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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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MAY 1988

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS

The Bulletin is pleased to present two features in this issue, each of which explores an area little-known to most of us. The first brings us up-to-date on changing technologies, and the second takes us into the world of international librarianship.

MEETING THE NEED FOR HIGH-DENSITY STORAGE MEDIA: AN UPDATE ON DISCS

by Norman Desmarais

Since the beginning of recorded history, mankind has stored its information on read-only media: stone, clay tablets, papyrus, parchment, and paper. The last half of the twentieth century has been the birth of the computer and the advent of erasable storage media: magnetic disk and tape. These have been with us for a relatively short time, but they have raised our expectations for storage media.

Optical information devices have been around for an even shorter period of time. While still employing read-only media, optical disc systems are now being regarded as suitable substitutes for hard disk storage. Since the consumer market expects erasable media, engineers continue to work on finding ways of writing to the optical discs. The read-only nature of the media (videodiscs, CD-ROM [compact disc--read only memory], and WORMS [write only, read many]) presents one of the greatest strengths of these products, as it insures the permanence of data in addition to high density storage. Yet, because of the consumer's desire for erasable media, this very strength presents one of the technology's greatest drawbacks.

The growing necessity for larger data storage facilities in today's computer-operated in-

dustries has prodded disk drive manufacturers to improve the capacity and access speed of storage devices and media. Personal computer-users also find themselves looking for increased data storage, in many cases up to 50% above their previous year's demands. As a result, many computer-users are now looking to the quickly evolving technology of optical media storage as an alternative solution to machines with larger on-board memories. Consequently, the optical devices will require erasable discs.

Some vendors had promised to have products on the market by the end of 1987. They failed to do so mainly because the development of erasable optical media presents more of a challenge than the actual development of the optical disc itself. At present the primary barrier is the inability to access and modify accurately those portions of the disc surface containing the data. The information is recorded as a pattern of "pits" and "bumps" only one micron wide and two or three microns deep. (A micron is one millionth of a meter or .0000004 inches.) While they are able to perform this task in the laboratory, scientists have not yet been able to perfect the process to the point of successfully using it in the field and thus bringing it into the marketplace.

The most promising method devised thus far is known as thermo-magneto-optics. This process involves coating the discs with an alloy which, when heated, reverses the magnetic field on the disc's surface. Eastman Kodak's Verbatim Division was the first to demonstrate both the unlimited erasability and the high bit density capabilities on its 3.50 inch disc. During the 1986 Fall Comdex show, Kodak also introduced a prototype drive which can actually erase the optical disc. They planned to offer their system in 1987 or 1988 at prices comparable to current Winchester drives and tape systems.

Sony is also experimenting with this process. The challenge with this method is to find an economical way of using a laser to heat tiny spots--just over a micron wide--on the disc's surface. IBM's foray into this technology has so far resulted in operating a laser beam in an environment requiring the use of liquid helium and temperatures close to absolute zero.

However, with a storage life of only three years, weak read signals, and the need to design a special optical head to read it, the magneto-optical disc has caused other companies such as Fujitsu and Hitachi to begin looking at a cheaper but less stable process called phase-changing.

Phase-change uses a thin-film alloy which absorbs light at one temperature and reflects it at another. One state serves for recording information and the other for erasing it. Fujitsu has developed a selenium-based alloy expressly for this purpose which provides a great amount of read/write flexibility.

One final method uses a dye polymer process which does not have any shelf life restrictions but has limited erase-write options.

It must be noted that the race to develop an erasable optical medium is not without its price. The ability to erase the data comes at the cost of reduced data storage density. Conventional CD-ROM discs currently have the capacity to store 550-650 megabytes of data on a single side. Early WORM discs, developed a little more than a year ago, were capable of storing only 115 megabytes of data on the same size disc. Current discs can now hold up to 400 megabytes. The capacity of the latest prototype optical disc pale by comparison. Verbatim is working on a two-sided version of its magneto-optical disc which is capable of storing only 50 megabytes of data!

Manufacturers expect to begin full scale

production of erasable magneto-optic drives and media by mid-1988. However, such systems will have definite limitations for the foreseeable future. In addition to their relatively high price (Sony estimates a price of 1,000,000 yen [about \$8,000] for the drives and 30,000 yen [about \$240] for the medium), the systems will suffer from slow seek rates and slow write rates due to the necessary erase-before-write cycle. This situation will probably not stabilize before 1989 at the earliest.

Meanwhile, manufacturers of magnetic media have taken a hard look at the stiff competition they will face when these newer optical products begin to enter the marketplace. Not to be outdone, they are beginning to experiment with high density storage methods at economical costs. Should present trends continue, one analyst predicts that magnetic storage media will be practically free within ten years.

In addition to the work on the optical medium itself, some companies, such as Optimem, are starting to develop hardware which is capable of operating interchangeably with erasable, write-once, or read-only discs (omni drives). Some players currently on the market have two drives built into them such as videodisc and CD-ROM drives. Rather than building multiple drives into the player, the omni drive should accommodate the different optical media on the same drive.

The audio compact disc and player have proven to be two of the most exciting and successful electronic developments of our time. There is no reason to doubt that their companion formats (CD-ROM, WORM, CD-I) will enjoy similar success as they begin to appear on the market. The availability of erasable optical discs will provide a further impetus to this emerging and promising new technology. When the new optical drives become available for the popular microcomputers, even the personal computer owner will be able to extend his or her capacity for data storage and information handling to levels available only to those organizations which could afford a mainframe computer.

Norman Desmarais is Acquisitions Librarian at the Phillips Memorial Library of Providence College, and Features Editor of the Bulletin. He is a well-known speaker and writer on the development of technologies in librarianship.



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A VISIT: ROSTOCK, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

by Rita H. Warnock

A year ago in May, a trip I had long dreamed of became reality. This trip was not to an exotic country or island, just one across the border from the Federal Republic of Germany to the German Democratic Republic--destination Rostock, on the Baltic Sea. As refugees in 1945-46, my family had lived for ten months not far from Rostock. Now forty-one years later, I could revisit and show my husband the area and possibly be able to locate an old schoolmate I had lost touch with years ago. It was an opportunity to re-establish contact with a year of life in my childhood, a year of good and bad memories of a difficult time experienced. My husband was to attend a conference, and we both were officially invited guests at the University of Rostock, an exchange partner of Brown University. For me, the trip was an opportunity to visit with some of the librarians at the university library and get a brief introduction to some of their library departments.

The library as part of the university shares the long, and at times tempestuous, history of the institution. The university was founded in 1419, the first in northern Europe. The holdings of the library reflect the institution's history, which started in the Middle Ages and experienced directly or indirectly the epochal happenings of the area, which eventually became part of Germany and after World War II, part of the German Democratic Republic.

The library of the University of Rostock is a research facility housed in different buildings. One of the buildings is a beautiful little castle, the former town house of the grand dukes of Mecklenburg. The Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, of which Rostock was part, was their domain. The seed library, readily recognizable by its velum bindings, was inherited from one of the grand dukes of Mecklenburg. Through the centuries the library has become the keeper of additional treasures. I had the opportunity to view some of these with the Rare Book Librarian.

Since I work in Special Collections at Brown University, one develops certain proprietary interests. Thus, it was a happy discovery to find that copies of some of the incunabula editions are also among the treasures my home institution owns. But it was an even greater treat to see those rare editions that are unique and can be viewed only in Rostock. The rare

book librarians and I spent an afternoon together. Besides viewing some of the institution's rarities, we talked special collections and discussed problems one encounters in the attempt to make unique materials available and known to researchers. This problem is greater in the German Democratic Republic than in our country, since a union catalogue, as we know it, is not yet available. Besides, there was no unifying system of subject headings and LC numbers developed in the past.

My meeting with the head cataloger of the library introduced me to the intricacies of their library's cataloging system. It appears complex and makes me thankful that system developments in the United States were not burdened by European particularism. Our country's libraries had the good sense to agree on unifying cataloging systems and procedures. The cataloging system of the Rostock University Library reminded me vaguely of our Cutter system. Subject headings and added entries are used at the whim of the cataloger. Because of changes through the centuries, the library has three catalogues, the first a book catalogue, the others on cards. If I remember correctly, the third catalogue was started in 1968, when far-reaching new library regulations were instituted. Since then the academic libraries adhere generally to the "Rules for alphabetical cataloging in academic libraries", thus following a certain central codification plan. Mindful of split catalogues I have come in contact with, the library's strict adherence to cut-off dates for the different catalogues was of special interest to me. It seems a very user-friendly approach.

Another department I visited was Acquisitions. Since computerization has not advanced to the degree it has in the Western World, the work in Acquisitions is still done in a non-computerized manner. During my visits to the different departments, it was reassuring to see that we librarians and our operations have much in common. Here in Acquisitions, I finally found an example which could be used somewhat as proof of my notion of the international character of our library practices. Any library in the United States I have known uses rush flags, usually in red.

Rostock Library has them too, only in green. By itself this is not a terribly important point, but throughout the library world, there are a number of such spontaneous developments growing out of local needs and springing up in geographically and sociologically unconnected institutions.

At the Rostock University, the central government allocates the budget for book purchases for the different academic departments. The acquisitions librarian has to work within its confines; selection is made by departments and bibliographers. Once Acquisitions receives the order slips (arranged not unlike the order slips many of us are familiar with), they are processed within the department and eventually the orders are placed with the booktrade.

The larger part of the acquisition budget is used for scholarly literature from within the East Block countries. Budget allocations are larger for sciences. The prices of periodicals are as much, or even more, of a headache in the Rostock Library as they are in our libraries. The publications of the Western world are purchased more sparingly, partly for ideological reasons, partly because of limits on currency conversion. The limited budget for so called "hard currency" necessitates curtailments, and therefore purchases have to be well considered. It is for that reason that exchanges are of great significance.

Once the books ordered are received and paid for, they are sent to the bibliographer and finally to the cataloguer. Eventually, they are shelved in catalogue order in closed stacks. Twice a day the requested books are paged. Anything which serves the community of the university, such as "scientific literature for teaching and research as well as for the education and training of students" is available and has been collected according to the institution's collection plan as designated by a central steering committee. There are limits on the availability of non-East Block publications. Some of these are only available from designated state libraries (in function comparable to our Library of Congress).

I only visited the reference/reading rooms briefly. They had an austere appearance: long wooden tables, hard backed chairs, and light difficult to read by. It very definitely conveyed a "no-nonsense" atmosphere. Somebody did mention that there is need of larger quarters and more shelving space. Lack of adequate international reference works also is an issue.

When visiting a library in another country, one invariably makes comparisons. It is good to see that there is indeed a certain amount of internationalism in our profession. We know that libraries and librarianship have evolved from a common distant past. In the beginning in the United States, Europe was a model for certain developments in the library field. We also know that further developments were our own and thus unique. And yet, if we all spoke the same languages, we would discover some incidental similar developments, such as rush flags, forms, procedures, and in older libraries, the presence of starter libraries.

In addition, we would also be able to share similar concerns as to the availability of personnel, cataloging approaches, deterioration of library materials, conservation, physical surroundings, paucity of space and the influences of the environment. When it comes to the acquisition of materials, one would find that despite the ideological difference in economic planning, the sciences require and get more money for their acquisitions, that the serials market makes budgeting all but impossible, that allocations of monies to the library never are adequate, and that library users can be unpredictable everywhere.

The controlled market economy of the German Democratic Republic produces unique problems. State ideology requires a certain amount of restrictions and limitations. Intellectual freedom, as we know it, does not exist. Libraries are not allowed to collect certain literatures at will, and in collecting there is a certain bias toward East Block publications. Currency restrictions limit the purchase of publications from the Western world even further, causing gaps in certain areas.

These are some of my observations. It was a friendly place to visit, and I enjoyed the conversations I had with colleagues in Rostock. I was even able to locate that old schoolmate. All in all it was a visit I would be sorry to have missed.

Rita H. Warnock is a librarian in the Broad-sides Division of the John Hay Library of Brown University. She holds a BA from Brown and the MLS from Simmons. She enjoys frequent international travel, and attended the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1983.

BOB BURFORD, former director of the Mohr Library in Johnston, has accepted a position with CLSI, Inc.

After a short tenure as Director of Tiverton Library Services, **SUSANNE CASTELLUCCI** has resigned to relocate in New Hampshire.

Contrary to what we reported in our last issue, **PETER CHASE** has declined the directorship of the Woonsocket-Harris Public Library.

NED COMSTOCK recently retired as director of the Rogers Free Library in Bristol.

MARY HARRINGTON, former Supervisor of Technical Services at the Department of State Library Services, recently was appointed Head of Technical Services at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College.

JOAN HENNEMAN was named recently as the librarian at the Rhode Island Veterans Home.

CAROLYN POLAND recently was presented the first Margaret Maryott Memorial Award for excellence in public service by the East Providence Public Library. Mrs. Poland has been a library assistant, primarily in children's services, at East Providence for the past thirteen years. Wilfrid L. Gates, chair of the library's Board of Trustees, made the presentation.

ANNE TOLL, Director of the Newport Public Library, has been elected President of CLAN (Cooperating Libraries Automated Network).

Rhode Island's two-time Caldecott Medalist **CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG** is the artist for the American Library Association's commemorative "1989 - The Year of the Young Reader" poster.

DIANE "CANDY" WEAVER is the new librarian at the Glocester Manton Free Public Library.

JANE DUGGAN, formerly a reference librarian in the Art & Music Department of PPL, became Fine Arts Librarian in the Fine Arts Research library of the Boston Public Library. She began work on April 20th.

On your membership form for RILA, you can contribute to the ALA Washington Office. This office has been very effective lobbying for libraries. For the past seven years, President Reagan has submitted no funding for libraries. Due to the excellent work of Eileen Cooke and her staff at the Washington ALA office, funding has continued. By contributing to the office, you are showing your appreciation for this excellent work.

If you have contributed, thanks should go to you. If you haven't, you might consider giving a small amount. RILA contributes \$1.00 per member which is given at the ALA Annual Conference. To defray this expense, contributions above your RILA dues are appreciated.

Information submitted by Carol DiPrete, ALA Chapter Councilor.

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC FORUMS ANNOUNCED

Through the month of May and early June, public libraries throughout the state will present forums on three issues critical to the future of Rhode Island: literacy, land use, and AIDS. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Foundation and the Governor's Office, the Forums are designed to involve the public in the development of public policy.

The Forums will bring together small groups of neighbors, co-workers, and friends to discuss each issue. Issue Papers on each subject will be available at the sponsoring library in advance of the programs. The papers will explain the dilemmas posed by the particular issue, outline possible alternative courses of action, and analyze benefits, consequences, and trade-offs inherent in each decision. Texts of the papers are rigorously non-partisan and advocate no particular policy. Papers will provide background for the discussions which will be led by trained leaders. Channel 36 also plans a forum in conjunction with the library programs. Further information on discussion meeting times will be available at each local library.

Information provided by Margaret Shea and Peter Fuller, Coordinators of the Rhode Island Public Issues Forums.

PPL RECEIVES MODEL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

by Elaine Heebner

Providence Public Library's Volunteer Program was among eleven agencies in Rhode Island to be chosen "Model Volunteer Program of the Year" by Volunteers in Action, the largest Volunteer Center in Greater Rhode Island. The award granted was based on a seven point assessment of the Program by three professionals in the field of volunteer Administration. The standards measured "overall agency support of volunteers, the effectiveness of management techniques used to achieve objectives, and the degree to which the agency maximizes its volunteer's skills and time".

Dale Thompson, the Library's Acting Director states: "Volunteers supplement work done by paid staff members and become spokespersons for the Library in the community at a time when community understanding of the changes in the Library is very important."

Shirley Long, Coordinator of Adult Services, commented on how tasks given to volunteers complement the work done by paid staff: "Without the establishment of the volunteer program at the Providence Public Library, so much of the work needed to keep our services functioning properly would be in jeopardy."

Jean Tessitore, volunteer, wrote about how the Library volunteer program provides for growth of volunteers and their enjoyment: "Working at the Library has shown me that my brain still works, that I can contribute something of value to the larger community... After working at the Library, it is no longer THE Library. It is now MY Library."

Other statements by staff and volunteers about what the Library Volunteer Program means to them and why the Library Volunteer Program should be recognized:

"It is a program which makes use of a diversity of people who possess a wide range of skills, working in both direct and indirect service to the public... Each of these men and women who donated 7,800 hours of service last year alone...deserve a special honor for this support of the Library, thus the community" said Mary Olenn, Trustee.

Coordinator of Volunteers, Elaine Heebner, commented: "There is a psychological role which volunteers play which has a bearing on the morale of Library staff. What greater compliment is there to a professional in a social service agency than to have a person from the community show interest in that person's work and want to help?"

Heather Ainslie, a high school senior who put in window displays for the past two years wrote: "Volunteering has been a fun, challenging experience. I learned much about the Library and how to use its resources..."

Steve Brunelli, a full time plumber who helps evenings and weekends in the Art and Music Reference Department wrote: "My time of volunteerings has made me feel successful on the inside and also important..."

The Award was announced at the Chamber of Commerce and Volunteers in Action Corporate Recognition Luncheon which was part of the National Volunteer Week celebrations in Rhode Island, at the Omni-Biltmore Hotel on April 19. Representatives from the Library were Dale Thompson, Acting Director, Howard Walker, President of the Library's Board of Trustees. Sheldon Sollosy, President of Manpower Temporary Services and Library Trustee and Elaine Heebner, Coordinator of Volunteers at the Library.

Nor is this the only recognition that PPL volunteers are receiving. Mrs. Sarah Weed, MLS, from Warren, Rhode Island and a Providence Public Library volunteer, was selected by the Library to be honored as a special library volunteer in part of the Secretary of State's recognition of National Library Week (April 17-23). Sarah has put in over four hundred hours of volunteer service at the South Providence Branch Library, indexing the Edna Frazier Collection, the state's largest public library collection of literature by and about Black Americans. Former Librarian at South Providence Branch, Mary Frances Cooper observed, "The quality of index that Sarah is creating is very high. It is rapidly developing into a resource that will significantly improve access to information in the area of Black American Studies."

In its short life at the PPL, the Volunteer Program has become an integral part of the library's services. The range of skills and variety of personalities provided by its volunteers has enriched the quality of life at PPL. As Marcia DiGregorio, Collection Development Librarian, puts it: "Our volunteers...who give of themselves, their skills, and their time, enrich not only our worklives with their accomplishments, but our personal lives with their friendship..."

Elaine Heebner is Coordinator of Volunteers at the Providence Public Library, and has extensive experience in volunteer programs in various social institutions.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The Bulletin will try to bring its readers notices of volunteer opportunities in the library field. The following notice comes from Volunteers in Action, Inc. (421-6547).

LIBRARIAN: Marathon House, an agency which provides rehabilitation to substance abusers in a therapeutic community atmosphere, seeks a volunteer with extensive library experience to help set up a reference library. The library includes books, news articles, newsletters, and other resource materials.

calendar

MAY 5-6: ACRL New England Chapter Spring Conference, University of Lowell, Lowell, MA.

MAY 6: Book Discussion Day sponsored by NERTCL (New England Round Table of Childrens Librarians) at Bentley College in Waltham, MA.

MAY 10: The Spring Meeting of NETSL (New England Technical Services Librarians) on "Shifting Boundaries; Impact of Automation on Library Organization" will be held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

MAY 18: The Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science holds its Alumni Day Workshop on "Information as a Product: Legal and Ethical Issues for Information Professionals." Registration deadline is May 9.

MAY 18: YART will present a "Reference Roundtable" at the Samuel Gorton Junior High School in Warwick. Coffee is available from 9:00 AM; meeting will start at 9:30. Useful YA Reference Books will be reviewed. Contact Barbara Duffy (737-3300, ext. 2358) for further information.

MAY 23: RILA Spring Business Meeting, 12 noon-4:00 PM, Cranston Public Library.

JULY 9-14: Annual Conference of the American Library Association, New Orleans, Louisiana.

jobline

READER'S SERVICES LIBRARIAN: Rhode Island School of Design. Responsibilities: Provide reference service, library orientation and bibliographic instruction to dynamic and active art school community, including museum; supervise public services, including circulation, reserve collection and interlibrary loan; oversee serials and bindery. Qualifications: ALA-accredited MLS; undergraduate degree in art history or studio art preferred; reading knowledge of one or more modern European languages; three years professional and supervisory experience; knowledge of on-line reference services desirable. Salary: \$22,500 minimum, excellent benefits. Send application, resume and three references by June 1, 1988 to Carol S. Terry, Director of Library Services, Rhode Island School of Design, 2 College Street, Providence, RI 02903.

SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST: Woonsocket Public School System. Must be certified as Teacher of Library Science by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Salary: \$50/day (1st 30 days) and \$60/day (31st day). Application available from: Louis R. Leveillee, Coordinator of Media Services, 108 High Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895 (401) 762-4440.

bulletin board

- Seventeen public service librarians from the Providence Public Library attended an all-day stress workshop on April 13. The sessions were directed by members of the staff of the Providence Center, which offers a variety of counseling and psychiatric services. The goals of the program were to understand the physiological aspects of stress, recognize what causes stress in one's professional life, and to learn to accept what is in a person's control and what is not. The seminar included four phases: definitions of stress, group and individual problem identification, coping strategies, and lifestyle changes and relaxation techniques. Sessions were led by therapists Judith A Ferris, Elaine Poncelet, Maria Rijo-Sekac, and Anne E. Powers, Director of Marketing for the Providence Center.
- Deaf and hearing-impaired members of the American Library Association (ALA) may now communicate with ALA headquarters via telephone by calling ALA's TDD# 312/944-7298 which will link the caller to a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) Teletypewriter (TTY). The number is solely for use by TCC callers; the voice number 312/944-6780 remains the same.
- The nineteenth Annual Alumni Day Workshop of Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science will be held Wednesday, May 18. Subject of the afternoon's sessions will be "Information as a Product: Legal and Ethical Issues for Information Professionals." John Berry, Simmons graduate of 1960 and editor of the Library Journal, will speak on "Enterprise Ethics and Information," followed by a panel consisting of Susan DiMattia, Business Information Consultant, Stamford, Ct., Anne T. Mintz, Director, Information Services, Forbes Inc., NY, and Peter Marx, Marx Group, Wellesley, Ma. Registration begins at 12:45 PM and is \$25. Further information is available from Georgeanne Roe, (617) 376-8459.
- The New England Round Table of Children's Librarians will sponsor a book discussion day, "A Closer Look at Picture Books," on Friday, May 6, from 9:30 - 3:00 at Bentley College, Waltham, Ma. Barbara Brenner, author of many children's books and co-author of Choosing Books for Kids, (Bank Street Book-Ballantine), will be the featured speaker. The program will also include lunch and two book discussions sessions. For more information call Gwen Holt, (617) 927-8082, or Osee Malio, (617) 646-1000 x4321.
- The School Media program at the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies recently received full accreditation to 1991 from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education Certification. As a result, Rhode Island certification for schools media specialists will be acceptable throughout the country.
- The Bibliographic Instruction Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries will present a program on "Teaching CD-ROM" at the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans. The program will be held Sunday, July 10, 1988, from 2:00 to 5:30 PM and will focus on the impact of CD-ROM technology on bibliographic instruction activities.
- The 1988 Annual Conference of EUSIDIC - The European Association of Information Services - will take place in Heidelberg in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Conference begins with a reception on the evening of Monday, October 17th and ends during the afternoon of Thursday, October 20th. Further details are available from Barbara Sarjeant or Harry Collier, EUSIDIC, First Floor Offices, 9/9A High Street, Calne, Wiltshire, England. Telephone: +4 (0) 249 81 45 84.
- Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of the New York Public Library, will speak at the List Auditorium on the Brown University campus, on Saturday, May 28 at 3:30 PM. Dr. Gregorian's speech, entitled "The Book and the People of the Book" is given in commemoration of the Brown University Library's acquisition of its two millionth book. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, and is open to the public.
- Connecticut Library Association has voted a minimum salary for beginning professional of \$23,310, effective July 1, 1989.
- Elliot and Eleanor Goldstein of SIRS, Inc. (Social Issues Resources Series), have been chosen as the 1988 recipients of the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of ALA.

RILA

Rhode Island Library Association

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, May 23, 1988

Cranston Public Library

All members are invited to attend the annual Spring Business Meeting. Luncheon will be served at the library from 12:00 to 1:30, with the meeting to follow. This should afford members an opportunity to converse and relax with colleagues. Please return the form below if you plan to attend our informal lunch. The business meeting will follow and all members are free to attend the meeting only.

AGENDA

1. 1987 Trustee of the Year Award
2. Proposed Constitutional changes
 - a. Nominating Committee
 - b. Budget and Finance Committee
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Public Information Officer
4. Dues Structure
5. Personnel Committee : Salary Survey
6. Other Business

LUNCHEON REGISTRATION : \$5.00

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Cranston, RI 02920**

When I was a teenager, my family was given a second-hand copy of the fourteenth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Thereafter, it became a familiar part of the household, and the basis of many school assignments. Indeed, much later, in my own home, collecting my own books, my husband and I made a trip to the Reference Book Center in the Flatiron Building in New York City and bought the eleventh, or "Scholar's Edition" of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Not only is this edition fascinating leisure reading material (e.g. Read what it says about Providence or psychiatry in 1911, or the famous essay on Dickens by G. K. Chesterton), but it also came in handy to me as a reference librarian. There probably is no better treatment of Homer and Homeric scholarship than the essay by David Binning Monro, an outstanding scholar of his day, who indeed has his own entry in the eleventh edition.

With all this warmth in my heart toward the Encyclopedia Britannica, I find myself doubly distressed by its current advertising slogan as "the library that never closes." The commercial that comes to mind is one in which a young boy trudges through blinding rain, covered in his yellow slicker, clutching his notebooks, to the local library, only to find a big "CLOSED" sign on the door. To avoid this kind of catastrophe, we are advised that owning the Encyclopedia Britannica is tantamount to possessing a "library that never closes."

As a librarian concerned with our public image and the misconceptions of our profession that evolve from such stereotypical advertising, two thoughts come immediately to mind. The first is that many of our libraries make every effort to be open when their patrons need them. Such libraries as Pawtucket or East Providence Public do thriving business on Sunday afternoons. The Cranston Public Library has adopted a policy of being open not only on Sunday, but also the holiday Monday of major three-day weekends. It feels that if the shopping malls are available to the public, so should its public library. (Parenthetically, it might be added that as librarians we do encourage young people to start early on their assignments, and not wait till the last minute!)

More troubling than the assumption that libraries are closed when you need them, is the assumption that all libraries are is the books on their shelves. The commercial ignores our professional obligation to teach young people how to use reference materials, to share with them the professional expertise we have and apply to their school assignments, all done in a pleasant manner in an atmosphere conducive to effective learning. Any of us who has worked in any reference department, whether public or academic, knows that a large part of the job is teaching: how to use an index, how to use the Reader's Guide or the New York Times Index, even how to use the new format of the Encyclopedia Britannica! I'm sure I'm not the only librarian to wince inwardly when trying to explain the micro/macropedia concept!

As an illustration of this kind of learning, I remember one of my most satisfying moments when working at the Providence Public Library. A mother and her son were looking for a government document on a scientific topic, and were unable to find it at their local library or in the Business-Industry-Science area of the PPL. I left the busy desk with the two of them in tow, and confronted the Monthly Catalog and Government Document fiche. It may have taken nearly half an hour, but we found the document. I'll never forget the mother's saying in admiration, "I didn't realize that you have to know something to be a librarian!"

That's the kind of image we librarians want to convey, and indeed do, daily, in every hour that the library is open. The Encyclopedia Britannica is only as good as the people who use it, and we, in libraries, take our obligations to help others to use reference materials very seriously. It is lovely to have the Encyclopedia Britannica at home. It becomes a familiar friend and a part of one's life, but you do have to learn how to use it, and the best place to do that is in our libraries.

Judith Paster is Managing Editor of the Bulletin

FOLDA PROMOTES PUBLICATIONS FOR DEAF AWARENESS

Public Service librarians should be reminded of the recent activities of FOLDA (Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action). FOLDA was organized as a non-profit service organization in 1986. It has been actively promoting library and information services to the deaf community and has encouraged deaf people to use its libraries. FOLDA works closely with the Washington, DC Public Library's Office of the Librarian for the Deaf Community.

FOLDA publishes a series of occasional leaflets, such as Crossroads (International Edition), and contributes articles on library and information services and programs to Dee Cee Eyes, NAD Broadcaster, Silent News and other publications for the deaf community. They also publish the Red Notebook, subtitled "Communicating with Hearing People," a looseleaf service providing accurate and important information about deaf people, deafness and services for and by the deaf community. To obtain the Red Notebook write: P. O. Box 50045, Washington, DC, 20004-0045.

ALA PUBLISHES PLACEMENT GUIDE

The 1988 "Guide to Library Placement Sources" is now available from the American Library Association Office for Library Personnel Resources (OLPR). OLPR compiled the listing for the 1988 "Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information," but also issues it as a handout for job seekers who want to know where to find library and information-related position vacancies and openings.

Included in the publication are telephone joblines, national and state job referral services, library school placement bulletins and services and special sections on overseas employment contacts and on using information skills in nonlibrary settings. Employers use the information for advertising job vacancies.

When requesting copies, enclose 75¢ (per copy). Send orders to: "GUIDE," ALA/OLPR, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Multiple copy discounts are available.

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