what an institution of any size can accumulate and what must be forwarded to another institution for preservation. Debra suggests “think small”, then begin perusing the local newspapers, scour circulating items, look for out-of-print histories and genealogy of local residents, identify who is interested in local history such as researchers, beef-up the vertical file, collect and catalog photos, programs, scrapbooks, etc.

Some building blocks are school yearbooks, local government documents, newspapers, programs, photographs, oral histories, and books on local history and/or by local authors.

Part of the Oklahoma Historical Society's mandate is to document today's events for tomorrow's history, as well as, preserve as much of Oklahoma's past as possible. OHS began in 1893. They have 90% of Oklahoma-published newspapers. William Welge said that the shelf-life of digitized items is estimated at 25 years, and microfilm at 500 years. "Estimated" because no one knows yet how long they will survive. The OHS does have microfilming capabilities and will do projects for other institutions also. He went on to discuss what is, and is not, in their collection.

Sandra completed the session by re-emphasizing that we need to know what we want to collect, and that an historical collection is not genealogy-based even though it should contain information about people who have helped shape history. Of course there are always limiting factors such as finances, the time/staff to maintain the collection, and space. Sometimes a library can find volunteers who may be history/genealogy buffs to help, but they still require the time to be trained. She added to the list of items to collect: donations, phone directories, local artists, textbooks, and travel/recreation guidebooks.

BJ Vinson

Anne Masters announces door prize winners.

Jayme Seat with Read Y'All poster.

Exhibit Hall

Jan Keene and Rowdy Williams

Mitch

Pre-Function Area
**Buried Treasures in Oklahoma Libraries**

This session was the continuation of previous OLA Conference "Buried treasures". It is one, which makes a perfect permanent component of the conferences. This year the three "new" libraries spotlighted were Oklahoma City Museum of Art, History of Science collection of the University of Oklahoma Library, and Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.

The Museum of Art opened its new building in March 2002. It had previously been housed at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. The library is on the mezzanine. Christie Ballard explained that the collection has been created, and grows, through acquisitions, by donations, exchanges and purchases. It is a teacher-resource collection. It also has a feature film collection, which does not circulate. The Athena system for cataloging is uses and converted from DDC to LC. To access their on-line catalog, go to www.okcmoa.com.

Everett Degolyer was the instigator of the History of Science collection at OU. After World War II he went to Europe and bought landmark books. Most were concerning geology. He gave 129 of these books to OU on the condition that they establish a history of science program. The collection now has over 89,000 items, 53 were published before 1500, 12 are first editions by Galileo, and several bibles.

The MIRT, the research arm of the Murrah Building Bombing Memorial Museum, is presently working with the Oklahoma Science Center on anthrax research, first-responder equipment, and other projects. It is an international information center regarding terrorism. Their website is www.MIPT.org where one can find information about them, college courses, mental health work, etc.

Thank you Christie Ballard, Marilyn Ogilvie, and Brad Robison for sharing information about your treasures with us.

**OU SLIS 2003 Outstanding Alumnus Award**

Donna Morris was chosen as the recipient of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies 2003 Outstanding Alumnus Award. The award was presented March 27, 2003 at the alumni reception, held during the Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference.

Morris graduated from SLIS in 1977 and has worked in the Metropolitan Library System for over 30 years. During her 30 years as a library professional, she has served as a children's librarian, reference librarian, library manager, and deputy director. She was appointed Executive Director of the Metropolitan Library System in November 2002. Morris also has been very active in OLA, serving on and chairing several committees, as well as serving as OLA President. Morris is known as an advocate for libraries and the library profession, both locally and nationally. According to Danny Wallace, Director of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies, "In an era in which leadership programs have become common in all sectors of the economy, it is important to provide recognition to individuals whose leadership has its origins in talent, initiative, and hard work rather than formal study of leadership. Donna Morris is a true model for the leadership characteristics recognized in the OU SLIS Alum of the Year Award, which is awarded to an individual who has made an effective and innovative contribution to the library profession. Her career spans the range of library employment experiences from clerk in a public library branch to director of a major public library system. She joins a distinguished list of Alums of the Year, all of whom are, like Donna Morris, noteworthy library leaders. Although the award is conferred in conjunction with a single year, the contributions of librarians like Donna Morris are long-standing and enduring and will benefit libraries and the communities they serve far into the future."

Morris said, "I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the OUSLIS alumni association for this honor. My studies at the library school established the foundation for my career. I was lucky enough to have excellent faculty to learn from and wonderful fellow students. It was also fun as the OU football team won 2 national championships while I was in library school - loved those student tickets!"

Cindy Pollard
Ed Johnson accepts the Library Champion Award on behalf of State Senator Mike Morgan.


Dr. Haynes receives her retirement gift.

Donna Morris accepts the Outstanding Alum Award, presented by Debra Spindle.

Final Preparations
ALL CONFERENCE EVENT

Food Line

Dinner

Francine Fisk (a shy librarian), Rita Howell and Mona Edwards

Anne Masters gets into the spirit of things.

Building Project

Large group building project
Establishing a Statewide Digitization Effort in Oklahoma

Cokie Anderson of OSU and Gina L.B. Minks of Univ.of Tulsa explained, “OKDigital is a group of librarians, historians, and archivists who have joined to form a working group on digitizing Oklahoma cultural materials.” Cokie and Gina were awarded a fellowship from Amigos Library Service to conduct a survey concerning digitization needs and interests. Interest statewide was high and some places have already begun digitizing.

Tom Clareson of OCLC explained how OCLC is partnering with state-of-the-art technology providers to assist libraries, museums, etc. in their preservation efforts. Their three initiatives are: Digital and preservation outreach services, Digital content management services, and Digital and preservation resources centers. Shelby Sanett and Bill Walker discussed Amigos Library Services imaging & preservation services also.

For more information contact Cokie at cokie@okstate.edu, or Gina at gina-minks@tulsa.edu.

Life After Passport...or...Kiss F11 Goodbye!

Amigos’ representative, Kay Vincent filled us in on OCLC Connexion. She informed us also that CORC is no longer with us. Why do we have to change from Passport? Because technology pushes us to change. Passport was designed to work with windows 3.1.1 so it can no longer “keep up”. The databases are now moving to Oracle.

Connexion is web-based and platform independent. It is customizable; everyone should have their own “sign-in”, but it can be generic such as “cat1”, “cat2”, etc. It has the ability to link authority controls for name and subject headings, and an enhanced save file.

Kay also showed the new Connexion screens and pointed out the special features of each.

For a migration-planning document, go to www.oclc.org/prod/ctaloging/features.xls.

“Change is the progress by which the future invades our lives.” Alvin Toffler, introduction to Future shock, 1970.
Seasoned Citizens

The Social Responsibilities Roundtable of the Oklahoma Library Association presented this program at OLA Conference 2003. Speakers were Connie Van Fleet, Associate Professor at the OU School of Library and Information Studies; Christina Owen, Director of the Anadarko Community Library; and Anita Roesler, Senior Services Coordinator for the Metropolitan Library System. All of the speakers could have used more time, because of the amount of information they had for us. The speakers were enjoyable and the emotions ranged from humor to inspirational.

Connie Van Fleet was the first speaker. She mentioned that in the US, 35 million people are 65 years old or older representing 12.4% of the population. According to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services’ Aging Services Division, 13.2% of Oklahoma’s population is 65 or over (www.odhs.ok.gov/aging). This is an excellent source mentioned by more than one of the speakers. See also the web for the “Administration on Aging” (http://www aging.gov). One in 9 seniors live in poverty compared to 1 in 4 of children who live in poverty. Depression in seniors is common, but treatable and does not come with age. Memory in seniors is not as good as memory in young people and a seniors’ reaction time is slower. However, loss of memory is compensated by experience and wisdom. Serving seniors is our job, just as serving children who come to us, is our job. “What they do for us makes a difference. What we do for them makes a difference.” It was suggested to set up a senior area, like the ones we have in our libraries for Young Adults and/or Children. Make printouts of items from the web for senior customers to take home. Obtain relevant collections in a format they will use. Have a suitable environment, with good lighting and comfortable chairs.

Christina Owen of Anadarko was our second speaker. She suggested it is good to encourage seniors to talk and give them a chance to interact. Christina brought examples of objects to remind seniors of memories. She plans questions to get them started talking. Some of the objects and ideas that she brought were: tea cup and saucer, hats from the past, flower bouquet, handwork, birdfeeders and pumpkins. Christina sees a need for pre-packaged programs for seniors, but the audience decided she could write the book. She gets many ideas and pictures from the Ideals Magazine. She also recommends Jan Karon’s children’s books & poetry books. These have also provided her with ideas to start groups reminiscing.

Anita Roesler spoke last. Much of Anita’s work with seniors includes music and musicians. The Metropolitan Library System’s “Project Laughter” with music is intended for seniors. The way to get folks to participate is to sing the first part of a song and then an individual or group finishes it. She has found an excellent source of ideas is “Serving Seniors” by the Missouri State Library at http://www.sos.state.mo.us/library/development/services/seniors/manual/default.asp. (There is also a link to this site from the OLA-SSRT web page). Anita reinforced Christina’s suggestion that Reminiscence Programs are very popular. BiFolkal Kits such as “Remembering Work,” is available from: www.bifolkal.org. These kits are multimedia and are designed to stimulate reminiscence. Many libraries have these and even the titles provide some good ideas for programs. She also encouraged us to develop partnerships with other groups and to establish reading club/programs for seniors similar to the Summer Reading Club for kids.

A couple of good resource websites mentioned were “Survival Kit for Seniors” available from Area Wide Aging at http://www.areawideaging.org and http://www.state.ok.us/~library/, the site for the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Each speaker approached the subject differently and had extremely good ideas to share making it a very worthwhile program for me.

Linda Jordan
Susan Webb (Southeastern Oklahoma State University), "Native American Minor - SESU"

Helen Clements (OSU) "Dressing Up the Territories? Seeking Information on Oklahoma Textiles."

Sarah Simpson (OU) "Implementing a Paperless Interlibrary Loan System in a Public Library: Issues and Concerns."

Robin Insalaco and Shari Clifton (OU Health Sciences Center), "Docs, Kids and Early Literacy: OUHSC's Reach Out and Read Program."

Scott Carter, Metropolitan Library System

Spanish language panel: Roy Madrid, Phil Tolbert, Sara Martinez
Teen Friends

Kathryn Lewis opens the Membership Meeting.

Membership Meeting

Podium at Membership Meeting

Tanisha Lane wins a minority scholarship.

Kathryn Lewis and Ray Lau, Director of Northwestern State University Library and winner of the Special Meritorious

Kathryn Lewis and Anne Masters with State Senator Berest Cain, a Library Champion.
A Second First-Timer Speaks

My name is Jennifer Fairres and I work at the Miami Public Library in Miami Oklahoma. I would like to thank you for the grant that allowed me to attend the Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference this year. I have worked at the Miami Library for the past twelve years and this is the first time I have had the privilege to attend such a wonderful event. My thanks go out to all the dedicated people who worked so hard to put on such a grand conference.

I would first like to say that I truly enjoyed all the wonderful speakers we were so fortunate to have this year. I was pleasantly surprised by all the new ideas and information that I took home with me. Coming from a small library it was very interesting to meet other librarians and share our common stories.

I found the opening ceremony to be very moving. To see so many people that are dedicated to the field that we are in was so motivating.

I was able to attend several of the classes that were offered and I found them to be very informing. One of the speakers I really enjoyed was Mitch Freedman. He truly is a wonderful speaker. The information that Mitch gave on the Patriot Act will be very helpful and will be very useful in dealing with situations that arise at our library. Another one of the most interesting classes in my opinion was titled "Who's the boss." One of the main points in this class was how we communicate with each other. I found this class to be very helpful and the speakers to be very entertaining. Some of the points they made really made me stop and think about the different ways we communicate not only verbally, but in our actions as well. Another interesting class was titled "Learning to Lobby." This class was very interesting because it really gave us some insight on how bills are passed and the process that is taken in order to get those bills passed. Another thing I found to be very interesting was the poster sessions that were offered. Our library is trying to get a teen volunteer program started and we are in need of ideas. One of the Tulsa branches was passing out information and had posters showing the program they had for their teens. I was able to gather some really neat ideas to take back and share.

Overall, I would have to say that attending this conference was a wonderful learning experience and I would love to be invited back in the years to come. Again, thank you for allowing me to take part in such a wonderful event.

Jennifer Fairres
Calling All “Would Be” Editors!

After being editor of the Oklahoma Librarian since August 2000, the time has come for me to step down and let new blood and ideas take over. If you’ve ever wondered what it would be like to edit a newsletter, now’s your chance!

Being editor of the Librarian is not brain surgery. It does demand some time and forethought, but overall, I found it to be a lot easier than I thought. Occasionally you may have to solicit articles, but more often the articles appear without you begging for them. I was really surprised that I didn’t have to arm-twist anyone for articles. OLA’s membership is always helpful in writing articles or submitting one asking you to publish.

Additionally, the Librarian will be moved to being web-based starting with the July/August 2003 issue. You will be working with OLA’s web-master. A print version of the Librarian will still be produced but the issue created will be used in both formats.

The position of editor is a two-year commitment. I plan to remain editor through the May/June 2004 issue and thought it would be easier on my successor to work with them the last year of my editorship and their first. The position then can continue as a co-editorship if you wish with you finding your replacement for your second year.

If you think you’d like to know more or want to be the new editor contact me.

Pat Williams, editor

The Oklahoma Librarian is Changing

Beginning with the July/August 2003 issue, the Oklahoma Librarian will be published online at OLA’s website (www.oklibs.org). You may still receive the Oklahoma Librarian by snail mail, but the cost to OLA will be reduced by those willing to accept the online version only.

____ I prefer to receive the Oklahoma Librarian online. Please discontinue mailing to me.

____ I prefer to continue to receive the Oklahoma Librarian by snail mail.

JOIN OLA NOW!

Membership renewal time is upon us. You should be receiving a membership invoice in the mail soon. Please take the time to process it quickly. A membership form can also be found on OLA’s website at www.oklibs.org. Your membership is important to us. YOU are the organization. Your continued support helps to make OLA grow.

Don’t miss the great benefits of your professional organization

Reduced conference and workshop fees
Great newsletter
Networking opportunities
Membership directory
Others too numerous to mention

Renew or join today and be a part of Oklahoma libraries.

There’s Still Time...

To say “Thanks!” and “We Appreciate You!” and “Yes, We Noticed The Great Work You Did?”

We could say it with flowers or a Hallmark card, but MPLA wants to say “thank you” in a big way—at the awards ceremony in Reno, NV at the annual joint conference with the Nevada Library Association November 5-8, 2003. There are numerous awards MPLA wants to give. Think of the library directors who have helped construct a new building; the children’s department that created innovative after-school programming; the media specialist who refused to remove a magazine from the high school library shelves; the local radio show that always featured library events. If we look around we will see many individuals, agencies, organizations, legislators and authors who have helped make our libraries better places. Say thank you in a big way. Visit the MPLA Award Information website for further information: http://www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/awards/awardsindex.html

Nominations are due August 22, 2003.

Kaite Mediatore