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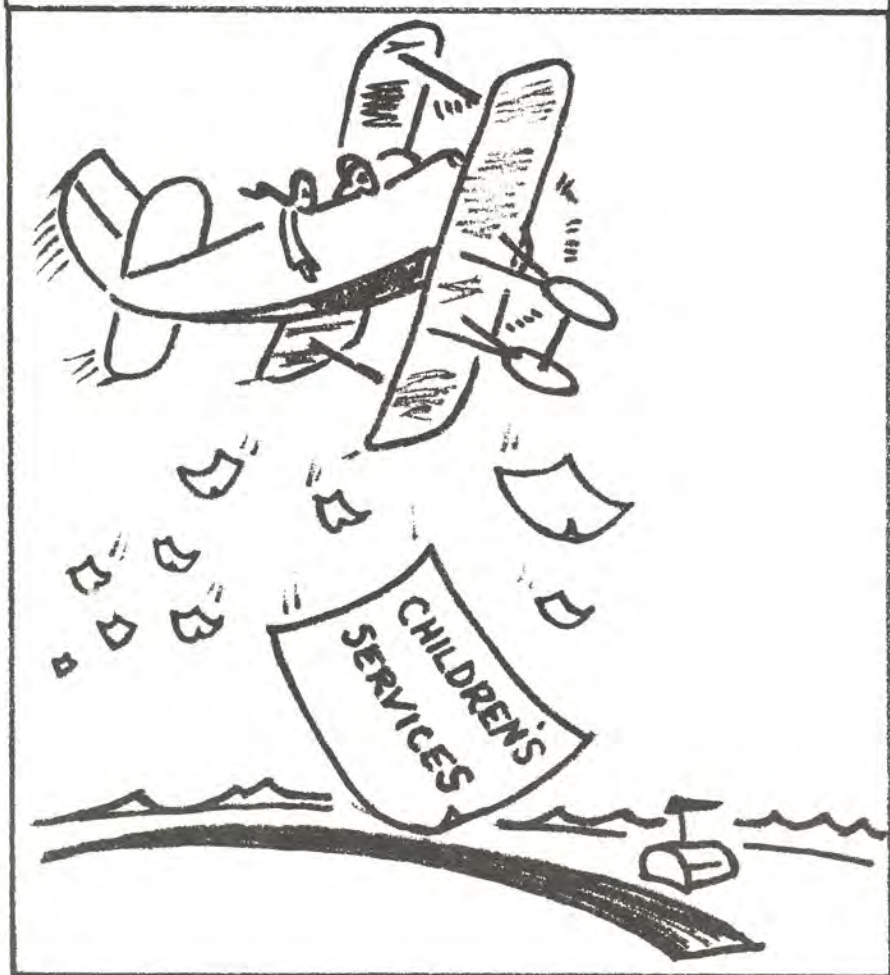
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Bulletin

of
THE RHODE ISLAND
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 45, NO. 5

FEBRUARY, 1973



the BULLETIN staff....

Janet C. Hampton, Editor
Helen DeJong
Dorothy A. Brown
Earleen P. McCarthy

RILA SCHOLARSHIP

To encourage qualified persons to enter the library profession, the Rhode Island Library Association annually offers a scholarship of \$500. The deadline for applications this year is March 31, 1973.

Each applicant must supply the following essential documents:

1. A completed application.
2. A transcript of college record.
3. Letter confirming acceptance as a candidate for full-time study leading to a master's degree in library science.
4. Letters of recommendations from three references - academic or business.

Applications may be obtained from:

Mrs. Leslie A. Peltier, Chairman
RILA Scholarship Committee
William Hall Library
1825 Broad Street
Cranston, R. I. 02905

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The attention of librarians has focused recently on the lack of any support for library programs in the FY 1973-74 budget submitted to Congress by President Nixon. Funding for LSCA, ESEA Title II, and HEA Title II is virtually non-existent. The effect of the cut-off in Federal funding for library programs in Rhode Island is estimated to result in a loss of approximately \$1,000,000. Obviously, we are faced with a serious problem.

The Rhode Island Library Association is involved in a vigorous effort to restore funding for libraries through action on the national and state levels. A group of librarians from Rhode Island participated in the Legislative Workshop on February 1 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington. They developed a plan for legislative action under the leadership of James Giles, Director of the Cranston Public Library. Essentially, the plan involves a concerted effort to tap State Revenue Sharing funds for public library programs that have been supported by the Federal Government. The involvement of librarians, trustees, and interested citizens is essential to achieve success in this endeavor. More information on this will be available shortly.

continued on page 2

Members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation have been contacted and are aware of the problem. During the ALA Midwinter Meeting, a representative group of librarians met with Senator Pastore and held a lengthy discussion on the difficulties that lack of Federal support would cause for the state. Senator Pell and staff members of Congressman Tiernan and Congressman St. Germain were also approached with expressions of concern. All of them have responded favorably to the need for continued Federal support for libraries. However, we must demonstrate "grass roots" concern for the elimination of funds. Now is the time to write your Congressman and Senators. They need to know that you are concerned and that you will be adversely affected by the elimination of Federal funding. Write to them now.

Richard A. Olsen
President
Rhode Island Library
Association

Public Library Service for Children

Surely services for children in a public library must be the most rewarding, if at times the most frustrating, of all those offered. Frustrating because there never seems to be enough time or staff to do all the things you'd like - or enough laps to meet the demand, especially at story hour; fascinating because few things can compare with the look on a child's face when you are able to give him just the book he wants.

As in any library service, the first priority is to use the available book budget to develop the collection according to your community's needs. Beyond that, children need almost the same services as adults: readers' advisory, reference, use of tools, etc., and most are getting good basic instruction in their school libraries. In a public library, however, they need much more. The children's librarian must sense when to step in to help those who are bashful, listen to endless stories about their activities, and hear all about the reason for that Band-Aid. As with adults, it is a difficult task to convince them that the subject card in the catalog is not necessarily the title of the book they want. We are not dealing with a captive audience, as in a school situation, and the children know it.

Most children's departments offer story hours, film programs, reading clubs, and an occasional speaker or special program. Recently the use of non-book media has become very popular whenever it can be afforded, both in terms of money and staff time available. At the Warwick Public Library we have been fortunate in being able to add a circulating toy collection, chess sets, film loops and a projector through which we attempt to encourage proper pet care and appreciation of wild life. Several of these animals have caused heads to swivel when they were allowed to take their daily constitutionals through the Reference

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

Providence College and Bryant College are the co-sponsors of this year's annual meeting to be held May 18-19 on the campus of Bryant College in Smithfield.

Daniel Gore, Library Director of Macalester College, will be the speaker for the Friday evening dinner program.

The two day meeting is open to all who register. For information about registration and further details about the programs write to:

Mr. Joseph H. Doherty, Director
Phillip's Memorial Library
Providence College
Providence, Rhode Island 02918

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Lucy M. Lancellotta

Barbara L. McGuinness

Jean Pellegrino

...for receiving their
certificates in the
Library-Media Technical
Assistants Program of
U. R. I. Extension Div.

and to
Linda J. Cambra

who has earned a
Library Techniques
Certificate.

WELCOME TO RHODE ISLAND...

Mr. James W. Norman....Director of the East Providence library system. Mr. Norman has a master's degree in library science from Florida State University, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee. He worked for several years in his hometown library system, and then joined the staff of the Columbus College library as a circulation librarian, later becoming its serials librarian.

Miss Donna L. Polhamus....Coordinator of Children's Services, East Providence library system. Miss Polhamus earned her master's degree at Columbia University and her bachelor's degree from Bates College. Her latest position was supervisor of children's services at the Cary Memorial Library in Lexington, Mass; she has also worked in the New York City library system as a children's librarian and as assistant librarian.

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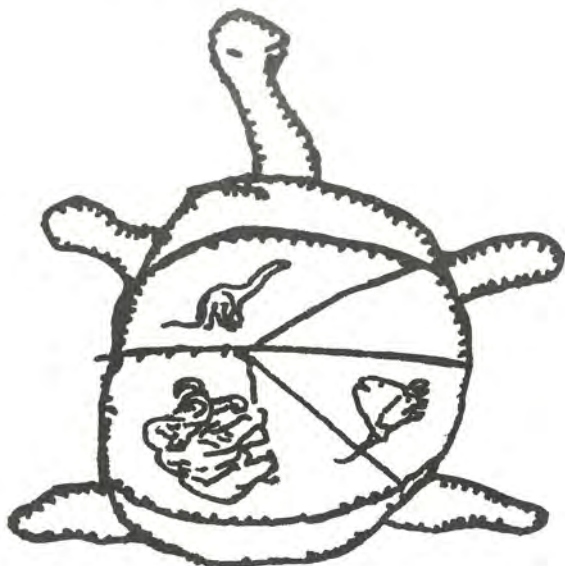
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Creative art in the library? Yes!

Under the direction of Mahler B. Ryder, Assistant Professor of Communications Design, the Rhode Island School of Design conducted a creative art program in the Providence Public Library. This program, called Fantasy World of Children, gave boys and girls ages 5-12 the opportunity to express themselves in paper, paint, wire, wood and clay. During the five weeks of the program, RISD students, as part of a mini-semester course, worked with the children as they made their own environment using an assortment of tangible materials and a video tape recorder. Among many other projects were a monkey-man, a jointly-painted mural, a horror hall, and a rubber stamp of each child's own design. In order to give you some idea of the reasons for undertaking this program and the results which followed, we have included an article by Mr. Ryder and pictures of the children and their projects.



drawn by Kenneth, age 10,
for his own personal rubber stamp



this dinosaur was created by a
five-year-old Korean boy

Fantasy World of Children

Of the many questions asked during the co-sponsored Providence Public Library-Rhode Island School of Design survey project entitled "Fantasy World of Children," the one most often heard was: "Why in the Library?"

My response, "Why not?" was generally considered a question-answer sort of thing - even a little defensive, by some. Since most cultural repositories share the same basic problems of (A) being taken for granted and (B) unrealistic funding, the question, and not the response indicates why innovative programs fail to receive funding. Most often it is because of compartmental or static concepts.

The rather ironic examples of this kind of thinking might be called to a better accounting if we would each begin to think or stretch our concept about what we think culture, any culture, is. I would suggest that we consider cultural components as being preventive medicine. What better examples have we than those programs available in our prisons and mental hospitals?

We also export "cultural exchange packages" to

Overheard...

One mother reported that her son was up at six o'clock on the second Saturday morning because he was afraid he would miss the program.

"I wish the art program was every day."

"I am not taking my things home. They belong in this room. If I leave them here I will be able to come all spring and summer."

Saturday afternoon: "Oh, I wish it were next week already."

One boy changed the space in his room at home after his experience in the library, with decorative objects hanging from the ceiling.

When five-year-old Joe was asked if he did not want to put his name on his dinosaur, he said, "Oh no, then the dragon would eat me up."







by Lues, age 8

rubber stamp designed by
Joseph, age 9



wherever our diplomats and military are sent and, although a bit conservative, we do stock cultural repositories around called simply: America Houses.

Actually one would really be hard pressed to find (space permitting) a more suitable situation than a library. With libraries in a constant state of change and new techniques being perfected in film, video tapes, tapes and more compact music instruments, the library of tomorrow may be, among other things, a data bank, as well as a museum.

The current needs of most libraries to fully understood must be viewed, as I have said, much differently than in the past. The overall success of our project, above all else, is not that a visual art component worked, but rather that we correctly used the space as a conduit of sensory education with internal possibilities already present within the library's program function.

My only hope is that something similar, with broader inputs, occur - such as dance, film and theatre - and that both children and parents share the space creatively.

The sincere thanks and gratitude of the Rhode

Island School of Design students, children and myself go out to all who made this inter-reaction possible.

A special thank-you is given to Mr. F. Charles Taylor, Miss Cynthia Neal, Rhode Island School of Design President Talbot Rantoul, Mrs. Bert Wade of the Providence Journal-Bulletin, and the parents of the children.

Mahler B. Ryder
Assistant Professor
Department of Communications and Design
Rhode Island School of Design

NEWBERY MEDAL awarded to Jean Craighead George,
author of Julie of the Wolves.

CALDECOTT MEDAL awarded to Blair Lent, illustrator of
The Funny Little Woman, by Arlene Mosel.

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After-School Enrichment

The Child Learning Center at the Smith Hill Branch Library extends a warm invitation to all librarians to visit them. This after-school enrichment program for children is held on weekday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. and is funded by O.E.O. through Progress for Providence. Closed temporarily for renovations, the Center opened its second year Tuesday, February seventh, following a parents' dinner where the staff members, Leon Rascowsky and Christine Mulack, explained the program and enrolled interested children. Currently, fifteen volunteers and college students are working with the children in creative dramatics, physical movement, sports, sewing, crafts, and soon cooking, woodworking, and photography will be added. Leon and Christine are planning to involve neighborhood and community resources so that all the activities will not be confined to the physical structure of the Branch, and they will be happy to share with anyone who is interested their experiences in scrounging for free materials and enlisting and training volunteers. The phone number is 272-7835.

Cynthia Neal
Coordinator of Children's Services
Providence Public Library

U. R. I. Spring Series of Colloquia

Mr. Kurt Cylke spoke at the first of this year's Spring Series of Colloquia at the University of R. I. Graduate Library School on March 12. His topic was "An Introduction to the Federal Library Community".

Speakers for rest of the Spring Series will be announced soon.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES...

Directing Librarian for southern New England seacoast town, 18,000 population. Library budget \$55,000. Requirements: M.L.S. degree with two to three years experience. Salary \$10,000. Apply: Board of Trustees, Rogers Free Library, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809.

Library Director of main and five-branch municipal library system serving a population of 75,000. Immediate opening. \$15,000 - \$18,000. Accredited MLS and five years of progressive responsible experience in public library administration. Applications close April 10, 1973. Address letter of application and personal resume to: Mr. Richard H. Pierce, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Cranston Public Library, 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island 02905.

Librarian for Greenville Public Library, who also acts as Coordinator of Smithfield Libraries. Requirements: MLS and interest in public library service. Staff includes one full-time, 4 part-time, 3 aides, and several volunteers. Library serves 3 nursing homes. Salary \$8500. Position open April 1, 1973. Send application and resume to Dr. Joseph Katz, President, Greenville Library Board, Whispering Pine Terrace, Greenville, Rhode Island 02828.

Position available immediately. Librarian with Masters Degree, administrative experience, for growing suburban town with good public school system. Bond issue to be voted on in June to build new Central Library. Salary range - \$10,000 to \$12,000. Please give telephone references and send all resumes to Mrs. Harold Rafuse, 15 Cooper Drive, Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865.

Director, Pawtucket Public Library. For details, contact: Rev. Donald F. Belt, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 670 Weeden Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860 (TEL. 723-9216 or 723-1840).

Department. Cassettes and tapes, both circulating and for use in the library, records, and book/record combinations all have a value of their own as do cardboard and cloth books for the very youngest. Craft programs and displays depend on the abilities and imagination of staff members. We have a display case where children may leave their collections, and there is a long waiting list simply because they take pride in sharing their hobbies with others. Of course vacation weeks offer the ideal time for the extra programs which can be geared toward inducing the non-reader into the library.

The much discussed problem about cooperation - or the lack of it - between school and public libraries must also be the concern of the children's librarian. My own goal in this area is to make youngsters feel comfortable with a collection much larger than most elementary schools can offer, especially when the Library of Congress cataloging system is used, and to help them make the adjustment from children's to adult areas with the least trauma. Toward this goal, we invite all elementary and junior high schools to

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COMPUTER CONCEPTS FOR LIBRARIANS

U. R. I. Extension Division announces a series of lectures to be given by Dave Clayton of the University's Computer Lab starting Wednesday May 2 from 1:30 - 3:30 at the Extension Division on Promenade St. Three two-hour sessions are planned.

All those who may be interested and want further details should contact Dr. Hollis Farnum at 831-7550. There will be no charge for the lecture series, but a registration fee will be charged.

bring classes to the library for a tour. This has been quite successful, and usually surprises many adults, who think librarianship consists of stamping books in and out. Of course we provide the same services for other groups, and offer story hours for Head Start groups and nursery schools. Being able to get out into the community with books and/or stories is great, but depends on the size of your staff.

I must confess that I have a special fondness for the pre-school child. If you can hook them at this age with books, stories, games or whatever, there is a good chance they will continue to be library users, and so will their parents. I must admit, however, that when I had 47 at the story hour for ages three to five last week, for about 30 minutes I considered deserting the ranks in favor of a job at the zoo.

Lest anyone consider this an attempt to sum up the possibilities that exist for service to children, rest assured that it is not. It is merely some random thought about one of the greatest opportunities available anywhere to serve this younger generation of ours. But when all is said and done, the greatest plus in any children's room is a cheerful, pleasant atmosphere, where they are made to feel welcome. Service with a smile is our biggest asset, and the smallest library can provide that and win many small friends.

Alice E. Forsstrom

Children's Librarian
Warwick Public Library

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Executive Board of RILA has decided to move ahead with plans to publish a membership list. The University of Rhode Island Computer Lab will maintain a file of members names, addresses, etc. and provide the Association with a print-out that can be duplicated and distributed. Hopefully this will facilitate improved communications among the membership.

For the New Children's Librarian...

American Library Association. Children's Services Division. For Storytellers and Story-Telling: Bibliographies, Materials, and Resource Aids. Chicago, 1968. This is divided into sections covering background readings from books, pamphlets and periodicals, plus bibliographical listings of multi-media aids for storytellers.

Arbuthnot, May Hill. Children and Books. 3d ed. Chicago, Scott, Foresman, 1964. An analysis of children's literature - the whys, wherefores, hows, whens, and whos. Chapters concentrate on different types of children's literature, and include major authors and their works along with a discussion of why this type of literature appeals to children and how it can be introduced to them.

Coplan, Kate. Guide to Better Bulletin Boards. New York, Oceana, 1970. Lots of ideas for those who find it difficult to think of just the right idea for the next display.

Foster, Joanna. How to Conduct Effective Picture Book Programs; a Handbook. New York, Westchester Library System, 1967. Includes sections on how to organize, prepare, present, and evaluate your own series of picture book programs. Practical tips and hints.

Lock, Muriel. Reference Material for Young People. rev. and enl. ed. Hamden, Conn., Shoe String Press, 1971. An annotated bibliography of reference works for children which enumerates their good points. It also includes audio-visual materials and equipment.

Power, Effie. Bag O' Tales; a Source Book for Story-Tellers. Detroit, Singing Tree Press, 1968 (reissue) Although this book was originally published in 1934, many of the tales listed can be found in contemporary illustrated versions.

Spache, George D. Good Reading for Poor Readers, and Good Reading for the Disadvantaged Reader. Champaign, Ill., Garrard, 1970. Both of these compilations include a basic introduction to these two groups of readers with special problems. Both titles then move on to lists of special materials divided by type of reading or social group.

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