

MPLA

Newsletter

ARIZONA COLORADO KANSAS MONTANA NEBRASKA NEVADA NORTH DAKOTA OKLAHOMA SOUTH DAKOTA UTAH WYOMING

What's a Librarian To Be—

Librarianship Turning on the Lathe of Technology

*A paper read by Bruce Newell,
Lewis & Clark Library, Helena,
Montana, at the March 6 & 7, 1992
OFFLINE Retreat at Fairmont Hot
Springs, Anaconda, Montana*

Introduction

I first intended to title this paper, "Beyond the C prompt," and to focus exclusively on the changing skills necessary to be the complete information cowperson. At Lewis & Clark (in Helena, Montana), we spend a distressing and increasing amount of time teaching staff how to use various machines; more time than we do reviewing library skills.

I wonder if this is progress, some sort of transition with light at the end of the tunnel or just an unrelenting aggregation.



I've also been worrying about my library's role in the information age. What services would we provide if we had money? What skills should I look for when I hire reference librarians? Is the information age

Fourth in a Series: MPLA's Member States



Inside you will find information about special happenings in Wyoming, the fourth in a series of eleven articles to be provided by MPLA State Representatives.

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passing us by? Do we provide patrons with the services they need? Are we getting hoodwinked by a 'knowledge industry' intent only on making a buck selling information to our patrons? How can librarians and libraries work together to sort this all out and provide better service?

I've chosen to talk about these issues first hand. Even though I speak of my library, I don't speak for my library. I'm focusing on public libraries because I'm a public librarian, but I believe my comments apply to school and academic libraries as well. I thank many of my Helena colleagues, especially my wife Sue, for helping me write this paper.

What's the Problem?

Publicly funded libraries are in danger of loosing their real and useful role as information providers. We're slowly becoming book warehouses—publicly supported K-Marts of the mind. Our opportunity to provide information to our communities is diminishing as we lose 'market share' and the capacity for providing meaningful services.

A report titled, *Montana State Library: 1982*(1), found that state workers sought information from at least several sources before they contacted

libraries. This report is interesting because it surveys Montanans' information seeking habits and its findings echo national surveys which reveal that our public usually looks elsewhere before their library.

The first question from the survey asked state workers: "When you need information in your current job, where do you seek it?" From 1,792 responses, here is the order:

- 1) co-worker/colleague/expert
- 2) other state agencies
- 3) *[the respondents] agency library*
- 4) federal agencies
- 5) state or national organizations
- 6) *the Montana State Library*
- 7) higher education faculty or staff
- 8) *college or university libraries*
- 9) *other state agency libraries*

"We're slowly becoming book warehouses: publicly supported K-Marts of the mind."

Incidentally, those responding to the questionnaire were "very satisfied" (695) or "mildly satisfied" (118) with services received from the State library. Only six

responded being "dissatisfied" with service. So, generalizing upon what the State Library found in 1982, the public is happy with our services even if they choose to look elsewhere first.

An Apology to Serials Librarians

Far too frequently issues of this newsletter are printed bearing the wrong volume and issue numbering. This is not done intentionally to torment you, nor because Joe Edelen ends up getting cussed out when you call, nor for any reason other than simply "sloppy editing." I am sorry for the grief and confusion I have caused. I will try to take greater care in the future.

—Jim Dertien, Editor

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These responses are understandable. Libraries are not the only and are often not the best information sources. What concerns me is that our role as primary information providers is dwindling at a time when it should be growing. We're in a cycle where lack of interest in our information resources engenders an apathy from local government, businesses, non-profit organizations and consultants. These groups are potentially our library's strongest advocates. We're less able to purchase materials and hire the people needed to support our role as information providers than we were ten years ago. Meanwhile the information industry is expanding and providing for a fee what I think should be, in better times, free public library services (that is, services paid for by the community for the community good.)

Stewart Brand, in his book *The Media Lab* (2), writes that information wants to be at once free and expensive. "Information wants to be free because it has become so cheap to distribute, copy and recombine—too cheap to meter. It wants to be expensive because it can be immeasurably valuable to the recipient. That tension will not go away."

Libraries are caught in this tension. For years we've run an information soup line, proud of the fact that our soup was (if not tasty) at least nutritionally balanced. Anyone and everyone was invited to belly-up to our publicly supported information bar. Meanwhile, downtown, the info-for-sale bunch (DIALOG, OCLC, IAC, UMI, Gale, etc.) have been getting rich selling cordon bleu. Seeing the interest in (and utility of) the high-priced spread, many libraries, Lewis & Clark included, are wondering if we should be serving a better grade of soup. We're developing champaign tastes on a budget that can't afford beer. This may not be totally unanticipated. Schiller and Schiller write in their article, "Public Access to Information, and Commerce"(3):

For the information industry, the Library is one of many information markets. But it is a key market, because it

opens the door to much wider sales of information products and services to the American Public. From the perspective of the commercial sector, the library's role is to familiarize the public (both general and specialized) with the new information products and services and disseminate them for a fee.

I'm ambivalent about our need to compete with the information industry. I'd welcome any information brokers wanting to start a business in Helena. I'm

concerned, however, that Lewis & Clark's ability to provide free information is diminishing through neglect, starvation and disuse. Sometimes I feel like I'm at a game

of poker, not dealt in, without cards and without my shirt. To join in on the game means that I've got to let other library services slide, and this isn't right. If I don't join in I'm likely to lose my pants. It's a dilemma.

"For years we've run an information soup line. . ."

What Skills Do We Need?

Librarians may not need to become programmers, but we should all have the skills and knowledge to effectively plan for, operate, maintain and train others in the use of library technologies. It used to be that library schools prepared soon-to-be librarians by giving them a sound footing in cataloging, the reference interview and children's programming.

When I went to school in 1979 at the University of Washington, it was possible, though not a requirement, to take online searching and BASIC programming punching cards into the University's mainframe. This was intended to prepare me for the wonderful world of library automation. We live in a world undreamed of a mere decade ago.

At Lewis & Clark we are buried (mostly alive) in technology—all of which requires a great deal of care and feeding. We rely upon one or two key staff members to keep this incredibly diverse heap of technology working. This is either very optimistic or very stupid. But we fumble ahead and train and plan and try to make things a little easier for

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ourselves while expanding the range of computerized tools and electronic library resources.

One of the things I'd like to do is come up with a list of skills we'd all look for in a new automation-savvy 'systems' librarian. A recent special issue of *Scientific American* suggested that network savvy, along with general computer and automation skills, will be necessary attributes of an information professional. (The bibliography suggests particularly provocative articles from this September 1991 issue (4).) I'm searching, just as many of you are, for the perfect systems librarian. I've long ago concluded it ain't me.

What's A Right-thinking Librarian?

What's a right-thinking library? We're more a collection of services than anything else. Out of a \$500,000 budget we spend about \$100,000 on maintenance and operations (keeping the lights on and the place heated) and another \$100,000 for materials (in a good year.) The remaining \$300,000 is spent on people providing service—everything from checking books out to selecting materials to answering reference questions.

I don't want to hire computer gurus unable to provide good library services. Many of the new technologies are wonderful, but as computer wiz,

inventor of the graphic user interface, educator, musician and Apple Fellow Alan Kay (5) reminds us, it's important not to confuse the piano with the music. In other words, the medium may contain a message but often this message is noise or irrelevant. In all the excitement about new technologies we sometimes confuse packaging with content.

And it's all too easy to focus on the information age's glitz and forget who we are. Patricia Glass Schuman wrote about libraries' role in the information age, in *American Libraries* and the *Whole Earth Review*(6):

Librarians's collective fantasies go something like this: We are in the midst of an information explosion. Our only hope for controlling this explosion is through the use of technology...New technology will provide users with greater access [to information resources] than ever before. Individuals will easily and directly access information to fill their needs from their homes and offices.

Librarians could be key players in the information marketplace—or they could become obsolete. Our challenge is to figure out what business libraries are in: the book business or the information business?

Two major assumptions are at work here. The first is that we are moving towards a paperless society...The second assumption is that hardware and software will be readily available, usable, affordable, desirable, and satisfying to everybody."

What we are actually experiencing is not an information explosion. It is an explosion of data....Rather than providing universal delivery, there is a very real possibility that technology could widen the gap between the information-rich and the information-poor. We may fantasize about universal access, but the threat of narrow control in an information society is all too real....What we do know is that the number of companies that control information is shrinking...There is no evidence that the growing conglomeratization and privatization of information will be either efficient or equitable.

Free Libraries and the Real World

Nicholas Negroponte has written that librarians and

libraries are becoming superfluous. He looks forward to a time when, for a price, anyone can tap into a worldwide network of information resources. (In a public meeting last month a local consultant stood up and informed me that he didn't use or need his *free* public library because he had access to CompuServe; I took this to be strong evidence that my friend needs his library more than he knows.)

As the head of MIT's Media Lab, Negroponte is a consistently lucid voice for the information industry. His vision includes an information rich environment for those with research skills and money. The fact that he is promoting a viable future that excludes libraries as a necessary part of an *infostructure* is frightening. His vision ignores at least several economic and class realities in our society.

Schiller and Schiller (3) write that,

An economic struggle with major cultural implications, underway for 20 years, and now intensifying,

goes relatively unnoticed in the national media. It pits the fundamental principle of American libraries—free access to information—against the interests of the private information suppliers and their advocates in government. The privateers seek profit from the sale of information to those who have the means to pay for it.

If current trends continue, the nation's major libraries" [the authors indicate that large university and research libraries are showing these changes first] "may be on their way to becoming information emporia—places that sell goods, in this instance, information, to those who can afford to purchase it.

Traditionally, the library has been caught in a double bind; for at the very moment it begins to achieve its objective of information access and becomes popular and widely used, it must restrict its services because of insufficient support. In other words, success equals failure because a basic assumption behind extended service is that it cannot be supported. Diminished or stabilized funding for libraries during the current period has intensified the double bind problem, because this has occurred simultaneously (and ironically) with expansion in the information sector, the growth of information technology and rising demand for information. Seen by some as the only way out of the

"There are many possible roles for us to play in our community, but we must choose who we are going to be...."

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double bind, fees for service were introduced in the expectation that information delivery effectiveness, and the library's role in providing it, would be enhanced.

Schiller and Schiller conclude:

1. The commercialization of information in the United States is proceeding almost uninterrupted. It has been extended into areas that historically have been regarded as non-profit-making and endowed with a deep public interest.

2. At the same time, the technology continues to change rapidly, and contradictory uses are apparent. In the library, in particular, the new technologies are spectacularly useful.

3. The library community and some consumer, civil liberties, and academic information-users have sought to defend the longstanding principles of free access and social criteria for use of the country's information supply. They have maintained these positions, with some slippage on occasion, against very powerful opposition. Now the existence of librarianship itself, as a social profession, is in question. The for-profit application of the new information technologies threatens the survival of the free access principle, a cornerstone of American librarianship.

4. Ultimately, the resolution of the public/private issue will be determined by the presence, or absence, of a strong political force or movement. This force, if it develops, will rally popular support for the defense of equal information access as well as raise to national attention the importance of information in the democratic process.

Since We're Neighbors Let's Be Friends: Planning Together and Providing Cooperative Services

Sooner or later we're going to have to decide which library services are most important to our patrons. This is not without political risk—defining minimal service levels may well effectively set maximum funding levels. There are many possible roles for us to play in our community. But we must choose who we are going to be; as we dither and complain this choice is being made for us. Not to decide is to decide.

Just as we're lost if we don't know where we are, we'll never get where we want to go unless we know where we're headed. Without a long-range

plan that defines who our patrons are, who we are and where we're going, we're doomed. We can't keep driving at night without headlights—a strategic plan illuminates the road ahead.

Former Director of the New York Public Library and now Director of the Harvard Libraries Robert De Gennaro was quoted in the April 16, 1989 *Library Hotline* as follows:

Chronic financial problems create a situation where the goals and missions of [large academic] libraries are out of balance with the available resources. The balance can be reestablished by downsizing the mission or increasing the funding.

Bill Kittredge, in his excellent essay in the December 1991 *Esquire* titled "White People in Paradise" (7), talks of a west where we are faced with either squabbling for crumbs (and starving) or better yet,

seeing that the adversarial, winner-take-all, show-down political decision-making is a way we defeat ourselves. Our future starts when we begin honoring the dreams of our enemies, yet stay true to our own.

We need to invent a new story for ourselves...We need a story in which the processes of community and mutual responsibility are fundamental. We need to figure out how many populations we have, try to name their dreams, and begin resolving those dreams into a societal agenda for the future....

We need to take our politics back from the lawyers and the professionals and the boys with money...If we can work our way to public consensus, the bureaucrats and lawmakers will follow. Then maybe, in Montana, we'll be able to decide in some responsible way what we want for our coal and oil...what is timberland and what is wilderness, where the grizzlies should live...where to find the money to care for our poor and our disoriented and our disabled and our dispossessed...and repair our decaying highways. And, most fundamentally, how to pay for first-rate schools (our main economic hope in any long run.)

Dan Kemmis, in "Barn Building," (8) (see also the other Kemmis articles and his book referenced in the bibliography) wrote of two Montana ranch families who "in another time and place...would have nothing to do with one another. But on those Montana plains, life was still harsh enough that

they had no choice....It has never been possible to live well here without working hard and working together. It is still the same place, and we are still the same people, more than we know, who once built our barns together."

Libraries have been broke for a long time. As DeGennaro states, we have the choice of either lowering our sights or raising more money. We need to decide who we are, how we're going to work-together, and *then* we need to concentrate on finding the money needed to provide these services.

It's high time we begin talking with each other. To quote Kemmis, "The only kind of politics that can work here is the politics of engagement. And it will be from our families [and our neighbors], above all, that we will learn the basic skills of that kind of politics." Let's work at appreciating and utilizing our diversity. Let's work towards a politics of consensus, discovering what we can agree upon and work towards it. Let's move ahead toward our common goal of providing quality information services for our patrons.

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Wyoming

Information provided by Marcia Wright, Wyoming MPLA Representative

*Fourth in a Series:
MPLA's Member States*

These articles are provided by MPLA State Representatives. Their charge is to provide an "article on some aspect of libraries in each state that sets it apart from the mainstream—someone, something, architecture, whatever that is special and worth sharing." Members are encouraged to send their respective state representative suggestions. The October issue will feature South Dakota.

Each year Wyoming libraries recognize and honor outstanding children's books in two separate age divisions. Soaring Eagle award books are nominated and selected by young people in grades 7, 8, and 9, while Indian Paintbrush award books are nominated and selected by students in grades 4, 5, and 6. The reading portion of the selection process begins as soon as books are available at the school and public libraries during the fall semester of the school year. The nomination and voting portion for this notable literature takes place in the spring. The winners of the 1992 book awards are: Soaring Eagle 1st place "Dances with Wolves" by Michael Blake; 2nd place "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen; 3rd place "Whispers from the Dead" by Joan Lowery Nixon. Indian Paintbrush 1st place "Maniac McGee" by Jerry Spinelli; 2nd place "Fudge-a-mania" by Judy Blume; 3rd place "Fudge" by Charlotte Graebner.

Wyoming is a land, diverse in topography, from its rolling prairies in the east to its rugged ridges in the west. Interminable miles of plains and highways isolate each rural town. Wyoming ranks as the least populated state in the country. The 1990 census reports a state populace of 453 thousand, a sparse 4.7 persons per square mile. These uncommon cultural characteristics greatly influence the operation and management of Wyoming libraries. In order to provide and maintain quality service to the people of the Cowboy State, cooperation and networking among libraries have become vital components. Consolidated efforts are more imperative than ever as libraries across the state face times of budget reductions and economic uncertainty. However, many specialized circulating collections are unique to individual libraries. Two of these are at the Laramie County Library in Cheyenne. The Family History Collection combines genealogical materials from the Wyoming State Library, the Laramie County Library and the LDS Church. FamilySearch, a CD-ROM database from the LDS Church gives patrons access to over 1.6 million microfilms and 200,000 books. The Elk Collection, also at Laramie County, is a research-level collection consisting of over 200 items on the biology, ecology, conservation and hunting of North American Elk. Other county libraries and their branches have enhanced the special interests of their communities by accepting collections from the Wyoming State Library downsizing project.

At the core of the statewide networking system is WyLD (Wyoming Library Database). The statewide GEAC system, which is mounted on the state's mainframe in Cheyenne and serviced by the staff at the state library, connects 23 county libraries, 7 community colleges, and several state institutions to a common database. This database performs the operations needed for circulation, processing, and interlibrary loan of each library's materials, as well as the function of processing electronic mail. A subcommittee of the users group is presently working towards an exciting networking addition, that of public access catalogs. Plans are also in the works that will allow the GEAC system to encompass branch libraries, high schools, and medical libraries throughout the state.

Much cooperation exists while lobbying the state legislature for the necessary funding of Wyoming libraries. WLA's Legislative committee has distributed fact sheets and compiled calling trees in order that the required funding be apportioned for WyLD. County level legislative receptions are held to dispense information locally to the voters. These fundamental contacts are maintained throughout the year. Information is transmitted via electronic mail to libraries throughout the state. These receiving libraries in turn fax or phone this media to other libraries in their proximity.

Legislative teamwork is, indeed, a part of the heritage of Wyoming's library systems. However, many other facets of library management exist in which cooperation precedes commitment and growth. In many areas local librarians gather to exchange information and ideas. School districts, reading councils, and libraries merge to cosponsor authors who present writing workshops and address groups of children. Our libraries work with special interest groups, as well as with groups with specific needs. Linda Koldenhoven, manager of Information Services at

Professional Development Assistance

Association members are encouraged to apply for grants, mini-grants, and international grants, all 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 libraries and the library community in our region.

Current application deadline: September 18

For more information see your Membership Information brochure or write: Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., MPLA Executive Secretary, c/o I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069. 605/677-6082.

Laramie County Library specializes in services for the handicapped and is the author of an article which will appear in a nationally distributed book in 1993. Marie Pelton of the same library is able to assist the hearing impaired with her fluency in sign language. Some of the services that libraries are involved with are literacy programs, developmental studies, GED and ESL programs. Medical consortia draw librarians together in an attempt to serve a variety of groups with the same information. A spring "Athenaeum" affords social interaction and discussion for library staffs and supporters. Libraries and other agencies have established a purchasing coop for supplies such as paper, art, and office materials. Children's library staffs often attend school library staff meetings in an effort to coordinate programs and proposals. Public librarians provide book talks for various classes at the schools. Public libraries and school libraries work together to make book awards and contests a success. Public libraries assist college libraries and their students with a wide variety of materials and services; colleges and high schools serve the public. The Community Fine Arts Center of the Rock Springs Library is a resource that enables both children and adults to join together to experience the arts. The Halseth Gallery houses a nationally acclaimed collection of paintings that is owned by Rock Springs High School. It contains paintings by artists such as Norman Rockwell, Grandma Moses, Edward Chaves, and Rufino Tamayo. In addition, The Community Fine Arts Center displays creative works by local and regional artists, and exhibits a variety of collections.

Budget reductions from the state library to the farthest corners are unavoidable, yet, disheartening. Each county still has a library, but some counties have been forced to eliminate branches or decrease hours or services. These reductions compel the library boards and staffs into creative problem solving.

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Places To See...Things To Do

Museums

Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum – One of the best Western wagon collections in the country. Horsedrawn vehicles, Cheyenne Frontier Days memorabilia and other memoirs of the West, changing exhibits.

F.E. Warren Museum - History of Fort D.A. Russell. Portrays life as it occurred in the late 1800's in

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Visitor Information

Cheyenne and the military installation.

Historic Governors' Mansion - A state site museum and the home of Wyoming governors from 1905 through 1976.

Unicover Corporation's National First Day Cover Museum - The only museum of its kind in the world dedicated to the first, rarest and most valuable of first edition stamps.

Wyoming State Museum - Current and historic Western art and memorabilia.

Information Centers

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Historic Sites

Big Boy Steam Engine - "Old Number 4004" the world's largest steam locomotive. Retired from active duty by the Union Pacific in 1956.

The French Merci Train - It was sent to the American people from the French citizens in 1949 as a thank you for the Friendship Train which sent food from Americans to the French during World War II. The Merci

Train visited all the state capitols leaving a boxcar full of gifts. Wyoming's boxcar was given to the 40 et 8 Society of the American Legion.

Tivoli Building - Built in 1892, The Tivoli is one of the best examples of Victorian architecture in the Rocky Mountain area.

F.E. Warren Air Force Base - Originally named Ft. D.A. Russell, today it serves as a site for many of the U.S. Intercontinental ballistic missiles, home of the Peacekeepers, and as a training ground for members of the United States Air Force.

Wyoming Hereford Ranch - Established in 1883, the ranch is one of the oldest and most prestigious of western cattle operations. Still producing quality Herford cattle after more than 100 years.

Wyoming State Capitol Building & Esther Hobart Morris Statue - Recently renovated, gleaming marble floors, beautiful woodwork, stained glass, a variety of historic photographs and a life-sized display of native wildlife.

Outside Cheyenne Day Trips

Medicine Bow National Forest - Provides a variety of recreation opportunities and natural attractions including the Vedauwood Recreation and the Snowy Range Ski Area.

Diamond Ranch/Chugwater - An hour NW of Cheyenne, offers horseback riding, hay rides, trout fishing, hunting, kiddie pony rings, steakhouse and bar, dance hall, cabin rentals.

Historic Fort Laramie - Military post used primarily for guarding wagon trails from 1849 to 1890. Open year

round.

Guersney Oregon Trail Ruts/Register Cliff - Ruts carved into sandstone by the passage of wagon trains along the Oregon Trail West. Self-guided tours.

Curt Gowdy State Park - Located in the foothills of the mountain range that separates Cheyenne & Laramie. Excellent for water sports, hiking and fishing.

Ames Monument - West of Cheyenne, 60 foot pyramid built in 1882 as a monument to the construction of the first transcontinental railroad.

Great Dining and Accommodations

Cheyenne boasts over 1800 motel rooms in addition to excellent convention facilities. And when it comes to dining, Cheyenne is the pride of the West. Be it award-winning gourmet, exciting ethnic food, family dining or the world's best steaks and barbecue, Cheyenne offers something for everyone.

Laramie County

East of Cheyenne stretches the quiet country charm of the Wyoming prairie. Pine Bluffs, east on I-80 is home of UW's Historic Archeological Dig. History unfolds as researchers delicately extract Indian relics and prehistoric artifacts dating back some 8,000 years. You'll also enjoy an authentic 20 teepee Indian village and the Texas Trail Museum. North of here stands Albin's famous C.B. Irwin Original Homestead and Sod House.

Take a relaxing drive and enjoy the rich history and charm offered by these small but enchanting prairie communities. Burns, Albin, Carpenter and Pine Bluffs, it's all right here in the legend of Laramie County.

About You

□ **Maxine Dark** has retired after more than 30 years as Director of the Broken Arrow (OK) Public Library...□ **Jim Jondrow**, Director of the Glasgow (MT) City County Library and a member of MPLA, won a free one year MPLA membership at last spring's MLA convention. ...□ **John Mayeski** has resigned as Director of the Calvin T. Ryan Library at the University of Nebraska at Kearney...□ **Mary Ploger**, Director of the Finney County (KS) Public Library, will retire this June...□ **Jamie Ring**, who spent the last 12 years at the Casper (WY) College, is moving to Billings, MT...□ **Linda Ritter**, Director of the Layne Library at Dakota Wesleyan (SD) University, received the school's Presidential Award for Outstanding Service...□ **Jan Sanders**, Director of the Bartlesville (OK) Public Library is the new Oklahoma state representative on the MPLA Executive Board...□ **Dale Schrag**, formerly Director of the Library at Bethel (KS) College, is now the school's Director of Marketing and Church Affairs...□ **William Strader**, former MPLA/Nevada state representative, is the new North Dakota State Librarian...□ **Wade Woodward** has resigned as Director of Northern State (SD) University, moving to Converse College in South Carolina...□ **Eveline Yang** is now Head of the Resource Services Department, Denison Memorial Library, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Mary Sherman Elected to ALA Council

Among the twenty-six members elected recently to the ALA Council (1992-96 term), one person from the MPLA region was elected: Mary Sherman, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma.

Ballot – 1992-1993

The MPLA Nominations Committee has proposed the following slate for offices within the association. Separate ballots are being provided by the Executive Secretary to each member for the purpose of voting.

The Nominations Committee members are: Eunice Broadhead (NV), Sandy Ellison (OK), Leroy Gattin (KS), Tom Jones (ND), Elvita Landau (SD), Ted Schmidt (CO), Fran Zedney (UT), and Georgia Lomax (MT), Chair.

President Elect Richard Rademacher
Wichita Public Library, KS

Ronelle Thompson
Augustana College
Sioux Falls, SD

Secretary Marilyn Grosshans
Los Vegas High School Library, NV

Mary Homan
Patrick Henry Junior High Library
Sioux Falls, SD

The following are nominees for section offices, selected by the nominating committees of the respective sections:

Academic Section

Chair Elect Larry Benson
Harold B. Lee Library, BYU
Provo, UT

Helen Josephine
Hayden Library, ASU, Tempe, AZ

Secretary Colleen Kirby
South Dakota State Library, Pierre

Patsy Stafford
Oklahoma State University Library
Stillwater, OK

Children's & School Section

Slate not received by printing deadline

Government Documents Section

Chair Elect Karlo Mustonen
Utah State University

Suzanne Taylor
Colorado State University

Secretary Maxine Haggerty
University of Utah

New Members Roundtable Section

Chair Elect Shannon Hoffman
Harold B. Lee Library, BYU
Provo, UT

Robert Shupe
Mohave Community College Lib.
Kingman, AZ

Secretary Janet A. Robinson-Yoke
NCR Corporation, Wichita, KS

Beverly Stubbles
Norman B. Mears Library
S. F. College, Sioux Falls, SD

Preservation Section

Slate not received by printing deadline

Public Library/Trustee Section

Chair Elect Mary Sherman
Pioneer Library System
Norman, OK

Judy Zelenski
Central Colorado Library System
Wheatridge, CO

Secretary Eunice Broadhead
Boulder City Library, NV

Paul Hawkins
S. Central Kansas Library System
Hutchinson, KS

Dee Yost
Republican Valley Library System
Hastings, NE

State Agencies/Cooperative & Systems Section

Chair Elect Venice Beske
Wyoming State Library

Secretary Allison Cowgill
Nevada State Library & Archives

Technical Services Section

Chair Elect Lynn Darrough-Walton
Sweetwater County Lib. System
Rock Springs, WY

Secretary Paula Demanett
Provo Public Library
American Fork, UT

Continuing Education

August 14 & September 28

The Internet

Bibliographical Center for Research

The Internet: A Practical Introduction presented on two different days - August 14 and September 28 by the Bibliographical Center for Research at their offices, 4500 Cherry Creek Drive South, Suite 206, Denver, CO (800-397-1552). These one-day workshops are each designed to provide participants with the basic skills needed to use the Internet telecommunications network in libraries to access different data bases, bulletin boards and other information. Cost: \$85 per person, \$10 discount for early registration.

September 11

Planning User Services

School of Library and Information Science, University of Iowa

The workshop will focus on how to plan and provide effective public service in all types of libraries. The morning sessions will define good service and discuss the role of planning and evaluation. In the afternoon the following service areas will be examined: information and referral, user education, readers advisory, family literacy efforts, and services for users with special needs, such as the elderly. In each service area a continuum of possibilities will be explored, with examples drawn from various types of libraries.

The workshop will be taught by Debra Wilcox Johnson, Assistant Professor in the School of Library & Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

UI continuing education credits

available.

The registration fee of \$50 includes the sessions, handouts, continuing education certificate, lunch, and refreshments. Registration without lunch is available for \$44. For a program brochure and registration form, write to Ethel Bloesch, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Iowa, 3087 Library, Iowa City, IA 52242, or call 319-335-5707.

September 11

Integrating Information Resources into the Business Environment

University of Texas at Austin School of Law

Sponsored by Texas/Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society for Information Science.

Contact: Roy M. Mersky, Jamail Center for Legal Research, Tarlton Law Library, UT-Austin, 727 E. 26th Street, Austin, TX 78705; FAX 512-471-0243.

October 22-25

Good Management for Hard Times: Collection Management for the 1990's

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Sponsored by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Collection Management and Development Section and the Canadian Library Association, the institute is the first jointly sponsored program by these two organizations.

The program is directed toward practicing librarians in public and academic libraries who deal with collection management issues. The objectives are to provide an overview of major issues and to provide up-to-date and practical training in the

planning and management of library collections. Emphasis will be placed on the Canadian context in terms of resource sharing, Canadiana selection and censorship.

Registration fees are \$225 (US) for ALA members, \$260 (CDN) for CLA members, \$265 (US) for Americans who are not ALA members and \$315 (CDN) for Canadians who are not CLA members.

For more information contact Yvonne McLean at the ALCTS office, 800-545-2433, x5032.

October 25-27

Evaluating Children's Books: A Critical Look

Thirty Fourth Allerton Institute

Sponsored by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the program will begin Sunday evening, October 25, with a panel discussion on "Censorship, negative criticism, glitzy trends, growing publishers' output and other shadows on the landscape of children's book reviewing."

The remainder of the Institute will feature "Issues and problems in reviewing nonfiction for children and young adults," "Reviewing and publishing," "Evaluating children's books for whole-language learning," "Reviewing of Spanish language and Hispanic material," "Reviewing multiculturalism," and "Using reviews: librarians, reviews and collection development."

Conference fees are \$380 for those who register by October 2, and \$415 for those who register after that date. The fee includes registration, room and meals (including snacks).

For information, please contact: Jeffrey Sands, Program Director,

Conferences and Institutes, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 302 E. John Street, Suite 202, Champaign, IL 61820 (217-333-2881).

November 7

24th Annual Festival of Books for Young People

School of Library and Information Science, University of Iowa

The theme for the 1992 festival is A Sense of Place. Speakers will be Pam Conrad, Thomas B. Allen, and Merri V. Lindgren. The festival will conclude with a literature update, given in three concurrent booktalk sessions.

Librarians, teachers and others interested in literature for young people are invited to attend. The registration fee of \$40 includes the sessions, exhibits, continuing education certificate, coffee hour and luncheon. Registration without lunch is available for \$34. For a program brochure and registration form, write to Ethel Bloesch, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Iowa, 3087 Library, Iowa City, IA 52242, or call 319-335-5707.

April 24, 1993

The Young Adult Literature Conference

Auraria Campus, Downtown Denver

This is sponsored by the Jefferson County Library Foundation, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and the Central Colorado Library System.

The workshop will feature Chris Crutcher, author of *The Deep End: A Novel of Suspense*, *Athletic Shorts*, *Chinese Handcuffs*, *The Crazy*

Horse Electric Game, *Stotan!*, and *Running Loose*, plus regional authors, educators and experts in young adult literature.

One semester hour of credit in English can be earned through Metropolitan State College of Denver. Conference registration is \$35, students \$20; \$40 after April 1.

For more information: Detailed registration brochures will be mailed in January. To request registration materials contact Public Information Office, Jefferson County Public Library, 10200 W. 20th Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80215. 303-232-7114, x 216.

(continued on page 16)

Joblist

Deadline: Until filled
Librarian (\$1691-\$2740 per month)
Wyoming State Library

Reference services, online searching and public services to state agencies and libraries. Obtain State of Wyoming application from: Personnel Division, Emerson Building, 2001 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0060. Phone (307) 777-7188.

EO Employer

Deadline: Not indicated
Librarian IV (\$28,097-\$42,421)
Library, Archives & Public Records
State of Arizona

Responsibilities to include providing consultant services upon request; assist librarians in utilizing statewide programs. The individual should

possess the basic understanding of technology in library applications; principles of process consultant; and the principles of planning and evaluation.

Requires ALA/MLS with four years of experience as a professional librarian of which one year must have included supervisory responsibility.

For more information or application call 602-542-5482 or write Arizona State Personnel, 1831 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007.
EO/AA Employer

Deadline: Immediate vacancy
Adult Services Librarian (\$19,000-\$19,500)

Ponca City (OK) Library

This person performs all types of public service work for adults under the direct supervision of the City Librarian. Responsible for staffing of reference/information desk during peak hours of activity. Selects reference material. Participates in other collection development. Plans and implements adult programming. Coordinates voter registration.

Requires ALA/MLS or a college degree with two or more years of public library experience, congenial personality and pleasant appearance, knowledge and awareness of public service principles, practices, procedures, methods and materials, knowledge of reference materials and practices, knowledge of computer technology, ability to plan and implement library programs, and good public relations skills.

Send resume to Stephen Skidmore, City Librarian, Ponca City Library, 515 East Grand Avenue, Ponca City, OK 74601.

Deadline: August 28

Librarian I (\$27,157)

Omaha (NE) Public Library

Entry level, professional library work in various phases of library operations within the municipal library system. This position may exercise supervision over clerical and para-professional employees.

Requires ALA/MLS or any equivalent combination of experience and training, considerable knowledge of standard library principles, procedures, methods and practices, and ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with library patrons and employees.

Apply to Personnel Department, City of Omaha, Room 506, Omaha/Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183-0506.
EO Employer

Deadline: September 1

Director (\$31,000)

Emporia (KS) Public Library

The Emporia Public Library Board is seeking a progressive director for a library which serves a community of 35,000 persons. Administers the library's program of services and operations.

Requires ALA/MLS and a minimum of five years as an administrator in a public library. Should possess strong skills in leadership, personnel, management, and community relations, as well as a vision for library and information technology.

Send vita, letter of application, and higher education credentials to: Arvina Lumley, Search Committee Chair, 1807 Calle de Loma, Emporia, KS 66801.

Deadline: October 4

Head, Reference Department

(\$30,000)

University of Wyoming Libraries

Serves as reference head for the main library which houses general, social sciences, humanities and business collections. Coordinates the development and management of reference and bibliographic instruction services. Supervises staff of 7. Provides reference and instruction services, including some night and weekend hours. Develops the reference collection. Librarians hold faculty status and are expected to meet stated performance requirements for scholarship and service.

Requires ALA/MLS or an acceptable equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum of five years increasingly responsible professional experience, including reference and bibliographic instruction. Substantial supervisory experience. Strong leadership and interpersonal skills. Experience with electronic reference tools and online catalogs. Demonstrated understanding of reference and instruction issues. Preferred: Advanced degree in Humanities, Social Sciences or Business. Experience in a medium to large university/research library.

Send resume and the names of three professional references to Bonnie Johnson, Assistant Director for Administrative Services, University of Wyoming Libraries, Box 3334, Laramie, WY 82071-3334.

EO/AA Employer

Classified

For Sale: (To highest bidder) **Card Catalog**, double-sided 180 drawer light oak wood (3 pieces - 60 drawer

top, 120 drawer middle, based) - 68x34x58. **Sectional Card Catalog**, 1 stand, 1 sliding shelf, 3 10-tray sections, 1 top (see Gaylord's 1992 catalog, pages 356-7, for descriptions). Contact: Jerome Halpin, Director, Northwest College Library, 231 W. 6th Street, Powell, WY 82435 (307-754-6527).

SPECIAL JOBLINE INFORMATION

The MPLA Jobline lists jobs available within our eleven-state area at no charge to institutions within this region. Jobs from institutions outside the MPLA region can be listed for \$10/week.

The Jobline updates its listing each Friday morning.

Send listings to Joe Edelen, I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069. 605/677-6082.

JOBLINE #S

The following numbers may be used in calling the MPLA Jobline: 605/677-5757 (nationwide 24 hours/day) or 800/356-7820 from any of the eleven MPLA states, during the following hours:

Sunday—Thursday 11 pm—8 am each day; Friday—5 pm to Sunday—5 pm your local time.

NEWSLETTER JOBLIST

MPLA institutional members may place job advertisements in this newsletter's Joblist section at no charge.

All other institutions may list jobs at \$1.25/line.

Send Joblist ads to Jim Dertien, MPLA Newsletter, Sioux Falls Public Library, 201 N. Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57102.



MPLA Newsletter
 414 E. Clark
 c/o Univ. of South Dakota
 Libraries
 Vermillion, SD 57069

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- Opportunities for professional involvement
- Continuing education programs
- A forum for the exchange of ideas
- Professional Development Grants
- Support of regional library efforts
- News of people and programs in member states

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Continuing Education (continued)

LITA Conference Coming to Denver in September

Programs on a wide variety of topics are planned for the LITA Third National Conference. Over four days, September 13-16, 1992, participants will have access to sessions designed for all types of librarians and information professionals, for all areas of the library, and for all audience levels. Programs will include:

- A Research Forum
- Lunchtime table talks
- Workshops
- Showcases
- Panel Discussions
- Hardware and software demonstrations

The program will contain 50 to 60 unique offerings in addition to the Research Forum, Showcases, Exhibits, and New Product Reviews. Some of the session topics include:

- Adaptive technology in the library
- American Memory Project
- Artificial intelligence/expert systems
- Authority control

- Client-server architecture
- Compact disc interactive courseware
- Distance Learning
- Electronic libraries
- Electronic networking
- Ethics and privacy
- Freenet/networking for the general public
- Geographic information systems
- Information technology in Eastern Europe
- Intelligent machines
- Libraries as publishers
- Managing full-text in electronic form
- Multimedia access to digitized images
- Multiple Language systems
- Photographic databases
- School library programs
- Selecting your second automated system
- Teaching on-line systems use to users
- Transformation of information
- Vendor perspectives
- Women in automation

Selected exhibitors will present in-depth discussions and demonstrations of newly introduced or enhanced products and services.

To receive registration information, write to LITA National Conference 1992; 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2729.

Calendar 1992

State Conferences

North Dakota	Sept. 23-26
Wyoming/MPLA	Sept 29-Oct 3
South Dakota	Oct. 7-10
Colorado	Oct. 10-12
Arizona	Oct. 14-17
Nebraska	Oct. 28-31
1993	
Utah	May 12-14
Colorado Library Association/MPLA	Oct. 1-4 Aspen/Snowmass