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# MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

August 1999

Volume 44, Number 1

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**"The Hoard of the Gibbelins"<sup>1</sup>:  
Pulp Fiction in Library Collections**  
Abstract of the Winning Paper at the  
MPLA/MLA Academic Research Forum

— Jan Zauha  
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

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Like many popular culture materials, pulp fiction magazines from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century present preservation and access challenges to libraries. This paper provides a brief history and description of the pulps, including examples of artwork and content, and discusses the importance of the pulps to scholars. It then examines issues of deterioration, preservation, and access related to pulp collections in libraries. Particular attention is given to the adventures and trials of the pulp fiction collection at the Library of Congress as an example of how an endangered collection has been managed and made more accessible. This discussion is framed within the larger issues of library responsibility to preserve popular culture materials while ensuring access to them.

**"Readin' and Writhin'"<sup>2</sup>: What Are the Pulps?**

Better known as the "pulp," pulp fiction magazines are all-fiction periodicals that were published in the United States from 1896 into the 1950s by houses such as Street & Smith, the Frank A. Munsey Corporation, and others. They were printed on cheap wood pulp paper, generally in a 7 x 10" format, approximately 1/4 to 1/2" thick. Their fabulously colored covers are splashed with imaginative illustrations, while their contents are entirely black and white. They may be visualized best in contrast with the "slicks," magazines such as *Ladies Home Journal* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. The slicks were printed entirely on highly colored glossy paper and were composed primarily of advertising, photo essays, and other feature articles, having only a few fiction selections in each issue.

Unlike the slicks, the pulps were conceived not as vehicles for advertising and information but as a steady supply of genre fiction for avid readers. They are crammed cover-to-cover with short fiction. Different titles specialized in science fiction (*Future Science Fiction Stories*), detective (*Dime Detective*

(Continued on page 6)



The MPLA Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Material of regional interest may be submitted to:

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Voice: 605/677-5121  
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Email: nickisch@usd.edu

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10 January	10 July
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10 May	10 November

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## MPLA MEMBERSHIP OR SUBSCRIPTION BUSINESS

Matters pertaining to individual or institutional membership, address changes, and claims or orders for back issues should be sent to:

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MPLA Executive Secretary  
I.D. Weeks Library  
University of South Dakota  
414 East Clark Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390  
Voice: 605/677-6082  
Fax: 605/677-5488  
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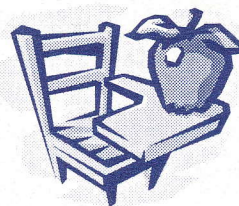
1 yr - \$22; 2 yrs - \$38; 3 yrs - \$55

THE MPLA NEWSLETTER  
IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
AND IS PRINTED BY  
VERMILLION PRINTING & GRAPHICS  
VERMILLION, SD

ISSN 0145-6180

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## Professional Development Grant Evaluative Report

— Dana W. R. Boden  
Ph.D. Candidate  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### Introduction

I am both a doctoral candidate in the interdepartmental area of Administration, Curriculum and Instruction in Teachers' College, and an Associate Professor in Branch Services in the University Libraries at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. The area of emphasis of my doctoral program is Postsecondary Administration. The flexibility of the program has allowed me to relate course activities and requirements to the academic library setting. I was awarded a regular grant by the MPLA Professional Development Grant Committee to help cover the photocopying and mailing costs of the survey research for my doctoral dissertation. The title presently is Chair and Institutional Correlates of Library Faculty Perceptions of Chair Faculty Development Roles and Leadership Practices.

Originally library faculty/librarian's expectations, as well as perceptions, of the role of the department chair were to be surveyed. That was changed, as approval for the grant was being considered. The survey of expectations was dropped in favor of adding a copyrighted instrument (Kouzes & Posner, 1997) on the observers' perceptions of the leadership role of the chair/head. The original portion regarding perceptions of the chair's faculty development role, developed by the researcher, was retained, as was the demographic portion of the survey. The demographic portion was slightly expanded after my dissertation proposal defense.

### Survey

The survey was sent to 361 library faculty members/librarians in the Big Twelve Plus Library Consortium, Carnegie Research I or II member institutions as of September 1, 1998.

The University Libraries allowed me to utilize Bulk Mail for the initial mailing and reimburse the cost. This was very cost effective, but was not time effective. The initial survey mailing was sent on November 12, 1998. Many institutions in Texas and Arkansas did not receive the mailing until three weeks, or longer, after it was sent. This resulted in their receiving it after the date indicated for return! In addition, with the Thanksgiving weekend, and ensuing Holiday mailing season, the timing of the mailings was not good, but unavoidable.

The good news was my colleagues came through anyway. Many went ahead and sent the survey in after the deadline date. Others contacted me, either by e-mail or phone, for direction. I reversed the planned order of the second and third mailings. The second mailing was a followup postcard asking those who had wondered if they should send it in to go ahead and do so. While the followup mailing of the complete packet again was held off until December 18, 1998, to allow more surveys to arrive. This helped reduce costs.



(Continued on page 12)



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## Librarians Balance

— Marilyn Hinshaw  
MPLA President

They sure do. Since taking the helm of MPLA, I have scoured the membership for the leaders who will take committee assignments and the co-leaders who will be the committee members. When I look at my in-box where the written exchanges with the leaders of my 14 branch units are gathered, I realize that I haven't come to the balance point yet – a way to keep all those messages on track, while making the MPLA agenda my major project of some sixteen more months.

It was a great pleasure to see those of you in attendance in Montana. It is not too early to say to those of you who thought you would wait until the next time that Omaha, 2000 will be a great place to gather. Omaha has unique qualities. It is a community which lives out its values. Just one example of that is Boy's Town, made exceptionally famous by virtue of starring, along with Mickey Rooney, in a 1940s movie version of its mission and role in changing lives.

Funny that thinking of mission, roles and values in the context of how a community and its institutions work brings me back to how we deal with the library issues of our time. I was recently in a state library meeting to review the Benton foundation study of public library use. The study was commissioned by ALA to determine access points public libraries can use to persuade the public to continue to support the library as a valued public service. This is not a critique, just a brief summary in my own words. It all needs to be done in a simple, but loaded with image, message which calls on the traditional values which the library embodies for the individual.

After the meeting, the person charged with developing a way to get that message across to Oklahomans asked me what I thought the message might say. I answered this – Libraries balance. Each time I start a new year with a new class of library trustees (I manage with a board of 18 members), I face the task of explaining how and why a library does collection de-

velopment. In that process, I also have to explain the principle of intellectual freedom. Think, then, how lay people digest the multitude of material we can present on any topic relating to the library, much less this one, our mantra.



I long ago decided I had to keep explanations, even of complex issues, for lay board members to one page. What a task that has been in defense of intellectual freedom.

For your digestion, here is my word picture for trustees, embellished some when I do it in person. Destroying people or their thoughts and writings because they are different from yours or mine is an unacceptable resolution to disagreements in a democratic society. This is the bedrock principle of the library's selection of books and materials.

That basic value of library service is Intellectual freedom. It is the principle that people can expect to receive information which allows them to formulate their own opinion as a result of non-prejudicial information supplied by trained library staff who are not promoting their own agenda or any other agenda. The staff member is trained to balance a collection which protects unpopular views as well as those most accepted at the time.

What a tremendous task we will undertake in Oklahoma to turn that bedrock value of the library universe into the millisecond of a public relations message which can be run over the broadcast media. Maybe you have skills to help us send that message visually. The best I can do is a librarian on a skateboard. Balance..., well, you know.

Omaha also is the home of the Strategic Air Command museum – Jimmy Stewart made "the" movie about that experience in the 1950s. So, if you or a member of your staff, your board or your immediate family are old movie buffs or aircraft/military museum fans, this is a destination not to be missed. That it also has an elegant small museum, The Joslyn and a world-class Zoo is just further proof that Omaha is a community which lives its values. Come home to Omaha in 2000. It will be worth it.





(Continued from page 1)

Magazine) or mystery (*Famous Fantastic Mysteries*) stories, westerns (*Range Riders*), romances (*Love Fiction Monthly*), war (*War Aces*) or sports (*Thrilling Sports*) stories, etc. A title existed for almost any imaginable genre, including *Prison Stories*.

More than a thousand such titles were produced throughout the pulp era and the quality of the fiction in them varies widely -- from hastily written formula pieces, to stories by quite talented and subsequently famous writers like as Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, and Robert Heinlein. Such stories existed side-by-side, all accompanied by lurid covers, intriguing action illustrations, and emblazoned with enticing titles



like "Murder Wears a Skirt," "Prisoner of the Brain-Mistress," "A Silencer's No Good in Hell," and "Death is a Dude." The effects on the reader of the many pulps that specialized in fantasy, horror, or terror stories earned them

the nickname of the "Shudder Pulps."

### "The Wonderful Window"<sup>3</sup>: The Value of the Pulps

Although serious publication and widespread popularity of the pulps ended in the mid-1950s when the paperback novel supplanted them, the pulps remain valuable today. Highly sought after by collectors as artifacts; studied by scholars of literature, linguistics, art, history, and cultural theory; fodder for movies, television, and Web extravaganzas -- the pulps continue to be an important resource. They remain, first of all, visually attractive. Their cover art is spectacular. Even without the rise of the popular culture

movement in the 60's, these covers and the riveting stories inside would be sought after today. Like other popular culture materials such as comic books, the pulps have become highly valued by collectors whose selling and trading of them takes place online and at national "pulpcons," with some very rare issues bringing as much as \$80,000.

But in addition to being valued as flashy artifacts from the golden age of cheap fiction, they have become culturally valuable in a number of ways. The pulps are indicative of what voracious readers of fiction were consuming in the post-dime novel, pre-paperback days of the 20s through the 40s. They are also important records of magazine production and genre fiction development in the U.S. and as such are increasingly valued by scholars of American fiction or of American culture in general.

### "Doomed by the Planetoid"<sup>4</sup>: The Condition of the Pulps Today

Never intended to be kept after reading or to command high prices, the pulps today have, unfortunately, outlived their bodies. In their heyday, the pulp market demanded speed of production, flash, and low cost. Their producers did not have collectors or libraries in mind. Indeed, it is unlikely that the public library of 1936 would have been interested in making such materials available to its patrons. The covers alone, many of which border on soft porn even by today's standards, would have been enough to turn the traditional librarian's hair gray at a glance.

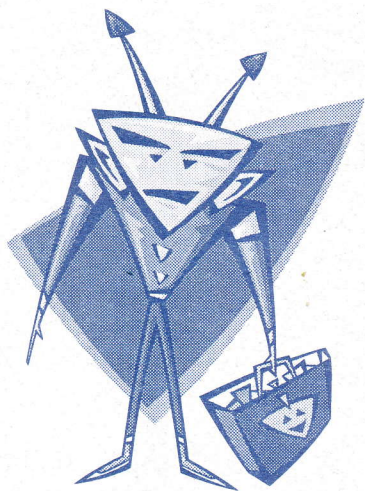
If they were collected, issues were often housed in conditions that hastened their deterioration, as in the case of the Library of Congress pulps. The odyssey of the pulps at LC is a tale of survival against all odds and mirrors the plight of many libraries' pulp collections. As a consequence, the condition of surviving copies in libraries today, whether they are held at LC or at UCLA, ranges

(Continued on page 7)



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from wood chips (literally), or "brittle," to "intact but delicate." Of course, their delicacy and relative rarity simply adds to their present-day value - and makes access to them a very difficult proposition.



### "Martians Keep Out!"<sup>5</sup>: Access to the Pulp

Private collectors saw the value of the pulps long before libraries did. They also had the money and the focus to amass pulp holdings in ways that most libraries

could not. The best-preserved, most complete runs of the pulp titles are generally in the hands of private collectors today. If you look at Pulp Net <<http://ThePulp.Net>> on the Web, you get an idea of the passionate interest of pulp collectors and readers.

If you are not a collector however, how do you get access to the pulps? Snatch glimpses of them in specialty shops? Eavesdrop on lists? Download the few covers that have been scanned into Web sites? You can pick up facsimile editions, or buy monograph collections of stories from them, certainly, but actually going to a library and requesting an issue from the 1940s is next to impossible. Even the Library of Congress cannot really fulfill that request. In addition to the abysmal condition of the originals, searching for microfilmed copies is difficult as well. Few collections have been filmed; fiction subject searching in library catalogs takes the patience of Job; and most of the pulps went through many, many title permutations in their publication lives. All these factors add up to poor access to an important resource.

### "The Crumbling World"<sup>6</sup>: Library Collections of Pulps

Ash and Miller's *Subject Collections* (7<sup>th</sup> edition) lists 16 U.S. libraries as having significant holdings of the pulps. In a 1992 telephone survey of the curators of 14 of these collections, the condition of the issues and the limitations of access to them were found to be uniformly poor. The nearly unanimous concern of the curators was that something be done to preserve and protect the pulps on a national level; but the libraries themselves had little or no money to devote to a massive preservation project. In addition, the delicate condition of most issues meant that microfilming or scanning them would require destruction of the artifact -- not a popular option.

In the summer of 1992 LC began exploring ways to preserve its collection of over 15,000 issues from approximately 350 pulp titles. Obtained rather accidentally through copyright deposit, the pulps at LC were just one of hundreds of fragile collections in the library's care. After decades of storage in cardboard boxes in the Landover (Maryland) Annex, the issues were crumbling into piles of wood chips with each handling. It was apparent that even scholars would soon not be allowed to handle them. Bibliographic access to them was limited to a card file in the Reading Room of the Serial and Government Publications Division. In part because of their housing and poor bibliographic control, many valuable issues were missing, which meant the title runs were often incomplete.



### "Almost Immortal"<sup>7</sup>: Preserving Popular Culture Materials

After much exploration and debate, LC made the decision to microfilm its pulps. They did not fill in missing issues. While the filming project has subsequently increased the avail-

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## New Members!

### Colorado

Chuck Haight, Arapahoe Library District Trustee  
Kelly Trupkiewicz, Library Consultant - Children's Services

### Kansas

Sue Cunningham, Kansas City Kansas Public Library

### Nebraska

Carolyn Bennett, Beatrice Public Library

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Nancy Cummings, Washoe County Library  
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Sara Jones, Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System

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Gloria Farmer, Eastern Oklahoma District Library System  
Michele Raine, Tulsa Public Library  
Tamara Woolheater, Washington Irving Elementary School

### South Dakota

Lavera Rose, South Dakota State Archives  
Amy Viet, Siouxland Libraries

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Mark Edward Ewing, Salt Lake City Public Library  
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### Wyoming

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Katrina Jones, Sheridan College



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Association members are encouraged to apply for grants, mini-grants, and international grants, all of which may be used for 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. Members are eligible after one full year of membership.

For more information, contact:

Jane Dotterer, Chair, Professional Development Grants Committee  
Salt Lake City Public Library, 209 East 500 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
Voice: 801/524-8200 x211, Fax: 801/524-8289  
Email: [jdottere@slcpl.lib.ut.us](mailto:jdottere@slcpl.lib.ut.us)

or

Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary  
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ability of the LC pulps, access to them is still problematic. The finding aid created in the summer of 1992 to supplement the card file in the Serial and Government Publications Division has not been made electronically accessible. Anyone who wanted to ferret out the full LC holdings of the pulps would still have a big job ahead of them.

LC's handling of the pulps is not an anomaly. It exemplifies the entire popular culture materials preservation debate and dilemma that the library community faces. If the national library finds it difficult to navigate these waters, how can it be easier for any other library? The issues of money, time, priorities, the "destroy to preserve" debate, technology choices, etc. are not likely to disappear. Although the filming of the pulps at LC has satisfied those who were concerned with content access, the loss of the artifact has not pleased others. The very haphazard collection of the

pulps, to say nothing of their subsequent treatment, is itself cause for concern. If something isn't collected, preservation is never an issue.

What materials are we ignoring today that will be tomorrow's pulps? The Zines? Web sites? In what condition will we find those materials 40 years from now, if accidental collections of them even exist?

**Notes:**

1. The title of my paper and the division titles within it are taken from pulp fiction magazine stories. "The Hoard of the Gibbe'ins," is by Lord Dunsany, and was published in *Avon Fantasy Reader* #4.

2 "Readin' and Writhin'," by James Blish, in *Fu-*

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## Upcoming Events Calendar

### September 1999

- 22 – 25 September — “The Web We Weave: Libraries On Site For the New Millennium”, North Dakota Library Association Fall Conference, Doublewood Inn, Fargo



### October 1999

- 6 – 9 October — “Libraries: The Heart of the Community” South Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Watertown. [www.sdln.net/lib/sdla/sdla/home.htm](http://www.sdln.net/lib/sdla/sdla/home.htm)
- 6 – 9 October — Midcontinental Chapter, Medical Library Association Annual Conference, Jackson, WY. [www.kumc.edu/mcmla/](http://www.kumc.edu/mcmla/)
- 7 – 10 October — Colorado Library Association Annual Conference, Snowmass. [cla.web.org](http://cla.web.org)

### 2000

- 26 – 29 April — Off-Campus Library Services Conference, Portland, Oregon. Presented by Central Michigan University Libraries, the conference will examine issues dealing with the provision of library services to students who take courses away from their central campus. [www.lib.cmich.edu/ocls/conference/portland.htm](http://www.lib.cmich.edu/ocls/conference/portland.htm)
- 3 – 6 August — REFORMA National Conference, Tucson, Arizona. Theme: “The Power of Language: Planning for the 21st Century.” [cnet.ucr.edu/library/reforma/rnc2/](http://cnet.ucr.edu/library/reforma/rnc2/)
- 23 – 27 October — National Libraries: Interpreting the Past, Shaping the Future, Library of Congress. The conference will deal with the role of national libraries or a single library within a national or international cultural context. Cosponsors include ALA's Library History Round Table and IFLA's National Libraries Section and the Library History Round Table. [www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/](http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/)

### Future MPLA Conferences

- 2000 — Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association, Omaha, late October.
- 2001 — Arizona Library Association, Phoenix, November/December.
- 2002 — North Dakota and South Dakota Library Associations, Fargo, ND, late September.
- 2003 — Nevada Library Association, Lake Tahoe.
- 2004 — Colorado Library Association, Snow Mass.
- 2005 — Wyoming Library Association, TBA.

## ... a few conference photos



the exhibits ...



**MPLA Past-President Roann Masterson chats with now former ALA President Ann Symons**



**MPLA Vice-President/President Elect Linda Rea at a Board Meeting**



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**Call for Papers**  
**LOEX-of-the-West 2000**

**June 7-10, 2000**

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Creativity and the Art of Library Instruction is the theme for LOEX-of-the-West 2000, to be held at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, June 7-10, 2000.

The rapid expansion of information technology and the proliferation of distance education programs have made simply keeping up with change the objective of many a library instruction program. Sessions can become litanies of button sequences and access provisos, even as over-extended librarians try to teach everything from computer skills to life-long learning concepts. LOEX-of-the-West 2000 will focus on creative uses of information technology and imaginative instruction techniques to motivate and stimulate students and instructors.

The conference steering committee invites you to propose a paper, panel, or poster session presenting and discussing your experience or research in creative library instruction. The LOEX-of-the-West 2000 conference will showcase inventive options for rejuvenating instructors and instruction programs, whether classroom or Internet based. It will mine the talents and skills of librarians who inspire colleagues and users with a flair for innovation, stimulation, and motivation. The conference will seek to inspire and encourage by offering an intimate forum for sharing, solving, and celebrating with instruction colleagues. For more information about LOEX-of-the-West, see:  
<http://www.lib.montana.edu/loex>

**Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:**

- Developing creativity
- Instructing remote users
- Outcomes assessment and evaluation
- Developing and strengthening library instruction programs
- Developing and coaching creative library instructors
- Instructional design
- Mapping the information landscape
- Interactive tutorials
- Physical attributes of the classroom environment
- Creative ventures between librarians and teaching faculty, community members, or technologists

**Important Dates:**

Proposal Submission Deadline: January 15, 2000  
Proposal Acceptance Notification: March 1, 2000

**Submissions:**

Electronic submissions are preferred. Proposals may be submitted using the Web Submission Form at:  
<http://fusion.lib.montana.edu/loex/>

Also by e-mail to [loexwest@montana.edu](mailto:loexwest@montana.edu), by FAX to 406-994-2851, or mail the form to:  
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**"Where the Pavement Ends . . ."**

**MCMLA Conference Notice**  
**October 6-9, Jackson Hole, Wyoming**

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The Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association invites you to join us "Where the Pavement Ends..." in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for our 1999 Annual Meeting. It will take place at the Snow King Lodge October 6 - 9.

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(Continued from page 3)

Of course the postal service threw another wrench in the works when it was announced the one ounce postage rate would increase to thirty-three cents on January 10, 1999. With the holiday mailing delays, campus holiday close-downs, and semester breaks, I gave a response deadline for this final round of January 25, 1999. Thus the higher postage rate had to be on the envelopes for the return of the surveys.

Thirteen respondents withdrew from the research, leaving 348 actual potential participants. A total of 228 useable responses (65.52%) were returned.

### Benefits

This is a unique area of research, since library faculty/librarians have not previously been researched in this area. It should serve to enlighten library department chairs, as well as faculty, on how chairs are perceived.

Seventeen institutions supplied the requested lists of library faculty/librarians. Over half of the institutions included are located in six states in the MPLA region. This research project was one of those presented at the Research Forum at the MPLA/MLA Joint Conference in Big Sky, Montana, June 13 - 16, 1999. Included were the results of the demographic portion of the survey and the overall ratings, by all respondents, of the development activities and leadership practices.

Analysis of the results, to determine if certain demographic characteristics have an impact on the ratings of the activities and practices, is still being conducted. I look forward to the results of this analysis and what it may reveal. It will, hopefully, enable me to finish my Ph.D. in 1999; a personal and professional goal of mine for ten years.

### Advice to Colleagues

This has definitely been a learning experience! Anyone considering pursuing the doctoral degree should give it great consideration first. The estimated four year project can easily become a longer one with full-time work, professional responsibilities, family, and just plain life. (Not to mention the doctoral committee!) One should be sure they have the backing of their workplace, colleagues, and friends. They may be impacted even beyond your chatting about your current class project, preparation for comps, and then the dissertation research.

Most important though is family support. The hours are long and the games, events, and bedtime stories missed become many. The whole family should receive a degree for the love, encouragement, hugs, listening ear, and cup of coffee at 6 a.m. after an all nighter.

### Appreciation

I would like to express my appreciation to MPLA for the Professional Development Grants Program. Special thanks goes to the committee for their award, patience, and understanding. Working with changing requirements, required my requesting an extension of the original grant from 1997 through the 1998 calendar year. Their faith in me, support and words of encouragement came when they were very needed. Thank you!

Kouzes, J. M. & Posner, B. Z. (1997). Leadership practices inventory [LPI] Observer. Monte

**Reminder!**

Renew your  
MPLA membership today!



(Continued from page 11)

Conference highlights include a Welcome Reception at the National Museum of Wildlife Art.

Conference Programs:

- ~ "Where the Pavement Ends" by Mark Zilkoski, M.D.,  
Listerud Rural Health Clinic
- ~ "Blazing New Trails: Integrating Complementary Therapies  
with Biomedicine" by Robyn Mundy, Nurse  
Psychotherapist
- ~ "It Takes a Village: Building Community Partnerships for a  
Wellness Information Center" by Bernie Todd-Smith,  
Rochester General Hospital
- ~ "Keep Your Eyes on the Road, Your Hands Upon the Wheel:  
Project Management" by David C. Snook-Luther,  
The Strategy Workshop
- ~ "Getting Stats Stat: Special Skills & Special Folks" by Ben  
Saunders, Wyoming Office of Geographic Information  
Systems, and Chris VanBurgh, Wyoming State Library
- ~ "Images of Aging" A Lighter Look at What's Ahead" by  
Mark Zilkoski, M.D.

Continuing Education classes:

- ~ No Houdinis Required: Common Sense Methods for Training  
by Teri Hartman, Integrated Technology Services, University  
of Missouri - Columbia
- ~ Copyright for Educators in the Electronic Age, by Marie  
Reidelbach & Mary Helms, McGoogan Library of Medicine,  
University of Nebraska Medical Center
- ~ Grant Writing by Fran Johnson, National Library of Medicine
- ~ Access to Pharmaceutical/Drug/Herbal Information, Terry  
Arndt, McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of  
Nebraska Medical Center
- ~ It's About Time, It's About Space: Time and File Management  
by Lynne Fox, University of Colorado Health Sciences  
Center Denison Memorial Library

Jackson Hole is nestled in the valley of the beautiful Grand Teton Mountains!

For more information and/or to register online, see the MCMLA '99 web link from the MCMLA website, <http://www.kumc.edu/mcmla>. But look fast - the deadline for registration is September 14, and for conference housing is September 1. See you in Jackson!

## Upcoming MPLA Board Meetings

MPLA Executive Board Meetings are held in Denver. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

*September 18, 1999*

*December 11, 1999*

*April 8, 2000*



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## Steve Coffman Teleconference

Thursday  
28 October, 1999

What if you ran your library like Amazon.com?

Steve Coffman, the author of the controversial article "Building Earth's Largest Library" will discuss his library philosophy during a national satellite teleconference Thursday, October 28, 1999 at INCOLSA (Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority), Indianapolis.

The teleconference will air live across the United States at 3 p.m. Eastern, 2 p.m. Central, 1 p.m. Mountain and noon Pacific time.

Coffman's article has generated controversy and heated discussions among librarians, library staffs, library vendors and even some patrons since it appeared in the March 1999 issue of *Searcher*. Coffman asks:

What if we dropped our local catalogs and allowed our patrons to select anything from the 40 million items in OCLC's WorldCat?

Suppose we stocked only the most commonly requested titles and relied on other libraries, wholesalers and publishers to supply the rest?

What if we used the Internet, electronic delivery and low-cost shipping to bring the library to our patrons rather than requiring our patrons come to us?

Coffman, director of FYI, a fee-based business information service at the County of Los Angeles Public Library, admits this approach raises fundamental issues about the purpose of libraries and how they should be funded and operated.

During the teleconference Coffman and a reactor panel of librarians will discuss and debate these issues. Audience members will be able to participate directly in the program through e-mail during question and answer sessions and in a live chat session following the broadcast.



The live satellite teleconference is available on C-band and KU-band satellites at \$100 per site. Satellite downlink site coordinators will receive packets with satellite information and handouts for attendees. Participating sites may make one videotaped copy of the program for use in their own building for the life of the tape. There are no limits on number of attendees at a participating site.

To register as a teleconference downlink site, contact INCOLSA by October 15, 1999. Additional information is available at the INCOLSA web site at <http://www.incolsa.net/HTML/teleconf/coff.htm> or by contacting INCOLSA at (317) 298-6570.

The teleconference is produced by INCOLSA and sponsored by INCOLSA, AMIGOS, FEDLINK, MINITEX, MLC, MLNC, NEBASE, NELINET, NY-LINK, OHIONET, SOLINET and WILS library networks.

(Continued from page 9)

*ture Science Fiction Stories*, September 1952.

3 "The Wonderful Window," by Lord Dunsany, in *Avon Fantasy Reader*, #12.

4 "Doomed by the Planetoid," by D. D. Sharp, in *Astounding Stories*, May 1936.

5 "Martians Keep Out!" by Fritz Leiber, Jr., in *Future Science Fiction*, July 1950.

6 "The Crumbling World," by Berkley Livingston, in *Fantastic Adventures*, January 1950.

7 "Almost Immortal," by Austin Hall, in *Famous Fantastic Mysteries*, November 1939.



## ALSC Seeks Applicants for Invitational Workshop

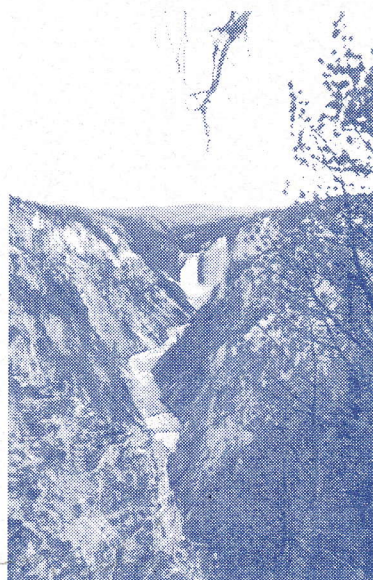
The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is seeking applications and nominations for an invitational workshop to be held January 13 - 14, 2000, before the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio.

The workshop, "Selecting the Best Materials: Training in Leadership Skills," will be led by Pamela Barron, associate professor, Department of Library & Information Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Carol Doll, professor, Library and Information Science Program, Wayne State University. It will target new and emerging leaders in ALSC in order to enhance their skills in evaluating materials; conducting effective group discussions on books, videos, and other audio-visual and electronic materials; and participating on ALSC evaluation committees.

Applicants must be members of ALSC. They must agree to be at the entire two-day session and be willing to serve on ALSC evaluation committees. The workshop will include all materials and dinner on Thursday and breakfast and lunch on Friday. To help defray additional costs for hotel and other expenses, ALSC will award \$200 to each invited participant.

Those interested should send a letter of application or nomination to Susan Roman, Executive Director of ALSC, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 by September 20. The letter should include a brief employment history, the number of years as an ALSC member and any ALSC committee experience.

For further information, contact Stephanie Anton, Deputy Executive Director, ALSC, at [santon@ala.org](mailto:santon@ala.org) or call 800-545-2433, ext. 2164.



## Pattern Research Makes Audiotapes Available at Fall Conferences

MPLA members can pick up copies of the latest audiotapes, **Stop**

**the Whining and Everyday Leadership**, from Pat Wagner of Pattern Research, at the following state library conferences this fall:

- California - Palm Springs, CA, November 12-13, 1999
- Minnesota - Duluth, MN, September 30, 1999
- Nevada - Elko, NV, October 2, 1999
- North Dakota - Fargo, ND, September 22, 1999
- South Dakota - Watertown, SD, October 5-8, 1999
- Wyoming - Cheyenne, WY, October 15, 1999

Audiotapes are always discounted from \$12.95 to \$10.00 at conferences, and checks and purchase orders (both formal and informal) are cheerfully accepted.

Pattern Research has purchased a limited supply of a lovely, handmade, miniature solid pine crate to hold all eight audiotapes from the Pattern Research series (plus four more!). These crates will be available only at the state conferences, not by mail, and are a free gift for customers buying the entire eight-tape series at each conference. If you think you might like to purchase the complete set at your conference, please order in advance so we don't run out of crates. There is no obligation to buy if you change your mind and no payment in advance is necessary.

For more information about specific topics and times at each conference, please check the Pattern Research web site at [www.pattern.com](http://www.pattern.com) or contact Pat Wagner at [pat@pattern.com](mailto:pat@pattern.com) or 303-778-0880 (fax: 303-733-3680).





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(Membership year is calendar year)

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- RETIREE, STUDENT, TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP** — \$15.00/yr.
- INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP** — Libraries, business firms, and other institutions supporting the Association. Institutional members also receive FREE advertising for job openings in the Newsletter! Membership fee is based on total annual budget.
 

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**Interest Group:**  Interlibrary Loan

It is important to indicate section preferences if you would like to vote for section officers!

- I am interested in serving on the following committee(s):**  Awards  Finance  Bylaws & Procedures  
 Continuing Education  Intellectual Freedom  Professional Development  Public Relations/Membership

**Mail to:** Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary  
 I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota  
 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

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