Library Applications of Optical Disk Technology:
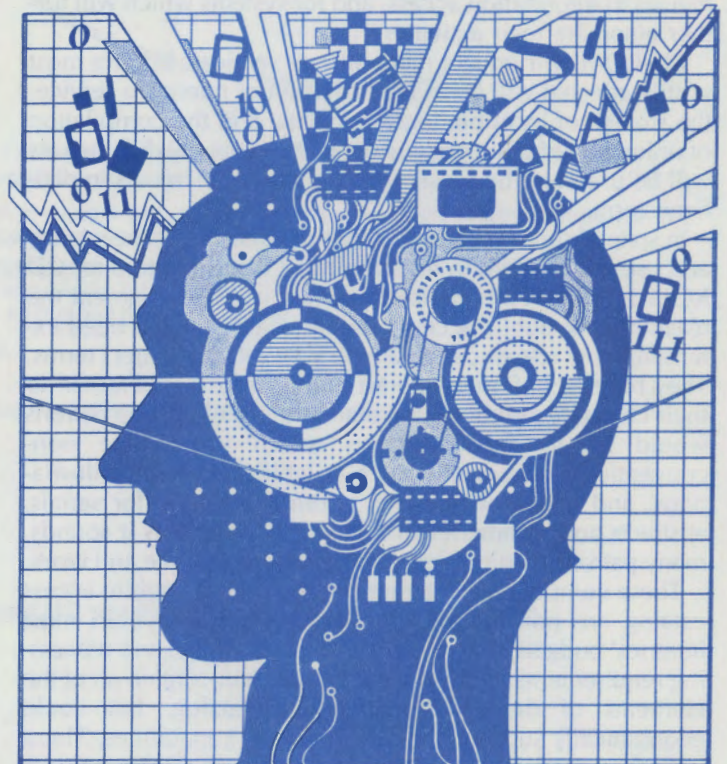
Issues and Trends

by
Bruce Flanders
Kansas State Library

The following is a transcript of a speech given by the author at the American Library Association conference in NYC on July 1. He participated in a panel discussion sponsored by LITA on the online catalog and optical disk technology. All you miss by reading it are the dulcet tones of his best speaking voice, the beads of sweat on his forehead, and the subsequent ragings of the angry mob, which, disagreeing on various points, decided to revoke his poetic license and force him to attend the annual meeting of the International Technonurd Roundtable and Festive Microchip Flinging Contest in Vulture Holler, Tennessee.

The Promise of Optical Disk Technology

I begin with two basic assumptions: (1) there is no need to convince you that the optical disk is a good idea, and (2) this is a complex and youthful technology. I will focus on the application area of broadest usefulness to libraries: that of systems which manipulate text/numeric data only, commonly expressed in the CD ROM format.

The first thing that we can say about CD ROM is that it is truly cost-effective in its storage of large amounts of data. Without laboring the point, CD ROM has many attributes which are of interest to libraries: it is a very compact storage media, durable, accessible by computer, removable, non-alterable, cost-effective, and capable of storing large quantities of data (although not adequate to efficiently store some types of library data, as we shall see).

We may confidently say that CD ROM technology is beginning to enjoy some commercial success, particularly in narrow market niches. Libraries should be gratified to note that they are (for once) at the leading edge of a new computer technology. The bulk of CD ROM applications being sold today are tailored for library use. This is not to imply, however, that libraries will always be the primary user of CD ROMs. I anticipate that applications in the medical, legal, educational, and financial fields will continue to emerge rapidly and will compete successfully for disk and drive production resources which have not yet increased their capacity to meet the potential demand.

For example, a company named Micromedex, Inc. (Denver) produces medical databases such as Poisindex, which allows staff in poison control centers to quickly search databases which were formerly stored on microfiche. Disclosure, Inc.

(Bethesda) produces financial databases which contain information on over 10,000 public companies based on reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Information Access Company, the producer of InfoTrac, a videodisc index to over 900 business, technical, and general publications, will be producing CD ROM disks containing full-text files of the **Wall Street Journal.** These are but a few of the many databases which will become prevalent within non-library market segments which are well-funded and heavily-reliant upon easily-accessed information. Penetration into other markets notwithstanding, CD ROM technology will become useful to libraries in ever increasing fashion. Librarians are constantly searching for means of retrieving documents and other information more effectively, for lower cost alternatives to information access, and for systems which will further automate their activities.

CD ROM will impact many library services, but the most visibly affected will be in the provision of reference service, the storage of local bibliographic data, and the compilation of union lists of bibliographic data. Other optical disk formats will be useful in the preservation of library materials in digitized form.

In spite of some serious obstacles to widespread acceptance and use of CD ROM in libraries, I feel that the future for CD ROM is bright. For example, optical disks can augment the usefulness of public access catalogs. Catalog users need extensive cross references, and help with related subject terms. They have a confirmed interest in this; they would rather do their choosing at the catalog than at the shelf. These patrons would benefit from catalogs which incorporate non-conventional catalog data such as table of contents, illustrations, and end-of-book index information, and, for serials, abstracts and summaries of articles. As radical as it sounds, many patrons would appreciate access from home and work.

These components of a more nearly "ideal" public access catalog are not yet technologically possible within most libraries' budgets, due to extremely large storage and processing requirements. Optical disk catalogs will contain all of the elements of the traditional online catalog, but could economically support enriched indexing capabilities. These enhanced catalogs may attract users who are displeased with current catalog user interfaces.

Joseph M. A. Cavanagh, State University of New York, in his paper, **A Proposed Distributed Optical Catalog: A New Basis for Library Automation,** describes more fully the computing resources issue: "The machine-readable catalog has required something like 3 Kb of auxiliary storage per title. This is mostly accounted for by MARC bibliographic records averaging perhaps 700-800 characters each, including tabs and subfield indicators, together with a variety of indexes and some overhead for preformatted displays, and holdings, etc. Typical installations need about 300 Mb of disk storage for each 100,000 MARC records loaded and indexed. . . these needs have led to the installation of substantial computing resources, even some multiprocessor configurations, in libraries of moderate to large size. The economics of library systems served by large terminal networks communicating with central processing resources, backed by magnetic disk storage, have not favored the introduction of sophisticated online catalog designs. The economics have been even less favorable for small institutions seeking to provide online access to catalog data. New technologies offer the possibility for libraries of all sizes to contemplate automated catalogs more suited to patrons' needs than previous designs, and within their means. The central component of the proposed system is an online, publicly accessible catalog based in optical media.

CD ROM will have a great impact on union lists of bibliographic data and holding statements. It will be an economically sensible alternative to computer-output-microform (COM) catalogs, and will have the further advantage of encouraging use through its automated retrieval capabilities and improved readability over microform. Particularly for smaller or less sophisticated libraries, it will dramatically affect searching for interlibrary loan titles. Resource sharing in the consortia which employ optical disk union catalogs will increase significantly, directly as a result of the new storage media.

Obstacles to CD ROM Acceptance by Libraries

While I don't want to rain on anyone's parade, I feel that it is important to point out some major roadblocks to widespread use of optical disk technology in libraries. In a way, I feel like the parade has already passed by, so allow me to chase behind with a few words of warning.

While the sheer size of CD ROM storage is an order of magnitude greater than current microcomputer hard disk drives (540 Mb), it is viewed by librarians as easily consumed space. With the size "limitation" of a single CD ROM disk, the state of Kansas would require four disks to transfer their union list of bibliographic data and holding statements to this format. This is a problem. Recent advances in CD ROM drives allow them to be daisy-chained, so that the user will not be handling disks to search the entire database. This seems inefficient at best, but any solution is better than requiring patrons to actually switch between disks manually. CD ROM drive jukeboxes may prove to be an acceptable solution to this problem. The message is: if you are concerned about this, you should carefully measure the potential storage requirements for your database.

A second problem area relates to a lack of standards. Different CD ROM vendors are not placing their data in the same physical location on disks. This means that disks from different manufacturers will require different software and sometimes even different drives. Libraries clearly cannot afford to purchase a separate drive for each database purchased.

The NISO committee originally responsible for the drafting of standards for the CD ROM format made painfully slow progress. As a result, an ad hoc group of manufacturers, the so-called High Sierra Group, prepared a position paper describing their conceptualization of CD ROM standards. Their efforts have been temporarily slowed by the surprise announcement of the CD-I (compact disk interactive) standard at the March Microsoft CD ROM conference. There is considerable confusion relating to CD-I. It is actually an entirely new pro-

duct built around the concept of turning the CD ROM disk into an educational, interactive tool incorporating not only textual and numeric data, but compact disk-quality audio, speech, graphics, and limited video. It is seen by the more cynical as a last gasp effort to place computers in the home market. I feel that the High Sierra standards will be accepted in the business environment and that CD-I will struggle commercially.

In any event, the goal in standardization is to provide a single uniform file environment for the design and implementation of applications, and to allow mastering services to validate replicated copies of disks using the directory and other standard information elements to verify placement of data. Fortunately, there is a consensus that prevention of the proliferation of incompatible CD ROM drives and file structures is also best for the vendors, from a marketing viewpoint. This concern about standards is reinforced by the findings of the LINK Resources and InfoTech study of the CD ROM marketplace in their **CD ROM Market Opportunities:** prospective users are concerned about compatibility and interchangeability of disks. This is a key issue for libraries, perhaps more than any other consumer, in that more than any other group, they will work with databases from a host of vendors.

A third area of concern relates to the tie involved in manufacturing CD ROM disks. Currently, conditions make production on a frequency more often than quarterly difficult, given data transfer technology. For this reason, some databases will be structured to contain large, static backfiles accessible on CD ROM, and more current information from the same databases accessible through distribution on 60 Mb tapes or similar format, or online searches.

A related concern is that library database producers will have difficulty competing with the larger publishers of financial, legal, and medical databases for very limited disk mastering time, as well as drive production. These plants, quite frankly, are currently unable to keep up with the demand, and it will be some time before additional plants are built and up to speed.

Retrieval Software Issues

I would like to spend some time on CD ROM retrieval software. This is the single most important CD ROM issue, and is one that receives less attention than it deserves. The utility and ultimate impact of CD ROM technology will depend on the development of new user interfaces capable of fully exploiting its potential. CD ROM databases are only as effective as the software driving the application. It is important to first note that a generalized CD ROM retrieval software package is not currently, and may never be practical. CD ROM software must be written specifically for each application.

The characteristics of effective CD ROM software are an emphasis on the access and manipulation of large volumes of data, multiple methods of retrieval and combining the data, and full-text retrieval capability. The role of full-text retrieval is to search any word or number from the machine-readable text. Superior recall and ease of use can be provided through the implementation of a natural language user interface.

There is some controversy concerning which approach provides a better user interface: natural or structured inquiry language. Natural language boasts greater ease of use, but it has several tradeoffs—it takes more time for the user to obtain his information (up to three times longer, and causes 3½

times more terms to be entered), it produces high recall but low precision (in other words, the user gets more information than is appropriate or useful—great for lawyers perhaps, but not for librarians), there are significant problems with homonyms (words which have different meanings in different contexts which may cause unrelated information to recalled), and, finally, the user never really knows when he has everything (he cannot be certain he has a comprehensive answer to his search).

Historically, there have been some problems with full-text retrieval software. It has been somewhat difficult to use, provides for limited browsing, has no graphics retrieval capability, it is difficult to build on previous searches and personal style, there are difficulties with synonyms and homonyms, and there are limitations in field length. Thankfully, there have been some recent software developments which have addressed these problem areas. Ease of use has been improved through implementation of alternate input devices such as the mouse, and the use of windows. Files can be automatically indexed as they are created. Automated thesaurus development has augmented natural language searching. Graphic elements can be retrieved and displayed. Macros can save

Libraries are clearly capturing the vision of CD-ROM. . .

keystrokes or entire search stategies for experienced users.

Different levels of user interfaces can be created within the same software package, ranging from menus (a front end device to display choices for beginners) to a command structure, appropriate for the librarian and other power users. The user interface *is* critical—considering that CD ROMs contain up to 540 Mb of data, the importance of ease of use in the retrieval software cannot be overemphasized.

Current software design does not adequately answer the recall vs. precision problem. Different people searching for the same information on the same database will come up with different answers. One reason is that vocabulary terms shift in importance and meaning. One study, in fact, revealed that while users estimated they were retrieving about 80 percent of pertinent data, they were retrieving 20 percent. Robert Carr, the principal creator of the software program Framework, has made the following observation: "It is not enough for CD ROM database publishers to lay information down on the CD ROM in the identical format used in print publishing; it's not even enough to have a 'sugar coating' of fast keyword searching added over the raw data. Users need to have multiple access paths to the information. This will involve considerable work by humans to create the necessary hierarchy structuring systems (as opposed to automatic processing by a computer to create the indexes that support keyword searches). In fact, future CD ROMs may be valued and judged for the degree to which they include creative and innovative additional structure and access paths beyond the raw information itself."

I am personally involved in the development of a microcomputer-based library automation system, and can assure you that high-quality software does not come into existence easily. As any of you who have been in a similar situa-

tion can attest, it is often an agonizingly slow process. Yet well thought out software can make a process such as data retrieval almost intuitive, while unfriendly software can impose harsh and unrealistic demand upon often untrained and computer illiterate users.

Trends

There are at the current time approximately 1,000 CD ROM units in libraries nationwide. The potential market may be up to one hundred times greater. Libraries are clearly capturing the vision of CD ROM: that there now exists a low-cost medium for storing and distributing large quantities of relatively stable data. It is no exaggeration to state that the technology of laser disks represents a turning point in information technology.

Allow me to venture a few guesses about what the next several years will hold for CD ROM and libraries. First, hardware. Increasingly, drives will be integrated with the microcomputer, rather than remain a peripheral. IBM will continue to play a predominent role in library automation. When IBM decides to enter the CD ROM marketplace, they will define the operating system environment and drive interface standards, if they are not already in place. In fact, to hear IBM talk, you will think that they invented CD ROM. For Apple advocates, there has been a recent commitment to opening up the architecture of the Macintosh, and public statements by Apple management expressing interest in CD ROM technology.

I have, however, a more pertinent prediction. The microcomputer industry is anxiously awaiting the next generation of microprocessor chips: the Intel 80386. Its advantages in terms of processing speed and virtual memory capability will make more sophisticated retrieval software possible. The 80386 computer, by IBM or other manufacturers, will be the machine of choice for CD ROM applications.

Another trend in CD ROM technology will be its integration with existing library automation applications. An example of this integration would functionally inter-relate a distributed union catalog on CD ROM with an interlibrary loan telecommunications network. With this powerful tool, librarians will, in one process, locate holding institutions for desired materials and place the loan.

Norman Desmarais, Providence College, writing in **Byte,** foresees a displacement of microform by optical media. "A major application for CD ROMs involves replacing microform. Microforms have never been popular services in libraries. Microform readers are generally cumbersome or awkward to use and only provide fair imaging at best. Reader-printers have been expensive and cost more to operate than photocopiers, even though they provide inferior reproductions. Patrons have never liked microforms because of the difficulties of finding them, the time required to retrieve the desired information, and the difficulties of browsing. CD ROM disks can provide quicker access to larger quantities of information than microforms, and they allow you to copy the information to a variety of formats. You can access it through a personal computer and copy it onto a floppy or hard disk or channel it to a printer."

Records in bibliographic utilities, as well as state and regional databases, are candidates for selective CD ROM encoding. When one thinks of bibliographic utilities, two words immediately come to mind: politics and economics. As with any new technology, traditional ways of processing library

NEW FALL 1986

NEW VIDEOS AND REFERENCE WORKS

American Songwriters
by David Ewen
Fall 1986   528pp.   ISBN 0-8242-0744-0
$50 tent. U.S. and Canada, $60 tent. other countries.
Covering 200 years, this book provides detailed biographies of 144 of America's outstanding composers and lyricists, from Stephen Foster to Bruce Springsteen, covering all the major styles—ragtime, minstrel, Tin Pan Alley, Broadway, rock, jazz, blues, folk, country & western, and soul.

American Storytelling Series™
A Storytel Enterprises™ Production
Ready Volumes 1-8.
30 minutes each,
Color/VHS/Hi-Fi, with Viewer's Guide
Each $99 U.S. and Canada, $109 other countries.
This new series of original videos presents the age-old art of storytelling in today´s most popular medium. Capturing all the flavor and vitality of a live storytelling session, each videocassette features two or three of America's finest storytellers, telling tales from around the world.
SPECIAL OFFER! Order a set of 4 volumes (Vols. 1-4 or 5-8 only) and pay only $349 U.S. and Canada, $389 other countries—a savings of $47!

Current Biography Yearbook 1986
December 1986   704 pp. approx.
ISSN 0084-9499
$42 U.S. and Canada, $52 other countries.
An invaluable addition to the reference collection for researchers, teachers, students, and librarians, the 1986 *Yearbook* cumulates, in one hardbound volume, all the articles and obituaries included in the 11 monthly issues of *Current Biography*, and offers an index to all articles that have appeared since 1980.

Index to the Wilson Authors Series
Ready 112pp.   ISBN 0-8242-0731-9   LC 86-5486
$15 U.S. and Canada, $18 other countries.
Revised and expanded to include writers covered in *World Authors 1970-1975* and *World Authors 1975-1980*, this new index provides ready access to the more than 8,600 biographical sketches in the ten volumes of the Wilson Authors Series.

The Reference Shelf 1987
Annual subscription @ $44 U.S. and Canada, $49 other countries. (Includes 6 titles). Individual titles are also available @ $9 U.S. and Canada, $11 other countries.
Focusing on topics of significant current concern, the titles in *The Reference Shelf* provide students, librarians, and researchers with timely compilations of important articles, speeches, excerpts, and government documents. The titles in the 1986 volume included *Mexico; Popular Music Since 1954; The Star Wars Debate; Terrorism; Vietnam, Ten Years After;* and *Representative American Speeches, 1985-1986*.

A Guide to the Ancient World
A Dictionary of Classical Place Names
by Michael Grant July 1986   736pp.   ISBN 0-8242-0742-4
$65 U.S. and Canada, $75 other countries.
This invaluable source of information about important geographical locations in the ancient Greek, Etruscan and Roman worlds covers approximately 900 historically significant sites, and spans a period from the first millenium B.C. until the fifth century A.D.. Sixteen pages of maps locate every entry in the book.

NEW FROM INDEXING AND CATALOGING SERVICES

Book Review Digest Author/Title Index 1975-1984
September 1986 1.600pp. approx.
ISBN 0-8242-0729-7
Price to be announced.
A single-alphabet author/title index to the reviews of more than 60.000 fiction and non-fiction books covered in *Book Review Digest* from 1975 through 1984, this new *Index* makes the annual volumes of *Book Review Digest* even more valuable in your library.

Children's Catalog, 15th Edition
September 1986   1,300pp. approx.
ISBN 0-8242-0743-2
$72 U.S. and Canada, $82 other countries.
This five-year service is an annotated list of some 5,700 of the best currently-in-print fiction and non-fiction titles written for children from pre-school through sixth grade. This new 15th edition provides a practical tool for collection development, cataloging, and classification.

Readers' Guide Abstracts
Ready   Annual Subscription $675 U.S. and Canada, $750 other countries.
Readers' Guide Abstracts offers easy-to-read typeset microfiche that combines reliable *Readers' Guide* indexing with high quality abstracts. Updated and cumulated eight times a year, *Readers' Guide Abstracts* provides indexing and abstracting beginning in September 1984 cumulated with recent material in every issue of Volume I.

Sears List of Subject Headings, 13th Edition
April 1986 721pp.
ISBN 0-8242-0730-0   LC 86-7734
$30 U.S. and Canada, $35 other countries.
The best-known subject headings list for small to mid-sized libraries, the new thirteenth edition of *Sears* has been fully revised, updated and expanded. "An outstanding and useful, up-to-date tool."
—*American Reference Books Annual* (on the 12th edition).

NEW FROM ONLINE SERVICES

New Databases on WILSONLINE®
Call the toll-free number below for a rate schedule and order form.
Three new databases have been added to the *WILSONLINE* information retrieval system, for a total of 22 databases in all:
• GPO Monthly Catalog
• Index to U.S. Government Periodicals
• LC Foreign MARC Database

Online Searching
An Introduction to WILSONLINE
August 1986   28 minutes
Color/VHS/Hi-Fi, with User's Guide
$89 U.S. and Canada, $99 other countries.
For librarians and information specialists who want to improve their online searching skills, this new video combines a step-by-step introduction to searching with an up-close look at the features and benefits of the award-winning *WILSONLINE* system.

WILSONDISC™
CD-ROM Retrieval System
Pricing and availability to be announced later in 1986.
WILSONDISC will provide all the capabilities needed to access *WILSONLINE* databases in two ways:
• *CD-ROM access* to bibliographic data on an optical disc searchable through a microcomputer, *and*
• Online access through the *WILSONLINE* retrieval system and *WILSEARCH®* software to the most current information.

THE H.W. WILSON COMPANY

950 University Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10452, (212) 588-8400
To Order Call Toll-Free: 1-800-367-6770
In New York State, call 1-800-462-6060; In Canada, call collect 212-588-8400.

materials yield to more natural and efficient arrangements. Thus political and economic structures will be affected by optical disk technology. In general, the effect will be a wider distribution of information throughout the library community and a further diminishment of the role of resource service center libraries.

Optical disk technology will also partially replace online databases—central memory banks of information available through computerized dial-up sessions. At present, subscribers are charged per minute of connect time, which often means that searches are cut short for the sake of economy. Databases sent to subscribers in CD ROM format will mean less unhealthful stress for librarians, but what does it mean for the online database vendors?

Jim Seymour writes in **PC Magazine:** "[Online database] publishers have to recognize that their existing approach to pricing has been made obsolete by CD ROMs. You should hear how violently some of the people in the online database business condemn the appearance of the CD ROM market. These information providers feel the whole structure of their business is threatened by CD ROMs. And they're right.

Because what they've been selling forever and ever is not information by access to information. One of the largest and best-known online databases for lawyers, for example, tried until fairly recently to keep customers from downloading data to disks.

The 'pay per view' approach to databases has been made obsolete by CD ROMs. Information providers have to recognize that when they sell us a CD ROM disk, or a library full of CD ROM disks, they transfer that information to us permanently, rather than nibbling at us time and again as we come back to take a look once more. However, the need to have current information is going to push most business-related information CD ROM publishing into subscriptions, not onetime sales. And that's going to provide the continuing revenue stream information providers fear they'll lose with CD ROM sales.

A great percentage of what you and I will want to buy on optical disks is perishable information. The useful life of the material will vary, but obsolete information is dangerous misinformation, so we're going to expect upgrades on some definable cycle. Which means we'll subscribe to a service that sends us whole new disks every so often."

So it is clear that online information services will see revolutionary changes in their industry. Indeed, a major impetus for the development of optical disk databases was to assist librarians who were worried about being tied to connect time and telecommunications-reliant systems, with their increasing costs.

A recent product may typify the new information database. Dow Jones and Company, Inc. and Datext, Inc. have mutually marketed a system combining optical storage devices with special retrieval software and online access. Their system is called "CD//Newsline." Aimed primarily at investors, consultants, and analysts, a set of CD ROMs with data on companies in four fields (services, technology, manufacturing, and consumer products) has been produced. The information on the disks will be updated monthly, and augmented by an online subscription to the Dow Jones News/Retrieval service. This is, by the way, not an inexpensive product. The interesting thing about this system is that there is a connection between the CD ROM and online data. The retrieval software enables users to access the disks and then issue the request online. I foresee that such a CD ROM/online combination will be a common solution to providing data to users in a cost-effective fashion which avoids telecommunication costs whenever possible.

System integrators are emerging which will provide turnkey optical media services. They will take a library database that is available in machine-readable form, reformat it and guide it through the mastering, pressing, and duplicating process, as well as provide the disk interface and search software.

Summary

Libraries are in a tremendous position to influence the future direction of optical disk technology. The industry is driven not only by advances in the laboratory, but by perceived needs in the marketplace. A symbiotic relationship exists between libraries and the optical disk vendors that serve libraries.

We have seen the a de facto CD ROM standard evolve within the IBM/MS-DOS environment. Other compatibility issues will be resolved. Standardization and the interchangeability of optical disks will occur within the next two years (a much shorter period of time than was required to achieve standardization in magnetic media).

While acknowledging possible obstacles such as storage limitations and the complexities of developing truly useful software, libraries generally need not delay purchasing CD ROM products and services. CD ROM appears to have a brilliant future for library applications.

Around the Region

Arizona

Button, Button Who's Got the Button?

Staff members in the Serials and Acquisitions departments of the University of Arizona Library are wearing badges of accomplishment related to the Innovacq acquisitions system which was recently installed.

They are wearing buttons designed by Dawn Porfirio and Barbara Nielsen.

WYSE GUY (named after the Wyse terminal) buttons are awarded after a two-hour training program.

VACQ ATTACQ buttons are awarded to those who have input 25 acquisitions records or 50 serials records.

I INPUT, I UPDATED, I CONQUERED personalized buttons are given to those who input 100 records in Acquisitions or Serials. (I.I.I. also stands for Innovative Interfaces Inc., the company that sells Innovacq. (AzU Library Newsletter, May 29, 1986)

America: A Reading

The Tucson Public Library has been awarded its fourth major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the two year program America: A Reading, Master Works of Fiction, Poetry and Prose. The program offers you the chance to read or re-read some of the major works of American literature with the support of discussion groups, lectures, readings and study guides.

America: A Reading will be divided into seven thematic units over the next two years, beginning with "Becoming the Land's: Early Writings of the Republic". Its reading selections will include Hawthorne's **A Scarlet Letter**, Cooper's **Leatherstocking Tales** and essays and letters by Franklin and Jefferson. (This Month! June 1986)

Scottsdale Forms New Friends Group

The Scottsdale Public Library now has a new Friends of the Library organization, replacing a previous group which had disbanded in 1970. The new Friends have evolved into a very active volunteer group, with one activity being a daily book sale desk. The group is now focusing on external fund raising and gaining community backing and visibility for the array of services offered by the library.

A recent Founding Membership campaign raised $26,000.

$4 Million Book Budget

Arizona State University's book budget is approaching $4,000,000. The Legislature had allowed thirty new positions including thirteen professionals. It has also received an allocation from the Legislature and the Board of Regents of 111.5 million dollars for a

professional development grants

Reflected here is an MPLA concern that members have an opportunity to continue their formal education. MPLA's Professional Development Grants Committee is charged with developing and improving library services in the region by helping individuals already employed in the library profession to expand and continue their education.

Association members are encouraged to apply for grants and mini-grants, both of which may be used for the following: formal college or university classroom work, independent study programs, attendance at workshops, conferences or seminars, or participation in any other activity that will benefit librarians and the library community in our region.

Applications are invited throughout the year, and members should recognize that each application will be considered on its own merits and the availability of funds in each year's Committee budget.

Requirements, Conditions, Procedures

Requirements for Application:
1. The applicant must be a resident of the MPLA region.
2. The applicant must be a current member of the Mountain Plains Library Association. For regular grants the applicant must have also been a member for the past two years (total of three consecutive years).
3. As part of the application, the applicant must submit a detailed budget of expected expenses and a narrative statement describing personal growth and career development expected for the program.
4. The application should be accompanied, whenever possible, by printed materials which describe the program.

Conditions of Grant:
1. To allow students, trustees, and unemployed members to be eligible, it is not necessary that applicants be currently employed in a library.
2. All applicants must agree to give the MPLA Executive Board an evaluative report on the program after it has taken place. For benefit of the membership, the evaluative report may be published in the **MPLA Newsletter,** or other publication.
3. The grant money will not be awarded until after the evaluative report has been received and approved by the Committee. The Committee chairperson will notify the MPLA Executive Secretary to make payment. The form for the evaluative report will be provided to applicants by the Professional Development Grants Committee.
4. No Applicant may receive more than one grant per eighteen months.
5. If one is received, a copy of a continuing education unit certificate or letter of recognition received upon completion of a seminar or workshop should be submitted with the evaluative report.

Application Procedure:
1. Request application from Committee Chair or MPLA Executive Secretary. Beginning January 1st, completed applications may be submitted to the Executive Secretary by the announced deadlines.
2. The Committee will review the applications received and make awards according to the following guidelines:
   i) The Committee may meet a maximum of 6 times a year;
   ii) Conference calls are scheduled bi-monthly on or close to the 25th of the month. The month and dates of these calls are printed in the "calendar" of all issues of the **Newsletter.**
   iii) The Committee will meet during the annual conference. Applications and reports will be considered at that meeting.
   iv) The deadline for receipt of an application or report by the Executive Secretary is the 10th of the month preceding the established date on which they will be considered.
   v) Selection for awards will be made by majority approval of the Committee.

For more information see your
Membership Information Folder
or write Joe Edelen, Executive Secretary.

70,000 sq. ft. addition to the Hayden Library. (Maricopa County Library Council news release)

Phoenix Get $500,000 Budget Increase

The Phoenix City Council voted on June 10 to refrain from cutting any of the services offered by the Central Library and Technical Services and to increase library service hours in the branch libraries throughout the city.

The result of the decision will be that branches that lost hours in the 1980 budget cuts will have those hours restored, and three more branches will be opened on Sunday afternoons during the school year, a cumulative total of 132 additional hours of service.

The increased branch hours translate directly into 28.3 new FTE positions.

A key to the decision was the active effort of citizens encouraging the Mayor and Council to add the hours. (News and Views, Special Edition)

Another Branch for Mesa

The City of Mesa, one of the nations' fastest growing cities, has broken ground for its second branch library.

The Dobson Ranch Branch will serve 40,000 people in the southwest area of the City with an initial collection of 65,000 books. Twelve full and part-time staff will provide forty-seven hours of service a week. Long range planning calls for growth to sixty hours of service a week within the next five hours.

The 15,000 sq. ft. building will be an innovative one using natural lighting throughout. Most walls will be underground for cooling efficiency. (Mesa Public Library news release)

"This Month" Wins Best Newsletter Award

"This Month", the Tucson Public Library's newsletter received the Library Public Relations Council Award as the best newsletter/calendar of events for libraries serving populations of 65,000 or more. Over 500 entries were received in the competition. An awards presentation took place on June 30 in New York during the American Library Association's Annual Conference. (This Month, July 1986)

Librarians Receive Awards

Isabel Schon, professor of library science at Arizona State University, has won the 1986 Grolier Award.

Donated annually by the Grolier Foundation and administered by ALA, the $1,000 award and citation are presented to a librarian who has made an unusual contribution to the stimulation and guidance of reading by children and young people.

Peter Hernon, professor at the University of Arizona Library School (Tucson), and Charles R. McClure, associate at the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies, are recipients of ALA's Library Research Round Table Research Development Award for their paper "Unobstrusive Testing of Library Reference Services: An Experimental Approach." Hernon and McClure split a $500 award. (ALA news release)

Colorado

Space Is The Issue

The Boulder Public Library reports a space predicament. Since the Children's Wing opened in 1974, the Library's last addition, Boulder's population has grown 20%. Growth in use since 1980 is phenomenal: children's circulation up 56%; adult circulation up 63%; periodicals up 120%; reference up 23%; and media up a whopping 423%.

Though below ALA standards, volumes added are up 120% but behind 54% in shelving. Shelving has devoured reading rooms (behind ALA standards 34%). "60% to 70% of the children's reading area is gone," confirms Francis Shoemaker, Library Commissioner. The periodical reading room is nearly extinct. Also work space is 54% below ALA standards.

The Library has begun its efforts to deal with these serious construction needs. (The Public Bridge, Summer 1986)

You Got To Have Friends

The 40 public libraries in Colorado which the State Library knows to have Friends of the Library groups averaged substantially higher per capita expenditures on staff than the statewide average ($6.13 vs. $5.08). They also averaged modestly higher per capita expenditures on building operations ($1.81 vs. $1.65), but somewhat lower per capita expenditures on library materials

Annual Report
1985-86
Mountain Plains Library Association

President's Report
by Tom Jones

As your President this past year, I have appreciated all of the hard work and the cooperation of our elected officers, state and section representatives, and committee chairs. And thanks to each of you for your personal level of commitment and contribution! It is indeed a credit to MPLA to know that once again there are many more who wish to serve than can be accommodated in available leadership positions.

By the October meeting, I will have visited conferences in six of our ten states over the past fifteen months. I do wish that time would have permitted me to reach all ten. Personally, I have enjoyed meeting our wide-spread membership. I marvel at your enthusiasm for libraries, your creativity in addressing the many far-reaching issues of our era, and your aspirations to continually strive to improve services for your own constituencies.

MPLA exists to assist you, the practitioners and supporters of librarianship, for the end benefit of your users! Through the many committees and the designated sections, and by means of strong conferences held in rotation with our member states, MPLA is able to offer a valuable array of benefits.

This year marked the completion of the first MPLA Special Projects Grant, an award of $1,000 to BYU to assist in the production of a videotape on library materials security. And while only one $500 preconference grant was made to a state association (North Dakota), the Professional Development Grants Committee has been busy with individual requests to support attendance at CE activities and conferences across the nation.

We credit many in leadership roles within MPLA who have taken opportunities to make changes which will result in future benefits to our membership. The Academic Section, for instance, for the first time ever will be publishing the research papers being presented at conference. The Continuing Education Committee has completed a major effort in identifying CE resources throughout our ten state area and is publishing a bibliography and accompanying list of resource persons. The Public Relations Committee is reexamining its role in light of the current operational patterns of the Executive Board and the annual conference planning mechanism. And, finally, the important concerns of intellectual freedom have been raised to a new level of visibility in recent years and will again be spotlighted at conference.

Last December the Executive Board accepted Arizona's petition for entry into MPLA, making our tenth state. The addition of a new state is always a momentous occasion, and we look forward to this new relationship in the Southwest.

Finally, during this year MPLA agreed to co-sponsor a 1987 Collection Management and Development Institute along with the Colorado Library Association and ALA's RTSD. It will be held at Regis College, Denver next May, and promises to make a significant contribution to professional development in our region.

My personal thanks are due to Joe Edelen and Jim Dertien for continual support and counsel. They both deserve much credit in keeping MPLA moving forward! And so it is with pleasant anticipation that I look forward to the SilverCreek conference and passing the MPLA gavel to Vice President Duane Johnson. He has so ably

represented MPLA in the planning for the 1986 conference and is well prepared to guide us in the year ahead. My best regards to each of you.

Vice-President's Report
by Duane Johnson

The principal responsibility of your vice-president during the first nine months of this association year has been to work with the planning and organization of the Colorado Library Association - Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference. As of this August writing, the program is complete, scheduled and in most respects detailed for implementation. What we most need now are your committed plans for participation. We hope to see you in the mountains.

If the development of friendship and respect between associations and individuals is an objective of a joint conference, the SilverCreek conference is already successful. The officers of CLA, lead by Lucy Schweers, in-coming President, have been excellent people with whom to work in conference planning. Section chairpersons from both associations have exerted to bring the conference a remarkably varied schedule of speakers and programs. Colorado MPLA members Judy Zelenski and Donna Jones have given creativity and effort to see that this association has carried a fair share of the conference planning work load.

If you wonder at all about the extent of membership interest in participation in MPLA activities, I can report that I have received more than 80 requests or nominations for appointment, as I begin the organization of the standing committees. This indicates to me a high level of membership interest in, and identification with, MPLA programs and services.

Executive Secretary's Report
by Joe Edelen

1985-86 has been another good year for your Association. Yet another state, Arizona, as I am sure you already know, applied for and was accepted as a member State. This brings to ten the number of states that make up MPLA.

In 1985 we took in 132 new members; at the end of 1985 we had 666 personal and 98 institutional members; in 1986 thus far we have taken in 169 new members; at this time we have 676 personal and 89 institutional members. Our half price membership rate continued to be a strong selling point for new members.

In early 1986 MPLA instituted the first-ever (to my knowledge) 800 in-watts number for a regional jobline. This number is made available free to members and at a cost of $20 to non-members. The number of new jobs listed on the Jobline was 215 in 1985 (some were listed for four weeks) and the number of incoming calls was 1205.

Newsletter Editor's Report
by Jim Dertien

Your **MPLA Newsletter** will be undergoing some minor changes during the coming year, in hopes of offering our regular features in a more readable format. Your comments are welcomed. We will continue to be a "newsletter," with periodic feature articles we hope will be of use to the membership.

Our advertisers are loyal MPLA supporters. Please take note of who they are, and when the opportunity presents itself, please mention that you saw their advertisement in the **Newsletter** and that you appreciate their support of MPLA.

State Reports

Arizona
by Vince Anderson

Arizona is MPLA's newest state. Its librarians have for many years been associated with the now defunct Southwestern Library Association. We did not take too active a part in that Texas oriented association. Consequently, we have a long way to go in associating ourselves outside of our more or less insular state. Membership development will take some time. It is a very positive element for us that MPLA looks upon each of its states equally. No one state dominates the others. This was what was detracting about and possibly caused the demise of the Southwestern Library Association. Our active participation in MPLA will come.

One of the fastest growing states in the nation, Arizona has some of the fastest growing libraries in the nation. This year saw either planning solidified, bonds passed or appropriations made for a variety of new library facilities. There will be new headquarters libraries in Tucson, Tempe, Glendale, and Flagstaff. The first two will be buildings approaching 100,000 square feet where the latter two will be smaller, possibly in the 50,000 to 60,000 square foot size. The cities of Scottsdale and Mesa currently have new branch libraries under construction. Scottsdale in addition, is planning a major expansion of its headquarters library. In smaller communities throughout the state, we see new libraries in Apache Junction and major

additions to the Avondale and Gilbert Public Libraries. At Arizona State University, a major addition to its Hayden Library is planned and appropriated. On the ASU's new west side campus a library will be the first building and the campus centerpiece.

During the recently completed legislative session, enabling legislation for establishment of county library districts was passed. This legislation has been challenged in court as unconstitutional and has little chance of being sustained. The challengers are the mayors of five of the state's largest cities and the League of Cities and Towns. Three of those mayors are well known primary library supporters so their action is not anti-library; it is only to test the constitutionality of the

legislation. Since the public library community has felt a little uncomfortable with this legislation, two of its members are currently reviewing existing state statues with an eye to a complete rewriting of the state's public library laws. Most of them were written in the late 1920's and most are obsolete.

In computer development throughout the state, the Phoenix Public Library has contracted with CLSI for a comprehensive library system. The new DRA (Data Research Association) system at Scottsdale is installed and up and running. The City of Mesa's data processing department is beginning comprehensive discussions with library staff on a revision of its seven year old integrated library computer system. Many smaller communities such as Chandler, Yuma, and Prescott have begun installation of a variety of smaller systems that are available for use in small public libraries.

SOLAR (Serials On-line in Arizona) will complete input of serial holdings from OCLC libraries by October of this year. Arizona's OCLC libraries formed the SOLAR consortia not only to input their holdings but also to maintain the database through membership subscriptions to membership. Outputs will be in the form of microfiche and will be available from the SOLAR project at Arizona State University's Hayden Library. Though the project has used LSCA Title III funds to assist it in its retrospective input of records, it has consistently received as much as $30,000 a year from its fifteen subscribers who plan to continue that subscription for maintenance of the state's union list of serials.

Goals of the Arizona State Library Association for the future are to see a dramatic increase in state aid to county libraries and to bring the state's Interlibrary Loan Center at Phoenix and its reference service center in Tucson to full state funding. In addition, our goal with Mountain Plains is to double our membership in the coming year. The current **initial** membership campaign is underway; we will not know its results for another month or so.

Colorado
by Gail Dow

Plans were completed for the CLA/MPLA joint conference, "The Age of Information: Preparing for the 21st Century," to be held October 11-15, 1986 at SilverCreek, Colorado. An excellent conference is anticipated.

A Rocky Mountain Collection Management and Development Institute is planned for May 1987. The 3½ day institute is being co-sponsored by CLA, MPLA and ALA-RTSD and will be held in Denver. The curriculum is to include such topics as collection assessment, computer applications, and budgeting and policies.

The Colorado State Legislature approved an $834,000 appropriation to support the Colorado Resources Center (Denver Public Library) during fiscal 1987. Due to recently passed legislation allowing an increase in mill levy ceilings for library districts, several Colorado libraries are seeking voter approval of higher library levies this fall.

A major traveling exhibit on "Censorship and Libraries" will be hosted by the Denver Public Library from September 8 through October 18,

1986. The exhibit, prepared by the New York Public Library with help from the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom, examines censorship issues in the United States and describes the censors, the censored, and the role libraries have played in censorship issues.

I have found the past two years as MPLA Representative from Colorado to be educational and rewarding. I thank both the Colorado Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association for providing me with this opportunity to serve and to learn.

Kansas
by Melanie Miller

Underfunded Kansas libraries continued to eke out an existence amidst the depressed rural and oil economies of 1985-86. Statewide development of legislative advocacy and resource sharing were joined by forays into the development of continuing education and literacy programs. Kansas public libraries were still more than two million volumes below state and national standards, with less than $.22 per capita in state aid as compared with the national average of $.76 per capita.

Funding which was to come to the aid of libraries, including the State Library, disappeared in the closing hours of the 1986 Legislative Session. The Senate-House Conference Committee which determined the final fate of the Library appropriations bill declined to meet funding levels necessary to provide adequate service to the blind and physically handicapped, state aid, and funding necessary to rectify deficient library collections statewide.

The 1986 Kansas Library Association - Kansas Association of School Librarians - Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology Conference (Topeka, Mar. 19-22) focused on "Linkages for lifelong learning." Conference attendance was 600, with 70 exhibitors (the largest number to date). Preconferences emphasized rural issues affecting Kansas libraries, serving the multi-faceted community, and matching curriculum needs with budgets.

1986 incoming KLA officers were: Dr. Robert Grover, Pres.; Max Leek, V.P.; V. Sue Hatfield, 2nd V.P.; Paul Hawkins, Secretary; and Marcella Ratzlaff, Treasurer.

Montana
by Bonnie Schuster

Bunny Morrison finished out her two-year term as Montana's MPLA representative in her truly active style. She always kept Montana Library Association members up to date on MPLA happenings, both through her newsletters and by reports at all meetings. She is now serving as chair-elect of MLA, where she will continue to keep MPLA visible to the members.

Lawrence Maxwell, a library trustee from Butte, has just taken the helm as this year's MLA president. He has chosen intellectual freedom as a primary theme for the year.

Many academic, public, and special libraries throughout the state have been participating in a collection assessment project sponsored by the Fred Meyer Trust. They are in the process of

evaluating their collections based on the conspectus approach developed by the Research Libraries Group. The state library funded additional workshops for assessment and policy writing which were held at several locations around the state.

The MLA annual meeting was held in Kalispell, and had an exceptionally fine attendance. Many very good continuing education workshops, sponsored by MLA and by the newly formed state ACRL chapter, were well attended and acclaimed.

Nevada
by Dorothy Rice

The Nevada Library Association hosted the MPLA/NLA joint conference in Las Vegas in September, 1985, attracting a record number of conference attendees and exhibitors. Current president of NLA is Anne Hawkins, reference librarian with Washoe County Library, Reno. Carol Madsen, assistant director of Elko County Library, will succeed Ms. Hawkins during NLA's annual conference in Elko September 25-28, 1986.

Following the passage of "Question 9" in 1984, ten million dollars in bonds became available to Nevada public libraries for building construction and expansion. Recommendations of the Nevada State Advisory Council on Libraries included $7,156,157 to the Clark County District (Las Vegas) to support construction of eight new public libraries: $359,632 for the Elko area; $1,935,037 for the Henderson Library District; $99,174 for the Washoe County District (Reno/Sparks); and $450,000 to be held one year for subsequent grant to small rural libraries.

Among the year's library milestones and beginnings, the University of Nevada-Reno celebrated its 100th birthday in April. The University of Nevada-Las Vegas added its 500,000th volume during the University Library Society's first annual dinner, also in April. The Nevada State Advisory Council on Libraries marked its 15th anniversary in May. And the Washoe County Library celebrated the 20th anniversary of its award winning building, also in May.

Joseph J. Anderson, Nevada State Librarian since 1969, died June 23rd following a long illness. Anderson was an ardent supporter of MPLA, having served as president in 1980, as Nevada state representative and as government relations coordinator, both for several years. One of his legacies to Nevada libraries lies in his remarkable success with getting library legislative bills passed. In August, 1986, Nevada Governor Richard H. Bryan named Joan Kerschner the new state librarian. Ms. Kerschner, former assistant state librarian, has held several progressively responsible positions with the State Library during the last 14 years.

North Dakota
by Tom Jones

Federal LSCA construction dollars are having a positive effect in North Dakota! Over the past year, the Hazen and Garrison branches of the McLean-Mercer Regional Library have each moved into new quarters; Hazen is

located in a completely renovated depot building and Garrison in a new city auditorium complex. These two fine facilities, coupled with a recently completed new building in Edgely plus a planned major expansion of Bismarck's Veterans Memorial Public Library illustrate a movement of positive change in the state.

In late 1985 North Dakota received a new State Librarian, Margaret Stefanek. This was during the time a planning study for statewide library automation (online circulation/online catalog) was underway. While the study generated much interest and some controversy within the library community, general state economic conditions forced it to be shelved for the next biennium. Faced with major needs for automation and role readjustment, the State Library has begun a careful process of redirecting state library resources towards "unserved" areas, encouraging the development of long-range planning, and recruiting professional staff to assist in statewide library development.

In March of 1986 the Minot School system was again embroiled in a censorship issue which erupted with the pulling of two children's books "in anticipation" of a parental request for review. Because the city school board did not seriously object to the failure of the administrator involved to follow established policy, the Minot Daily News took it to task in strong support of the right to read. Along these lines, the 1986 NDLA Conference (being held in Fargo on Sept. 25-27) will feature ALA's Judith Krug, Director of the Office of Intellectual Freedom.

The North Dakota Periodicals Indexing Committee, an official NDLA group, achieved the status of a state "centennial project" and plans indexing to cover state published periodicals from 1981 through 1986.

The summer of 1986 marked the first ever statewide summer reading program sponsored by the NDLA Children's Roundtable. Entitled "I Can't Bear To Be Without a Book", the reading bear logo designed by ND children's illustrator Lalo was made available on bookmarks, posters, balloons, and stick-on transfers. Coordinated by Diane Briggs, Fargo Public Library, the well-organized program was well received and especially liked by smaller libraries because of the easy-to-handle packaged program.

Finally, North Dakota looks forward to hosting the 1987 **Tri Conference** (NDLA, SDLA, and MPLA) in Bismarck in September of 1987. The conference theme has been chosen: "Libraries and the Literacy Challenge: the Frontier of the '90s."

South Dakota
by Jim Dertien

A key item in our news this past year was the struggle of the South Dakota Library Association to retain in statute the qualifications for the position of State Librarian. In a legislative struggle with the Governor, the library committee won, and the qualifications were retained.

We now have a new State Librarian, Dr. Jane Kolbe. Jane was formerly Head Librarian, Sioux Falls College, and a past president of MPLA.

Another especially significant news item was a recent decision to utilize the Sperry PALS automation system as the basis for a statewide integrated automation network. Negotiations for the product are now underway, and Black Hills State College will be the first to be automated. A joint funding request from the Governor's Office and from the Regents for Higher Education will go to the 1987 Legislature for funding to bring up the other state institutions. Any other library can join the network when they have funding to do so. It is anticipated that libraries can participate at a cost of roughly $200 per month after equipment purchase.

An issue generating considerable concern has been the recent service cutbacks announced by the State Library. These cutbacks, made because of serious work overload at the State Library, have regrettable consequences for small school and public libraries across South Dakota. It is hoped that librarians can work out compromises that will reduce the new problems.

Utah
by Doug Hindmarsh

Utah librarians have been given several opportunities to find out about MPLA during the past year. Two mailings have been made with membership information: one with the ULA dues renewal forms in December and another during the summer 1986. The latter included a letter from the Utah representative. Also, membership was promoted during the annual spring conference of ULA in Park City.

Public librarians are looking forward to the implementation of "state standards" in conjunction with the **Upgrade Process** which will certify public libraries and encourage planning and evaluation. Also, for the first time, state aid for public libraries will be a reality in Utah. And the last week of August 1986, the State Library will sponsor an institute for public librarians from the small public libraries. UPLIFT (Utah Public Library Institute For Training) will be hosted by the Marriott Library, University of Utah.

ULA completed its first legislative session with a lobbyist earlier this year. The Board and Legislative Committee were only marginally pleased with the results. The lobbyist had little effect on university library or school library budgets. The lobbyist felt he had only impacted the State Library's budget. After considerable discussion by the Board, they voted to have ULA continue to sponsor a lobbyist for the upcoming session.

ULA participated in the Utah "Let's Talk About It" project and the board voted to fund an extension of the project and development of a Utah-related theme. The extended programming focuses on the heavily populated Wasatch Front area and is co-sponsored by the State Division of Aging.

ULA was a co-sponsor of the Symposium on Public Access to Federal Government Information held on February 7, 1986 at the University of Utah. The focus of the symposium was directed to the general public and received broad coverage. Speakers included Eileen D. Cooke, Kenneth B. Allen, Donna A. Demac, Scott M. Matheson, Jr., J. D. Williams, and Ted L. Wilson. The symposium was attend-

ed by 78 librarians and 48 community members.

ULA's highly successful conference was held in a location other than Salt Lake City for only the 3rd time in the history of the association. Park City's Prospector Square was the location, and Park City Library the host. The theme "Libraries: Blazing Trails to Knowledge" drew 31 exhibitors and 419 librarians and trustees. MPLA was represented by a display on a table shared with ALA and located in the ever popular hospitality room. Michael Noe, University of Utah Marriott Library, won the free 1 year membership.

In January 1986, the "official" **Utah Library Association Procedures Manual** was distributed. The 12 chapters include information on the mutually supportive relationship between MPLA and ULA.

ULA's Library Assistants Roundtable is developing guidelines to use for certification of library assistants. For the last 3 years, LART has been studying the concept of paraprofessional certification for support staff. In June 1986, the Board approved the establishment of a Certification Planning and Development Board.

Wyoming
by Dorothy Middleton

Wyoming Library Association has been working hard to plan a conference that reflects the varied interests of the membership and accommodate the times of the year when they can attend.

As the MPLA Representative, I wrote letters to all Wyoming librarians who had been MPLA members but had not renewed for this year. This campaign did result in some renewals.

MPLA's activities were reported regularly in the Wyoming Library publications. There was a good article publicizing MPLA's Professional Development Grants because I had received one to study online searching. In addition to the published reports, reports were given at each WLA Board meeting.

Sections

Children's and School Section
by Dorothea West

The section concentrated its efforts for the year on program planning for the Colorado conference and the selection of a slate of candidates for the 86-87 year. The conference programming includes sponsoring a pre-conference on storytelling featuring the Rocky Mountain Storytellers; an author luncheon with Lois Lowry; a program devoted to reviewing "what's new" in picture books, fiction, nonfiction and media for K-8 and a session which will allow members to share creative ideas that work for them.

The nominating committee chaired by Diane Caley has submitted an ex-

cellent slate of candidates. I would like to thank Diane for her efforts and the candidates for agreeing to run.

Public Relations Section
by Tom Carollo

A major product of the Public Relations Committee was the membership survey prepared and distributed under the supervision of Blaine Hall. The survey was first presented at the December meeting of the Executive Board and later published in the Newsletter. Mr. Hall deserves accolades for his efforts. Based on this survey, the Public Relations Committee will be able to reevaluate its purpose within the MPLA structure and to plan better public relations strategies and publicity suggestions.

Two programs have been organized by the Committee for the SilverCreek Conference. The first is a pre-conference seminar on "Managing the Difficult Employee," and the second is a general program on basic public relations techniques entitled "Forge Ahead." Both programs will be presented by ALA staff.

Based on the survey of the membership, plans are in the works to produce a basic packet of MPLA promotional materials and public relations "teasers" for use by state representatives. Negotiations are underway with a graphic artist to redesign posters and other visual attention grabbers.

If all goes well, and my health stay good, and the creeks of the Mojave stays dry, most of this will get done within 18 months.

Technical Services Section
by Elnora M. Mercado

The Technical Services Section, in cooperation with the CLA Technical Services and Automation Division, is sponsoring a luncheon and a workshop at the CLA/MPLA conference featuring Mr. James E. Ekendahl of Consulting Concepts International. He will speak on "The Technical Services Librarian as Consultant." This Section solicited and received several donations from vendors towards the honorarium for the speaker.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Martha Hanscom, has submitted an excellent slate of candidates for the upcoming elections. Thanks to the Committee and the candidates for agreeing to run.

Public Library/Trustee
by Jerry Kaup

The activities of the section focused on the conference program, a Programming/CE Survey, and nomination of officers.

Eloise Fasold, Chair, CLA Public Library Division; Joyce Lottner, Chair, CLA Trustee Division; and I met in Littleton, Colorado, to plan conference programming. Lisa Kinney, attorney, legislator and former librarian, will present the program "Suiting Up for a Suit: Liability Insurance, Protective Legislation, Risk Management." Diane Caley, Director, Ward County Public Library, Minot, N.D., is the speaker for the

workshop "Procedures as an Extension of Policy." A panel of three speakers will discuss "Breaking into Jail: Designing and Funding Library Services for Our Jails."

The results of our Programming/CE Survey will be provided at the section business meeting. The results will be used to develop future conference programs.

The Nominating Committee (Jane Hatch, Chair; Mary Southwell; and Diane Caley) submitted an excellent slate of officers for section officers. Thanks to them and the candidates for accepting nomination.

Junior Members Round Table
by Lysa Wegman-French

JMRT is sponsoring an orientation program at the 1986 conference entitled "Everything you didn't think you wanted to know but will be glad you learned about MPLA". The panel will include Tom Jones, president; Joe Edelen, executive secretary; and five section and committee chairs.

We again participated in the Grassroots Grant program sponsored by Baker & Taylor, which is designed to encourage library school student participation in professional associations. The $250 grant is used to help defray costs related to attending the annual conference. Jean Hatfield was awarded the grant to attend the 1985 conference. The winner of the 1986 award is Billie Mitchell, a student in the University of Wyoming's Instructional Technology and Library Media Management program. Paul Hawkins, JMRT vice chair/chair elect, did a commendable job coordinating the 1986 grant search.

The Nominating Committee has submitted an excellent slate of candidates for the 86/87 term so we anticipate another good year.

State Agency Section
by Morel Fry

The State Agency Section of the Mountain Plains Library Association met in Las Vegas during the 1985 MPLA/NLA Convention. Since the Chairman had left the region, the Chairman/Elect became Chairman. A Nominating Committee was appointed with Wayne Johnson, Wyoming State Library as Chairman. The section will co-sponsor a program during the 1986 MPLA/CLA Convention in SilverCreek, Colorado.

Academic Libraries Section
by Sue Hatfield

This year, for the first time the Academic Libraries Section is sponsoring a research forum at the annual conference. We will also be publishing the proceedings of that forum and plan to have those available for purchase at SilverCreek.

I would like to thank everyone who submitted abstracts, the jury who read them, and all those people who have encouraged me in the project. It is my hope that we will be successful enough this year that MPLA will continue this activity on an annual basis.

Committees

Continuing Education Committee
by Mary Carter

The committee sponsored the audio taping of presentations at the 1985 annual conference in Las Vegas. Over 80 tapes were sold - an excellent result for a first-time effort.

In October the committee began an eight-month project of identifying continuing education resources in our region. The result is the bibliography, "Continuing Education Resources in the MPLA Region", which has been distributed to all MPLA members. It contains 322 items, 265 of which are non-print materials. It also contains names of individuals in the region who are willing to conduct workshops.

The number of applications by state associations for pre-conference grants is disappointing this year. As of August 1, none were received. State association conference planners are missing a fine opportunity for supplementing their pre-conferences. The committee updated and revised the guidelines for these applications.

Professional Development Grants Committee
by Dick Allen

Taking over as chair of their committee in January was greatly facilitated by the previous chair's, Cynthia Berner's, excellent records and good suggestions. In addition to Cynthia (Kansas) continuing on the committee, we have covered the MPLA "waterfront" with Sandra Collins (Utah), Karen Everett (Montana), Helen Higby (Wyoming), Jerry Kaup (North Dakota), Elnora Mercado (Colorado), Glenda Rhodes (South Dakota), and Dorothy Rice (Nevada). Because of relocation or other commitments Glenda and Dorothy have had to resign from the committee; we certainly do appreciate their time and shared wisdom.

As of this writing (August 20, 1986) the committee has approved two evaluative reports for grants made in 1986; we have also received and acted favorably on six additional grant applications for which evaluative reports are still pending. These have enabled MPLA members to attend the Public Library Association Conference in St. Louis; the State Library of Ohio's Second Annual Rural Bookmobile Conference in Columbus; Kent State's 16th Annual Summer Institutes for School Library/Media Specialists in Kent, Ohio; the American Library Association Conference in New York; the American Association of School Librarians Fourth National Conference in Minneapolis; Brigham Young University for completion of an MLS degree; and to make a site visit of newly-installed library automation equipment at the University of Tulsa.

We encourage all MPLA members to keep the professional grants program in mind as a means of continuing their professional education. Bear in mind too that both formal and "self-directed" professional development are fair game for our committee.

Finance Committee
by Henry Yaple

The basic activity for the MPLA Finance Committee in 1985-86 was the development of the FY 1986 budget. The MPLA Executive Board approved the proposed budget with only minor changes at their December 6, 1985 meeting in Denver. The changes that were made included expanding the allocation for the MPLA Newsletter so that better quality paper could be used. The June, 1986 issue reflects this positive change.

Another innovation in the 1986 budget was an allocation to fund the MPLA jobline as an in-Watts line. Joe Edelen was responsible for this development, and it should be a significant benefit to our members.

This year the BYU Library completed the first MPLA Special Projects Grant. The grant of $1,000 was for the creation of a video tape entitled Library Security: Exit Control. It was designed to train exit control workers in libraries. A number of copies have been purchased by MPLA regional libraries. An archival tape of the production has been deposited in the MPLA Archives at Norlin Library, University of Colorado, Boulder.

MPLA Finance Committee members for 85-86 were John Campbell, Colorado; Mary Jane Chaussee, North Dakota; Dean Covington, Nevada; Russ Robertson, Utah; and Henry Yaple, Wyoming, Chair.

Intellectual Freedom Committee
by Heather McQuarie

As usual, the 1985-86 year offered several book and media challenges throughout the MPLA region. Some of the more notable cases (of which I am aware) were:

1) Greeley, CO, January, 1986. Parents filed a complaint against Winning by Robin Brancato, and Hanging Out With Cici by Francine Pascal, stating the books contain obscenities, allusions to sexual relations, contempt for parents, and acceptance of drug use. The school board voted unanimously to keep the books in the district's middle, junior, and high school libraries.

2) Reno, NV, May, 1986. A high school principal stopped school showing of "El Norte," a film about the problems and needs of Central American immigrants, citing profanity as the reason for the ban. The ACLU and the Nevada Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee responded by sponsoring a showing of the film at the University of Nevada.

3) Brookings, SD, December, 1985. A request to remove the book Go Ask Alice from a middle school was rejected by the school board. The citizen's objection was that by using the book students "would certainly increase their language and knowledge of sex."

4) Gillette, WY, April, 1986. The Campbell County School District Reconsideration Committee voted to remove a set of health encyclopedias from the Sage Valley Junior High School after a resident said the books contained photographs that were too explicit.

5) South Dakota. Circuit Judge Gene Paul Kean again dismissed several South Dakota booksellers as defendants in Governor William Janklow's $24 million libel lawsuit over the book In the Spirit of Crazy Horse.

6) Jefferson County, CO, May, 1986. The Superintendent and a textbook review committee agreed to retain A Dark Dark Room and Other Scary Stories in the elementary schools, in spite of parents' objections to its "occultish beliefs" and frightening contents.

I've noticed two general trends during this past year. First of all, I feel that schools and libraries are becoming more organized about handling challenges. They are beginning to follow that "ounce of prevention/pound of cure" adage and are following procedures and writing selection policies. State Intellectual Freedom Manuals, such as the ones in South Dakota, North Dakota, and, very soon, Colorado, are extremely helpful.

Secondly, I see a very strong growth in vocal, organized anti-pornography groups. Edwin Meese's Commission has given them the support they hoped for, and many booksellers are being challenged by groups such as the Black Hills Citizens for Decency or the Common Christian Concern in Glenwood Springs, CO, who want books or magazines they consider obscene to be removed.

This was my last year as Chair of this Committee. I appreciate the Board's and the members' support over the past four years, and I especially thank my committee members who kept me informed, amused, and, when necessary, rational.

Nominating Committee Report
by John Nixon

The nominees for the various officers of MPLA and its sections have all been selected and presented to the membership in a recent ballot mailing. As chair I would like to thank all of the members of MPLA Nominating Committee and all of the various officers of the sections for their excellent cooperation in the tasks performed. The members of the Nominating Committee were:

Jim Dertien - South Dakota
K.L. Janacek - North Dakota
James Marvin - Kansas
Dorothy Middleton - Wyoming
Richard Gercken - Montana
Linda Rea - Nebraska
Mary Southwell - Utah
Daniel Seager - Colorado

Bylaws and Procedures Committee
by Jean S. Johnson

Two concerns occupied the time of the committee during the year. The Executive Board portion of the procedures manual had become outdated. It did not include Arizona and Montana, which had become members of the association, and did not take into consideration the fact that the annual conferences may be held in either the spring or fall. Appropriate changes were recommended to and approved by the Board at its May meeting.

The Board had requested that the committee examine the issue of commercial vendors not affiliated with libraries and the book industry requesting meeting and exhibit space. The committee proposed to the Board changes in the Bylaws that would cover such circumstances. No final action has yet been taken.

Awards Committee
by Honey Lou Bonar

At the Las Vegas MPLA convention the Association presented five awards recognizing outstanding regional efforts in the promotion of libraries and librarianship. Twelve nominees were received in five award categories. The winners and their award citations are:

Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award, presented to Mike Crawford of Frankton, Colorado; as a representative of American Companies in recognition of his conscientious endeavors toward libraries and especially for his enthusiastic support of Summer Reading programs in the Mountain Plains region.

MPLA Distinguished Service Award, presented to Edith B. Siegrist of Vermillion, South Dakota; in recognition of a lifetime commitment to libraries and teaching library media programs and for her service to library associations at the state, regional and national levels.

MPLA Legislative Leadership Award, presented to Montana Arts Advocacy of Billings, Montana; for providing an organized and comprehensive citizen-based lobbying effort for culture on behalf of libraries, museums and the arts across Montana and especially for its positive results in the 1985 legislature.

MPLA News Media Support Award, presented to The Great Bend Tribune, Great Bend, Kansas; in recognition of its sustained high level of new exposure for libraries through its consistent editorial support for library funding and its ongoing highly visible coverage of library events.

MPLA Literary Contribution Award, presented to Ivy Ruckman of Salt Lake City, Utah; whose works for young people are infused with the spirit of the region, evoking emotions about the place of her birth and with accurate treatment of the natural and human landscape of the mountain-plains.

At the current time the Committee has received nominations for its 1986 award presentations, and will be presenting four awards at the SilverCreek conference.

Are inadequate leasing status reports getting you down?

Cheer up. Baker & Taylor's Book Leasing System provides you with more detailed management reports for tighter control of your leasing program.

Only Baker & Taylor provides inventory reports that show an exact title-by-title monthly status of the books you've leased.

And you can know just how many books you have and how many books you've returned by checking our detailed monthly collection report.

You'll also receive a Book Leasing System title list each month showing those titles which are bound to be popular when they are published 30-60 days later. By ordering from this list, you'll have the books in your library when the patrons come calling for them.

So, get a new lease on life...try Baker & Taylor's Book Leasing System.

Call or write today for more information.

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN DEPEND ON

BAKER & TAYLOR
a GRACE company

($1.62 vs. $1.74). (Perhaps this small decrease reflects the impact of materials donated by Friends.) Still, by combining these three categories, average per capita expenditures by public libraries with Friends groups were higher than the statewide average ($9.56 vs. $8.47). (Centennial State Libraries, May 1986)

Inputs/Output Relationships

Expenditures on staff, materials, facilities, and automation—as well as staffing level and collection size—are the most prominent factors which determine the level of service public libraries can offer Coloradans.

Five major findings are reported from an analysis of 1984 input-output measures from public libraries:

1. Interlibrary loan requests per borrower increased with:

a. expenditures per borrower on materials, facilities, and automation, and

b. ratio of staff members to borrowers.

2. Circulation transactions per borrower increased with:

a. the number of holdings per borrower and

b. expenditures per borrower on staff and materials.

3. Registration per capita increased with:

a. number of holdings per borrower and

b. expenditures per borrower on staff and facilities.

4. Circulation transactions per hour increased with:

a. number of staff members per hour open and

b. ratio of staff members to borrowers.

5. Reference transactions per borrower increased with expenditures per borrower on automation.

The planning implications of these findings are clear. To improve public library services, funding for libraries must be increased to provide larger collections, better facilities to house them, larger and more accessible staffs to assist patrons in using them, and more automated library services to facilitate access to local collections as well as other sources of information. (Centennial State Libraries, June 1986)

Cherry Creek Librarians Win AASL Computer Award

Carole Martinez and Elizabeth Bankhead of the Cherry Creek High School are recipients of the Follett/American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Microcomputer in the Media Center Award for their "innovative approach to use of the microcomputer as an educational tool in the learning center."

Carole, as chair of the district computer committee, allocated over $1 million of capital reserve funds for microcomputer equipment to help schools reach their instructional computing goals. In their own school, Cherry Creek High School, Carole and Elizabeth have established an interdisciplinary computer lab with close management and philosophical ties to the library media center. This center provides facilities, software and professional assistance to the entire faculty and students of the school. (ALA news release)

Kansas

READS Demonstrated

Recently a demonstration of the READS (Reader Enrollment and Delivery System) for Blind and Physically Handicapped libraries was demonstrated to library system administrators in Kansas.

READS is a system designed to provide B&PH libraries with low-cost automation of record-keeping procedures. It was developed for the National Library Service, Library of Congress, and is now available for others to use.

Currently, B&PH libraries in Kansas have over $3,000,000 in federal equipment, and the READS system will substantially reduce the amount of time necessary to keep track of this equipment, thus allow more time for consultation with the B&PH user.

READS is designed to automate almost all of the functions of a B&PH library, from registering patrons and handling their requests, to circulation of the

books, magazines and machines, even including production of statistical reports on efficiency of the service. The system uses a modified IBM PC AT microcomputer.

It is hoped that funding for acquisition of READS may be available for Fiscal Year 1988 in Kansas. (CKLS Post)

Legacy of Success Thriving

Initiated last year by the Wichita Public Schools System, "Legacy of Success", a program created in honor of Crystal McNally, former Director of Media Services, has announced its second annual literary program.

On October 2 and 3, Paul Fleischman will be the second author to participate in what is hoped to be an annual program involving an author or illustrator. Mr. Fleischman will participate in the Kansas Conference on Language Arts Studies and will also share his writing experience with students in a workshop.

"Legacy of Success" is a special fund established to bring an author or illustrator to Wichita annually in connection with an educational conference or meeting. (Wichita Public Schools news release)

Aborigine Art at TPL

The Topeka Public Library, in conjunction with the Topeka Zoo's visiting Koala, is hosting an exhibition of Australian Aboriginal Art. The exhibit includes religious bark paintings, coiled palm baskets, musical instruments, totem carvings, hollow log coffins, weapons—including boomerangs and spear throwers—and ceremonial regalia. (Tid-Bits Newsletter, June/July 1986)

Outstanding U.S. Libraries

Two South Central Kansas libraries are included among 50 outstanding U.S. libraries selected to participate in a continuing survey of the Library Research Center of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

They are the public libraries of Hesston and Newton. Coincidentally both are in Harvey County.

The 50 libraries, chosen after analysis of their per capita expenditures and circulation and other factors, are "now grappling with problems that will affect other libraries," according to Herbert Goldhor, head of the research center. They are at the forefront of library action and planning. (SCKLS Sun, June 1986)

Computer Bulletin Board Offered by State Library

The Interlibrary Resource Sharing and Automation Division of the Kansas State Library has announced the creation of a Bulletin Board System (KSL BBS) to link libraries in Kansas. Its primary audience will be Kansas libraries, but it has the capability to link with BBSs throughout the world.

The KSL BBS is perfect for use by the Kansas Library Network Board because preliminary papers can be distributed by computer to members who can then download them into a word processing program for editing, then upload into the BBS for others to comment on. In addition, software and book reviews will be made available as well as public domain software that can be downloaded.

KSL BBS is being run on a Zenith Z150 computer with a 20-megabyte hard disk and is available after 5:00 weekdays and all day on weekends. The co-SYSOPS (SYStem OPerators) are Jim Carroll and Bruce Flanders at the Kansas State Library. (Kansas Libraries, July 1986)

ALTA Benefactor Award to Kansas

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walker of Stockton were one of the recipients of the American Library Trustee Association's Major Benefactor Honor Award for their gift to the Stockton Public Library for construction of a 4,200 square foot addition to the building, renovation and new equipment. (ALA news release)

Montana

ALTA Benefactor Award to Havre Clinic

The Havre Clinic of Havre was one of the recipients of the American Library Trustee Association's Major Benefactor Honor Awards for donating the Havre Clinic Building to the Havre-Hill County Library. (ALA news release)

CD-ROM Project Funded

At its May meeting the Montana State Library Commission approved $78,000 in LSCA funds to develop a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of CD-ROM technology for Montana libraries. This funding would provide for a public and a school library in each of the state's six federations, plus one academic and one special library, to receive the Western Library Network database on CD-ROM technology (laser discs used with a reader and a microcomputer). It also provides funds for retrospective conversion for participating libraries. (Montana State Library News, May/June 1986)

State Librarian To Be Auctioned Off

One of the fund-raising acitivities at the Montana Library Association annual meeting in May was a raffle, and one of the items in the raffle was to have Sara Parker, State Librarian, work in your library for a day. This item was won by the Montana Historical Society Library; they are now in the process of offering this "item" for bid to other libraries.

The Historical Society Library's bidding will involve offers, which will be judged on several grounds: humor; distance from Helena; cash value to myself; and of course, potential historical value to the collection of the Historical Society's holdings. (State representative report)

Nebraska

NLC's ICBM

The Nebraska Library Commission's Publications Clearinghouse has responded to an interlibrary loan request from the Lenin State Library in Moscow and now has dispatched its first "intercontinental book by mail." The requested item, **The Berkeley Manuscript**, is published by the University of Nebraska Press, edited by Oliver B. Ellsworth, and is part of a series on Greek and Latin music theory. (Overtones, February-March 1986)

Kellogg Grant to NLC

The Nebraska Library Commission received a $448,000 W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant to establish an Educational Information Center network. The project is in cooperation with the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for

Post-Secondary Education. The components of the project are a state education information center with a toll-free telephone line and one public library education information center in each of the six library systems. (State representative report)

Nevada

Mines Library Receives Map Grant

The University of Nevada-Reno Foundation has awarded the Mines Library a $9,000 grant to preserve the maps included in the Mackay School of Mines theses. These maps number over 525 and date from 1928. Heavy use has aged these maps rapidly and will eventually destroy them.

The preservation process first involves color or black and white reproduction of the maps; this copy will remain with the theses for circulation. In the second step, the original map is encapsulated in mylar and will remain in the library. Linda Newman, Map Librarian, is project director.

In conjunction with the preservation project, the Mines Library published the **Mackay School of Mines Thesis List 1908-1983.** (High Roller, Jan.-March 1986)

Las Vegas-Clark County Names Architect

Antoine Predock, winner of the 1985 architectural competition for a $15 million Arizona State University Fine Arts Center and Museum and winner of six Western Mountain Region AIA awards, has been selected as architect for the new 100,000 sq. ft. library that will house the Las Vegas-Clark County Library and Discovery, The Children's Museum.

Predock, recognized internationally for his creation of architecture appropriate to the powerful landscape of the American West, will have a quadruple challenge in designing the unique complex. Requirements call for the creation of a building that enforces the image of the emerging city—with its lights and growing towers—without losing sight of the strong desert and mountain backdrop. Inside, the facility must serve as a shaper of a place that people will use as both a library and a children's museum. A proposed People Mover

stop or station may be included in the project that is expected to cost $10 million.

The new Central Library is part of an ambitious building project, which will include construction of 13 new branches over the next few years. When the Clark County Library District was formed in 1968, it served a scant 90,000 people within its borders. Today, the newly consolidated Las Vegas-Clark County Library District provides services for 488,000 people in Southern Nevada. (LV-CCLD news release)

Protest Showing of "El Norte"

(Special report by Lynn Ossolinski, Chair, Nevada Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee).

Every time a censorship case occurs, it experiences either cover-up or a press release. In either event it leaves one with a desire to know more about the issue and the fact and rationale behind the situation. I want to let you know all the facts that I am aware of about the censoring of the very moving film "El Norte" by the Washoe County School District curriculum department.

"El Norte" was shown in several foreign language classes in high schools in Washoe County School District (WCSD). A teacher at McQueen High School wanted to show the film at a "Close-up" program. "Close-up" is a program with a national reputation that takes high school students (usually juniors and seniors) to Washington, D.C. The students in the program spend some time preparing for the trip by looking into current issues. A topic is chosen for the yearly presentation of a current issue (censorship was one of the issues of recent years) and this year's issue was Immigration.

The teacher in charge of the program at McQueen High School chose the film "El Norte" as part of the presentation because the film was informative and had a high impact. The film presents a view of all the problems that occur in dealing with the immigration of Central Americans to the United States, as experienced by a brother and sister who had to leave Guatemala or be put to death, and dreamed of living in the freedom of "the north".

The principal of McQueen High School looked at the film and censored it's use in his school. He then had the curriculum department of WCSD view the film. They agreed with his decision

and the film was banned in all schools.

Profanity was given as the reason for the ban. It is interesting to note here that 'El Norte" was shown on PBS and is available in video stores.

The American Civil Liberties Union, upon hearing of the ban, scheduled a protest showing of the film. ACLU lawyer, Jim Shields called the NLA President, Anne Hawkins and asked if NLA would co-sponsor the showing. The Intellectual Freedom Committee of NLA was the official co-sponsor with ACLU for the protest showing of "El Norte", held Monday, May 5, on the University of Nevada campus.

The showing was well attended, including the media.

A panel, including NLA librarians, reacted to the film. The panel felt the film was a valuable tool in providing information on immigration. Beyond information it provided a look at immigration in the eyes of the immigrant. This film presents the problems and needs of Central American immigrants. It is not a film that should be denied to any person of any age. The profanity is a very small part of the film, it appears in the subtitles on the bottom of the film. This was an outrageous misuse of power by the principal. It appears that the curriculum department stood behind the principal because that is their policy.

Regardless of the press coverage of the protest showing and the attention to the case, the WCSD has not lifted the ban on the film.

North Dakota

Video Consortium

As a result of difficulties experienced by libraries seeking legal copies of broadcast television programs, the Academic Section of NDLA set up a committee to organize a consortium which would be able to purchase group licenses to broadcast programs thereby reducing costs.

Although the original intention was to start the consortium within the Academic Section and then to open it to all NDLA members, there has been so much interest in it from both the school and the public libraries that it was decided to open it to them from the beginning.

A constitution for the consortium has been released, and awaits NDLA approval at the fall annual conference. (Flickertale, July 1986)

Radio Reading Service Wins National Award

Dakota Radio Information Service of Bismarck has just won one (of a total of 18 national awards) of the National Organization on Disability 1986 Community Awards Program. The Service is headquartered in the Division of Service to Blind and Physically Handicapped at the North Dakota State Library. This marks the first time a radio reading service has won in all six years of the Community Awards Program.

The Dakota Radio Information Service went on the air March 1984 as a result of joint efforts of the North Dakota Association of the Blind and the Bismarck Mayor's Partnership Committee on the Handicapped. It is now on the air 18 hours a day, seven days a week. (Flickertale, May 1986)

RAVES Reading Program Back in Action

Grant Gilbertson and Helen Griffin come in three mornings a week to read tales at the Veterans Memorial Public Library in Bismarck. They're part of a program called RAVES—Reading Aloud Volunteers Enriches Summer.

RAVES pairs elementary school children with volunteers who listen, read and play word games. Some 50 children are participating in the first session with at least that many coming for the second session, and another 60 on the waiting list, who cannot come because there are not enough volunteers.

RAVES died in 1981 because of a lack of volunteers, but was revived in 1984 and is directed by Joyce Hinman, Bismarck Public Schools reading consultant, and Marvia Boettcher, library youth services director.

At the library, partners head for a poster-spattered room in the basement where they spend about 45 minutes together. Then the children watch a filmstrip while volunteers record the books they've read and have a coffee break before the next group of children trot downstairs to a table full of books and a friend to share them with.

About half the children are taking part in the program because they need help, Marvia said, but "some are just here for the pleasure of reading." (Bismarck Tribune, June 26, 1986)

South Dakota

Statewide Automation System Selected

Upon the recommendation of a Library Automation Advisory Committee the State of South Dakota's public colleges and universities and the State Library have selected the Sperry hardware supported PALS library automation system as the basis for a statewide integrated library automation system.

Three years have been spent researching the concept, various products and governance issues. The initial installation will be at Black Hills State College utilizing HEA Title III funds for software, terminal, printer and communications equipment purchases. Sperry will be donating a mainframe computer to the State of South Dakota.

The Board of Regents has agreed to support a proposal from the governor's office to approach the 1987 Legislature for funds sufficient to provide additional terminals, software and related equipment necessary to bring the remaining colleges and universities into the network.

PALS is an automation system first developed at Mankato State University in Minnesota. It is now utilized in a single network by other state colleges, a state university and several junior colleges, plus North Dakota State University. There have been about six other installations elsewhere in the U.S.

The South Dakota automation network will be available for use by any private college, school, public or special library in the state. It will offer libraries the opportunities to share overhead costs (communications, maintenance, security, upgrades, staff, etc.) associated with a central computer at a monthly cost of roughly $150 per month per terminal. Libraries will be faced with only their terminal, printer and communication device costs as initial start-up costs.

Health Sciences Grant to Augustana

Augustana College's Mikkelson Library (Sioux Falls) has recently been awarded a grant of $20,000 from the Helene Fuld Health Trust of New York. The money will be used to purchase books and periodicals to support the health sciences programs of the college. (Augustana College news release)

Utah

Salt Lake County Master Plan

The Salt Lake County Library Foundation has unveiled a new master plan for library development that has generated support from all five communities involved. The communities include Sandy, West Valley, Taylorsville-Bennion and Magna. It is estimated the construction package could be accomplished for approximately $5 million. There are two options for financing the work:

(1) The library foundation as a corporation could develop the libraries and lease them back to the library system. The buildings would be donated to the library system at the end of 25 years, and the foundation would raise the funds for development through land donations, professional and corporate donations, in-kind grants and lease revenue bonds.

(2) Salt Lake County could create a building authority to bond for $5 million. The Utah Supreme Court decided in 1985 that counties may create a building authority to bond for construction projects without holding public votes and without affecting county bond ratings.

According to the County Library Foundation, the plan has great advantages. It includes planning for 92% of the population within the service districts of Salt Lake County Library facilities. Nearly 275,000 people will be directly affected by the construction project.
(Horsefeathers, June-July 1986)

Church Library & Archives Institutes New Rules

The administration of the library archives of the Church Historical Department has issued new procedures after consulting with an expert from the National Archives and other experts in the field.

Patrons were advised that many of the former practices relating to eligibility for use of archival materials will be continued, but that some new procedures for gaining clearance to use archival materials may in some cases delay immediate access to those materials. New requirements include sign-in and sign-out procedures that will identify and maintain a record of patrons who

use the Library and Archives.

A computerized circulation and location system should be operational by the end of the summer. Updated electronic equipment is also being installed. (The Daily Spectrum, May 30, 1986)

Program Doubles Fun

The Shared Reading Program sponsored by the Orem Public Library is an all-ages reading program which involves two people—parent and child, brother and sister, scout leader and Scout, friend and friend—entering into a reading contract. The first person agrees to read a certain number of books by a specific date and discuss each book with the second person. The second person agrees to provide incentive for reading by offering any prize for completing the program—an ice cream, an outing, a book, a vacation, a toy, or even a special privilege. The contracting parties together make all decisions as to reading requirements, rewards, and time period, and put these in writing.

The Orem Public Library provides the reading contract forms, expert readers' counseling, booklists, and official award certificates upon completion of the program. In addition, children completing the program will receive a coupon for a free kids meal at Skipper's; adults and teens will receive a free bookbag. (Orem Geneva Times, May 29, 1986)

Near Bottom of Rankings

The University of Utah's Marriott Library has slid to the bottom ranks of research libraries nationally, with problems reaching "crisis proportions," a new study says.

The Marriott Library, serving 25,000 U. of U. students, plus other colleges and general public, ranks 92nd of 104 university libraries in total expenditures, 96th in book and periodical expenditures and near the bottom in space, according to a study commissioned by the University Graduate Council.

The report said the library seating capacity is seven percent of the student body, compared to 25 percent at most schools.

The Library also lacks "essential" research materials because it subscribes to 8,000 fewer periodicals and journals than its average peer institution library. In addition, the library is understaffed, hours have been reduced and services

to patrons have deteriorated, according to the study.

Despite the library being one of the school's top funding priorities, "limited state funds have not met the critical needs of the library," noted University President Chase Peterson.

The report listed efforts to computerize the library card catalog, high staff morale in the face of myriad problems and attempts to add to the collection as strengths. (The Daily Spectrum, June 11, 1986)

Wyoming

Libraries Share Kellogg Grant

Four Wyoming libraries will be sharing a grant awarded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. The State Library, the University Libraries, Carbon County and Converse County Public Libraries are the participants. The special project was designed to improve lifelong education opportunities by enhancing the resources of the library.

Wyoming was awarded $517,700 for the four-year grant. Colorado, Montana and Utah are a part of the four-state grant.

The State Library will be participating with the addition of a full-time staff position recently approved by the governor. Grant monies will also be used for additional staffing at the other three libraries. The new personnel will help to develop new courses and information services for the residents of the participating communities. New technologies including computers, electronic blackboards, and closed-circuit television may be used. (The Outrider, May-June 1986)

Award Award for Find the Entrance Game

Each year at its annual convention the Wyoming Library Association honors those who have made significant contributions to the profession. However, there was one special award the "Award Award" that was given to all patrons of the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library.

The Award Award is a less serious honor bestowed for some project or incident that does not fit into any established category. The Sheridan patrons were nominated for the patience

they displayed as they played daily for several months the "Find the Entrance" game during the remodeling and expansion of their public library. (SCFPL Newsletter, July 1986)

About You

John Beecher, formerly Head of Public Services at the St. Paul Campus Libraries, University of Minnesota, is the new Library Director at North Dakota State University.

Kathi Brill, on leave from the Lead (SD) High School, will be a librarian at the American School in London, England for the next two school years.
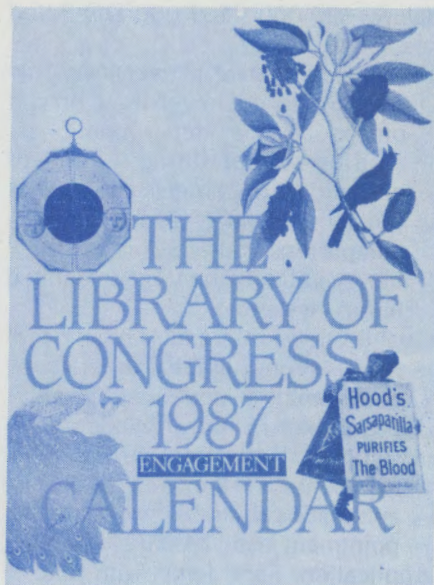
Newly Minted

American Storytelling Series, videotaped performances of some of today's foremost practitioners of the age-old art of storytelling. Each of the first eight 30-minute full-color tapes offers two or three stories by different tellers. Told by nationally-known performers from all parts of the country representing a variety of ethnic traditions. For a brochure write The H.W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452.

Directory of Agencies Collecting Statistical Data from College & University Libraries lists federal, state and local agencies by geographic area with address, survey title, publication source, coverage, frequency, availability of data and a contact person given for most entries. $15 prepaid ($12 to LAMA members) from LAMA/ALA.

Fact Sheet on Economic Equity Act is a five-page fact sheet on the Economic Equity Act of 1985, which gives an overview of legislation pending in Congress that would ensure economic equity for American women. Also available from the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship are fact sheets on the following topics: abortion, child care, Equal Rights Amendment, health effects of VDT use, non-discrimination in insurance, pay equity, pensions and Social Security. To receive a copy of the Economic Equity Act fact sheet, send your request and a mailing label to COSWL/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Library Buildings: From Decision to Design offers practical advice on key concerns in the library building process such as needs assessment, planning teams, library building consultants, architect selection, etc. The 193-page paperback is the collected essays from a 1984 LAMA preconference. $25 prepaid ($20 to LAMA members) from LAMA/ALA.

Library of Congress Engagement Calendar, 1987 edition, is 7"x9", 128 pages, "Wire-O" bound, and includes a 10-page supplement which outlines how to access and order material from the Library. Available at significant discounts for library fund raising. $10.25 (includes S/H) from Galison Books, Dept. 22, 25 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036.

Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings, second edition, by Keyes Metcalf, plus Philip Leighton and David Weber, updates for the 1980's Metcalf's classic text on planning, design, and construction of new library buildings and the renovation of existing buildings. ALA, $60.

Planning for Library Automation: Aberdeen City Libraries, by James Herring and John MacKenzie, provides a step-by-step analysis of the process of introducing automation into a public library system, using a case study approach. Published by the Library Association, London. ALA, $15.

Recommended Reference Books for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries and Media Centers 1986, edited by Bohdan S. Wynar, reviews over 550 titles chosen by the editor as the most valuable reference titles published during 1985. Reviews are lengthy and critical. Libraries Unlimited, $30.

Reference and Research Book News is a new publication which will review current reference materials. Quarterly for $18 per year. Reference and Research Book News, 5606 N.E. Hassalo St., Portland, OR 97213.

Training Issues in Changing Technology focuses on training library personnel to work in a rapidly changing technological environment. The authors are library managers and trainers who participated in the ALA conference program. $16 prepaid ($13 to LAMA members) from LAMA/ALA.

University Press Books for Public Libraries, 8th edition, describes over 300 titles published during 1985, and is available for no charge by writing on letterhead to: Association of American University Presses, Inc., One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

The U.S.A. Through Children's Books, a recent Booklist bibliography, is now available as a reprint. It includes more than 55 picture books and easy-to-read books, fiction and nonfiction for children from preschool to eighth grade, representing the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of the lifestyles and peoples of the U.S. For single copies of the reprint, send a self-addressed, #10 envelope stamped with 39 cents postage to: Booklist Marketing Director, U.S.A. Through Children's Books, ALA.

Videodisc and Optical Digital Disk Technologies and Their Implications in Libraries, by Judy McQueen and Richard Boss, examines the potential impact of optical media for library applications. It is an updated edition of a report based on research funded by the Council on Library Resources, and reflects the state of the industry in early 1986. ALA, $25.

We Make House Calls is a 15-page booklet by Julianne Phillips which can provide assistance to small and medium-sized libraries in establishing or improving services to the homebound. Copies can be ordered from the Ohio Library Association, 40 South Third Street, #230, Columbus, OH 43215, for $3.25.

Continuing Education

Dates: October 23-25
Serials Cataloging
Sponsors: RTSD/Library of Congress/ Council of Regional Groups
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Description: To gain a better understanding of the creation, interpretation, content, format, and uses of serials cataloging records. This regional institute is designed for technical services librarians, systems librarians, public services librarians, and library educators concerned with the creation and uses of serials cataloging records.
Cost: $220 for RTSD personal members, $245 for an ALA personal member, $270 for a non-ALA member. Registration fee will cover the cost of two luncheons, coffee breaks, and handout materials.
This institute is one of a series; the remaining schedule is as follows:
February 19-21, 1987 - Los Angeles
October 22-24, 1987 - Fort Worth
December 9-11, 1987 - Boston
For registration form write RTSD, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Dates: November 14-15
Collection Management Institute
Sponsor: University of Alabama

Description: Four major themes as they relate to collection management will be addressed: 1. cooperation at various levels; 2. library automation and the new technologies; 3. deteriorating collections; 4. management considerations.

Cost: $50, which does not include meals and hotel room.

For descriptive brochure and registration form, write Dean James Ramer, P.O. Box 6242, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Additional Notes: The School of Library and Information Science, **Louisiana State University,** Baton Rouge, advises they are now offering a generous financial aid program that provides all tuition costs and a stipend of about $450 per month in exchange for half-time professional work in the LSU Library. LSU is an ALA-accredited library school. The University of Washington Extension division will be offering **Records Management,** a one-year evening course of study to prepare for a career in records management. For more information write University Extension, University of Washington, GH-12, Seattle, WA 98195.

Deadline: September 30

Joblist

Deadline: November 1
Position: **Assistant Cataloger**
Salary: $18,400
Library: Idaho State University
Qualifications: MLS or 5th year equivalent library degree from ALA accr. school. Demonstrated interest in cataloging. Faculty status and full faculty privileges. 12 month appointment, 24 days vacation a year.
Application: Send letter with date of availability, resume, copies of both undergrad. and graduate transcripts and 3 letters of reference to: Mary L. Beran, Search Comm. Chair., Library, P.O. Box 8089, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho 83209.

Deadline: December 1
Position: **Public Services Director**
(Search Extended)
Salary: $30,000 - $33,000 DOQ and experience.
Library: Idaho State University
Duties: Manage University Library's public service departments, including circulation, reference, periodicals, documents and subject specialists, staff of 7 prof. and 10 paraprofessionals. ISU is an RLIN library utilizing the VTLS integrated library system.
Qualifications: MLS and ALA accr. program, strong library supervisory/managerial experience (5 years preferable) in 4-year academic institution. Collection development experience and knowledge of library automation desirable. 12 month appointment with 24 days vacation.
Application: Send letter with date of availability, resume and 3 current letters of reference to: Don Tebbetts, Acting University Librarian, Idaho State University, P.O. Box 8089, Pocatello, Idaho 83209.

Deadline: None given
Position: **Head of Reference**
Salary: $23,614 - $32,073
Library: Nevada State Library and Archives
Duties: Provide ref. service to state agencies, other libraries and the public. Schedule staff's reference work; supervise ILL; coordinate online database searching.
Qualifications: ALA/MLS. Superior reference and communications skills.
Contact: Resume and 2 references to Joyce C. Lee, Asst. State Libn., Nevada State Library and Archives, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710. Interviews may be arranged for the MPLA annual conference.

Position: **Library Development Consultant**
Salary: $21,708-$32,556
Library: North Dakota State Library
Duties: Newly updated Librarian III position; is responsible for the development and support for the following areas in statewide library development: library administration, i.e., personnel hiring, staff development, librarian-board relations, personnel policies. Works with citizen groups and library groups to extend library services to unserved areas; works to develop and maintain statistics, forms, reports, etc., that reflect library development in the State.
Qualifications: ALA/MLS; five years increasing professional experience; system consultant; State Library or multi-type library experience necessary; high ability for spoken and written communication; must be a team worker; have management skills, and be a self-starter. Ability to drive and travel independently.
Contact: Send resume, letter of application, and three references to Margaret Stefanak, North Dakota State Library, Liberty Memorial Building, Capitol Grounds, Bismarck, ND 58505.
EEO employer.

The BIG ROUND·UP

Renew Early!

Your membership in MPLA indicates your confidence in and support of a much needed regional association, as well as improving your status as a librarian. Your active support is needed to carry out the goals of the Association.

Membership dues apply to the calendar year in which they are paid (dues received after September 1 gives you paid membership status beginning January 1 of the following year). With your membership you will receive the informative **MPLA Newsletter** and other mailings.

DUES SCHEDULE

_____ **Personal Membership.** Open to anyone interested in library service. $12.00 per year for those salaried at $12,000 or less. Add $1.00 for EACH $1,000 ABOVE $12,000. (No ceiling).

_____ **Retirees', students', trustees' membership.**
$8.00 per year.

____ **Institutional Membership.** Libraries, Business Firms and other institutions supporting the Association. Based on total annual budget.

Under $50,000	$20.00 per year
50,000 - 99,999	30.00 per year
100,000 - 199,999	40.00 per year
200,000 - 399,999	50.00 per year
400,000 and up	100.00 per year

(With institution membership you also receive FREE advertising for job openings in the **Newsletter**)

_____ **State Library Association Membership** **$40.00**

Name _____ ☐ Renewal

Position/Title _____ ☐ New

Institution _____

Business Address _____
Street   City

_____
State   Zip Code   (Area Code) Phone Number

Home Address _____
Street   City

_____
State   Zip Code   (Area Code) Phone Number

Preferred Mailing Address: ☐ Business   ☐ Home

Section[s]   ☐ Academic   ☐ Technical Services   ☐ State Agency
                 ☐ Public/Trustee   ☐ JMRT   ☐ Children & School

(It is important that you indicate section preferences if you would like to vote for section officers.)

I am interested in serving on _____Committee(s) of the Mountain Plains Library Association (this preference will be passed along to the President of MPLA).

Mail to: Joseph R. Edelen, Jr.
    MPLA Executive Secretary
    c/o I.D. Weeks Library
    University of South Dakota
    Vermillion, SD 57069

Committees: Awards
Constitution & Bylaws
Continuing Education
Convention Handbook
Finance

Intellectual Freedom
Nominating
Profession Development Grants
Public Relations
Voluntary Recognition

7/84

- Opportunities for professional involvement
- Continuing education programs
- A forum for the exchange of ideas
- Information on new technology in librarianship
- Support of regional library efforts
- News of people and programs in member states

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS