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Rhode Island Library Association BULLETIN



RILA Conference and Planning Issue
April 1978

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
150 EMPIRE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

April 1978 Volume 50 No. 9
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EDITORIAL NOTICE:

The Bulletin appears monthly except in August. News and articles should be submitted to the editor by the 10th day of each month for publication by the end of that month.

The Bulletin is a publication for public, school, academic and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, the Bulletin welcomes news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership, or the Bulletin staff or advertisers. All articles about library and media matters will be considered. All should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted.

The Bulletin subscription rates are \$7.00/year for agencies or individuals not holding membership in RILA. Advertising rates per issue are \$20 per $\frac{1}{4}$ page, \$35 per $\frac{1}{2}$ page, and \$50 per full page. Call the advertising manager for further information.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

"RILA Spring Conference & Planning"



The theme of this issue is "The R.I. Library Association Spring Conference and Planning." The Spring Conference, scheduled for May 9, will be focused in part on the future, on members' concerns for the next quarter century. RILA's last three quarters of a century have been delineated in "The History of RILA" (October 1977 Bulletin). However, the major questions revolve around the Association's and the State's directions in the next 25, or for that matter, even the next 5 years. As RILA's President Ardis Holliday says in her "Message from the President" in this issue, the Spring Conference is scheduled so that RILA members may have an avenue to express their opinions on new Association and Rhode Island directions for librarians. Please plan to attend and speak up.

To get some idea of the range of RILA options the RILA Executive Board urges you to read the article in this issue, "Possible RILA Concerns in Its Fourth Quarter Century." Much planning is in progress in R.I. beyond RILA, however, and you may also find the reports in this issue on the R.I. Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services, on performance measures in R.I. Libraries, and on the U.R.I. Graduate Library School to be of interest in establishing your priorities for the Spring Conference.

On a related note, it has been observed that RILA could go in a number of directions, but to be effective the Association needs hardworking members. Unfortunately, while the same few do the actual work, the great majority of the Association's 600 members do no work in RILA from decade to decade. This has always been a major problem of this, and all, State library associations. It's time to be blunt. A RILA member who only pays annual dues for the tangible services of the organization, but who makes no other attempt to relate to it, to give his or her thoughts, feelings, or efforts to it; such a member is like the man who pays a whore for her services but avoids any deeper relationship or commitment, who avoids giving oneself. Continuously inactive members of a library association prostitute the association. If like the whore the few in RILA who do the work feel used by the many, and if the very active members grow sullen, critical, even angry at the inactive members, no one should be surprised. How the hell is this field going to go anywhere with so many 9 to 5'ers?

And on a separate note, criticism of librarians in the Callimachus section last month drew a quick defense by librarians (see this Bulletin, "Letters to the Editor"). But curiously no one arose to rebut the charge in the February Callimachus that

75% of public library trustees are stupid about libraries, and that consequently governance of libraries should be placed more in the hands of librarians. It is, of course, possible that not one trustee in the state read that article. Perhaps it's more possible that 25% of trustees who are knowledgeable about libraries did read the article and agreed with it. Or its possible that everyone who read it dismissed it as insane. Such people may then find reason to reverse their dismissal in Laura T. Raccagni's article "Library Boards in Crisis" in U.R.I.'s Graduate Library School Current Studies in Librarianship (Fall 1977, pp. 31-42). Ms. Raccagni's work confirms with research the opinions of Callimachus. Two reputable studies are cited by her to suggest that library boards be abolished. Another study mentioned affirms that board appointments are usually made on a political basis of friendship or reward and not on an individual's competence about libraries. Such appointments of course insure a library's status quo and an absence of broad community group representation on a board. Still a third study in her article reveals that only 50% of trustees belong to their state library associations, and fewer than 20% ever go to meetings beyond their libraries. The same study said 60% of trustees claimed to read the more familiar library periodicals, but 40% actually admitted that they never read anything in librarianship. Enough said.

Our illustration this month, Leopold Stolba's Ver Sacrum: April, was done over 50 years ago. And the video theme, originally scheduled for this issue and delayed by a raft of planning papers, will be published in June.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

March 8, 1978

Ah, the poor public librarian! A spate of recent articles and correspondence in library journals has criticized public librarians as either generally incompetent and undeserving of what they do get, or too meek and passive to demand all that they deserve. Now even the ghost of Callimachus appears to belabor us a bit with both ends of the stick.

Esteem or the lack of it for public librarians by the general public seems to me to be the result of the quality of service we provide or fail to provide, rather than the reasons mentioned by Callimachus. I feel that most public librarians do champion such issues as intellectual freedom and social change. We just do it on a very small scale, on a one to one basis, trying to provide individuals with the necessary information to bring about the changes they desire themselves. These contributions may be small, but are nonetheless real. The wider arenas are the province of

national and local library policy makers. Public librarians can and should influence policy, but I don't think it's our job to make it.

Contrary to Callimachus, public librarians (and support staff) do have considerable power. The image that the public has of the library is largely shaped by the public services staff. The success of budget votes and bond issues may ultimately depend on the outcome of the day to day confrontations between library staff and the public. Librarians responsible for selection can determine the development of the entire collection and in effect have control of a sizeable chunk of the annual budget. Library administrators are by no means unaware of the powers of staff librarians. Nor are public librarians held in universal contempt by their superiors. My limited personal experience has been that administrations have recognized and appreciated our efforts.

We do work for higher salaries, but this is a slow, uphill battle. The last Bulletin stated that there is an average of 70 applicants for each advertized position. Clearly it's a buyer's market. Couple this with an average per capita support of \$4.66 in Rhode Island, and salaries just aren't going to shoot up whatever demands we may make.

If public librarians do work quietly, diligently and politely, these are often virtues rather than vices. We don't have to roll over and play dead before administrations and boards, but it is to our mutual advantage and the advantage of libraries in general if we can cooperate and work together.

Finally, as for loving or respecting ourselves, that depends on how we do our primary job of serving our patrons. Any public librarian with an ounce of self critical ability knows how good a job she does. The answer can often be read in the faces of her patrons. Public librarians who respect themselves and have earned the respect of colleagues and public have no need to feel ashamed if they temper their idealism with practicality.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Bennett,
Pawtucket Public Library

DON'T FORGET RILA SPRING CONFERENCE AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

May 9 10am Providence Public Library --



RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
SPRING CONFERENCE - "HAPPY 75TH
BIRTHDAY RILA" May 9

Providence Public Library 10 am - 4 pm

While wine and friendship crown the board,
We'll sing the joys that both afford;
And he that won't with us comply,
Down among the dead men let him lie.

-John Dyer, DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN

- 10:00am - 11:00pm - REGISTRATION AND COFFEE: Conference attendees will have the opportunity to chat with former RILA presidents and current officers to question what RILA has done in the past. Surprise event included.
- 11:00am - 12:30pm - ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING: Attendees will hear of present Association problems and successes from Executive Board officers and Committee chairpersons. Then future goals, objectives and concerns of the Association will be established in dialog between members and the Executive Board. Results of this session will be forwarded to the Steering Committee of the Governor's Conference for Libraries and Information Services.
- 12:30pm - 2:00pm - LUNCHEON: Attendees are encouraged to enjoy lunch with their friends at one of Providence's many restaurants. A list of names, addresses and specialties appeared in the February Bulletin.
- 2:30pm - 4:00pm - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Today the Association is 75 years old. Attendees are invited to join in celebration with birthday cake, champagne, and entertainment, including an original puppet play on libraries and music by the Maier-Davis Duo.

Note: Registration will take place at the door at a fee of \$3.00 to anyone wishing to attend. No pre-registration is necessary. For further information contact Spring Conference Committee members Janice Sieburth, Nadine Baer, Edna Nelson, Bea Lufkin, Louise Dolan or Lee Flanagan.

MESSAGE FROM THE RILA PRESIDENT

I am committed to open communication between the RILA membership and the Executive Board. Therefore, I hope many of you will attend the May 9 Spring Meeting to express your thoughts about present and future directions which you feel the Association should take. The Annual Business Meeting does not allow sufficient time for reflection, planning or listening to the membership. The Spring Meeting was scheduled to provide this avenue for the expression of opinion.

Some feel that RILA needs a definite list of goals and objectives. These will provide a plan of action for all Association activities during the year. I suggest that we all need to be realistic about what can be accomplished. RILA operates under the constraints of time, money, and the fact that most of the membership is employed. Release time to attend meetings is not always available. Projects are often conducted on one's own time. We can design grandiose plans but who will execute them? We are dependent on one another to make RILA function well.

I encourage you to work with me in defining one or two areas in which you believe the Association can be effective. In part, the business meeting will be a dialogue with the membership. The May 9 conference will not be an attempt to analyze all the problems in librarianship. Let us direct our attention to the Association and how it can address the identified concerns. This process is essential in preparing for the Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ardis S. Holliday



POSSIBLE RILA CONCERNS IN ITS
FOURTH QUARTER CENTURY:
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Lee Flanagan

When I suggested last fall that RILA should hold a 1978 Spring Conference and 75th Birthday Celebration, I also suggested that at that time the membership be invited to a business meeting to discuss the future of RILA and librarianship in R.I. in general. This, I thought, might be done in hope of eliciting members' concerns, so that in turn these concerns might be forwarded to the Steering Committee of the Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services. Whatever members' concerns may be, they plus all pertinent RILA documents of the past five years should be sent to the Steering Committee by June 1978.

The twelve concerns listed in this paper may be used by the RILA membership to stimulate discussion of future Association objectives at the Spring Conference business meeting. Please feel free to support or reject any of these ideas at the Conference.

These 12 concerns represent a synthesis of 49 unfulfilled or partially fulfilled RILA goals and objectives of the past five years, plus several new objectives of mine denoted herein by an asterisk. Only concepts immediately preceding the asterisk, in phrase, clause, or parentheses are mine. They have not been approved by RILA. The rest, the unfulfilled or partially fulfilled goals and objectives of RILA, were derived from the RILA Constitution, the Legislative Survey (RILA Bulletin June 1974), RILA Guidelines for Public Library Services (RILA Bulletin June 1974), State Documents Project Committee Report (RILA Bulletin August 1975), Long Range Plan Implementation Committee Report (RILA Bulletin May 1976), and the History of RILA (RILA Bulletin October 1977).

FUNDING

1. With a new RILA lobbyist,* funding should be increased for Providence Public Library, for city and town libraries this year by 10¢ per capita, for regional libraries to a minimum annual rate of \$55,000, for the Film Cooperative by an additional \$25,000; and Salve Regina and other important libraries not yet in the state system should be brought into the system with funding, as should special libraries with data bases useful to the general public;* and lobbying should be vigorously continued until state support reaches 20% of total network expenses in all member libraries, as recommended by NCLIS.*

THE URI GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

2. The URI GLS, RILA, DSLS, and the URI College of Continuing Education should develop a sound program of continuing education to which they formally commit themselves. With this it is recommended that the RILA Continuing Education Committee coordinate all programs in the state, including those of URI and DSLS; that the CEU be endorsed by all agencies as a valid measure of educational activity in staff development plans; that the Continuing Education plan of RILA be revised annually as originally intended; and that the URI GLS emphasize re-education of practicing librarians rather than production of new librarians in a depressed market.*

3. A bureau of consultation and locally applied library research should be established at the GLS with a RILA advisory committee.

LIBRARY PUBLICITY

4. A RILA publicist should be engaged to aggressively promote public, school, academic and special libraries in R.I. With this is recommended a strong RILA/PR plan; a centralized location for common library exhibit materials; a handbook of previously successful library programs; use of public media spot advertising (especially radio*); display of John Cotton Dana award materials at RILA conferences; and continuous attempts to fund library publicity by securing grants.

THE STATE LIBRARY

5. The State Library, the State Archives, and the State Records Center should be joined in a single agency under the Secretary of State, with most agency operations existing in a single building also housing DSLS. There should also be a clear agency program to establish a single comprehensive system of statewide records management; to provide on site expanded public service; to improve distribution of state documents to 2 full and 14 partial deposit libraries; to work with an advisory committee on new programs and procedures such as securing the papers of future governors and expanding the Digest of Annual Reports to include all state agency reports.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE LIBRARY SERVICES

6. DSLS should be encouraged to originate a statewide library card system and a statewide audio-visual equipment cooperative; to actively promote recognition that AV information is as important as information in print; to establish a 24 hour information and referral service for use by all citizens when their libraries are closed; to provide full access to OCLC-Nelinet data for all libraries; to allow more network member participation in state planning including budget planning*; and to establish a printing and publishing program to provide standardized advertising, posters, handbooks, and other common printed supplies to libraries. Also DSLS should establish in an existing library a model in provision of video information, and in a large library a model of an I&R center that actually integrated all local information sources.*

PUBLIC ACCESS

7. A computerized interfaced circulation network should be established throughout the present public library network*, with a last copy deposit library; thereby making much library expansion unnecessary*; creating in effect a union catalog, and setting up a fully integrated instant ILL system.*

8. To exploit the computerized circulation system most efficiently, a coordinated public library program of acquisitions (in books, periodicals, and phono-recordings*) and purchasing should be established, emphasizing a series of subject collections in libraries throughout the state. There should be universal borrowing privileges; uniform catalog and selection policies and procedures in all libraries. All libraries should commence I&R programs on at least a limited basis to coordinate local information resources and provision procedures as they are being coordinated at the state level.* All libraries should be accessible to all regardless of age or handicap. Library materials should be exempted from state obscenity legislation, and stronger legislation should be passed to protect library materials from loss or theft. And a bibliographic specialist in alternative literatures should be hired at DSLS to determine the best publications,* and to publish that information for R.I. libraries in a regular newsletter.*

THE PROFESSION

9. Joint state administration of school and public libraries should ultimately be secured to insure a coherent and consistent plan of professional development and service throughout the state.* This at first may involve a school coordinator with strong authority in the Department of Education to work with DSLS. Preferably, in the long run, DSLS should be given authority in fact as in law over school libraries, as well as the state library.* Meantime, RILA membership should be expanded to include school, academic, and special library associations, as well as library groups with more specific interests.

10. RILA's focus should change from an institutional to a professional one by giving prime attention to the new RILA Personnel Committee, so that it in turn may set salary, working, and performance standards for all librarians in all public libraries, general, school, and academic*; so that the Committee may set certification and classification standards for all librarians; so that the Committee may set bargaining, tenure, grievance and censure procedures.* In salary all librarians should receive equal pay and benefits for equal work, regardless of type of library.* An emphasis should be placed on salary increases on merit.* Certification should occur every five years to insure continuing competence of librarians.* Fixed ethical and service standards should be used as a guide to censure or praise librarians as well as libraries.* In other words RILA should perform more than a union function.* It should operate also as the equivalent of a bar association, protecting not only its personnel but the quality of service that they provide.* It should set competency standards for librarians,* and measurement standards for libraries. Equitable personnel

regulations should be established in all libraries in regard to hours, vacation, sick leave, general leave, and health benefits; plus a procedure for probation and annual evaluations of librarians. Approval and enforcement of these standards, set by the profession through RILA, should be requested of and mandated by DSLS and the Board of Library Commissioners.* Such a system alone will allow librarians collegial governance of their own destinies and the service that they provide.*

11. "Non-professionals" should be encouraged to work for the library technician's certificate; and they should be guaranteed salary and other benefit increases for both additional education and improved performance.* RILA should make a special effort to recruit library clerical employees in the Association and to formally study their problems.*

12. For the moment present state standards for public library trustees should be better enforced. And standards should be mandated for trustee attendance at a series of instructional workshops on necessary policies, on national and state library law and standards, on fund raising, on fair labor practices, and for regular trustee participation in regional and state library activities.* Further, R.I. law 29-4-6 should be amended so that decisions of trustee boards may be either appealed to the Board of Library Commissioner; or so that trustees may be removed from an administrative to a strictly advisory capacity in libraries.*



NEWS FROM RILA

-by Judith Plotz

RILA Legislative Watchers will want to know about the following events, although this notice comes too late to prepare them to participate. March 29 the Department of State Library Services budget is scheduled to be heard before the House Finance Committee. On the same day, at the same hour, the "Westerly bill" will be considered by the Legislature: this bill provides a minimum of \$55,000 in state funding to regional libraries. On March 30 the Judiciary Committee will hear evidence on pending obscenity legislation. The RILA Intellectual Freedom Committee plans to defend freedom to read at the session. Finally, Governance Committee Chairperson Charles Churchwell has a meeting with the Governor March 21. We hope the cause of library service will benefit from the Legislature's attention.

The RILA Outreach Committee is planning to send out a survey questionnaire in May. They will tabulate the results and publish them as soon as possible, probably in a joint publication with the Bulletin. When you receive the questionnaire please respond--let's get a complete picture of outreach services in the state.



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The RILA Executive Board considered how the entire membership can participate in formulating Association goals and objectives. A general discussion is planned for the Spring Conference. In preparation, see this issue: President's Message, and Possible RILA Concerns, which is a summary of RILA goals that have been set in the past. Where do we go from here?

SRRT JOB HOTLINE

The Social Responsibilities Round Table of Rhode Island has published a "Job Hotline" on a regular basis for over a year now. We have enjoyed much success and we are grateful to the individuals who have contributed to our effort. The RILA Bulletin has generously offered to continue printing the SRRT Job Hotline in its monthly publication. We ask local employers to send us news of upcoming openings at any level in their libraries. We would like to stress that it is not necessary to join RILA to receive the Job Hotline. Just send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to either of the coordinators whose addresses are listed below and you will receive updated Job Hotlines each time there are new lists.

Coordinators: Candice Civiak
Providence Public Library
150 Empire Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

Marcia Hershoff
Woonsocket Public Library
Woonsocket, R.I.

EMMA PENDLETON BRADLEY HOSPITAL. Library Assistant. Skilled typist; shorthand necessary. Knowledge of library procedures and some advanced background in behavioral sciences desirable. Duties varied and interesting. Excellent benefits. Mon. through Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call for appointment 434-3400, ext. 239. Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital (Providence Journal, March 12).

SEEKONK LIBRARIES. Library Assistant in Children's Services. Degree in early childhood education or equivalent. Must be creative in developing and publicizing children's services in library. Salary \$7,000. Send resume to Sharon E. Davis, Director, Seekonk Libraries, 440 Central Ave., Seekonk, MA 02771 (Providence Journal, March 19).

WHITINSVILLE SOCIAL LIBRARY. Library Director. MLS and appropriate experience required. Salary \$12,024-\$14,148. Send resume to Chairman, Board of Trustees, Whitinsville Social Library, Whitinsville, MA 01588, by April 3 (The Crackerbarrel, Worcester Public Library, March 1978).

FORBUSH MEMORIAL LIBRARY. Head Librarian. ALA accredited MLS required. Send resume to Ms. Elizabeth Bowen, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Forbush Memorial Library, Westminster, MA.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEW HAVEN. Head City Librarian. MLS, 10 years experience, 5 in administration required. Salary \$mid-twenties. Send resume by May 1 to Search Committee, Free Public Library, 133 Elm Street, New Haven, Ct. 06510.

Remember to check the Rhode Island Department of Employment Security, Professional Office, 72 Pine Street, Providence, for beginning level CETA library positions in Rhode Island.



CALENDAR

The RILA Calendar is maintained by RILA's Continuing Education Committee. If you have a date for any event of library/media interest, please telephone it to Pat Bisshopp, 438-9500, or mail it to her at Meeting Street School, 667 Waterman Ave., E. Providence, RI 02914. All meetings listed here are open to interested members of the library community.

- Apr. 8 "Institute on Conservation Management in Libraries and Archives," Simmons College School of Library Science, Boston.
- Apr. 8 New England Archivists Annual Meeting, University of RI, 9:00 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Apr. 11 Young Adult and Children's Book Review Group, Westboro High School, Westboro, MA, 9:30 a.m. Call Bee Lufkin, 277-2726 for information.

- Apr. 12 "Cookery," Adult Book Meeting, Newport Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Apr. 12 "What Is the Automated Catalog," NE Technical Services Librarians Spring Meeting, noon to 5:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, Newton Lower Falls, MA. For further information contact Nan Berg, New England Library Association, P.O. Box 273, Holden, MA 01520 or Lewis Lanise, NETSL Program Chairman, Ferguson Memorial Library, 96 Broad Street, Stamford, CT 06801.
- Apr. 13 Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative: Spring Membership Meeting, Warwick Public Library. Call David Green for details--739-2278.
- Apr. 13 RILA Executive Board Meeting, Brown University Library, 2:00 p.m.
- Apr. 15 "Annual Ingathering: Alumni Professional Development Seminar," Graduate Library School, University of Rhode Island, 8:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Apr. 15 New England Chapter of the Music Library Association Spring Meeting, Amherst College, Amherst, MA. For further information contact Philip Youngholm, Box 1534, Connecticut College, New London, CT 06320 (telephone: (203) 442-5391, ext. 525).
- Apr. 18 NELINET Spring Meeting, Sheraton-Islander, Newport, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Apr. 19 Preview of Children's Films, Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, Warwick Public Library, 9:30 a.m.-noon, repeated 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Apr. 24 "Retrospective Collection Building Sources," Young Adult Roundtable, South Kingston High School, 9:30 a.m.
- Apr. 26-27 Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services, Park Plaza, Boston.
- Apr. 26 "May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture," Speaker: Uriel Ofek, Israeli children's literature specialist, Boston Public Library, evening.
- Apr. 27-28 Annual Conference, Connecticut Library Association, Marriott Hotel, Stamford, CT. For information contact Francy Searles, Fairfield Woods Library, 1147 Fairfield Woods Rd., Fairfield, CT 06430.
- May 7-9 "Annual Conference," Massachusetts Library Association.
- May 10 Preview of Films for Adults, Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, Warwick Public Library, 9:30 a.m. - noon, repeated 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- May 11 RILA Executive Board Meeting, Westerly Public Library, 2 p.m.
- May 14-16 "Fourth Annual Children's Books International; Theme: Folklore Unique and Universal," Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston.
- May 15 "Inspirational Books," Adult Book Meeting. Speakers: Rev. Thomas Conroy, Rev. Donald Belt, Father LeBoeuf. Pawtucket Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- May 15-16 "Annual Conference," New Hampshire Library Association, Red Jacket Inn, No. Conway, NH (includes all major library organizations within the state).

- May 25 "Conference on Services to the Elderly," Speaker: Lydia Bragger, from Gray Panthers. Cosponsored by RILA Outreach Committee and RI Council on Elderly Affairs. Bryant College, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$7.00 includes lunch. For details call Judith Einhorn, 783-8254.
- May 25 "Annual Business Meeting," Special Libraries Association, RI Chapter, The State Library, Providence.
- May 25-26 "Annual Conference," Vermont Library Association, Green Mountain College, VT.
- May 25-27 "Library Management in the Seventies," Seminar 1., Graduate Library School, University of Rhode Island. Fee: \$150.00.
- June 17 "Business Reference Materials," Workshop 1., Graduate Library School, University of Rhode Island. Fee: \$30.00.
- Nov. 1-2 RILA 1978 Fall Conference, Sheraton-Islander, Newport.
- 1979
- Mar. 30- RI Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services.
- Apr. 1



REACH OUT: THE COLUMN OF RILA'S OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The following is a list of publishers from whom the Pawtucket Public Library has purchased high interest/low vocabulary materials and materials for the teaching of English as a second language.

The inclusion of a series on this list does not necessarily indicate quality. The suggestions are offered in an attempt to familiarize librarians with some of the sources that exist in this limited but growing area of publishing. I heartily suggest you write for these publishers' catalogs. These materials are also available for evaluation in person or through the interlibrary loan system from the Pawtucket Public Library.

Sincerely,

Susan Adler
Reference Librarian
January 26, 1978

Bilingual Educational Services
P.O. Box 669
1607 Hope St.
S. Pasadena, Ca. 91030

English as a second language
materials

Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.
South Street
Reading, Ma. 01867

*"New Horizons in English" series
(English as a second language
materials)

Crestwood House
P.O. Box 3427
Mankato, Mn. 56001

Emc Corporation
180 E. 6th St.
Saint Paul, Mn. 55101

Pendulum Press
Academic Bldg.
Saw Mill Rd.
West Haven, Ct. 06516

PAL Paperbacks (Xerox)
Box 1195
Columbus, Ohio 43216

New Readers Press
Div. of Laubach Literacy Inc.
P.O. Box 131
Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

McGraw-Hill
1221 Ave. of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10020

Longman Inc.
19 W. 44th St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

Oxford Univ. Press
English Language Teaching Dept.
200 Madison Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Regents Publishing Co.
2 Park Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Fearon-Pitman Publishers, Inc.
6 Davis Dr.
Belmont, Ca. 94002

Noble & Noble Publishers, Inc.
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
245 E. 47th St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Collier-MacMillan Int'l.
A division of the MacMillan Co.
866 Third Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Sports Close-up (series)
Focus on Famous Women (series)

*Sports Close-ups (series)
Hockey Heroes (series)
*Men Behind the Bright Lights
(series)
*Women Behind the Bright Lights
(series)
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(series)
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*These series have been especially popular with library patrons.



RI GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

-by Lee Flanagan

"Planning Commences"

Indecision and uncertainty plagues planning for a number of the upcoming Governor's Conferences on Library and Information Services in New England. In Massachusetts many librarians feel that the State's Conference Steering Committee may have begun work too late (in November) in planning to bring about a successful program five months later. The Massachusetts Conference is to be held on April 26-27, 1978, at Boston's Park Plaza Hotel.

Latest reports from Connecticut say that its Governor's Conference, scheduled originally for September 1978, has been moved to late November 1978. This is seen as a fence-sitting political move. For there will be time after the early November elections to coddle the favor of whoever wins the Governorship, and make the Conference his or hers.

And in New Hampshire its CORE Committee has decided to change the name of the Governor's Conference to the New Hampshire Conference on Libraries. This action was taken because Governor Thomson has not found time to respond to the appointment of laymen to the Steering (or as its called in N.H., the Citizen's Planning) Committee for the Conference, now scheduled for September 1978. Without the Governor's approval the N.H. Conference, and a comprehensive report done for it on N.H. libraries by Lowell Martin, may only generate ideas among the State's librarians which will be frustrated.

With such cheerful news in three New England states, we were afraid to ask about Maine and Vermont. But happily things appear much brighter in Rhode Island. Here the Steering Committee for the R.I. Governor's Conference (see membership list, February 1978 Bulletin) has held its first meeting. While we have no formal report yet from either the Committee or RILA's representative, we are told that the Conference has been rescheduled again (from October 1978 to February 1979), to March 30-31 and April 1, 1979. Target site appears to be the Biltmore Hotel in Providence if renovation work is completed on time.

The Steering Committee has also formed itself into three sub-committees to focus on Conference organization, Conference publicity, and Library and Information Problems and Issues in R.I. The latter subcommittee might begin reading the last 3 years of the RILA Bulletin. If there's a current local library problem that hasn't been raised and addressed in this publication, it's only because we plan to raise it in the next three or four issues.

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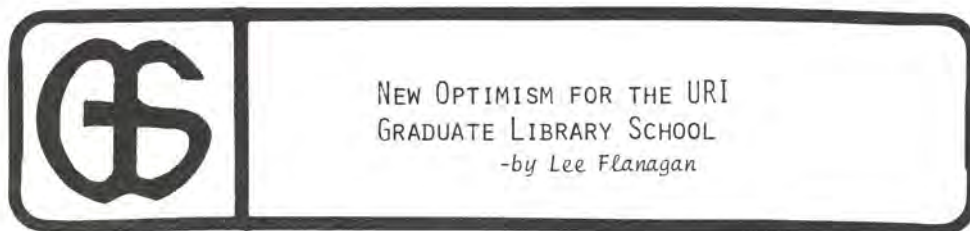
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To get a statewide sense of R.I. library and information problems the Steering Committee also plans to hold open discussion forums in each region in the State; and to form task forces to investigate library service for special groups (i.e., the aged, handicapped, imprisoned, etc.); and then to establish a second series of task forces to determine how to implement suggestions of the first task forces.

The new date for R.I.'s Conference must make it one of the last scheduled in the nation. But as we said in the Bulletin some months ago, this gives us the chance to have the best conference, and to profit from the mistakes of others. Georgia, for example, which held the first Conference, has just issued an evaluation report (LJ March 1, 1978). According to the Georgia report its Conference was generally a success. However, a number of librarians who spoke at the Conference were found to be long-winded and boring, to speak down to lay people, and to mystify lay people with jargon and technical information. Also faulted at the Georgia Conference were failures to get advance information to Conference participants; to secure adequate physical facilities; to locate sufficient lay people as official speakers; to provide enough publicity; to use imaginative and media-based conference presentations; and to have appropriate coverage of school, special and institutional libraries. Ultimately, the Georgia report recommended that Conference goals and objectives should be clearly formulated, agreed upon, and assigned at the Steering Committee's first planning meeting. If

that hasn't been done in R.I. yet, and so far we haven't heard of a statement of goals and objectives, there's still plenty of time to formulate such, and to give R.I. the best Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services in the United States.



On the evening of March 8 some 60 people gathered in an open meeting at the University of Rhode Island to discuss the Graduate Library School Self-Study Report for ALA reaccreditation. The report, a summary of which was reprinted in the March RILA Bulletin, addresses the School's goals and objectives, faculty, curriculum, students, governance and physical facilities. Comments from faculty, students, the University administration, alumni, and other concerned parties on the first two drafts of the report will be incorporated in a final draft to be submitted to the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (COA) by April 10. Therefore, the COA will inform the School when the COA will make an on-site visit to the School. Based on observations made during this visit and on the Self-Study Report, the COA will recommend or not recommend reaccreditation of the School. Failure to regain accreditation again (the first failure occurred two years ago) would spell the virtual death of the School, already suffering a severe enrollment decline.

However, failure does not at all appear as likely this time as on the first occasion. Substantial improvements have been made in defining goals and objectives; total revision of the curriculum is in progress, involving combined master's degrees with other departments; three new first-class faculty members have been appointed in the last 2 years and a fourth (in media) is to be appointed by June; better communication has been established with the University administration; and new physical facilities have been secured; and a new program of continuing education involving institutes and seminars for practicing librarians has been announced (see Gallimaufry section of this Bulletin issue).

The one notoriously weak area remains the students, 53% of whom are now conditionally accepted. Presumably even more conditional students would be accepted if they could be found to increase the student-faculty ratio from 10-1 to 12.5-1. When asked if more second-class librarians, or even more librarians, were needed in a field already glutted with very able unemployed librarians, when asked if practicing librarians in fact weren't asking the School for fewer but better graduates, the Dean replied with honesty and candor. ALA may find the Dean's candor as refreshing a change in the School's attitude about its weaknesses as we did.

According to Dean Schlessinger, a target student-faculty ratio of 12.5-1 is necessary, regardless of the market, for a viable library school with sufficient income to support a faculty of 8-10 to cover the minimum number of various subject areas requisite to a quality graduate library education. That ratio must be achieved if there is to be a school worth the name at all. And the general feeling amongst those at the meeting at least seems to be that New England should have a public school of library science. My personal feeling is that it should not, unless as the Dean promised, better student applicants will be found with reaccreditation; and the targeted 12.5-1 ratio is to be composed in fair part of practicing librarians returning for continuing education and not a great number of students striving for the M.L.S.; and the School does not exceed a 12.5-1 ratio until the market dramatically improves. Given the personal dynamism, high standards, and honesty of the new Dean, these objectives may just well be achieved and the School may finally find full justification.



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PERFORMANCE MEASURES IN RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES

-by Beverly A. Jones,
Rhode Island Department
of State Library Services
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Evaluation of less quantitative services offered by libraries has long been a concern of many. In its Guidelines of Public Library Service In Rhode Island the Committee on Standards for Public Libraries of the Rhode Island Library Association includes "Evaluation of Services." The first guideline under this section requests "library literature be reviewed for previous and on-going

efforts to measure effectiveness of service" and cites Ernest R. DeProspero's Performance Measures for Public Libraries as an example of the type of measure intended. About the same time the Urban Institute and the International City Management Association, in Measuring the Effectiveness of Basic Municipal Services, suggested the DeProspero book as one method of measuring the effectiveness of library services. With the publication of the relatively easy-to-follow Instructional Manual by Altman/DeProspero¹ the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services encouraged libraries in the state to participate in a joint effort to measure services. A committee of department personnel and librarians in the state coordinated the activity.

During a two week period between late November and mid-December, 1977, libraries in 23 of the 39 cities and towns in the state participated in the performance survey. Before their measurement day, the libraries involved met for a training workshop, and again in January to look at results.

Individual library staffs were interested in the survey and in the results. There was definite agreement that the survey, especially the tabulation, took more time than had been expected, and that many portions of the survey needed to be modified for use by small libraries. (All but one of the libraries are in cities and towns with less than 100,000 population.)

Included in DeProspero's Performance Measures for Public Libraries is information from libraries participating in earlier measurement. These figures have been used for comparative purposes throughout this paper. DeProspero, however, selected 20 libraries with budgets ranging from \$100,000 to \$3,499,999. Only 10 of the 23 libraries participating in the Rhode Island survey had budgets over \$100,000. The statistics produced by smaller libraries will be less valid because of the sample size.

Although each library still has interpretation to be done, some changes were immediately identified. One busy branch in a commercial area was made aware the use of its fiction collection is more than previously thought, and expects to increase buying in this area. A regional library emphasized its role in backing up local periodical collections, and is adding titles, especially those included in indexes already owned. Larger libraries saw that quiet out-of-the-way study areas are most likely to be used. Many libraries commented on the value of statistics identifying use of materials inside the building, often equal to or exceeding circulation outside the building.

The user ticket and its tabulation proved the most useful section of the survey to most libraries. The committee added a line to the ticket identifying the town in which the user lived.

¹Altman, Ellen. A data gathering and instructional manual for performance measures in public libraries, by Ellen Altman, Ernest R. DeProspero, Philip M. Clark & Ellen Connor Clark. Chicago, Celadon Press, 1976.

In addition, Portsmouth added space for information on the voting district of the user. The voting district with the lowest income had users equal to five of the other seven districts.

All libraries have nonresident usage, the percentage tending to be higher in the smaller libraries. The range fell between 6% and 38%, with a median of 12%. Most libraries had users from several adjacent towns; usage appeared to be dependent on convenience of location with no correlation with size of library or town. No way was provided to identify those users who work or go to school in a town.

The actual number of users who entered the library on the measured day varied widely. This variance did not correlate as well as would be expected with size of library. Within libraries in towns with populations between 10,000 and 100,000, the number of users varied from 41 to 589. In the same libraries, the number of persons who borrowed books was much lower, ranging from 17 to 248. Materials used inside these libraries varied from 19 to 573 items, while outside circulation was 46 to 795 items. The actual numbers of persons entering the building (as opposed to the more traditional measure of materials leaving the building) or the measure of materials used inside, combined with those taken out indicate a use of the library significantly higher than that indicated by circulation figures alone.

The proportion of male users ranged from 16% to 65%, with the heavier percentage of female constituents in smaller and less urban libraries. (DeProspero's larger libraries found 36% to 60% male users.) Full time students made up 16 to 54 percent of the users. The majority fell between 30 to 48 percent. (DeProspero found 28 to 57%, with no differentiation between full and part time students.) In the full-time category, elementary school students predominated in eleven libraries and high school students in six libraries. Junior high students were most numerous in two libraries and nursery school students in one library which had a preschool program scheduled. (High school students were the heaviest users in the libraries DeProspero studied.)

Non-student use varied from 19 to 64%, with no apparent pattern. The occupation most heavily represented was housewife/mother in eight libraries; professional and technical in eight libraries; craftsmen, foremen, and operatives in three libraries, retired persons in two libraries, and clerical in one library. (The "small" libraries in DeProspero's sample found most users in the housewife/mother category.) Identifiable unemployment persons among users were few, ranging from none to 23 in Providence, but several libraries felt both retired and unemployed persons were heavily represented in the "no response" category. (No response was the most common answer for "occupation" in three libraries.)

The length of each user's stay was measured, these periods tallied, and the total divided by the number of hours the library was open to calculate "effective user hours." The "effective user hours" varied widely, although the number correlated roughly with the capacity of an individual library to accommodate extended stays.

The range was from 1.7 effective user hours to 73.62, with larger libraries generally having larger numbers. Some libraries noted retired persons stayed longer than other categories. More than one library mentioned the effect limited space had on the length of stay, and the widespread tendency among library patrons to use circulating rather than reference materials.

Less than half of the persons who came into the library asked for assistance. Percentages ranged from 27 to 51. Most persons received the materials they wanted, with the percentage of satisfied persons ranging from 44 to 93. Asked if they received the service they expected, an even more favorable response resulted (78% to 100%). This question may, therefore, elicit a favorable response from some persons because they did not expect to find the materials they wanted (or it may seem less impolite to say one failed to receive specific materials than to generally reflect on library service). At least one library used the dissatisfaction with materials by specific groups as a buying guide.

Informational requests were asked more often by adults than by students. Adults asked from 25 to 74% of all questions. The breakdown of informational requests by type was subjective at best, and the results less reliable than one might wish. Nevertheless, results often pointed up the need for additional directional signs. Directional questions accounted for 10% to 86% of the questions asked, with most libraries under 45%. One of the two libraries with very high directional questions had just shifted many items, the other appeared complacent about service. (In smaller libraries DeProspero found directional questions formed 10 to 80% of the total questions asked.) Smaller libraries have questions asked of all staff members, underscoring the desirability of continuing reference/information source workshops for nonprofessional staff assigned to public areas. One larger library was made aware that it did not promote its telephone reference service sufficiently when only 9.5% of the questions in the reference area were by telephone.

Availability of materials was the most controversial factor measured. At least one library felt it was the most valuable measurement, because most other items vary so much from day to day. Generally there seemed to be an underlying fear of the results, especially of the evaluation from the American Book Publishing Record sample. The actual number of titles held varied from 4 in two libraries to 137 titles at Providence. This indicated a probability of ownership ranging up to .267, with most libraries between .05 and .08. (The twenty public libraries surveyed by DeProspero had a range of .08 to .58.) Because of the division of the state into regions, and the ease of access through the inter-library loan/delivery network on a regional and statewide basis, the number of titles was also calculated for each regional interrelated library system (participating libraries only) and for the state as a whole. The general opinion among the librarians was that comparison with a standardized, selective list such as the Public Library Catalog might be more useful.

TABLE I
AMERICAN BOOK PUBLISHING RECORD PROBABILITY SAMPLE

	<u>Number of Titles Owned</u>	<u>Probability of Ownership</u>
Island System	89	.173
Northern System	104	.203
South County System	58	.112
Western System	78	.151
Providence System	137	.267
Statewide	194	.378

Periodical availability also ranged over a wide spectrum, from .006 to .372. (DeProspo's sample from larger libraries ranged from .100 to .950.) Many libraries owned a large percentage of the Readers' Guide titles. Some libraries owned indexes from which they had only a very small availability. This fact should be coupled with the recognition that such an index is primarily useful for interlibrary loan purposes.

The periodical availability was also figured on a regional and on a statewide basis (for participating libraries only). Some gauge of the relative resources of the participating libraries is provided by the Island Interrelated Library System's union list of serials. That region as a whole owns 153 of the 320 periodical titles, for an availability rate of .478.

TABLE II
PERIODICAL AVAILABILITY SAMPLE

	<u>Number of Titles Owned</u>	<u>Probability of Ownership</u>
Island System	53	.166
Northern System	62	.194
South County System	47	.147
Western System	76	.238
Providence System	119	.372
Statewide	128	.400

Most librarians were more interested in results obtained from the measurement from their own collection than in the samples from periodical indexes or the American Book Publishing Record. Overall availability ranged from 56% to 86% (against DeProspo's 58% to 89%). Availability for 72% of the libraries was lower for fiction than for non-fiction. Seventy-eight percent of the libraries found juvenile titles less available than adult. Some libraries correlated the juvenile/adult and non-fiction/fiction proportions of the title availability sample with circulation statistics. Some local libraries felt that a high availability rate on older materials indicated a need for weeding. High availability in both literature and history areas were felt necessary in several libraries to meet a high,

although uneven, demand for these materials by students. Juvenile titles often represented a higher portion of the circulation than of the collection. It was felt that specific titles were less often needed in this area, however, offsetting the apparent imbalance. Information collected in this area has already been used in an analysis of acquisition policy by several libraries.

Median age of the collection was in the 1960s for all libraries, ranging from 1956/60 to 1968/72. It was generally felt that the regional libraries and the Principal Public Library (Providence) should provide older materials while the smaller libraries were free to weed out much of the little used older items. Larger collections tended to be newer, but the smaller libraries were more aware of a need to weed. Several libraries related the availability of state monies in the last 10 years to the increased availability of materials for that period. More than one library felt the age of the library affected the age of the current collection.

For libraries in towns with populations of 10,000 to 100,000, use of the library materials inside the building ranged from 19 items to 573 items. This compares to an outside circulation for the same libraries of 46 to 795 items. The outside circulation combined with the number of persons taking books resulted in an average circulation per borrower of 1.8 to 3.63, with most libraries circulating between 2 and 3 books per borrower and no correlation by size of library.

TABLE III

	<u>Users</u>	<u>Borrowers</u>	<u>In-person Questions</u>	<u>In-library Circulation</u>
Library A	117	46	14	19
Library B	134	32	22	143
Library C	149	97	47	112
Library D	470	130	82	270
Library E	589	248	349	523

Why, when combining these measurements, do some libraries make contact with almost every patron, either to circulate a book, or answer some type of question, while other libraries appear to make contact with less than half of the persons coming into the building? Is the difference accounted for entirely by in-library circulation and programs? How does a high in-library circulation affect staffing needs? Certainly there are large numbers of users who do not appear in traditional statistics.

Equipment utilization percentages seem rather low for all libraries, ranging from .02 to .53 (after eliminating one which was 0 and one which was 1.0). DeProspero suggests that any type of equipment with a use under .25 should result in consideration of more effective use of the space, or use of the equipment elsewhere. He also emphasizes looking at use during peak periods, and correlating equipment use with staff assignments. One large library

discovered how little one entrance is used, while another library decided to remove some chairs for the needed space. Some libraries felt there was no way to measure some legitimate use: persons sitting on the floor, or standing in line to use a copying machine, for instance. Several libraries mentioned the small measured use of the card catalog.

As would be expected, most libraries found heavy use immediately after school. Other peak periods were the first and last hours of operation. South Kingstown found heavy use during the lunch hour for the buildings that were open. It plans to expand hours to cover the noon hour elsewhere in the system.

One of the measurements was of resources available to patrons in the form of staff actually available to serve them. The number of persons assigned to public service areas was combined with the number actually available and not assisting another patron. Personnel assigned/available factors were usually between .8 and .94, with the utilization factor for those assisting clustering around .5 to .8. One library was aware that staff was heavily utilized, and that patrons often found information themselves because the staff was occupied with other patrons. Another librarian felt that small changes in staff schedules resulting from the survey had brought about improvement of service at peak periods. This was considered the most important insight gained from the survey by this library.

The user ticket included a provision for additional comments. Relatively few persons commented at all, and of these most were favorable. Favorable comments varied from 2% to 18% of all users; while unfavorable comments ranged from none to 8%. Several libraries had comments indicating the need for a quiet area for patron use. Many found favorable comments about staff and services. One library just beginning a building program found two favorable comments about the building now used. In some libraries parking problems were mentioned. Several comments indicated users did not know the purpose of the survey, feared cuts in funding were being considered, or that loss of library services was imminent. One library is moving its copy machine because of comments about noise. Other users had suggestions for collection development, signs, a bubbler, or for more evening hours. One Pawtucket user said "You're all so hip."

The overall value of the survey to individual libraries, regions, and the state is limited to the extent the findings are actually used for planning.

Participating libraries were:

PROVIDENCE	Providence Public Library
ISLAND	Barrington Public Library
	Rogers Free Library (Bristol)
	Middletown Free Library
	Newport Public Library
	Portsmouth Free Public Library
	Essex Public Library (Tiverton)
	George Hail Free Library (Warren)

NORTHERN

Central Falls Free Public Library
Edward J. Hayden Public Library (Cumberland)
Weaver Memorial Library (East Providence)
Harmony Public Library (Glocester)
Marian J. Mohr Public Library (Johnston)
Lincoln Public Library
North Providence Union Free Library (North Providence)
Pawtucket Public Library
East Smithfield Public Library (Smithfield)
Greenville Public Library (Smithfield)
Woonsocket Harris Public Library

WESTERN

Auburn Branch, Cranston Public Library
Warwick Public Library

SOUTH COUNTY

Cross Mills Public Library (Charlestown)
South Kingstown Public Library System
Westerly Public Library



CHRONICLES OF CALLIMACHUS

- "edited" by L.N. Flanagan

Preface:

A Greek grammarian, school master, poet, priest, and critic of the 3rd century B.C., Callimachus was also one of the first five great librarians at the ancient library in Alexandria. No time server, no political compromiser, no paid hireling, he regularly voiced independent and unsparing criticism. Irritating and irreverent, a radical and a rebel, he spent his life speaking the theretofore unspeakable and unspoken. Some think that his spirit still wanders libraries today and that some librarians are yet haunted by his presence. Indeed, I must confess that I am so affected and troubled by numerous of his nightly visitations. Nor have these lessened with discussion of a Governor's Conference on Libraries. In the hope of pacifying Callimachus somewhat, and finding a few hours sleep, your editor has promised to allow his old friend a few words each month in the Bulletin.

CHRONICLE XII: THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Throughout the night my sleep had been disturbed by dreams of murder, massacre, mayhem, ruined civilizations, signs that in another time would have portended evils to come, but in the seventh decade of this century simply signify news events of yesterday. Suddenly I started, to find myself stiffened and chilled in the desk chair, having fallen asleep there some hours before. A grey dawn was breaking through heavy early spring mists. Pushing aside my books and papers, I was staggering to my feet to rehear last night's coffee, when the mist outside seemed to gather inside about the book cabinets. Within moments I was again aware of the

presence of Callimachus, seated in the old Windsor rocker. Hardly at my best with a poor night's sleep and no morning's coffee, I nonetheless tried to follow and roughly transcribe the better part of what he said:

As I was passing your window this morning a picture of an ancient library on your book cabinet caught my attention. Not until I entered your study did I discover the picture to be one of the Providence Central Public Library in an old newspaper article [Providence Journal Bulletin, Feb. 5, 1978]. The library appeared so worn that I at first mistook it for one of our ancient ruins in Alexandria. But when I paused to read the article I found it of even more interest. According to the article the Providence Library is faring badly because of the "middle-class exodus to suburbia, a falling city tax base, and a society that thinks it's more important to build another weapon than to buy books." Well, of course, Providence is not the city it was 25 years ago with greater population and greater wealth. And in fact an old Persian tale [reprinted, it seems, in Reuben Levy's The Three Dervishes, Oxford, 1923] does justify a successful king who found it wisest to build his armies and his arsenals first to protect his people; then to feed, clothe and shelter them; then to let them gather wealth; and then with protection, and health, and wealth, to seek knowledge and wisdom.

Why is it so difficult to recognize that almost every nation in every age has purchased guns before books? Why is it so impossible to realize that the City of Providence has changed? For some inexplicable reason the Library's administration has long set its sights on the distant future or the distant past, and for years now has cried that the glories of the past have passed, or that human behavior will not be radically improved for ever so long in the future. These observations are rather obvious to the general public, and rather tedious when repeated again and again.

The Library administration has been much too myopic and negative. As West Virginia's Fred Glazer said at a New England Library Association Conference last year, the public does not want to hear of the Library's request to cure present Library ills. The public rather wants to hear that the Library has a cure for the public's ills. The public wants to hear what services the Library will provide, not that the Library will cut staff, books, periodicals and hours if \$300,000 more is not forthcoming. The public would like to hear that the Library administration is dealing well with the resources at hand, however reduced those resources are; not that the Library administration has been inappropriately expanding the number of City library branches years after urban decline commenced in Providence; not that the Library was one of 16 of the nation's best in 1951 but may not survive the coming year. The public simply does not respond to negativity from an institution that is supposed to offer positive service.

Providence has changed. R.I. has changed. New England has changed. Only the Providence Public Library administration in the last quarter century seems puzzled that the wealth and excitement of 1951 has disappeared. Next month a new director will take over at Providence Public Library. Perhaps the first thing she should do is not to begin screaming for more money, or weeping that the public doesn't read because it's watching television, or putting up more seedy window signs to the effect that exhibits cost money. The first thing she might do is look at the last 25 years of administrative decisions in the Library that have brought it to the brink of disaster. In those decisions she may see the vision divided between past glory and future ideals, in little touch with day-to-day reality.

Then she might commence a sweeping reorganization and retrenchment in recognition of the fact that Providence's economy has indeed changed. Eight branches might be halved to four, and the harsh reality might be faced that the Library can support only 1 or 2 branches as social welfare agencies. With consequent savings the Library might cease to consume its own endowment, now down from \$9.7 million to \$6.5 million after nine consecutive years of deficit spending.

Also with the savings a second very visible bookmobile might be put on the road, and some interior decoration and reorganization of the Central Library could be done. The "new" wing, now 25 years old, has always resembled a federal penitentiary outside and a 1953 junior high school inside. Its front door might be sealed in stone similar to its facing to withdraw public attention and the main door of the old main building, one of the City's handsomest entrances, might be reopened. The old main lobby could be regilt, lined with some of the Library's more attractive adult books, and carpeted, to make the institution attractive and authoritative. Children's services, adult services, and circulation could be moved upstairs on the same floor, and the entire lower floor could be repainted and used for combining all the various reference oriented collections on fine arts, business, periodicals, and general reference into a better organized single floor reference collection. Beginning with this unified reference collection the Library might then begin to coordinate all information sources in the City to become a full and genuine information and referral center. Of course, some funds directed from closed branches should go to improving the general collection. And instead of complaining that the public watches television the Library might establish a television viewing area and video cassette bank. Four languishing special collections might be abandoned in favor of one affordable growing one. The finest public collection of Irish materials in the country might exist at PPL, drawing thousands of people who are studying the current Irish problem.

With the rebuilding of strong services in an attractive building the Library might emphasize publicity as it never

has before, by heavily paid advertising on commercial radio, informing the State that Providence Public Library is the real State library and information center for every citizen of R.I.

If the Library's new director Annalee Bundy can carry out this or similar reorganization to make the Library into a better if smaller institution, if she can show the public and the City administration that the Library is indeed a very well run information productive agency of public utility, and not a decaying or even dying anachronism, she will probably then be able to convince taxpayers and City and State administrators to increase their monetary support. She may even be able to campaign for funds to build a closed library parking garage parallel to the 1953 building, but on the other side of the old building, for a thoroughly balanced building as well as a balanced realistic philosophy of service. Whatever happens, a quarter of a century of public library weeping should cease.

Curious ideas, these, I thought to myself. But I simply had to excuse myself for the long overdue morning coffee. And when I returned, Callimachus had disappeared.

GALLIMAUFRY

-By Matthew Higgins

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING: The New England Chapter of the Music Library Association will hold its spring meeting at Amherst College, Amherst, Mass., on Saturday, April 15, 1978. For further information contact Philip Youngholm, Box 1534, Connecticut College, New London, CT 06320 (telephone (203) 442-5391, ext. 525).

RILA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming Membership Drive. Volunteers are needed from all parts of the state. Please contact Jane Gudelsky at 596-2877 for more information.

ARTICLES SOUGHT: Students, faculty, and practicing librarians are encouraged to submit articles of general interest to librarians to Current Studies in Librarianship, a semi-annual publication edited by Professor L.B. Woods. Articles should be timely and concise (8 to 10 pages) with an original perspective. Manuscripts should be submitted to L.B. Woods, editor, Graduate Library School, University of Rhode Island, 74 Lower College Road, Kingston, R.I.

MAUD E. AVERY: A long-time friend of Rhode Island librarians and a librarian herself, Maud E. Avery, died on February 9 at the age of 90. After spending 34 years as Serials Librarian at Ohio State University, Miss Avery retired to Providence in 1958 and worked at the Rhode Island State Library from 1959 to 1962.

WHY NOT IN R.I.? From American Libraries, Feb. 1978. Charging that because most of the city's librarians are women, their pay scale is below the level of comparable city professionals, the San Diego Municipal Employees Association is trying to force the city to rectify the situation and to compensate library workers victimized by the alleged discrimination.

ARCHIVES COURSE: Professor Nancy Peace will teach a new course in Archives Management at Simmons College. The course is designed to acquaint students with appraisal, arrangement and description of archival materials along with special topics such as security and conservation of materials. The course is open to students and alumni of Simmons College, School of Library Science; students and alumni of other ALA accredited library schools may also enroll.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Peg Caldwell reports that the Continuing Education Committee has met twice and is considering such topics as the LTA program in R.I., the use of the Continuing Education Unit (CEU), and the formulation of a model continuing education policy for R.I. libraries. The Committee welcomes input from the membership. Present members are listed below:

Continuing Education Committee - 1977-78

Patricia Bisshopp
Peg Caldwell
Connie Cameron
Virginia Carter
Janina D'Abate
Gaile DeStefano
Sally Evans
Freda Lindblom, Secretary
Bee Lufkin, Chair
Margaret Maryott
Bernie Schlessinger

NEW STAFF MEMBER: Marcia Hershoff, formerly at Cumberland, is new Reference Librarian at Woonsocket Harris Public Library. Marcia has been at her new position since December.

DISMISSAL APPEAL: After six months of delay and continuance the Pawtucket Board of Appeals has finally relinquished jurisdiction in the case of Lee Flanagan vs. the Pawtucket Library Board of Trustees. Flanagan was dismissed August 1977 on the grounds of

institutional budgetary problems in a year that saw record budget increases at the Library. Now a restraining order will be sought against the trustees and the case may go to a higher R.I. Court. Flanagan's hope of finding a law for speedy redress of librarians' grievances has not been realized. As he commented recently, "Whatever the result of the litigation may be, the process will have been financially and psychologically exhausting."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee is anxious to hear suggestions from RILA members about candidates for the executive board. If you have ideas please write or call any committee member listed below:

Nancy F. Chudacoff, Chairman
Deborah B. Brennan
Nancy D'Amico
Frank Iacono
James W. Norman
Sally Wilson

ELECTRON MOVERS: With the recent confirmation of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Electron Movers of Providence will be offering use of its production facilities on a limited basis to other non-profit organizations, institutions, and individuals. In addition, workshops will be offered to groups interested in slide show presentation, film production, and video production techniques. For information, call 272-4305.

COST/PRODUCTIVITY: "The labor cost in goods-producing industries runs about 30% of the total cost; in the services [service producing industries] it runs as high as 70 percent or more. If a 10percent wage increase is granted, the addition to the total cost of producing a service is 7 percent, whereas in a goods-producing industry it is only 3 percent. Furthermore, that 3 percent probably can be overcome by increased productivity, but rarely so in the case of a service. A comparison of the productivity increase rates between the two sectors demonstrates this. It shows the goods-producing industries increasing productivity at a rate of 3 percent a year while productivity in the services is increasing at the rate of only 1.2 to 1.9 percent a year." From Pauline Wilson's "Librarianship & ALA in a Post-Industrial Society," AL, March 1978.

NESS PHASE OUT: The New England Library Board (NELB) has announced a decision to phase out the New England Serials Service (NESS) in its present form. NELB is currently developing a proposal to study the feasibility of creating a New England Bibliographic Resource Service (NEBRS) in conjunction with a regional repository currently being planned. NELB is consulting with NELINET and New England libraries in developing the NEBRS proposal.

DIRECTOR HONORED: The retiring director of the Providence Public Library, Mr. F. Charles Taylor was honored at a reception given by the Staff Association on Wednesday, March 22. The reception, held in the auditorium foyer of the Central Library was attended by many staff members, retired persons and trustees. The Staff Association acknowledged Mr. Taylor's guidance, dedication, support, and understanding in a formal salutatory message of thanks for his service during the Library's critical period. Mr. Taylor's leadership and management were also acknowledged by Mr. Robert Wedgewood, Executive Director of ALA, in a letter expressing his pleasure for having worked with Mr. Taylor.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AT URI: The Graduate Library School of the University of Rhode Island has announced its 1978 continuing education programs. The offerings include two one-day Saturday workshops for those with limited time and crowded schedules, one three-day seminar providing an opportunity for more extensive update, and two five-day institutes to provide intensive education experiences. The offerings are:

- Seminar 1. Library Management in the Seventies
Program fees: \$150; Date: May 25-27, 1978
- Workshop 1. Business Reference Materials
Program fees: \$30; Date: June 17, 1978
- Institute 1. The Library Planning Process
Program fees: \$200; Date: July 12-16, 1978
- Institute 2. On-Line Systems: Design and Use
Program fees: \$200; Date: August 5-9, 1978
- Workshop 2. Non-Print Materials: Organization, Utilization
and Production
Program fees: \$30; Date: October 28, 1978

Checks made out to URI should be mailed to Conference Office, Memorial Union, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. 02881. For further information contact Bernie Schlessinger, Dean of the Graduate Library School, at 792-2947.

WIT CASSETTE TAPE EXCHANGE: The WIT Cassette Tape Exchange is sure to be of interest to librarians and media specialists. This innovative educational program, the WIT Cassette Tape Exchange, is the brainchild of Andd Ward, Assistant Professor of Instructional Technology at Rhode Island College. Ms. Ward has developed a collection of over 200 master tapes, copies of which circulate to more than 150 people across the country. The tapes which include such topics as grant writing and media center design have proven popular with the program's members. Donation of appropriate tapes is welcome as are new members to the exchange. Cost of membership is \$5.00 per semester. Those interested in joining or obtaining more information should call or write Andd Ward, 8 Blackstone Rd., Attleboro, MA 02703, tel. (617) 226-1024.



QUOTABLE QUOTES

The war ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. It had meant nothing, solved nothing, and proved nothing; and in so doing had killed 8,538,315 men and variously wounded 21,219,452. . . . The moral and mental defects of the leaders of the human race had been demonstrated with some exactitude.

-Leon Wolff,
In Flanders Fields

The sheer complexity of budgetary matters means some people need to trust others because they can check up on them only a fraction of the time. Confidence is achieved by gearing one's behaviour to fit in with the expectations of committee people. Essentially, the desired qualities appear to be projections of the committee members' images of themselves.

-Aaron Wildavsky
The Politics of the Budgetary Process

It is not by wearing down into uniformity all that is individual in themselves, but by cultivating it and calling it forth, within the limits imposed by the rights and interests of others, that human beings become a noble and beautiful object of contemplation. And as the works partake the character of those who do them, by the same process human life also becomes rich, diversified and animating, furnishing more abundant aliment to high thoughts and elevated feelings, and strengthening the tie which binds every individual to the race, and making the race infinitely better worth belonging to.

-John Stuart Mill

Many well-informed people now believe that the United States is about to witness a surge of unionization among professionals.

-Wm. H. Chaney and Thos. R. Beech,
The Union Epidemic, 1976

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ardis S. Holliday, 80 Avondale Road, Westerly 02891.
Bus. - 596-2877; Home - 596-1561
Past President: Daniel Bergen, 41 Highland Ave., Wakefield 02879.
Bus. - 792-2878; Home - 783-8825
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02906. Bus. - 863-2167
Treasurer: Ruth Corkill, 145 Cleveland St., Pawtucket 02860.
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Secretary: Connie Lachowicz, So. Kingstown Public Library System,
Kingston 02881. Bus. - 783-4085
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02840. Bus. - 847-8720
NELA Councilor: Louise Dolan, 18 Elton St., Providence 02906.
Bus. - 245-3875
ALA Councilor: Nadine Baer, 12 South Road, Kingston 02881.
Bus. - 792-2662
Bulletin Editor (member ex-officio): Lee Flanagan, 81 Irving Ave.,
Providence 02906. Home - 831-6044

RILA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Janice Sieburth - 792-5904
Outreach: Judith Einhorn - 783-8254
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Nominating: Nancy Chudacoff - 331-0448
Trustee: Christian King - 433-4811
Public Relations: Roberta Cairns - 245-3106
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Personnel: Earl Schwass - 841-3511

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Service to Children: Leslie Peltier - 828-3750
Sue Collins - 596-2877

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Steering Committee for the Governor's Conference on Libraries and
Information Services: Roberta Cairns - 245-3106
Graduate Library School Advisory Committee: Louise Sherby - 456-8125

We'd like to give you our best.

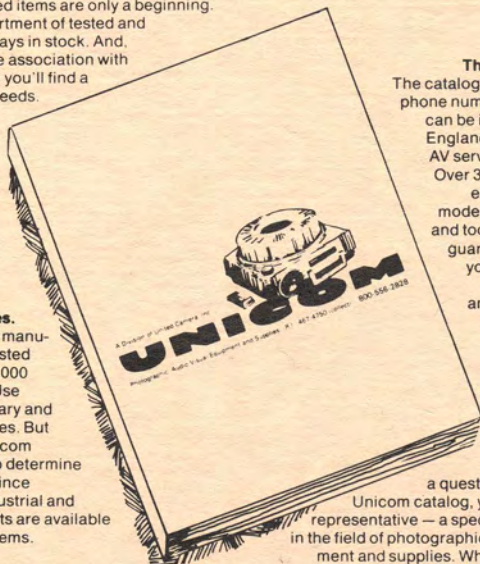
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